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# THE BLAZE

Volume 11, Issue 2

April – June 2005

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AKRON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## **Comments from the Desk of Chief Charles Gladman:**

I take this opportunity, along with the department, to welcome the new recruits. The graduation ceremony will be held on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome to attend. The new firefighters will be assigned to their new companies the week of May 8, 2005.

## **New Recruits:**

Askea, Matthew R.  
Curry, Melanie L.  
Dilworth, Christopher R.  
Falcone, Nathan  
Gearhart, Gregory  
Hagen, Marc  
Hudgens, Jason  
Koscick, Matt Alan  
La Rock, Frank E.  
Little, Jody Marie  
Logan, Christopher M.  
Lucey, Robert B.  
Mack, Cameron  
Marcinkoski, Mark P.  
Mazelis, Scott  
McGhee, Adam Thomas  
Price, Joel D.  
Reali, Renee Kathleen  
Reedy, Brandon Lee  
Saffles, Keith James  
Simone, Michael Troy  
Wadlington, Mark  
Wagner, Brenda J.  
White, Terra Dawn  
Zupancic, Michael James

**The revised letter below was sent to Chief Charles Gladman on January 31, 2005 from Councilman John V. Frank**

Around 18 years ago, Akron experienced a very bad ice storm. Engine 12 was not equipped with a chain saw and as the ward councilman, I persuaded Harold E. Graves, Jr. to donate one.

Trees can be very dangerous and become a serious public safety hazard in ice storms.

John Frank had learned Harold's chain saw served West Akron for many years, but was retired. John Frank donated a replacement in memory of his friend, Harold E. Graves, Jr.

The chain saw is a 16" John Deere and accompanying it is a gallon of bar oil and 6 bottles of oil (with stabilizer) for the engine. The stabilizer in the oil is essential since the new environmentally correct gasoline becomes stale in a short period of time. This prevents it from gumming up the carburetor.

There are other pictures found on the web site at H:\firegroups\Shared Photos. Look under Station 12 chain saw presentation.





### **Fire Department Accepts Donation**

In January of this year, Mr. Bill Fiorella of the Affordable Benefits Agency made a generous donation to the Akron Fire Department. Mr. Fiorella, an Allstate Insurance Company agent, said that he was relatively new to the area and noticed that the fire companies in his neighborhood seemed especially busy. Because of this, he decided to make a donation to the department in appreciation of our efforts. Pictured above, Mr. Fiorella presents a check to Chief Gladman and Deputy Chief Strum. The money will be used for Public Education and Prevention programs. The fire department wishes to express thanks and gratitude to Mr. Fiorella.

SHOW YOUR COLORS!



JOIN THE AKRON FIRE  
DEPARTMENT HONOR  
GUARD

The Honor Guard is in need of new members. Interested personnel can contact John Gordon at 330-375-2197 for more information about the Honor Guard or submit your written request to his attention in the Public Education office.

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Brent Combs  
From the APD Daily Bulletin

## **High Blood Pressure and Mental Decline**

Medical evidence has been accumulating that untreated hypertension increases the risk of mental decline and dementia in older people. Now, a 20-year study published in *Circulation* in November 2004 has shown that even in otherwise healthy people aged 18 to 46, higher blood pressure is linked to a decline in cognitive function. Previous studies have found that when hypertension is successfully treated with medication, the risk of mental decline is cut by as much as half. Yet 70% of Americans with hypertension do not have the disorder under control. Nearly one-third doesn't even know they have it (UC Berkeley Wellness Letter December 2004). Whether you want to protect yourself against high blood pressure or treat your hypertension, the lifestyle prescription is the same: exercise aerobically, maintain a healthy weight, get your BP checked regularly and take your medication if your doctor prescribes it.

## **Public Education Grant**

Submitted by: Al Bragg

The Watch Your Step Coalition received a grant from WITAN, (Women in Touch with Akron's Needs), in the amount of \$600.00 for the installation of smoke alarms in the 44320 zip code. WITAN purchased 201 smoke alarms, which will be turned over to our Public Education Department for installation in the homes of older adults in West Akron. The 44320 zip code has consistently had one of the highest incidences of fire and fire related injuries and deaths.

