

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the city of Lake Wales is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting Lake Wales; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, home fires killed more than 2,700 people in the United States in 2013, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to 369,500 home fires; and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and

WHEREAS, three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms; and

WHEREAS, in one-fifth of all homes with smoke alarms, none were working; and

WHEREAS, when smoke alarms should have operated but did not do so it was usually because batteries were missing, disconnected, or dead; and

WHEREAS, Lake Wales' residents should install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home; and

WHEREAS, Lake Wales' residents should install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing; and

WHEREAS, Lake Wales residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

WHEREAS, Lake Wales first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eugene Fultz, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Lake Wales, in the State of Florida, do hereby proclaim **October 5 – 11, 2014** throughout Lake Wales as

Fire Prevention Week

and I urge all the people of Lake Wales to test their smoke alarms at least every month by pushing the test button, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Lake Wales' fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Week 2014.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Lake Wales, Florida to be affixed this October 7, 2014.

Mayor Eugene Fultz