

Emergency workers deserve much respect, appreciation

Emergency personnel who are on call 24 hours a day, from firefighters to police officers, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics, can be the difference between life and death, serious injury and minor injury, or loss of property and capture of criminals.

With the help of area business owners, the Vilas County News-Review and The Three Lakes?News salute those emergency workers and volunteers for the 28th consecutive year in an expanded 76-page tabloid section this week, commemorating Fire Prevention Week Oct. 6-12.

It is our most effective way of saying “thank you” to the dedicated, community-minded citizens who perform these vital tasks throughout Vilas County and in northeastern Oneida County, including Three Lakes, Sugar Camp and Woodruff. And the credit extends beyond volunteer departments to state and federal agencies that are ready to fight wildfires, and specialists from the Fire Training Program at Nicolet College.

It is also the best way to keep our readers and communities up to date on the developments, progress and needs of these volunteer-based departments. It includes new features and stories, and articles on every department are updated by our editorial staff.

Fire is a life-threatening, costly fact of life in our society, but North Woods residents can take comfort in the fact that there are well-trained, well-equipped firefighters ready at a moment's notice to assist if disaster would strike. To the volunteers in emergency services, we all owe a great deal of thanks and praise for an outstanding job and for their seemingly endless contributions to society.

Much of the credit goes to the business community, for without its support, this community newspaper could not complete projects of this scope. Thank you for making the "Salute to Emergency Personnel" possible.

Few communities rank with this volunteer spirit

Even rainy, blustery weather couldn't stop a large Cranberry Fest crowd from converging on Eagle River last weekend, a testament to the popularity of this annual harvest celebration.

They came for unique cranberry-based food items, fresh cranberries and the art and craft offerings of some 325 exhibitors, one of the most extensive displays of handcrafted goods found at any event in Wisconsin.

The event would not be possible without the help of 400-plus volunteers who aid the Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center with food, parking, special events, vendor registration, cleanup and dozens of other duties.

Thousands of dollars were raised for charitable causes including the Make-A-Wish Foundation and local service organizations that helped with food and parking.

Few communities in Wisconsin have the volunteer spirit needed to put on such a massive special event. Our hats are off to the Eagle River Chamber and all those who helped the cause in any way.

Behind the editorial 'we'

Members of the Vilas County News-Review editorial board include Publisher Kurt Krueger, Editor Gary Ridderbusch and Assistant Editor Anthony Drew. __PUBLIC__