

Putnam Township Fire - Update/Open House

Curt Ruf <firechief@putnamtwp.us>

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To: Curt Ruf <firechief@putnamtwp.us>

Good Morning Board Members,

As always I want to try and reach out from time to time to keep you updated and informed of what is going on in and around your fire department. As far as emergency runs, the first 3 months actually saw a downturn in emergency runs from the same time last year. However, in the last 3 days we have tried to make up for the downturn! On Monday we had a large field/swamp fire off Gawley Rd., right in the middle of the eclipse so that was a little creepy, and we assisted Green Oak Fire with a large field fire at the Island Lake Recreational Area yesterday.

The biggest item I want to inform you about is our upcoming Open House. We started having an annual Open House, again, in 2022 in conjunction with the dedication of the Community Center at Township Hall. Last year we had over 500 residents during our 4-hour event and we are hoping for more in a couple of weeks. Typically, Open House's are in September/October in conjunction with Fire Safety Week. The fire service is steeped in history and the reason we typically remind our citizens of fire safety a little bit more in the Fall is due to Mrs. O'Leary's cow back in Chicago in October 1871. Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern that led to a two day fire, causing \$200 million in damage, with over 300 lose of life and over 100,000 left homeless due to the damage. Now some of the lore from this story gets fuzzy after over 150 years, but what came from this event is better enforcement and education towards fire safety that we still practice today. Why do we hold ours in April/May? Due to the amount of already established Open House's by other departments in the County, as well as the busy Fall we typically have with other events. This timeframe has worked and we hope for further success in a couple of weeks.

We always encourage our residents to visit us anytime, but this time we open up the station with many activities so our residents can see and meet the firefighters that serve them every day. Here are the highlights of this year's Open House:

Date & Time: Saturday, April 27th, from 12pm to 4pm

Demonstrations:

- Residential Sprinkler, side by side fire demonstration, with one side protected with a sprinkler (1pm)
- Vehicle Extrication (2pm)
- Survival Flight Landing (3pm)

Attractions:

- Fire Truck Tours
- Livingston County Special Response Teams (Haz-Mat, Dive, Technical Rescue)
- Local, County and State Law Enforcement
- Livingston County EMS

There will also have (2) food trucks; The Big Kahuna & The Smoke Doctor. We invite each of you to attend and pass the word along to family and friends. This is an event that the staff looks forward to, as we typically are with our residents at their worst time, and at our Open House we have time to visit and thank each of them for the equipment they have provided for us.

If you have any questions or need any further information about the Open House or anything else please never hesitate to reach out.

Have a great day.

See you soon.

Sincerely,

Curt Ruf, Fire Chief
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