



THE WATCHDESK

ANNUAL REVIEW 2019

COLLECTING + PRESERVING + EDUCATING + INTERPRETING

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN WRAP UP



Director's Message

I bring you greetings from the Board and Staff! (That's about 50 people.) Some of us are career and some are volunteers, but we are serving you and the community as part of the Museum's mission. I thank you for making that possible.

Here at the Fire Museum, 48 years of experience has taught us that you are interested in a variety of subjects ranging from fire safety in the home, to technology that drives the machines, to having a good time. We work hard to keep these stories, and many more, pertinent to today's world. We hope that you find our programs stimulating and that they make a positive step toward a better world. We have brought you magnificent fire apparatus that has been painstakingly brought up to an amazing level of display, the ancillary exhibits, the videos and push button lights, the Discovery Room, the Christmas Garden (a Baltimore special), and perhaps the most unique of all, the docents who draw the purpose of fire engines and communications into a personal light for you.

Here's the big news: since November of 2018 the Museum completed its Capital Campaign '18! For three years every imaginable effort was made to find money for major improvements; money that was provided by some regular donors and new donors. The Board and Staff devoted much time to this endeavor and I know that you have seen the differences.

The next thing to say is that we continue to operate under a tight budget. With an operating budget of \$327,000 we ask you to help us make \$370,000 a reality for 2020. What will this do for us?

It will allow the Museum to:

- make wages and salaries more competitive so we can continue to offer a good return for the work of our museum professionals;
- hire an administrative assistant so that heads-of-departments can focus on program development;
- build more interactive exhibits without having to solicit separately for each project.

I have two special 'donor' goals. One is to add 100 new donors to our giving family in 2019. So far there are 27 new donors this year. Will you join us? Your gift is tax deductible and every gift is important.



The second goal is to motivate more donors to give quarterly (pledge). Please consider becoming a pledging member. Some prefer to give semi-annually or just once per annum.

I would like to take a moment to thank Jessica Bentz who was our Acting Education Director from May until October. She did an amazing job for William Roulett who was on military leave for five months. Next month our Store Manager and Receptionist, Megan Heaver, will be stepping down from both positions and will continue as a substitute. Megan and Tom Heaver had a baby girl in 2018. Will Roulett was married in September to Stephanie who works for the National Park Service. Tom Colleran is back at home after a long recovery from his fall. Melissa Heaver is also in recovery from her stroke and they both help out on occasion.

The dramatic change in exhibits this year was the progress being made on the 1920 Seagrave motor pumping car restoration. The heavy mechanical work, the painting and the nickel plating is largely finished. Watch as we turn this rig into an eye-popping symbol of the American fire service. This work is made possible by specific gifts outside the budget, and we still need help there. Easter week the gold leafer arrives to start a 3-4 week decorating process that will match the original patterns. This engine will be the first Seagrave (1910-1930) to be restored in the U.S. with its two-tone maroon and red color system!

Steve Heaver
Stephen G. Heaver,
Director

Capital Campaign '18 Final Roundup

By Director Stephen G. Heaver

It is a pleasure to tell you about a most remarkable Capital Campaign! The Board of Directors called it "Capital Campaign '18" or "CC18" for short. Our goal was to improve the Museum structure as well as the visitor experience, and there were about 10 aspects. Starting in 2015 the specification writing was done, followed by bid solicitation, accompanied by prioritizing and gnashing of teeth as we sorted through our hopes and expectations. The bottom line, as it were, was that the Board, consultant Blake Goldsmith and Staff raised about \$600,000. This money was used for a wide spectrum of projects (and two which are still underway) which Editor Eric and I wish to share with you in the following images!

- A. New operating steam boiler for the 1899 American engine; rebuild and plate portions of engine and pump; hand-grind matching paint; gold leaf and decorate.
- B. Replace fixtures and lamps in the Marsh Research Center; put on motion detectors.



- C. Make a new public entrance with double glass doors.
- D. Repave the parking lot and stripe the front spaces.
- E. Replace all three roofs and insulate the main and east wing roofs.

The following projects are now in the drawing stages and need funding:

- F. Sprinkler protection for all buildings; special valve control for the Research Center.
- G. Expand the Marsh Research Center by 30%; install temperature and humidity systems throughout.

