Fire department/ambulance corps to hold open house

By RUSSELL PETRIE
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ORISKANY FALLS —

The Oriskany Falls Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps will host an open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 9 at the firehouse located at 172 Madison Street in Oriskany Falls. The department and corps are joining with other volunteer fire departments and EMS agencies all across the state in a unified recruitment drive as part of National Volunteer Week 2011. Recruit NY will highlight the duties and rewards that come with being a volunteer emergency responder as well as raise public awareness about the need for volunteers.

“I am very concerned over the lack of community involvement in our emergency services here in Oriskany Falls and the surrounding area we serve,” said Russ Petrie, Operations Manager for the Oriskany Falls Volunteer Ambulance Corps. “The Ambulance Corps is in critical need of persons willing to become trained as Emergency Medical Technicians or drivers for the ambulance. Due to a lack of trained volunteers and without an influx of community involvement, the future of the ambulance corps is uncertain and we may be in danger of having to cease operations. We hope our recruitment day will inspire other area residents to join our emergency responder family.”

Visitors to the open house can tour the station and apparatus, try on turnout gear, and participate in other activities throughout the firehouse. Members will discuss the requirements to be a volunteer, conduct demonstrations, answer questions, and let attendees know how to get involved in the fire department or ambulance corps.

The Firemen’s Association of the State of New York (FASNY) worked in conjunction with the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs, Association of Fire Districts of New York State, Volunteer Fire Police Association of the State of New York, and County Fire Coordinators Association of the State of New York to make this program possible.

Russell Petrie is the operations manager for the Oriskany Falls Volunteer Ambulance Corps.