



# Charles F. Vonderahe Scholarship Award

Awarded August 13, 2013

Scholarship Awarded by Fort Wright Volunteer Fire Department Corporation to Paige Montfort, from Park Hills, Kentucky. Paige attended St. Agnes School last year and is now attending Notre Dame High School.



Pictured above: Chief Steve Schewe, Paige Montfort and Fort Wright Volunteer Fire Department Board President Dean Russell



Paige Montfort pictured above with her award and her proud family.

## The Importance of Fire Safety

Paige Montfort

We hear the blaring sirens and see the flashing lights of fire trucks every day, yet never truly believe anything could happen to us. It is this state of mind, of not worrying or taking necessary fire safety precautions, that causes people to be so unprepared for a fire. Fires can be terribly devastating; however, we can help to lessen the possible damage of fires by educating others on the importance of having a fire plan and being careful and thoughtful about how we leave candles, stoves, and other objects unattended.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) advises that everyone have not only one fire escape plan, but two. Fires can spread extremely quickly, and block paths in minutes, so along with knowing how to escape and where to meet, it is important that people are prepared to evacuate a building quickly and efficiently. In 1977, the Beverly Hills Supper Club in Southgate, Kentucky had a fire that resulted in 165 deaths. People were unable to escape because of the large number of people in the club and the unpreparedness of the attendees as a whole. February 20 of this year marked the ten year anniversary of the Rhode Island nightclub fire that claimed 100 lives. Although I personally have not lost anyone I know in a tragic fire, there are many others who have and are greatly affected by it. Because of the number of preventable fires that have occurred since then, we must recognize the necessity of fire safety plans so that no one else has to lose loved ones and friends.

Fire alarms are very important to have in all homes and other buildings. Fire alarms, according to the NFPA, need to be located in "every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home". This needs to be enforced in each home across the United States, because one smoke detector can be the difference between life and death. While asleep, many do not realize that a fire has started until it is almost too late. The installation of fire alarms, as well as connecting them so that if one sounds, they all do, will help save the lives of people in our communities.

Children need to be educated about the importance of fire safety. More routine fire drills at school, as well as regular biannual practices of escape routes at home, can make kids feel safer and potentially save lives. Not knowing what to do in an emergency can affect not only you, but others around you. It is critical that children are made more aware of the dangers of fires and informed of all the things they must do in case of a fire. Programs to increase awareness do exist, but others need to be started, so that all students can be educated about creating fire escape routes and how to prevent fires. Routine practices of these drills will make children more aware of fire safety, and they will bring that acuteness to their homes and can increase the awareness of an entire community.

Overall, we must increase measures of fire safety in our homes, schools, work places, and businesses. The community needs to come together to inform others, practice regularly, and install more fire detecting devices. Fire safety measures can save lives and decrease the likeliness of another tragedy like the Beverly Hills Supper Club or the nightclub fire in Rhode Island. Come together to inform, practice, and install today.



## Fort Wright Fire Department looking for history

The Fort Wright Fire Department started in 1949 with a roster of 38 volunteers willing to help the community and provide a service that has saved the lives of many citizens. Over the years our department has transitioned from an all volunteer service to a modern structure using a combination of volunteers, part-time, and full time personnel. In an effort to preserve our history, the Fort Wright Fire Department Corporation has made a motion to illustrate the profound history of our fire department.

With the help of Peter Pritchard, a retired Delhi firefighter who specializes in historical preservations, we are hoping to highlight the steps along the way that got us to where we are now. Over the span of 6 decades our fire department has gone from providing just fire suppression to a department that now can respond to advanced life support, rescue, and hazardous materials incidents. Your fire department has taken monumental steps to assure the citizens of Fort Wright that they are being provided with the highest level of emergency care available. The men and women who made the stepping stones for what the fire department is today deserve to be recognized for their heroic efforts. Countless hours have gone into making the fire department a valuable asset to the community.

We want to showcase this progression by creating a historical timeline display that will line the walls of our fire department, and possibly the lobby of city hall. This display will inspire new recruits, give homage to retired firefighters, and instill a sense of pride within the fire department to continue what so many others have set in place. We are asking the community to come forth with any artifacts they may have relating to the fire department. Any questions or comments regarding the fire departments history project can be directed to Firefighter/EMT Bobby Hug at [bhug@fortwright.com](mailto:bhug@fortwright.com). Thanks in advance for any information or artifacts you may be able to provide.

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## Museum News

### Upcoming Events

#### Public Archaeology Dig

Saturday, September 14, 2013 - 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Please call museum to sign up, or email [ramagecivilwarmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:ramagecivilwarmuseum@gmail.com)

#### Antique Appraisal Fair

October 5, 2013 from 1-4 p.m.

Community of Faith Presbyterian Church, 1400 Highland Ave. Fort Wright Ky.

Parking will be on the lot of the church.

Cost \$5 for each item appraised. Limit of two items.

For more information please call 859-344-1145, or email [kromero@twc.com](mailto:kromero@twc.com)

#### 9th Annual Civil War Christmas at the Museum

Sunday, December 8, 2013 - 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Watch for details on the website at [www.fortwright.com](http://www.fortwright.com) - Click on Civil War Museum in menu on left of page.

**Volunteer Opportunities** – Are you interested in the Civil War or history in general, like to meet new people, help children learn about our area, or just enjoy doing volunteer work? Consider becoming a museum volunteer! Our volunteers staff the museum during operating hours, help conduct group tours, get involved with teaching KERA approved programs to school-aged children, and help staff and plan special events. If you'd like to become a volunteer, stop by the museum and fill out an application or download one from the "Volunteer Opportunities" section on the museum's page on the city's website. If you have any questions about becoming a volunteer or would like more information before making your decision, email us at [ramagecivilwarmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:ramagecivilwarmuseum@gmail.com)

The Museum is open Friday and Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday from Noon to 5:00 PM. The Museum is closed on holidays. Phone number: 859-344-1145

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### Christopher Caddell

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### Ludlow Civic Club Wine-Tasting

Saturday September 21st from 3-7pm. On the grounds behind  
the VFW Hall at 830 Elm Street, Ludlow KY

Local wineries, restaurants, artists, musicians and community  
organizations. For questions or additional information, call  
859-291-5675 or email us at [clnolan60@gmail.com](mailto:clnolan60@gmail.com)