As you can see from the above list, projects ranged from collections to buildings. They were selected because they needed to be done, and their cost was outside the annual budget. Many of you contributed to the CC'18 and I thank you. The Museum's board provided the backbone, monetarily speaking, for the Campaign and I hope that you will thank them as you see them at events.

Here is a summary of the extraordinary things we accomplished in three years; how many do you recognize? The 1899 American Fire Engine Co. steamer is known as a 'third size' because it produces 700 gal. per minute at 160 lbs. per sq. in. This pump capacity would be the equivalent to a smaller village machine in today's world. It would be typical of the engine serving in Roland Park F.D. at the time of the Great Baltimore Fire. The boiler had been replaced in 1916 and in 1995 was nearing the end of a safe career. As you surmised, we operate this engine and it was critical to replace the boiler while I was here to supervise its transfer. Whilst the boiler was being duplicated, the volunteers and I rebuilt every valve, changed the pump valves to new 'hockey puck' valves, replaced springs and packing.

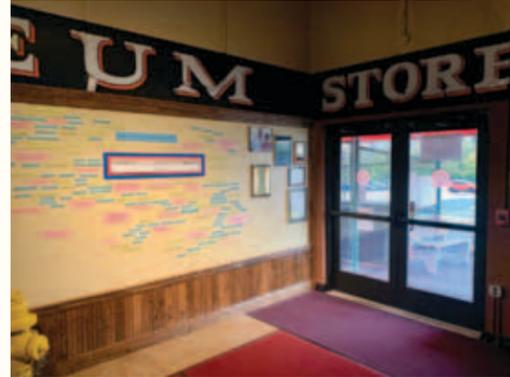
The next step was to match the paint on the frames and pump. (The wheels had been restored two years earlier.) It was not feasible to have an automotive company match the original paint, (although we tried! twice) so we ground our own paint from dry pigment using an 1840 cone mill. The effect is stunning as the dark red was applied using a glazing technique. This also answers the question as to whether fire engines were ever painted this way as we had thought not. Until now! A few weeks later, Wayne Troyer arrived to start duplicating the original decoration.

B



Changing out the 1971 fixtures with fluorescent lamps with attractive surface fixtures and LED lamps to make for better conservation and efficiency. All of the old lamps throughout the buildings have been replaced with T8s or LEDs. A survey of cost variation will be done in January. The

Judge for yourself: the pictures tell the rest of the story! D. Scott Ruhl made the gilding possible with a generous gift.



C

improvement in document preservation is difficult to measure but I can show you examples of color fading.

A new public and tour entrance, facing the parking lot, makes for a more attractive and welcoming start to your Museum visit! Everyone who has seen the new double glass doors agrees.

D



Knocking out holes and filling spaces has given us a chance to finally have a Donors' Wall. For a few more months, this will feature the CC'18 donors then early next year will come an annual

campaign display. The Store was reorganized into an adjacent space and the outside was re-designed with benches and planters added. Much of this work was made possible by donor and Board member Jack Day.

While we don't usually think of a parking lot as terribly important, it is. Without it, attendance

Melissa Marsh Heaver, our Archivist and Researcher from 1990 (when we were married) to 2018 when she retired, made a substantial pledge to the CC'18. In honor of her great grandparents, we named the archives the Jasper & Anna Peabody Marsh Research Center. It is normally open by appointment. It is located on the mezzanine at the North end of the Museum, and it is chock-full of 12,000 images and hundreds of artifacts. It is also becoming quite full so we are expanding the space by 30% and adding central HVAC and humidity systems. Every day in the Winter Eric or I fill the humidifiers by bucket, or in the Summer, adjust the dehumidifier. New artifacts, sometimes large collections, arrive that we are accessioning. Our goal is to get most of our holdings online for you to search from home. Opportunities for naming gifts are available, and special gifts are always welcome.



E

would drop to about five who come on public buses. But more than that, a parking lot needs to be smooth and safe for foot traffic. Lining and signage followed upon that.

The most critical improvement was the installation of new roofs on all three structures. As you would expect, this was the most expensive of all of the projects, and the most critical; leaks were increasing in number and severity. While we were doing this we also angled two roofs a bit more, removed all of the skylights, and added thick insulation. The staff worked around the contractors as the tours continued and every fire apparatus and most of the small exhibits had to be re-covered sometimes three times. We are still finding pockets of dirt but it was worth the stress, especially considering the amount of rain that has fallen this year.

