

McDonald's Thunder Funder kicks-off this week

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This year's McDonald's Thunder Funder program, which will help raise funds for the 2013 Thunder Over Louisville Air and Fireworks show, kicks off on Monday, March 11. McDonald's Restaurants of Kentuckiana is the title sponsor of the program for the eighth consecutive year.

From March 11 to April 15, ninety-six area McDonald's restaurants will donate a portion of their large drink sales revenue to help support Thunder. The promotion coincides with McDonald's \$1.00 drink campaign, with large drinks served in a commemorative Thunder Over Louisville cup.

The 2013 McDonald's Thunder Funder Preview Party also returns this year and will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, at Bowman Field. The event features a McDonald's playground area, elements of the Thunder Air Show, helicopter rides for \$40 and much more. Admission is free with a 2013 Pegasus Pin or McDonald's Thunder Funder cup.

Thunder Over Louisville - the Derby Festival's Opening Ceremonies - is one of nearly 70 events produced by the Kentucky Derby Festival in the spring. The 2013 Thunder Over Louisville, themed "Thunder Vision," is set for Saturday, April 20, and will be the 24th annual production. The show is sponsored by Horseshoe Southern Indiana, KentuckyOne Health, LG&E, Meijer and UPS.

Since 1956, the Derby Festival has worked to bring the community together in celebration. The Festival is an independent community organization supported by 4,000 volunteers, 375 businesses and civic groups, Pegasus Pin sponsorships and event participation. This involvement has made the Festival the largest single-attended event in Kentucky and one of the leading community celebrations in the world.