

Around Town

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By Billy Ray McKelvy

De Queen Mayor

The De Queen Fire Department observed National Fire Prevention Week in October by presenting fire safety programs to all De Queen Primary school children.

The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 8-14) was "Preventing Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat." The De Queen Fire Department is teaching youngsters to "stop, drop and roll", crawl to exit a burning house, escape through a window and call 911, as well as other fire safety tips. The program usually includes an appearance by Sparky, the fire pup, a plush dog costume filled by one of the city's firefighters.

In this year's program, 764 students in kindergarten, first and second grade and at three pre-schools were trained in fire prevention.

National Fire Prevention Week coincides with the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. That fire burned for two days (Oct. 8 and 9), claimed 250 lives and destroyed much of that city.

Now that Halloween is over, the holiday season will soon be upon us. If your organization is planning a Christmas party this year, please consider using the large meeting room at the city's Cultural Awareness Center. The large room is 60-feet by 66 feet and has a small stage area. There is a small serving kitchen with two refrigerators and two ovens.

The center has folding tables and chairs that can be used for a banquet meal or for a meeting. It is also equipped with a public address system and a modern audio-visual system for power point presentations or videos.

The meeting room can be rented for \$250, plus a refundable deposit. Rules for using the room are provided in the rental agreement, which is available online at the city's web site, www.dequeenarkansas.us.

You may reserve the Cultural Awareness Center for your holiday meeting by calling city hall at 584-3445.