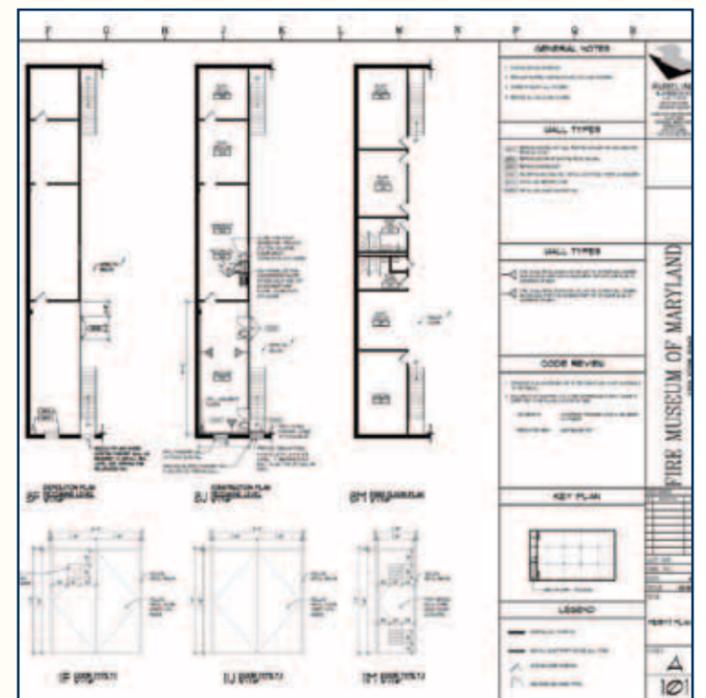
I will close with the sprinkler system installation which is on-going in terms of specifications

F



and fund raising. The interior system has been generously donated by the Redhawk Fire Protection Corporation and they have designed a double-trip system for the Research Center. Basically this means that both a sprinkler head and a nearby smoke detector must be actuated in order for water to flow on the mezzanine. We secured a grant from the State of Maryland for \$200,000 and we look for construction to commence, inside and out, in the Spring. There

will be some disruption as the staff covers and/or moves apparatus, but as before, the Fire Museum of Maryland shall remain open. Please join us in the journey to share one of the finest fire museums in the world. We can always use more volunteers and more money.



G

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Fire Museum Programs for All

By William Roulett, Education Director



If you didn't know, the Fire Museum of Maryland's mission is to educate the public about the history, technology, and innovation of the fire service through a unique collection of operating apparatus, memorabilia, and programs. We achieve much of our programming mission by engaging with elementary students through field trips. In the museum, students participate in unique programs that expose them to community roles, fire safety, primary sources, applications of STEM concepts by the fire service, and more!

There is no substitute for being immersed in the content - surrounded by engines, call boxes, and other tangible artifacts. Classroom instruction cannot recreate how inspiring it is to see, interact with, and understand the innovations of firefighters turned inventors. This is how we challenge students to find creative solutions to problems faced by the fire service. However, teachers are often stuck between limited funds and restrictive schedules. So how can we make it easier for them to bring their students here?

The museum is working to make access to our programs easier for teachers:

- We provide clear curriculum connections to our programs.
- We are flexible to school schedules.
- We keep teachers informed about new and upcoming opportunities through a quarterly e-newsletter.
- And we keep our costs as low as possible.



However, everything we do still falls short of our goal of full access for all schools in the greater Baltimore area with fire safety and education programs. We can temporarily fill that gap with grants for programs, but even that money runs out sooner or later. Luckily, there is still hope...

The 2018-2019 school year was the first time the Fire Museum received funding from the state specifically for education programs. The money allowed us to reach more than one thousand Maryland public school students with FREE programs! The museum went above and beyond that by serving a few hundred more students and absorbing the cost.

As the museum's Education Director, it is of the utmost importance to me that we reach as many students as possible with our programs. That is why we will continue to strive to do as much as possible with the resources we have. And that is why you, as a supporter of the museum, are critical in helping us through your generous donations and coming to our special events.

