

■ Chatter

Did You Know?

The Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs is urging Rhode Islanders to leave all fireworks displays to the professionals this Fourth of July. Rhode Island is one of five states that ban the use of fireworks by consumers.

In a typical year, there are more fires reported in the United States on Independence Day than on any other day of the year, with fireworks accounting for half of those fires.

According to the National

Fire Protection Association, the authority on fire safety and prevention, an estimated 9,200 people were treated at hospital emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries in 2006, the most recent year for which statistics are available. More than half (55 percent) of 2006 fireworks injuries were burns. Contusions and lacerations were second (30 percent).

The highest risk of fireworks injury is to school age children. Children ages 10-14 are 2.5 times more likely than the general population to be injured

from fireworks. Based on the amount of time and quantities in use, fireworks pose a higher risk of fire death than any other consumer product. For more information, visit the National Fire Protection Association Web site, www.nfpa.org.

If you would like to submit any items of interest, please e-mail Meri R. Kennedy directly at CranstonChatter@aol.com. You may also address your items to Cranston Chatter, c/o Cranston Herald/Beacon Communications, 1944 Warwick Ave., Warwick, RI 02889. Photos are also welcome.