



FIREline

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLETOWN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT • SPRING 2005 • VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

2005 WHAS Crusade for Children

The WHAS Crusade for Children, Inc. was established in 1954 to raise money for agencies, schools and hospitals to better the lives of special needs children.

For the past 51 years something very special has been going on in Kentuckiana—the \$108 million raised for the Crusade has helped approximately 3 million children. Moreover, thanks to generous contributions of goods and services, the Crusade is able to send 100 percent of all donations to organizations that serve special needs children in all 120 Kentucky counties and more than 50 southern Indiana counties. Fire departments raise more than 50 percent of the money each year at “road blocks” and other events.

MFPD members will be at the intersection of US Hwy 60 & Hurstbourne Lane and Linn Station Road & Hurstbourne Lane with the famed ‘collection boots.’ As well, MFPD members will go door-to-door throughout many Middletown neighborhoods during the evenings of June 1-4.

Use the enclosed envelop to mail your Crusade donation. Make checks payable to the WHAS Crusade for Children. Every cent of your donation will be forwarded to the Crusade.

An independent board of inter-denominational ministers known as the Crusade Advisory Panel decides how donations are distributed each year. Representatives from agencies, schools and hospitals apply for grants and appear before the panel during grant hearings held each spring. Once the hearings are complete, the advisory panel determines which agencies receive Crusade donations. Since agency grant requests far exceed donations to the Crusade each year, the panel has difficult decisions to make.

Everyone collecting on behalf of the MFPD will be wearing a shirt with the Department’s logo or a Boy Scout uniform and most of the time a fire truck will be nearby. If you need someone from the MFPD to come to your home to pick-up a donation, call 245-7555. Thank you for your generous help.

If you want to help in the collection effort, contact Sergeant Natalie Taylor at 245-7555 or ntaylor@mfpd.org.



Middletown Fire Protection District
108 Urton Lane
Middletown, Kentucky 40223-3944

FIREline
is published by the Middletown Fire Protection District.
Story ideas are welcomed.
Editor: Sergeant Natalie Taylor
(502-245-7555 x 234 or ntaylor@mfpd.org)
EMERGENCY: 911
©2005, Middletown Fire Protection District.
www.middletownfire.org

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LOUISVILLE KY
PERMIT #879

Get Fired Up this Summer...

Read!

Now in its third year, the MFPD sponsored reading program provides special incentives for children ages 3-13 who read a designated number of books this summer.

Visit www.middletonfire.org for additional information and to download the registration form and request a packet with program details, fire safety information, activities, and other cool stuff. Or, you can contact Sergeant Natalie Taylor at 245-7555 or ntaylor@mfpd.org. The deadline to register is June 17, 2005. It's easy and fun! MFPD knows education is the key to success!

...but, don't get fired up at your grill! Enjoy Grilling, but stay safe!

NFPA (Quincy, MA) - No longer is summer the only season for Americans to grill that burger, steak or hot dog. Many now fire up grills sooner in the year and delay putting them away until the first frost, and that's why grill safety is more important than ever. Whether you use charcoal, wood, gas or electricity for grilling, a moment's inattention can spell disaster, says the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Did you know...

- Gas grills have a higher fire risk than charcoal grills; leaks and breaks are the leading cause, accounting for nearly half of gas grill fires.
- Gas grills caused an estimated 600 home structure fires and 3,200 outdoor fires in 2001.
- Charcoal grills have a higher risk than gas grills of death due to fire or unvented carbon monoxide; deaths may not involve fire.
- Charcoal and other solid-fueled grills caused an estimated 400 home structure fires and 200 home outdoor fires in 2001 in the U.S.
- Placing combustibles too close to heat and leaving cooking unattended are the two leading causes for charcoal grill home fires.
- Half of all gas grill and charcoal grill home fires begin on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch.
- Wall coverings, exterior trim, and plants are the items most likely to be ignited by outdoor charcoal grill fires.

To ensure safe cookouts, make sure someone tends the fire at all times. Here are some safety tips to consider:

- Keep grills away from combustibles, including the outside of your house, balcony or garage.
- Check hose integrity and hose connections to make sure gas is not leaking from your gas hoses or connections. To reveal leaks, apply soapy water to hoses and connections; bubbling liquid may indicate a leak.
- Use only equipment bearing the approval of an independent testing laboratory and follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Never store propane cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.
- Enforce a "kid-free zone" of 36" around the grill. Also keep your pets from underfoot.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.
- Keep the grill clean.

"Straight Talk"

A Program for Juvenile Fire Starters

According to the FBI, nearly 45% of the fires that kill children under 5 are started by children themselves. These deadly fires are most likely to be set in hidden places where there are many combustibles, particularly in bedrooms. In a typical year, in the U.S., 300 people are killed and \$300 million in property is destroyed in fires set by children. The number of fires set by children is growing. It is a problem that needs the attention of parents, teachers, and community leaders, in cooperation with fire and law enforcement officers.

Straight Talk is a day-long program sponsored by the University of Louisville designed for fire-setters age 7-17 and their parents or guardians. Under the guidance of both firefighters and burn victims, participants see firsthand the devastating effects of fire-play.

If you have concerns that your child may be too fascinated with fire, you and your child may be eligible to participate in the Straight Talk program—the next class begins soon. Contact Sergeant Natalie Taylor at 245-7555 or ntaylor@mfpd.org to discuss your concerns.



Loyal to the Cause...

by Chief Donald Brooks

I invite you to join me in a salute to a long time MFPD volunteer who as of late has faced some very challenging health issues. For nearly 30 years Mr. Bernie Grady led the MFPD Crusade campaign. For us, Bernie and the Crusade have always gone together. He has always been a consummate professional that handled every detail with thoughtful care. A stroke has him sidelined right now. Bernie, my thoughts and prayers join those offered by lots of your Community neighbors. We miss you a lot. Get well and rejoin us as soon as you are able.

The new fire station on Factory Lane is under construction and, if all continues to go well, will open this fall. So, in addition to the October 15th Annual Open House at the Urton Lane Station, I hope you plan to attend the dedication of this new station. Watch the newsletter and website for date and time.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer.