

Tots learn fire safety

Matt Hunt
Capital Times Staff

Children at the Stepping Stone Day Care Center received lessons on fire safety and participated in a fire drill on October 5, when members of the Middletown Fire Department paid them a visit.

The instructional visit came one week before Fire Prevention Week. The program is one in a series of safety-oriented programs to be held on campus this year.

The program began with a short film produced by Disney studios called "I'm No Fool With Fire." It gave a simplified history of fire and a few basic tips on fire prevention and safety.

Following the film, Fire Marshal Mick Shrauder went over some basic fire safety tips with the children, from telling an adult if they find lighters and matches, to what to do if their clothes catch fire.

To aid in his presentation, Mick brought in special guest, Sparky the Fire

Dog (played by Shrauder's daughter, Jen).

Together, they helped the children practice the "stop, drop and roll" procedure to put out a fire on their person. They also helped the children practice crawling out of a smoke-filled room.

Then Shrauder brought another special guest--Freddy the Fire Truck, a remote control vehicle approximately the size of a tricycle. Shrauder operated Freddy, and supplied its voice.

Following Freddy's appearance, the children participated in a fire drill. Middletown fire trucks were parked outside the day care center following the drill.

"This is just one of several safety programs we're planning to hold this year," said Charles Alesky, head of police services.

Alesky said the Middletown Fire department was visiting schools in the area, so he asked them to make an appearance on campus.



Photo by Michael Starkey

Sparky the Fire Dog tells kids about fire safety with Freddy the Fire Truck.

Students want cocktails, not mocktails

Stacey Simmers
Capital Times Staff

Planning a night for a mocktail party and karaoke is tough when the audience runs to bars three nights a week.

"We can't have it on Wednesday. Everybody goes to the Burst," said Joe Zmitrovich, president of resident student council, during the Organizational Advisory Board meeting on Thursday, Sept. 24.

"Forget Thursday. Everybody goes to Spanky's or the Alley," said Lori Gring, vice president of student government association.

And Friday, of course, kicks off the weekend. So that leaves Monday and Tuesday.

"Monday is out too," Gring said. "People are studying."

"And recuperating," added another person.

Don Vinciguerra, president of the institute of electrical and electronic engineers, wondered about the purpose of the mocktail party.

"Isn't the idea to tell people that they can have fun without alcohol?" Vinciguerra said. "Shouldn't we have it on a so-called bar night to try to keep them out of the bars?"

Everyone agreed that the idea was a good one.

"But let's face it," Zmitrovich said, "dorm people like to party."

The chosen night...Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 9 p.m.

Poe knows women

Bonnie Etzweiler
Capital Times Staff

Edgar Allen Poe fans received some insight into the author's private life during a lecture on Tuesday evening, Sept. 29, in the Gallery Lounge.

Dr. Jeffery Meyers, an internationally known scholar, author and journalist, shared a segment of his new biography about Edgar Allen Poe's life.

"I really enjoyed this," said one student. "I'm not a big Poe fan, but this was fascinating."

As one of the first self-doomed poets, Poe provided the material for his own poetry, Meyers said.

The lecture revolved around Poe's bizarre and simultaneous courtship with three women. While begging one woman

to marry him, he would send love letters, sometimes copies, to the others.

According to Meyers, whenever one of Poe's women was on the verge of saying "yes" to his marriage proposal, he would get drunk and sabotage the relationship. Then he would beg the woman to forgive him and save him from his alcoholism.

Meyers portrayed Poe as an artist who was totally out of control in his personal life, while producing very cold and controlled writing.

"It was informative. I hope it will affect my writing a lot in the future," said Jeremy McCarter, a visiting Bishop McDevitt High School junior and long-time Poe fan.

Meyers' lecture was sponsored by the School of Business Administration and the Humanities Division.

BLANK STAIR

by Trev Stair

