



Kids! How About Some Reading Fun This Summer?

For the past seven years the MFPD sponsored reading program has rewarded children ages 3-13 who read a designated number of books during the summer. Go to 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 over 200 children participated and reaped the rewards! The deadline to register is Monday, June 15, 2009.



FIREline

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLETOWN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT • SPRING 2009 • VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1

The 56th Annual It makes us all feel a little better... Crusade for Children

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children...to leave the world a better place...to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson, 19th century American poet

For over a half century Kentuckiana citizens have given their pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars to raise \$128 million to serve over 3 million needy children right here where we live.

- 100% of each donation to the WHAS Crusade for Children helps children with special needs
- Children in all 120 Kentucky counties and over 50 southern Indiana counties are served
- Fire departments raise more than 50 percent of the money each year

MFPD volunteers will be going door-to-door to receive Crusade donations. All MFPD 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 Assistant Chief Mark Stigers at mstigers@mfpd.org—we'll be glad to stop by to pick-up your donation.

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. Want more information? Go to: 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.

The Mission:
The WHAS Crusade for Children exists to change the lives of children with special needs in Kentucky and Indiana.

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

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Rainy Season Safety

High Water...Stay Out

After a big rain, big puddles look like neat play places to children. The subtle dangers inherent in these situations have led to tragedies in the region. Drainage culverts can produce a powerful sucking force during periods of high water. Moving water as shallow as 8" can move a vehicle. There is no way to know the dangers that lay out of sight just below the surface of the water. Don't let children get carried away because of their excitement.

The Ohio State Division of Natural Resources reports that water traveling 6 mph exerts 67.2 pounds of force on the legs and a whopping 134 pounds of force on the body.

Downed Wires...Stay Away

Storms will knock electrical wires down. In these situations high voltage wires may arc, spark, crackle, and burn anything they touch. This will continue until the power company shuts them off. Downed wires should be considered dangerous even if they show no signs of electrical current—they can arc and jump without warning. If you are in a car or structure which has a downed electrical line touching it—stay put. If you observe a downed line, call the power company. While the MFPD cannot shut the power off and cannot take any action to suppress a fire as long as a downed line is powered, the MFPD will respond to help protect residents and assist in any way possible.

Weather Alert...Stay Tuned

The Community Alert Sirens are activated when there is a tornado, chemical spill, or other life-threatening event. When you hear the wailing sirens go indoors and turn on a radio or television. The nature of the danger and guidance for your safety will be provided through the media. If you have an emergency, call 911; otherwise, stay tuned to TV and radio stations for information.

Sirens are tested at noon on the second Tuesday of each month.



Matters of Chief Importance

by Chief Jeff Riddle, Sr.

As the MFPD approaches the upcoming fiscal year, I wanted you to be updated on what we are doing to ensure your safety during these difficult economic times. The MFPD is funded through a state regulated formula which is applied to the property value of homes and business structures in the district.



Given the changes and volatility in real estate markets, we are taking a measured and prudent approach as we prepare the budget. The Board expects that revenues will be about the same in the upcoming year as they were this past year. Given that some expense increases are beyond the absolute control of the Department (e.g., health insurance, wage increases, fuel), reductions in other areas are needed to offset these anticipated expense increases.

I want you to know that the changes we will make will not affect our emergency response time, fire inspections, hydrant testing, truck and station maintenance, fire fighter training or any other core aspects of the service we are privileged and proud to provide you. Some community service initiatives will be scaled back or eliminated. If you have thoughts or questions about the fire department operations, please feel free to attend any of the Board meetings. These are held at 7:00pm on the second Tuesday of every month at Middletown Fire Station #1 (108 Urton Lane). It is a joy and honor to serve you.

Interested in "Exploring" Something Exciting?

The MFPD sponsors an Explorer post for guys and girls ages 14-20 interested in various aspects of fire fighting. Explorers learn through hands-on training how to operate fire fighting equipment, work in the fire service, serve on a team, and what it means to serve the community. To join, a person does not need to be planning on a career in fire fighting. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the fun, contact Josh Schank through www.middletownfire.org or call Chief Riddle at 245-7555. Meetings are at Station #1 (Urton Lane) on Tuesdays from 6 - 8 pm.

Join the MFPD! Become a Volunteer Fire Fighter

The new class for interested community members will begin shortly. Right now fifteen individuals have already committed to start training. Would you like to join them? The volunteer fire service is for men & women committed to community service, personal development, and meaningful relationships with fire fighter colleagues. If you believe these qualities describe you and you want to know more, contact Captain Ron Maddux at 245-7555 or rmaddux@mfpd.org.

