



THE WATCHDESK

ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

COLLECTING • PRESERVING • EDUCATING • INTERPRETING



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Director's Message

The Watchdesk 2021

There are so many positive things to report, I hardly know where to begin. So let the first item be to say 'thank you' to our donors who gave more generously than ever. You are the life blood of this Museum.

The number of donors increased during the pandemic which was the result of spreading the good word about what we do here; as the fifth or sixth largest fire museum in the world we frequently set the tempo for restorations and research but we never take that for granted. The twenty-eight people who work here are always ready to answer questions and provide fire service history. Three have new titles that best fit their jobs as I try to balance the talents that each of us brings to the table. In January 2021 Eric resigned as curator and is staying on as Fireboat Manager; Steve Burkholder was a full-time mechanic for January-July and got us through some prickly technical problems. I miss them both but the search is on for a new curator. Aaron Lippincott succeeded William Roulett as Education Director. There have been other staff changes and lots of training required. I will refer you to the upcoming Annual Report for details. This issue of Watchdesk is much shorter and less polished due to fewer staff. I thank Amy, Anne, Aaron, Jess and Christy for helping me with this.

Did we have time for collections? Oh yes, did we ever! Ed finished cleaning the c.1854 Hook & Ladder from Wandowenock, LI, down to the top coat of white enamel. Gary is keeping up the accessions

records. Many of us officially finished the 1920 Seagrave after 40 intermittent years of ground-up restoration. Ted Elder tuned the ole gal up and it ran like a clock on my birthday (26 January).

Wayne Troyer spent seven weeks gold leafing and decorating it thanks to a generous gift of John Teichmoeller. (All of our restorations have to be privately funded at this point.) A stunning example of a 1901 tin façade came from the Union fire house in Oxford, PA, and is being mounted on the west wall. Look for its completion in 2022.

The Governor of Maryland proclaimed the start of our 50th anniversary in September and I hope that you will join us for several of the events through September 2022 when we have a big party to commemorate fifty years of service to the community.

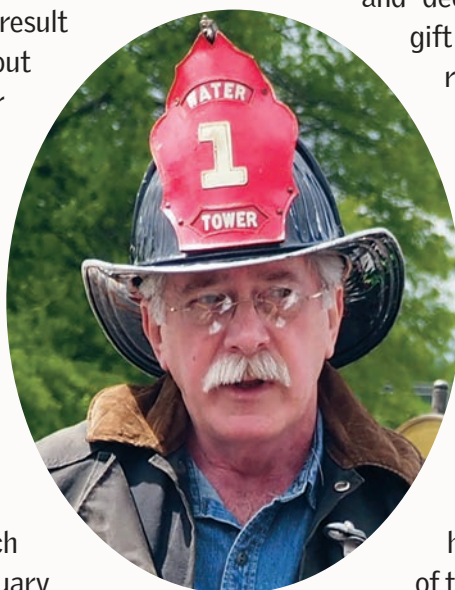
Working with the new owners of Heaver Plaza, we expect to see fresh signs on York Road and Greenridge Road and a sprinkler system installed, not to mention the completion of an eight year project to expand and improve the Marsh Research Center (archives and library). We will be launching a \$250,000 campaign to revamp the Discovery Room with an exciting design by Roto. More about that as the year moves along.

With every good wish,

Steve Heaver

Stephen Heaver

Director & Curator Emeritus





1. One of the final steps in the restoration of our 1920 Seagrave was the gold leafing. Working from historic photos, artist Wayne Troyer authentically reproduced the original designs of the engine from Ridgway, PA. On our open days, Wayne chatted with visitors, giving them a deeper appreciation of the work and skill that goes into undertakings such as this.



2. In February, 2021, we held our annual 'Great Fire of Baltimore' event on Zoom. While we missed having guests in the Museum, it was nice to be able to present our program to viewers across the county. Our Education Department also conducted dozens of virtual tours of the Museum to schools, community groups, and senior centers.

3. Where would we be without our hard-working and incredibly talented staff and volunteers? It's hard to get them to stop working for a moment, but we did manage to grab a group shot after wrapping up the Motor Muster in September. Thanks to the Seagrave Company for their support of this year's Muster.

4. Our Train Garden and visit from Santa are holiday traditions at the Museum. In 2020, our socially safe Santa greeted children from behind his desk, rather than in his sleigh. It was such a success he is doing it again this year. The Train Garden opens Saturday, November 27 from 10-4. Santa will be here from 11-2. The Train Garden will be open Saturdays in December (closed December 25). Also open Holiday Week, December 27-30, 10-4. Thanks to Fulton Bank for sponsoring our Train Garden.

5. Families love our kids' Discovery Room. But the room is showing its age and is ready for an update. Plans call for making the iconic



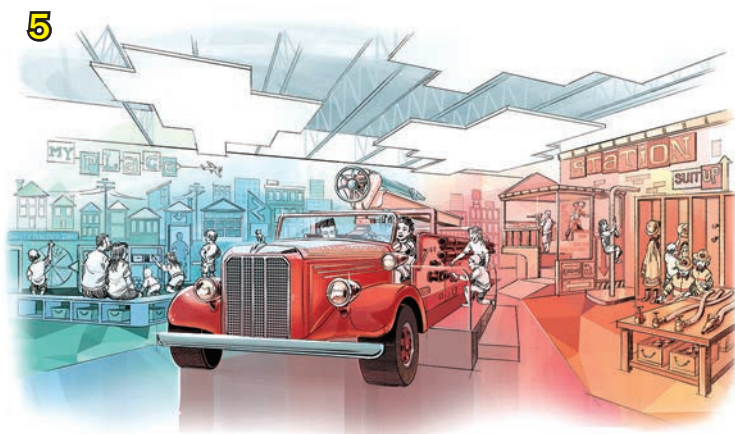
- OCTOBER 2021

1943 Mack engine the centerpiece of the room. New, interactive exhibits will focus on safety and encourage kids to think about careers as first responders. To donate, go to: www.firemuseummd.org/donate, and click on the Discovery Room link.

6. The Board of Directors play a key role in supporting and sustaining the Fire Museum. Two new board members joined this past year: Ross Shaffer is an I.T. Engineer with T. Rowe Price, and Lt. Shana Haughton is with the Baltimore City Office of the Fire Marshall. Welcome to the board Shana and Ross! On a sad note, the Museum experienced the loss of long time board member and devoted friend Holton "Brownie" Brown, who passed away in June.

7. Steam Day was cancelled in 2020, but returned this May as nearly 400 visitors poured in to see real steam and hand engines in action, and to ride on our horse-drawn hose wagon. In honor of our 50th anniversary, Steam Day 2022 will be a 2 day event: Saturday and Sunday, May 7 & 8. And save the date: Saturday, September 24, 2022 we're having a 50th anniversary reception here at the Museum.

8. We're excited that the Fireboat 'Tommy' will soon be moved from Tradepoint Atlantic to the here at the Museum. The 'Tommy' was named in honor of Mayor Thomas J. D'Alesandro, Jr. and was put in service in 1956 and decommissioned in 2015. So many organizations have lent a hand to help out with this massive project, including Redford Excavating, which did site work for the platform in the front of the building where the Tommy will be placed. We started this project back in 2019, and it now looks like we're finally in the home stretch.



roto



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20,000 and Above

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Stephen G. Heaver, Jr.

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Jesse Walter, Jr.
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Timothy Winkle	Alexander E. Karnes	

\$5 - \$49

Marie Anzalone	Charles Bachini, Jr.	Baltimore City Fire Foundation
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Richard Seipp	Charles R. Shuff	Ford Weiskittel
Clarence White	Robert B. Williams	LaVern A. Wojciechowski
	Rachel Leah Zeller	

Gifts in Kind 2020 to October 2021

Barry Stevens	\$50.00
Janet O'Neill	\$194.00
Kellee Mandell	\$209.00
Jessica A. Bentz	\$228.78
Mark A. Ruhl	\$250.00
Thomas M., Julie C, & Twill Bruggman	\$791.65
Dan Weber	\$2,315.00
Edward Burgee	\$2,726.00
Stephen G. Heaven, Jr.	\$63,750.00



2022 Special Events at the Fire Museum of Maryland

Celebrating 50 years!

Visit our website at FireMuseumMd.org, or call 410-321-7500 to check for any updates or changes to our 2022 programs.

Feb. 6 (Sunday)

History Ablaze!

1 pm—4 pm.

Our annual Great Fire of Baltimore event. Tickets available on our website.

Feb. 20 (Sunday)

Electricity Day

Family fun learning about electricity.

March 5 (Saturday)

Family Safety Day

10 am—4 pm

Join our community partners & learn about disaster preparedness.

Free Admission.

May 7 (Saturday)

Steam Day

10 am—2pm

See working steam & hand engines! Wagons rides, kids' games & activities.

Free Admission

May 8 (Sunday)

Steam Day

10 am—noon

In honor of our 50th anniversary, Steam Day continues on Sunday this year. Engine displays.

Free Admission

July 9 (Saturday)

Antique Car Show

11 am—2 pm

Chesapeake Region, Antique Automobile Club of America

Sept. 10 (Saturday)

Honoring our Heroes Motor Muster

10 am—3pm

See antique & modern fire engines as we salute Fire, Police & EMS.

Free Admission

Oct. 22 (Saturday)

Lantern Night

6 pm—8pm

We turn the lights down low and light lanterns on our historic engines.

Nov. 26 (Saturday)

Holiday Train Garden Open

10 am—4pm

Take a free photo with Santa on the 26th only, 11 am—2 pm.

Nov. 28 (Sunday)

Museum Store Day

Noon—4.

Museum & Train Garden open.

Dec. 3, 10, & 17. Closed: Dec. 24

Open Holiday Week, Dec. 27—30.



Open Saturdays year round.
Extended hours in June, July & August.