

Sanders is Weston EMT of the Year

Written by Kaitlin Bradshaw, Forum Intern
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Weston Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has named Jeff Sanders as their EMT of the Year.

Volunteering for three years Dr. Sanders was caught a little off guard by the honor, he said.

“It’s a mystery to me. I was pleasantly surprised,” said Dr. Sanders.

Five years ago, when a guest at Dr. Sanders’ house had a medical emergency, on Thanksgiving morning, Weston EMS responded to the call.

“Their response was amazing. Their ability and caring attitude was great,” he said.

It was a year later that Dr. Sanders enrolled in an EMT class and became a volunteer.

Dr. Sanders has been interested in health care since he was a little kid, he said. He volunteered in the ER when he was in college, and during medical school he was trained as an emergency responder. Now, Dr. Sanders is an ophthalmologist.

“I was fascinated by ophthalmology and the remarkable technology in eye care that can improve or even restore sight,” he said. “However, I let my emergency skills wane and I wanted to get back in it.”

Averaging about 12 hours a week, Dr. Sanders said volunteering has been one of the most rewarding things he has ever done.

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“It doesn’t just involve hours on duty. We also have to do drills, lectures, maintain the ambulances, we’re required to clean and maintain supplies, and once a month we train with the fire department,” he said.

EMS Chief JT Sollazzo said picking the EMT of the year is one of the toughest things he has to do.

“I base it on overall team spirit, how they apply their skills, management skills, respond to calls, amount of calls, closest to scene calls, all of that goes into consideration,” he said.

For Chief Sollazzo, though, Dr. Sanders was an easy choice.

“He stepped up to the plate, he’s a team player, he takes control of the call, has terrific skills as an EMT and is a valuable member of the squad,” Chief Sollazzo said.

Jon Weingarten, president of Weston EMS, likes having a physician as a volunteer.

“He’s the first physician we had in the department, adding a new perspective to operations. He can’t practice his MD skills in what we do but he provides knowledge in diagnostics and patient care,” said Mr. Weingarten.

Dr. Sanders plans on volunteering with the Weston EMS for as long as he can.

“I can’t imagine not doing it, it’s such a sense of satisfaction,” he said. “I work with 45 of the most sincere, caring, and dedicated people I know and being part of it is important and valuable.”