Reflections…

A couple recent events have put me in a reflective state of mind.

The first event was EMS Week, which occurs annually in May to recognize the valuable pre-hospital medical services these professionals provide to the community. Here in Mukilteo, the fire department is the primary provider of EMS, with all our fire fighters and fire captains also certified as either Emergency Medical Technicians or Paramedics. This is a great small department! In my four years here, they continually surprise me with how big their hearts are for the community. Yes, they respond quickly and professionally when you call 9-1-1. What you might not know is all the other ways they help the community. Annually they inspect every business in Mukilteo, making sure necessary equipment is in place to keep the employees and customers safe. They also regularly provide station tours to community groups and merit badge checkoffs to scouting groups. We visit every second-grade classroom to provide fire safety information and apparatus tours. This month they will participate in the Crash of Reality at Kamiak High School and the We Are Culture event at Rosehill, work with the pre-med, lifesaving and sports medicine classes, and visit Lighthouse Park numerous times to educate everyone on proper outdoor burning. The Firefighters annually host a Pancake Breakfast in October to raise funds for the Easter Egg hunt in the spring. And they have been known to change a flat tire for an elderly motorist, help a wheelchair bound individual home when her chair battery died, and help find resources for those who are out of options. You have some great folks taking care of the community!

The second event is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride month, which occurs annually in the month of June. It is important in our current divisive political environment to recognize the worth of all individuals and the valuable contributions each makes to this planet we call home. Mayor Gregerson recognized this with a proclamation this week, reaffirming the city’s openness and inclusivity, as adopted by the City Council in our Comprehensive Plan. As a gay man, I appreciate a work environment that values everyone’s contributions and helps us all work together to take care of each other and the community. I haven’t always had that with previous employers, and I know the internal conflict it causes. I am grateful for my four years as fire chief and I look forward to many more! Personally, my husband and I feel this is a great area to raise our kids and to enjoy our time away from work as well. Ultimately, I hope that we are creating a better world for all, most especially those teens and young adults who are struggling to find their voice. YOU have valuable things to contribute, even if you feel you don’t fit into a prescribed societal box. You aren’t alone.

Stay safe and take care of each other!