

## Historic Belmont Firehouse

# Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum News

Issue 22

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*The Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum is a cooperative effort between Portland Fire & Rescue and the Jeff Morris Fire & Life Safety Foundation.*

**For Information or appointments:**

**Don Porth**

**Public Education Office**

**503-823-3615**

**Belmont Firehouse**

900 SE 35th Avenue

(at Belmont Street)

Portland OR 97214

**Open the 2nd Saturday**  
*of each month 10 till 3*  
*or by appointment.*

**No Safety Saturday in**  
*July & August*

## “Straight Tips”

*Watch What You Heat!*

*Cold weather and heating go hand in hand but along with it comes danger. Heaters account for many fires and injuries every year. Be sure to give space heaters and all heating devices plenty of space. Three feet is usually plenty. Fireplaces and woodstoves are nice, but need to be watched when in use. And if power outages necessitate the use of candles, blow them out when you leave or leave the room.*

*Think Safe.*

## Visitors Flock to Belmont Firehouse

The Historic Belmont Firehouse Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum played host to 7,066 visitors in 2007. This continues an upward trend that began in 2005.

Visitors to the firehouse come for all kinds of reasons and in all kinds of ways. While some come to explore the historic tales that connect 157 years of service to the city, most enjoy an opportunity to learn about the modern day fire service and have an up-close experience with the tools, stories, and images that are so well presented in the Belmont Firehouse.

Topping the list of visitors are children's groups. 114 of these groups made the trip to participate in fire and life safety programs. Many of these were preschools. It also proved popular for groups made up of people with disabilities. The size of the facility and exclusivity of the scheduled tours make it a perfect destination for special needs groups.

A growing user of fire and rescue services are senior citizens. The firehouse was a popular destination for these folks. With hard floors, wide door-

ways, and plenty of nostalgia, seniors find it a compelling destination and fun outing.

Special events rounded out the activity at the Belmont Firehouse. Birthday parties, dinner parties, meetings, etc. occurred throughout the year. Looking back, the underlying theme with all groups was family. Parents with kids, grandparents with kids, babysitters with kids, groups of kids, and groups of adults with questions about kids' safety. In the end, the real winner becomes the family unit as they learn how to live safely as a family. This benefits everyone.

971 hours of volunteer support made it all possible. The facility could not operate without the generous support of our volunteers.

If you know of a group that would enjoy a firehouse visit, call 503-823-3615 to set up a tour.

*Think Safe!*

## McCormick & Schmick's Fundraiser Successful

Back in October of 2007, McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant at SW 1st and Oak hosted it's annual fundraiser for the Jeff Morris Fire & Life Safety Foundation, with proceeds supporting the Belmont Firehouse.

The event teams a local seafood chef with a firefighter to see which chef can shuck, and which firefighter can swallow, the most oysters in 10 minutes. As always, the competition was keen. But in the end, the winner was convincing. Jim Morelli of the Fire Marshal's Office prevailed with 81 oysters shucked and swallowed.

Other fire bureau competitors included Stew White, Mark Held, Jesse Hellwege, Nate Sullivan, and Terry Foster. Fifteen other fire



bureau members and eight non-uniform members and volunteers participated to help the cause. Miss Oregon 2007, Kari Virding, was also on hand.

The event raised \$3,678.75. Thanks to all that helped and all that patronized the restaurant. Look for the event again in October 2008!

**Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum Event Line 503-823-3616**

## Remember This??

Fire & life safety campaigns have come a long way baby! Today, "Safe & Sound" can be found on KGW television nearly every day. But in 1926, different methods were used to get the message to the public. Even in the early years, Portland Fire & Rescue was an innovator in public education and prevention.

Do you have a memory to share for future issues? Submit them to Don Porth at the Belmont Firehouse for consideration. Contact can be made at 503-823-3615 or [dporth@fire.ci.portland.or.us](mailto:dporth@fire.ci.portland.or.us)



**Portland Fire History, Safety Learning Center Information, Foundation Background**  
Find it on the web at [www.jeffmorrisfoundation.org](http://www.jeffmorrisfoundation.org)

### \*\*\* FIRE SALE \*\*\*



The "Captain Pumperton" line of kids clothing is a popular item at the Belmont Firehouse Gift Shop. Along with these T-shirts and sweatshirts are a wide range of home safety items to keep your young firefighter safe from dangerous areas and elements of your home. Visit the Belmont Firehouse or shop on-line for the entire selection.

All proceeds support the Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum.

[jeffmorrisfoundation.org](http://jeffmorrisfoundation.org)

## Applebees, Red Robin Recognize Belmont Firehouse

The new Happy Valley **Applebees** Restaurant at SE 162nd and Sunnyside Road greets patrons with photos and information about the Historic Belmont Firehouse. Firehouse staff worked with the restaurant decorators at the Lloyd Center Applebees when it redecorated about three years ago. Applebees again approached the firehouse for more photos and images when plans to decorate the Happy Valley restaurant came due. Stop in and show your appreciation at these restaurants and thank them for their support.

Speaking of restaurants, **Red Robin** will be opening a new restaurant on NE Cascade Way, near 82nd and Airport Way. The grand opening week will be February 18th through 24th. During this time, every burger purchased will become a 50 cent donation to the Belmont Firehouse. So please take family and friends out for dinner to support fire and life safety education in Portland and welcome this new restaurant to town.

\*\*\* [Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum Event Line 503-823-3616](http://www.jeffmorrisfoundation.org) \*\*\*