



## Kids! How About Some Productive Play This Summer?!

For the past six years the MFPD sponsored reading program has rewarded children ages 0-13 who read a designated number of books each summer. Go to [www.middletonfire.org](http://www.middletonfire.org) for information and to download the registration form. It's easy and fun! Children completing the program will be invited to a party at the fire house. Last year about 106 children participated and reaped the rewards!

The deadline to register is Friday, June 20, 2008.



# FIREline

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLETOWN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT • SPRING 2008 • VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1

## The WHAS Crusade for Children

**The Mission:**  
The WHAS Crusade for Children, Inc. is a community supported charitable organization whose mission is to grant donated funds to help children overcome physical, mental, emotional and medical challenges.

In its 54 years, the Crusade has received more than \$123 million of your donations. Thanks to generous contributions of goods and services and very low operating overhead, the Crusade is able to return 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. For many years the Crusade has been the most successful single station telethon in the nation. You make this happen.

volunteers wear a fire department uniform or a MFPD picture ID. Usually a fire truck is in the area being canvassed.

Additionally, MFPD members will be at the intersections of US 60 & Hurstbourne Lane and Linn Station Road & Hurstbourne Lane with the now famous 'collection boots.'

If we miss you during door-to-door collections or at one of the 'roadblocks,' give us a call at 245-7555 or email [dbrooks@mfpd.org](mailto:dbrooks@mfpd.org) — we'll be glad to stop by to pick up your donation.

**Groups that would like to assist with collecting are invited to contact Asst. Chief Mark Stigers at 245-7555 for more information. Volunteers receive a T-Shirt and, most importantly, the good feeling that comes from serving your community.**

An independent board decides which grants to fund. Since 1954, approximately 3 million special needs Kentuckiana children have been helped.

The MFPD does not keep even one penny of your donations! Every cent you give is delivered to the Crusade during the grand procession of fire fighters.

MFPD volunteers will be going door-to-door to receive Crusade donations. All MFPD

Want more information? Go to: [www.whas-crusade.org](http://www.whas-crusade.org).



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



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# Recreational Fires

## Answers to Some of the FAQ

### What is allowed?

If you are grilling or cooking food for non-commercial purposes, and the fire is the appropriate size for what you are cooking, you will not need a permit.

Recreational fires in a fire pit or outdoor fireplace do not require permits if they are no larger than 3 ft wide by 3 ft long by 3 ft tall.

### When do I need a permit?

When you are having a bonfire or recreational fire that is on the ground, not contained in an acceptable fire pit or fire place.

### What can't be done?

Burning of garbage or trash, plastic, rubber, grass or tree trimmings, brush, painted or treated wood or lumber, or any kind of construction or demolition debris is strictly prohibited. A barrel is not an approved fire pit because it will cause large amounts of smoke when used, due to lack of ventilation.

See: <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/APCD/EE/RecFireFAQ.htm> for a detailed discussion of the regulation.



## Search Process for New MFPD Chief

Chief Donald Brooks has announced that he plans to retire later this year. The Board has already initiated a search process to find the best qualified and best matched candidate for the community and department. Commenting on Chief Brooks' retirement and the search process, Board Chair Ron Wolf said, "Chief Brooks has faithfully served and led this department throughout his career. We are grateful for his capable service and that he has left the department well positioned for the future. The Board, which includes two community representatives, is already working on the hiring criteria and process." If you have questions or input to share, contact the chief search committee by email: [Chiefsearch@mfpd.org](mailto:Chiefsearch@mfpd.org).

## News Alert:

### Have You Occasionally Noticed a Gas Smell on Bush Farm Road in the Vicinity of Stopher Elementary School?

The odor, which some say smells like rotting cabbage or rotten eggs, is actually mercaptan. This harmless, non-toxic chemical odorant is added to natural gas (which by itself is odorless) in order to make it easier to detect in case of a leak. Without the mercaptan, leaking natural gas could go undetected until it exploded. Almost always what happens at the Bush Farm Road location, while the mercaptan is being added, some escapes from the facility. What should you do? Dial 911 to notify the MFPD. We'll check it out.



# Loyal to the Cause...

by Chief Donald Brooks

G. K. Chesterton, the prolific 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century writer said, "The test of all happiness is gratitude." I agree. My observation is that grateful people tend to be happy, while the more ungrateful the person, the more miserable they can be. As I stand at the threshold of my retirement from the Middletown Fire Protection District, after 35 years of service, I am a grateful man. Grateful that at the young age of 14 there was a place for a boy who loved the fire department. Grateful for the chance to serve my community for all these years. Grateful to serve with a team of professional and volunteer fire fighters. Grateful to have served under the guidance of many fine community members that give their time to serve on the department's board. Grateful that you put your trust in me. Grateful to have had so many opportunities to make a little bit of a difference in this part of the world. With so many cherished blessings, how could I not be so very happy and satisfied?

As I step down later this year, I am compelled to remind you that my leaving creates yet another vacancy in the Department. We have functioned for our 68 years in large measure because volunteers have been a reliable and capable and contributing feature of the organization. Whether serving as a fire fighter, board member or Crusade for Children volunteer—all of you that have participated have left your mark. To all of you, I humbly thank you and bid you a fond farewell.

## It's a Perfect Time to Join the MFPD as a Volunteer Fire Fighter!

We welcome you, orient you, train you, equip you, and then we count on you to serve alongside your fire fighter colleagues when called into service. No one said it would be easy, just worth it. If it were easy, everyone would do it. Are you ready to see if you have what it takes?

Call Sgt. Ron Maddux 245-7555 for more information.

