

Firefighters a hit at Holly Berry Court

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MILLVILLE — As the big fire truck approached Holly Berry Court, dozens of kids were eager to inspect the engine and meet with the city firefighters.

The Millville Fire Department visited the housing complex on Holly Berry Lane on Thursday afternoon to give the kids a demonstration of the truck's hose and tips for fire safety in their homes. About 30 kids came by to

check out the truck, simulate pumping a fire hydrant and win prizes after answering questions from the firefighters.

The event is part of a kids' program at the complex that Clara Harris has run all summer. The children's coordinator for the Millville Housing Authority has run movie nights every Wednesday and has scheduled activities every Thursday, such as outdoor games, a Michael Jackson tribute and a visit from the city's police department.

"The kids are having a great time," she said. "They

were very excited when they saw the truck."

The authority also instituted a free breakfast and lunch program during the summer for the children at the complex. Ivy Evans, chief operating officer for the MHA's nonprofit agency, the Holly City Development Corp, said the events have been successful, and they want to continue to provide these types of programs, which don't cost the authority money.

"We hope to continue this momentum into the fall," she said.

Firefighter Dean Infer-

rera said his department wants to teach the kids to practice fire safety at home as well as during summer activities, such as barbecues. The department often goes to local schools and housing complexes to talk to children, he said.

"It's also good, because it lets the kids know who we are and what we do," he said.

Resident Lavar McCall said the visit had a big impact on the kids.

"It's really important, because if something happens they'll know what to do," he said.



Staff photo/Charles J. Olson

Timmy Hill, 7, tries on a helmet during a visit by the Millville Fire Department to Holly Berry Court on Thursday.