To celebrate EMS Week, the Huntington Community First Aid Squad (http://www.hcfas.org) held their annual Open House on Sunday, May 16, 2010 from 12 to 4 pm.

The volunteer ambulance corps, which has been around since 1967, provided blood pressure screenings, rescue demonstrations, raffles and giveaways, and refreshments.

According to spokesperson Andrea Golinsky, Huntington has the only all-volunteer EMS company in Suffolk County and the second or third busiest in the entire county. In 2009, she said, they answered 5,430 calls. During the half hour this reporter was there on Sunday, it responded to three received. The first was what they referred to as a "heavy rescue call." It was a motor vehicle accident in Huntington Station near Sundown Patio.

The squad has six ambulances, which are all advanced life-support certified, as well as three first-responder vehicles. Its ambulances are checked fully every four hours, said Golinsky, to make sure everything is there and working properly. The squad has over 270 members, she said, but they always need more. "We are getting older," Golinsky said. She herself has been with the squad for 37 years. The squad provides training for anyone who is interested in joining. Volunteers are only required to work one four-hour shift a week, Golinsky said, and the squad works hard to accommodate preferred hours.

The squad’s coverage area is from Lloyd Harbor and Lloyd Neck in the north to Melville in the south and from the Nassau/Suffolk border and Cold Spring Harbor in the west to Greenlawn and Dix Hills in the east.

At the event, Suffolk County Police Department was also on hand to give children between the ages of 3 to 11 Ident-a-Kid kits. The kit contains their child's fingerprint, DNA, all the important phone numbers (mother's, father's, doctor's); all emergency information about the child, including their blood type, social security number, eye color, height and weight, a record of their immunizations and any medications they receive.

For more information about the squad, their website is http://www.hcfas.org/ (http://www.hcfas.org/).