

Letters

Supporting Lilly

We need to elect people who will actually "Say what they mean and mean what they say." That phrase essentially describes Ed Lilly as I have known him for 25 years. He is very specific in his dedication to the taxpayers. He is opposed to taxpayers being forced to pay for wasteful expenses, like an unnecessary campground. He will insist that your taxes be spent on repaving roads, police and fire protection.

How can the people opposing Lilly honestly say they are

"community minded," when the political advertisement I received in the mail was paid for by an Albany political group? Also, they claim to be "fiscally conservative" while wasting your money on the increased costs to own and operate a campground.

Clearly, Lilly is the only candidate who will put Lewiston taxpayers first and not be influenced by Albany. Please join me and vote for Ed Lilly.

David H. Walker
Lewiston

Boy Scout to hold flag retirement ceremony

Boy Scout Troop 855 member Alexandre Vanderlip will hold a flag retirement ceremony at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 24, near the "Circle of Honor" veterans memorial in Academy Park.

Alexandre recently raised funds to purchase a mailbox-sized container for flags ready to be retired. He is working on his Eagle Scout project.

The waterproof, locked drop box is located outside of the Village of Lewiston's Red Brick Municipal Building, along the main driveway.

One flag will be burned, and then about 30 more are expected to be retired at the ceremony.

"Anyone can come watch," Alexandre said.

Adams Fire Co. is coming for you



Volunteer firefighters from Adams Fire Co. go out into the community to carry out their mission of recruiting new members in a program called "14 Neighborhoods in 12 weeks." The firefighters visit neighborhoods either at 6 p.m. Saturdays or 1 p.m. Sundays. (Contributed photo)

BY KAREN CARR KEEFE
Senior Contributing Writer

Adams Fire Co. needs volunteers – and it's going out of its way to find them.

Fire Chief Don Lauer said when the open houses didn't draw enough new recruits, the company decided to bring its plea to the neighborhoods.

"It's a new idea," Lauer said. Adams Fire Co. isn't the only one with the problem. An initiative called "Recruit New York" was falling short. Statewide, people weren't coming to the fire stations for open houses, according to the Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY).

"So we thought it would be more convenient if we visited their neighborhoods," Lauer said.

The fire company's membership was 100% behind the effort.

The program is called "14 Neighborhoods in 12 weeks." Volunteer firefighters visit neighborhoods either at 6 p.m. Saturdays or 1 p.m. Sundays. The visits continue through Aug. 27. For a schedule of planned visits and for any updated information on the program, see the company's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/adamsfirecompany/>.

"If we don't set up in your neighborhood or on your street, please

come to the nearest neighborhood we visit," Lauer said in his news release. "We will have some fun things for your children to do while we talk to you about joining Adams Fire Co."

He added, "I'm trying to make an effort as the fire chief to come out and talk to the adults and tell them my story and tell them what the process is for becoming a member."

He said there's already one new applicant and another potential member who came forward out of gratitude for what the fire company had done for his family: "He's interested in giving back to the fire company" because they responded to his parents' house when they were in need.

Lauer listed some of the perks of volunteer firefighting, in a news release.

"We provide free training, all the gear needed, and a LOSAP (length of service award program) retirement program, college assistance and a \$200 tax credit to help you want to volunteer in your community," he stated.

"Also in the works is a school tax and county tax reduction if you volunteer," he said.

But some of the rewards in volunteering aren't tangible.

Once people join, there are

more benefits, Lauer said. "They'll find out that the camaraderie between all the members is like one big family that works together with each other when people are in need."

Next year, the fire company celebrates its 100th anniversary – a century of helping the community.

Lauer said a survey has shown that "One out of every hour people are interested in joining a fire company but are too afraid of joining; two out of every four people are interested in volunteering to give back to the community."

There is a role for would-be volunteers – perhaps senior citizens – who don't see themselves as capable of fighting fires but still want to help, he said.

"There's jobs for everybody, all ages," Lauer noted. "We have a fire police team that consists mostly of our senior members that have been with the fire company for over 40 years, that don't want to be interior firefighters any more or exterior firefighters that support the scene."

The fire company has 37 active members. Women fill some key roles within the company. Among women in the company there is an EMS captain, a lieutenant and two firefighters.

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