



Kids! Read Your Way Through the Summer!

Now in its fourth year, the MFPD sponsored reading program provides special rewards 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. The deadline to register is Friday, June 16, 2006. It's easy and fun! MFPD knows education is the key to success!



FIREline

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLETOWN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT • SPRING 2006 • VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1

The 2006 WHAS Crusade for Children

Kentuckiana's Special Event, June 3-4

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.

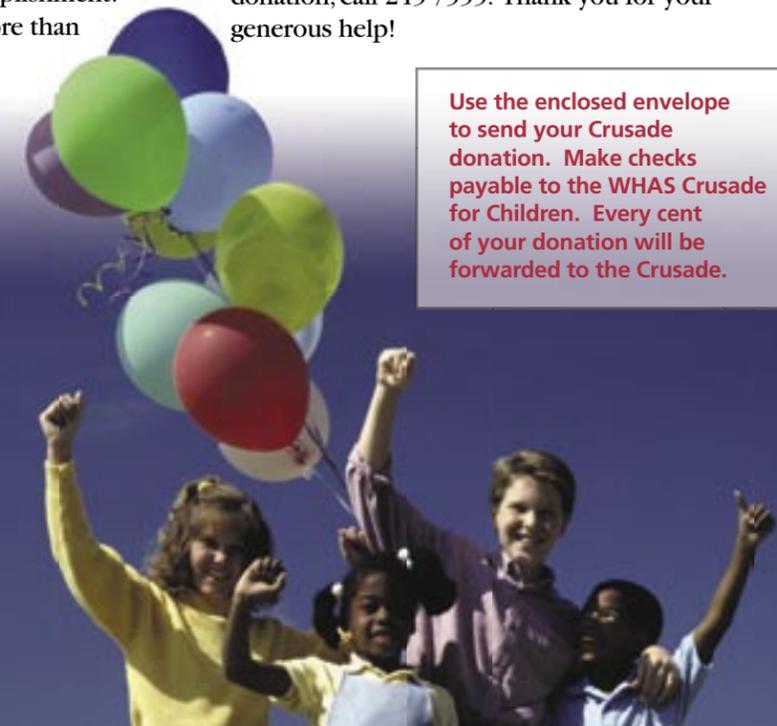
The WHAS Crusade for Children, Inc., established in 1954 by WHAS-TV, raises money for schools, agencies and hospitals to better the lives of special needs children. Over the past 52 years, the Crusade has raised more than \$113 million. Approximately 3 million children have been helped by the Crusade since 1954.

Thanks to generous contributions of goods and services, the Crusade is able to return 100% of all donations to organizations that serve special needs children in all 120 Kentucky counties and more than 50 southern Indiana counties! This is an extraordinary accomplishment! Fire departments raise more than 50% of the Crusade's donations each year by staging road blocks and other events.

The Crusade is the most successful and oldest local telethon in America.

MFPD volunteers will be at the intersection of US 60 & Hurstbourne Lane, Linn Station Road & Hurstbourne Lane, and La Grange Road & Factory Lane with the now famous 'collection boots.' As well, MFPD volunteers will go door-to-door throughout many Middletown neighborhoods. Everyone collecting on behalf of the MFPD will be wearing a shirt with the Department's logo 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!

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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Suggestions for Safe Summer Swimming!

Pool Rules!

We are all aware of how vulnerable children are to drowning in home swimming pools.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), each year, nationwide, about 300 children under 5 years old drown in swimming pools, usually a pool owned by their family. In addition, more than 2,000 children in that age group are treated in hospital emergency rooms for submersion injuries. Following are just a few facts uncovered by the CPSC in a comprehensive study of drowning and submersion incidents involving children under 5 years old in Arizona, California, and Florida.