## **F Y I**

Submitted by: Mark Harper

## **Aluminum Can for Burn Children Benefit Softball Game**

ACBC is having a benefit softball game at the Firestone Stadium on May 28, 2005 at 7:00 PM. ACBC is looking for firefighters to participate. If interested, please contact Mark Harper at 330-375-2197. Survivors from the TV show 'Survivors' and local celebrities will play against the firefighters in this benefit. Please get involved in this event

**What's the Most Dangerous Day to Drive? 40,000 in U.S. Die Each Year on the Road, Weekends Are the Deadliest.**

2-2-05 - Imagine a plane full of people crashing, killing everyone on board, every single day. That's how many people die on America's roads daily, says the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Not all days are alike. Weekends are worse than weekdays, summer and fall months have more deadly crashes than winter or spring months, and holidays top the list for crash deaths. The institute studied U.S. Department of Transportation data from 1986-2002. Information covered crashes on public roads resulting in a death within 30 days, including pedestrian deaths. On average, more than 100 people per day died in car crashes in the U.S. The death toll for a single day can range from 45 to 252 people.

July 4<sup>th</sup> had the highest number of crash deaths. It has an average of 12 more deaths than any other day of the year. This day also had a high number of deaths involving alcohol. The 2<sup>nd</sup> worst day was July 3<sup>rd</sup>, with 149 crash deaths. Six of the worst days clustered around holidays. The other four days all occurred in August, which had more vehicle travel than any other month. In contrast, the 10 days of the year, which averaged the

fewest crash deaths, were in January and February. These months had the lightest road traffic. Evenings and weekends were the deadliest times on the road. The worse hours were from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. By far, Saturday had the most deaths. Next came Friday. Sunday was a third. Tuesday had the least fatalities.

Alcohol may partly explain why the nights, weekends, and holidays had more crash fatalities. For instance, almost half of New Year's Day deaths involved alcohol impairment. Pedestrians account for nearly 13% of all crash deaths. New Year's Day and Halloween had the highest average pedestrian death rates – each averaging 24 pedestrian deaths. All other days with at least 20 pedestrian deaths happened from October through December. The day of the year with the fewest pedestrian deaths was March 11. About 7% of crash deaths were among motorcyclists. June, July, and August accounted for 41% of motorcycle deaths.

Many people think they won't be affected, believing their driving skills are superior. But, that can't be true. The Insurance Institute hopes to jolt people out of their false sense of security.

Sources: Injury Prevention, vol. 11; PP 18-23. BMJ Specialist Journals.

## P.S.A. SCREENING

Submitted by: John Gardner

On March 8, 9 and 10, the Akron Fire Department, in conjunction with the American Cancer Society and the Brother-to-Brother Project, did a prostate cancer screening for firefighters from throughout Summit County. We tested a total of **294** this year. This number includes **261** current or retired A.F.D. members as well as **33** from the surrounding communities. Everyone involved was very impressed as to how smoothly everything ran. Our deepest gratitude goes out to our hosts at Station #4. I would also like to offer a huge thank you to Local 330, the Summit County Fire Chiefs Association and the Summit County Firefighters Association. Each of these groups has offered to make a generous donation to the Brother-to-Brother Project. Unfortunately, in these days of shrinking budgets, some of Dr. Ronald Brown's operating grants have been reduced or eliminated altogether. His original mission was to test minorities with low-income and/or no insurance and those that are considered "high-risk". Our chosen careers have placed us in the "high-risk" category and Dr. Brown has very graciously offered to screen any firefighters annually for the last 4 years. If anyone has any means of supporting this great program or if you know of a group that should be tested, please contact me and I will put you in touch with Dr. Brown.

Prostate cancer is considered one of the "silent-killers" because usually there are no signs or symptoms until it is too late. By then, it has probably spread to other locations and your choice of treatment (and outcome) have greatly diminished. It is imperative to get tested for this kind of cancer early and continuously monitors your results every year. **Early detection is the key to prevention.** The P.S.A. blood test is the first step. If your results are elevated (this can happen for a variety of reasons), you will be referred to your doctor for a digital exam of the rectum. If they're still unsure, a biopsy can be ordered so that a small sample of tissue can be extracted and examined for any abnormalities.

By the time you read this, you should have already received your test results. If you have not got them yet, please contact me at 330-375-2197 and I can find out what lab they were sent to. They used both Summa and General Hospital due to the large volume of testing that we did.

