



MILAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Kids Get Busted in Milan doing GOOD!

**Milan Police are on the lookout for kids between the ages of 5-17 doing good deeds in Milan. The Buddy Bucks program rewards kids with a ticket from the Milan Police that can be turned in for 1 regular single ice cream cone or a big cookie at:
Dairy Barn 805, Dexter Street
Nagle's, 225 Wabash**

May 12, 2015, Milan, Michigan: This community oriented character building program was created and is sponsored by the Milan Rotary Club and the Milan Area Schools, and is carried out by the Milan Police Department. The Buddy Bucks program is a way to re-enforce good behavior in kids while providing them with a positive encounter with a police officer.

Last year, approximately 300 Buddy Bucks thickets were passed out by Milan Police Officers to youth in the community.

Sara K. Ford, who was a member of Milan Rotary Club, as well as President of the Milan Area Chamber of Commerce at the time, read about a similar program in the May 12, 1998 issue of Family Circle Magazine. Ms. Ford thought the program would be great for Milan. The Milan Police Chief at that time, Rotarian Herb Mahoney, thought it was an excellent idea and that it should be developed further. The Milan Rotary Club recognized the opportunity and agreed to provide the funds to support the program. The program became a reality in 1999 and has been a featured part of the summer in Milan ever since.

Milan Police Chief Gerard Scherlinck strongly supports the project as a way to not only encourage kids to make positive contributions to their families, friends, and the community, but also as an excellent opportunity for positive encounters between police officers and kids.

The Milan Rotary Club continues to provide the funds to reimburse the participating businesses for the treats.

Milan Area Schools Superintendent and Rotarian Bryan Girbach strongly endorses the project as a means to reward local youth for positive behaviors throughout the summer, and like the Chief, views this as an excellent tool for police officers to use to reach out to kids in a positive way.

Milan Police Officers will distribute Buddy Bucks Tickets to kids from ages 5 to 17 years old when they observe them wearing their bike helmet, walking their bike on the sidewalk, picking up litter, helping parents, or any other positive behaviors in the community. In addition to rewarding kids for good deeds and safe behavior, kids who officers observe or become aware of who are participating in summer reading efforts will also be eligible for Buddy Bucks. According to Superintendent Girbach, encouraging and reinforcing kids to keep up on reading during the summer months has been demonstrated to not only maintain learning skills during vacation, but also prepares kids to transition back into the routine of studies in the fall much more effectively.

Parents or adults who observe a kid doing something worthy of an award may call the Milan Police Department and arrangements will be made for an officer to stop by and give them a "Buddy Bucks Ticket."

For Questions please call Sara K. Ford 734-439-4007 or e-mail at sarak.ford@yahoo.com or contact Milan Police Chief Gerard Scherlinck

GERARD SCHERLINCK
CHIEF OF POLICE