

*WHEREAS* it is one of the responsibilities of the Mayor of the City of Westerville to recognize occasions of outstanding significance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Westerville is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our community; 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 2,500 people in the United States in 2011; and

WHEREAS, cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States where fire departments responded to more than 156,000 annually between 2007 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, two of every five home fires start in the kitchen unattended equipment was a factor in one-third of the reported cooking fires and 57% of reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves; and

WHEREAS, residents should stay in the kitchen when frying food on the stovetop, keep a three-foot kid-free zone around cooking areas and keep anything that can catch fire away from stove tops; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Westerville's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Prevent Kitchen Fires!" effectively serves to remind us to stay alert and use caution when cooking to reduce the risk of kitchen fires; and

WHEREAS, I urge all residents to attend Westerville's Fire Prevention Week Open House, Sunday, October 6, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the firehouses at 400 W. Main Street, 727 E. Schrock Road and 355 N. Spring Road.

THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Cocuzzi, Mayor of Westerville do hereby proclaim October 6-12, 2013 as Fire Prevention Week throughout this Community, and I urge all the people of Westerville by checking their kitchens for fire hazards and using safe cooking practices during Fire Prevention Week 2013, and to support the many activities and efforts of Westerville Division of Fire.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused my seal to be affixed this 1st day of October, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Thirteen.

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Kathleen Cocuzzi  
Mayor