Thanks to everyone involved in getting this testing done and a special thanks to those that came out and got tested!  
**Remember: The lives we save will be are own!**

## Photo Shoot 'too hot' for fire department

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Brent Combs

Five Tampa firefighters were disciplined for inviting strippers to a fire station for a nude and topless photo session. The women, identified only as Jamie and Heather, posed with a fire truck in October. They wore only high heels, firefighters' pants and suspenders. Dozens of the pictures were posted on the Internet. The firefighters were charged with neglect of duty, moral turpitude and insubordination. A captain was fired. The other four firefighters were suspended for up to a month. Chief Dennis Jones said he was embarrassed by the firemen's actions but "they didn't miss any calls".

USA Today dated 2-4-05

## FIRE REPORTING UPDATE

Submitted by Brenda Wasson

There are still numerous problems and issues involving the new NFIRS 5.O / H.T.E. system. Anyone experiencing problems entering fire reports, contact Lt. Breznak or District Chief Combs. If during your shift you experience a problem, contact one of us as soon as possible. Ignoring the problem will not make it go away.

There are still several report corrects that need to be completed. The information on these reports are used for statistical purposes. Please complete these corrections in a timely manner.

The 2004 Annual Report is being drafted. If anyone would like to submit pictures for consideration for this report, feel free to send them to me.

**REMINDER:** If you are ever in doubt, contact me at #2215, or District Chief Brent Combs at #2411, and we will be glad to assist you in completing the report.

### NOTE:

Until next newsletter keep up the fabulous job all you **Hardworking Firefighters**. Enjoy your spring.



## Fire Training Academy

Submitted by: Lt. Rodney Stewart

This is the time of the year when we all seem to have our plates full with annual SCBA, Fit, and Fit for Fire Testing. Throw a recruit class in the mix, and it's a challenging schedule to manage.

We are pressing on, however, and find ourselves deep into the second month of recruit class training. (It's a dirty job but somebody's gotta do it!) We cannot emphasize enough how much we appreciate the help of the companies who willingly assist us in training the newbies. There is no way we could accomplish what we need to do without your help! Negotiating a class of 25 recruits is no easy feat, but hopefully at the end of 12 weeks with us; they will show some resemblance to real firefighters.

Also, many thanks and appreciation to Battalion 2 Commanders and those who are running the SCBA Drills at the commercial building on East Market Street. We will be making good use of the structure until it is razed the first week of April. Thanks to Captain Stoneman for devising the lesson and drill plans for the training.

Graduation day is set for April 29, 2005. All are welcome to attend and I'm sure the rooks would love you to swing by their graduation party. More details will be forthcoming.

A long way to go and much to do before we turn them loose on the company officers and the fair citizens of our beloved City of Akron!

'Til next time, be safe.....train hard!

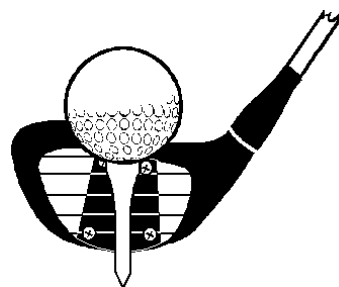


## Harvest for Hunger

### To All Fire Department Personnel:

Harvest for Hunger boxes are being distributed to all stations. This collection drive will benefit the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank. They are seeking canned goods and non-perishables. As members of the Fire Department, we all enjoy a comfortable standard of living. Our salary and benefits package is among the best in the City, we have all the necessities, and generally have a fair amount of discretionary income. We've chose a career that is centered on helping our fellow citizens, but this help can, and should, extend beyond the high-visibility emergency responses. Please take this opportunity to assist those that are less fortunate than we are. Let's fill the box in each of our stations. Here's a suggestion for a simple way to achieve this. Every person working on a particular day throws a dollar or two (or five) in a kitty. Then, when the cook goes to the store, use the money to purchase food for donation. A couple bucks from each person, once (times three shifts), should result in a box that is full or nearly full, even in a single house. Double houses should find it easy to donate twice as much. For less than the cost of a gallon of gas, a pack of cigarettes, a draft beer or a café latte mouca grande, we can make a real contribution to the Food Bank. This collection drive lasts until March 31<sup>st</sup>, but if you fill your box quickly and want to be

among the first to donate, you may call Ericka Abram, Food Donor Coordinator, Akron Canton Regional Food Bank, at (330) 535-6900, extension 125, to schedule a pick up. Thank you for caring.