- Seventy-five percent of the submersion victims studied by CPSC were between 1 and 3 years old; 65 percent of this group were boys. Toddlers, in particular, often do something unexpected because their capabilities change daily.
- At the time of the incidents, most victims were being supervised by one or both parents. In all, 69 percent of the children were not expected to be at or in the pool, yet they were found in the water.
- Submersion incidents involving children usually happen in familiar surroundings. Sixty-five percent of the incidents happened in a pool owned by the child's family and 33 percent of the incidents happened in a pool owned by friends or relatives.
- Pool submersions involving children happen quickly. A child can drown in the time it takes to answer a phone. Seventy-seven percent of the victims had been missing from sight for 5 minutes or less.
- Survival depends on rescuing the child quickly and restarting the breathing process, even while the child is still in the water. Seconds count in preventing death or brain damage.
- Child drowning is a silent death. Often there is no splashing to alert anyone that the child is in trouble.

If you have a pool or hot tub, these barrier recommendations are the minimum steps you can take to make your home a safe place for your child:

- Install a fence or wall completely around the pool. The barrier must be at least four feet high with vertical slats that are no more than four inches apart; the diamond in a chain link should be no larger than 1¾ inches.
- Access gates should be self-closing and self-latching; latches should be at least 54 inches off the ground.
- Doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with an alarm that sounds when the door is opened by a child.
- Install and use a power pool safety cover.

A Few Basic Pool Rules

- If a child is missing, check the pool first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.
- Remove toys from in and around the pool when it is not in use. Toys can attract young children to the pool.
- During social gatherings at or near a pool, appoint a "designated watcher" to protect young children from pool accidents. When adults become preoccupied, children are at risk.
- Do not consider young children to be drown proof because they have had swimming lessons.
- For a complete safety list go to www.middletonfire.org and check the pool safety link.



Loyal to the Cause...

by Chief Donald Brooks

One of the most important responsibilities of the MFPD Trustees and department officers is to anticipate and plan for new and changing fire department related needs throughout the district. In response to the growth in the fire district, a new station was needed in the northern section of the district. This preparation paid off and on October 2005 the new Station on Factory Lane (near the LaGrange exit off the Gene Snyder) was dedicated. An Open House held recently on April 29th gave the local residents immediately served by this station an opportunity to tour it and meet the firefighters who worked there.

Response time to residences and businesses in the area will be considerably faster—typically 3-5 minutes (rather than the 8-12 minutes when equipment was dispatched from one of the other MFPD stations). Faster response means that people and property are better protected.



MFPD's newly dedicated Station 3 on Factory Lane.

Here is some information about the equipment and the firefighters that respond:

- The primary fire truck is Quint 9953—a solid all around fire apparatus designed to lead the attack on most any emergency
- Staffed 24/7/365 with 3 professional fire fighters and, when available, trained volunteers
- All the professional fire fighters are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT); the Quint responds to life threatening EMS calls
- The station has sleeping accommodations for volunteers that want to respond to calls
- Additional apparatus bays and personnel accommodations will allow equipment and personnel to be easily added as the area grows
- Since opening on September 21, 2005, the station has responded to over 160 calls.

If you would like a tour of the new facility, give us a call at 243-8555 and we will be glad to accommodate you. As always, if you have suggestions, questions, or concerns that I need to know about, please contact me at 245-7555. Along with every trustee, professional and volunteer firefighter, I am here to serve you.

Safe Place or Escape? Is your child confused?

MFPD personnel frequently go to schools to teach young children what to do if their home is on fire. Alarmingly, some say, "I go to my safe place." Of course, "going to a safe place" is appropriate when there is a tornado, but not for a fire/ Make sure your children know how to leave the house if there is a fire. Teach them what the smoke detector sound means, practice escaping and going to a pre-chosen meeting place.

Sweat, Challenge, Effort, Work, & Strain (and people actually volunteer for it!)

In 1940 the MFPD was created by volunteers. From day one volunteers have served in every level of the organization. The most distinguished service has been provided by the men and women serving as volunteer fire fighters. The rigorous training bestows rewards best understood by those living in the tradition. Are you interested in information about becoming a volunteer fire fighter? Training classes are conducted periodically; please contact Sergeant Ron Maddux at 245-7555 or rmaddux@mfpd.org for additional information.