

Weston EMS profile: Volunteer Nisan Eventoff spreads his own brand of magic

Written by Susan Jordan, Weston EMS
Tuesday, 19 October 2010 10:21



Many people around Weston know him as the “Magic Genie,” or some may know him as the friendly guy in the Weston EMS shirt who’s all over town. Between his magic and his EMT work, Nisan Eventoff is very busy — but he likes it that way.

Mr. Eventoff has lived in Weston for 21 years. He became an EMT 17 years ago when Dave Geismar recruited him in Weston Center.

He remembered one of his earliest experiences after becoming an EMT. “I was on a plane to Paris and a passenger had a cardiac episode. I was a relatively new EMT, but the doctor on board needed help so I volunteered. It was pretty wild right out of the gate as an EMT. It was definitely my most memorable call.”

Mr. Eventoff has spearheaded several important programs for Weston EMS that have benefited the town. He started working with a program called Weston Injury Prevention, where he works in the schools and with groups in Weston teaching ways to avoid injury while doing everyday tasks.

“Then I took on the Heart Smart Program,” said Mr. Eventoff. “That program focuses on teaching coaches, teachers and other groups how to do CPR.”

Mr. Eventoff said, “The exciting news is that we have a ‘hands only CPR’ we are now teaching. It is much easier for people without medical training to learn and to do. It’s the best thing someone could do while waiting for medical help to arrive.”

Anyone interested in learning “hands only CPR” may contact Mr. Eventoff through Weston EMS at 203-222-2647.

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Recently, Mr. Eventoff was asked by EMS President Jon Weingarten to take on a new state program from the Department of Public Health. The program is called "Heart Safe" and the goal is to have more members of the community trained in CPR and to have AEDs (automatic external defibrillators) available in more places.

Mr. Eventoff is raising support in Weston Center so an AED can be made available there.

Music and magic

Music and magic have always been part of Mr. Eventoff's life. He started as a pre-med student at the University of Maryland and soon realized he wanted a more creative calling.

He then went to Johns Hopkins, where he was a teaching fellow in creative writing. From there, music took over his life.

Mr. Eventoff and his brother had a band produced by Mama Cass Elliott (who would later join the Mamas and the Papas). He remembers that time fondly. "We were like family with her... We were the opening act for Steppenwolf, Blood Sweat and Tears and Three Dog Night."

After 15 years in Los Angeles, Mr. Eventoff came to New York, met his wife and moved to Weston after they visited friends for the weekend and "fell in love with the town."

Mr. Eventoff has two children, a son in Hamden with two children and a daughter in Florida who is expecting her first child. Mr. Eventoff proudly said, "I'm the Grand Genie to the grandchildren!"

Mr. Eventoff said magic fills his days. He runs after-school programs for children in Weston, Westport and Wilton. He also has a summer camp that teaches magic. Although he works mostly with kids, Mr. Eventoff said he is doing more magic shows for adult gatherings. "Grown-ups like magic, too, you know!" he said.

This past summer, Mr. Eventoff was excited to film The Magic Genie TV Show with some of his

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students. It will be on local channels soon.

Magic may be Mr. Eventoff's full-time job but he said being an EMT is "the best job I've ever had... I like sprinkling magic across the land — and there's no better way to do it than caring for people as an EMT."