## 2005 AFD GOLF LEAGUE

### CHENOWETH GOLF COURSE

League fee of \$40

Starts on Tuesday, May 3, 0830

Low net prizes weekly

Optional skin game

Green fees are \$13 for 9 holes and cart

Contact Mike Kranek-4C or

Rick Brncik-2C

## Let's Go To The Movies

Submitted by: Marilyn Newman

### CONSTANTINE

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Rachel Weisz and Peter Stormere

Director: *Francis Lawrence*

This movie is based on 3 comic book novels and this is installment one. Will there be another? I certainly hope so. It has generated enough critical interest and money that I'm sure there will be more. Constantine has died and went to hell, literally. Now he is back. He fights demons (though extreme exorcism) that he alone can see. This has tons of action, boffo special effects and some really funny lines. Keanu Reeves is perfect in this part. He adds just the right touch of sadness to this cynical character trying to win his good graces back into heaven. Rachel Weisz is good as the skeptical detective looking for answers to her sister's death. But, I really enjoyed Peter Stormere as the devil himself. He really camped up the screen. This movie is obviously not for everyone, but if you enjoy this type of film run to the theater. I'm thinking of going back for another dose. Can't wait for DVD!!! There is no sex or nudity and the language isn't bad, but the subject matter makes this unsuitable for anyone under 13. Three alarms.

### HITCH

Starring: Will Smith, Kevin James, Eva Mendes and Amber Villetta

Director: *Andy Tennant*

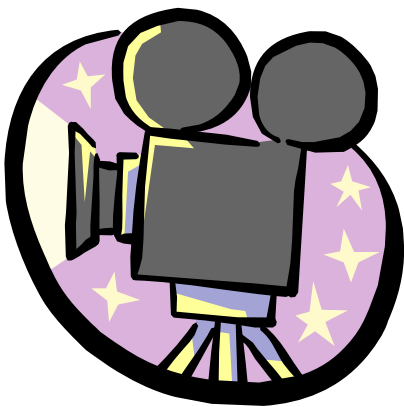
This is a fairly good comedy that is very romantic. Will Smith is the super-smooth Hitch, who makes a very lucrative career out of showing other men how to woo their ladies. But, when confronted by the girl of his dreams, he falls apart both figuratively and literally. There are some truly hilarious scenes between Smith and Kevin James. This does fit nicely into the "Chick Flick" category, but I think there is enough comedy outside of the romance to keep you guys from pulling your hair out. All the actors in this film turn in very good performances. This makes this film truly entertaining. There is no bad language, no sex and the subject matter is appropriate for children over 13. But, you can bet that your sons ain't going to want to see it. Take the wife or significant other and enjoy. Two and half alarms.

## HOSTAGE

Starring: Bruce Willis, Kevin Pollack  
and Jonathan Tucker

Director: Florent Siri

I thoroughly enjoyed this movie. It has a nice twisty, turny plot that keeps you guessing all the way though. There are some really good action sequences. It is full of tension and keeps you on the edge of your seat from beginning to end. Bruce Willis is fab. This is Bruce at his best, kickin' butt and taking names. New comer Ben Foster plays the completely disturbed Mars. He made a real impression. No serious foul language and no sex, but some scary action makes this unsuitable for younger children. Three alarms.



## Food For Thought!

### A GLASS OF MILK

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry.

He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door.

Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry so she brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it slowly, and then asked, How much do I owe you?

You don't owe me anything, she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept payment for a kindness."

He said..... "Then I thank you from my heart."

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and mankind was strong also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Many years later that same young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled! They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease.

Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room.

Dressed in his doctor's gown he went in to see her. He recognized her at once.

He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day he gave special attention to her case.

After a long struggle, the battle was won.

Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words.....

"Paid in full with one glass of milk"  
(Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly.

Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed: "Thank You God that your love has spread broadly through human hearts and hands."

There's a saying which goes something like this: Bread cast on the waters comes back to you. The good deed you do today may benefit you or someone you love at the least expected time. If you never see

the deed again at least you will have made the world a better place - And, after all, isn't that what life is all about?

The hardest thing to learn in life is which bridge to cross and which to burn.....

**GOOD FRIENDS ARE LIKE ANGELS YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE THEM TO KNOW THEY ARE THERE.**

The winner of a contest for kids explaining what love means to them was a 4 year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly man who had just lost his wife.

When the child saw the man cry, the little boy went over into the man's yard and climbed on top of the man's lap and just sat there. When the boy's mother asked him what he'd said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

Never underestimate the kindness of a child.....



