

Lyette Segerdahl: Weston EMT is a leader of the parade

Written by Susan Jordan, Weston EMS
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At this time of year, she's in high gear getting ready for the parade.

Making sure the order is set and the parade participants who need rides in convertibles have them.

Making sure the ambulances and the fire engines look spotless.

Making sure all the Brownie troops and nursery schools and bands know where to be.

The Memorial Day parade in Weston is a big parade, and Lyette Segerdahl is in charge of it all. She's been chairman of the Weston Memorial Day parade for 16 years, so by now she really knows the drill.

Lyette and Jack Segerdahl moved to Weston 21 years ago from California. She joined the Weston Fire Department in 1992 and took her EMS training in 1998.

When asked why she became an EMT, Ms. Segerdahl said, "I'd been in the fire department for several years and it just seemed to follow. I remember being at the scene of an accident before I had my training and I couldn't help the patient. I wanted to be able to do more ... so I became an EMT, too."

Ms. Segerdahl is in charge of the ambulances for Weston EMS. For years, she has handled ambulance maintenance and recently took on the additional job of managing the medical supplies carried on board.

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She said, "I do the ambulances inside and out! I also do some driver training for new EMTs. I want to make sure they don't hurt my new ambulances!"

Ms. Segerdahl arrived in the United States by herself from Cuba when she was 12. Her parents sent her to Florida and a relative met her at the airport. Her parents arrived in Florida in the mid-1960s and the family then moved to California.

She has two children, Larsen, who grew up in Weston and now lives and works in Mexico, and Lyenne, who has two children and lives in California.

"My family always supported my volunteer work with the fire department and EMS. I couldn't have done it without their support. It involves a lot of time with all the training and the calls and all."

Ms. Segerdahl continued with the story of how her family figured out if she was on a fire or EMS call by the beeper or radio that was left at home. She didn't need to leave a note. They knew.

Ms. Segerdahl's contributions to the town of Weston have not gone unnoticed. She was named Weston Citizen of the Year in 2005.

"I love being an EMT. This country has done a lot for me and now I'm paying it forward!" Ms. Segerdahl said.