## Happy Birthday

### *April*

Robert S. Arnold	4/06
Matthew J. D'Avello	4/13
Michael DePaul	4/22
Edward P. Dodan	4/24
David Ewers	4/05
Michael J. Fox	4/21
Jeffrey M. Frock	4/01
Joseph Gentile	4/02
Dennis L. Hubele	4/28
Wesley R. Hull	4/15
Billy D. Hupp	4/03
William F. Johnston	4/10
Matt Alan Kosciak	4/08
Sierrie M. Lash	4/02
Michael Lozowv	4/24
Peter J. Mattucci	4/06
Thomas P. Mazzei	4/12
Ronald E. Mitchell	4/02
Joseph C. Natko	4/10
Rod Poor	4/26
Renee Kathleen Reali	4/22
Andrew M. Seal	4/25
Bruce R. Shirev	4/17
Albert L. Smith	4/26
Mark Wadlington	4/14
Brenda J. Wagner	4/12
Jeffrey A. Wallick	4/18
Gailon Williams	4/02
Donald B. Willoughby	4/20

### *May*

Robert Alestock	5/10
Matthew R. Askea	5/23
Brett L. Baldinger	5/03
Michael P. Boaner	5/12
Richard A. Brncik	5/06
Steve Buffone	5/11
Richard Burnette	5/28
Emmit Bush	5/29
Willie J. Jr. Davis	5/19
Jeff D. Derrenberaer	5/12
David T. DiLauro	5/15
Guv J. Donatelli	5/28
Michael C. Emich	5/01
Michelle Filigno-Wittman	5/19
Wavne Foster	5/26
Phillip A. Gauer	5/26
Gredorv Gearhart	5/02
William A. Gladman	5/05
Kevin Gostkowski	5/11
David M. Griffith	5/11
Marc Haden	5/13
Mark A. Harber	5/11
Andrew Holleran	5/03
Donald G. Klein	5/06
Aaron Kuczkowski	5/30
Virail S. Linder	5/05
Christopher Lushbaugh	5/06
Mark P. Marcinkoski	5/11
James K. McCollum	5/30
Kenneth W. Mevn	5/15
Adam Thomas McGhee	5/03
Nathaniel Michel	5/04
Matthew Micozzi	5/12
Michael D. Mills	5/09
Matthew Movers	5/27
Cliff Musgrave	5/14
Frank Poletta	5/18
Dennis J. Rains	5/12
Bradley J. Robson	5/08
Ronald T. Rodaers	5/28
Mark A. Rodaers	5/31
Brian Santee	5/24
John L. Shepherd	5/27
Freddie C. Simmons	5/25

Kenneth L. Smith	5/07
.John M. Thomas	5/02
.James E. Thomas	5/22
Charles E. IV Twigg	5/24
Brenda Wasson	5/02
Brian Weaver	5/23
.James M. Willoughby	5/30
Ronald C. .Jr. Wright	5/13

*June*

Jibril Abdullah	6/13
Joshua Anderson	6/30
Neal A. Bierwirth	6/28
Kerry D. Briggs	6/23
Russell A. Brode	6/26
Michael Brooks	6/20
Christopher G. Dickev	6/14
Robert N. Donel	6/30
Stacie Frabotta	6/27
William III Hailev	6/28
Darryl Hickman	6/15
Robert M. Hoch	6/27
Robert K. II Keener	6/23
Thomas C. Kerr	6/30
Jody Marie Little	6/17
Frank Jr. Marina	6/01
James A. McCombs	6/05
William Monzo	6/09
Bernard Pressman	6/27
Eula M. Jr. Roberts	6/17
William Romano	6/26
John R. Rosneck	6/28
Thomas G.	6/30
Michael Trov Simone	6/16
James R. Simpson	6/12
David L. Sims	6/03
George D. Spikerman	6/12
Rodney E. Stewart	6/30
Stephen L. Stinson	6/20
Alfred L. II Strong	6/18
David Tennev	6/19
James VanDerlin	6/08
Howard E. Watson	6/25
James Weiser	6/11
Jeffrey G. White	6/01

**Editor'N Chief**  
**Chief Charles Gladman**  
**% Sue Holler**  
**Fire Prevention Bureau**

Our next Newsletter will cover the months of July/August/September.

Thought:

In order to see the rainbow, you must first endure the rain.....