The most exciting thing about the funding from the state is that it is expected to continue year after year. This will allow us to keep using Maryland tax payer dollars to serve Maryland students and truly be the Fire Museum of Maryland.



A Simple, Flexible and Tax-Efficient Way to Give

By Eric Walker

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is a charitable investment account with the sole purpose of supporting charitable organizations you care about.

How does it work?

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Donate cash, appreciated stocks/mutual funds or non-publicly traded assets such as real estate, private business interests and private company stock. You'll also be eligible for an immediate tax deduction subject to IRS rules.

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As soon as you make a donation, you are eligible for an immediate tax deduction. Your tax deduction may depend on the type of donation you make.

- **Cash donations** - If you donate cash, via check or wire transfer, you're generally eligible for an income tax deduction of up to 60% of your adjusted gross income.
- **Long-term appreciated assets** - Donating long-term, appreciated assets allows you to avoid the capital gains and taxes that you would have realized if the stock, bonds or real estate were sold. You can take an income tax deduction in the amount of the full fair-market value, up to 30% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) annually.

You may be able to carry-forward any unused charitable deductions to future tax years.

** As with all tax matters, you should consult with your tax advisor on how a donation to a DAF will benefit you.*

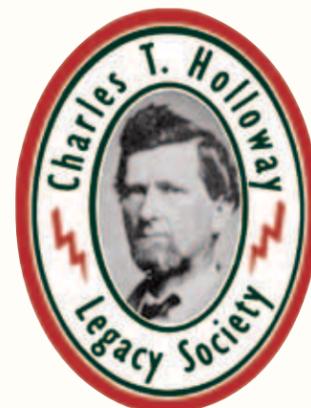
Call us to learn more about a Donor Advised Fund and how you can establish one for all of your charitable giving.

Stephen Heaver 410-321-7500 x101

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

JOIN THE HOLLOWAY LEGACY SOCIETY! Help us plan for the future of the Fire Museum by leaving cash or property to the Museum. Your lawyer can make a Codicil to your Will making your intent known to help the Fire Museum of Maryland. Such gifts can offset estate taxes and ease the burden on survivors.

We are available to discuss ideas.





If you are at all familiar with the museum, you may have noticed a remarkable transformation over the years of several of our pieces of apparatus. None however have been quite as dramatic as that of our 1920 Seagrave originally from Ridgway, PA. one of the museum's original pieces acquired prior to 1971 by Stephen Heaver Sr. Restoration started on this unique piece in the 1970's and continued off and on for many years. After the completion of the American Fire Engine Co. Steamer in 2018 it was full steam ahead on the Seagrave.

A frame-up restoration, this engine will look very much as it did when it rolled off the factory line. Being restored to a fully operational capacity it features several things that make this engine unique. Starting with the fire department in Ridgway, who from 1920 to the early 1960s made no significant modifications to the apparatus. This was something that didn't happen often with fire departments. In fact, the only change was the addition of Battle Lantern brackets to hold the new electric handheld lights that augmented the kerosene lanterns on the back. The colors are also original. Through careful research of the Seagrave Paint Log, and paint archaeology we were



COMING DOWN THE HOME STRETCH

E. M. Kelso



able to recreate the colors used to paint this engine. This coming year the gold leaf will be applied [adding another unique element to this engine] by Wayne Troyer from Ohio who also did our steamer in 2018. All the gold leaf designs will be reproduced based on historical photographs, residual traces of decoration that were documented by Wayne and museum staff. There are also several other items that make both the engine and the restoration unique among others that have been restored around the country largely due to the extensive research that has been done to ensure every element is as exact to 1920 as it can be. Come to the museum to learn more!

The Seagrave has been transformed from a lowly engine deteriorating in a field to a beautiful restoration at one of the largest fire museums in the nation. "We are working hard here to set the bar for authentic museum level restorations among fire museums. We want to be a leader in the museum field that others would recognize not just for our work, but the wealth of researchable information we house in the Jasper & Anna Peabody Marsh Research Center located in the museum." –Director of Education, William Roulett. The Seagrave will be finished in 2020, but we need your help to make it happen. A gift of matching dollars in the amount of \$10,000 has been made available by a donor to the museum. This means if you send in a donation marked "Seagrave E-20" it will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000! Donations can be made online, Facebook, by phone, mailed to the museum, or in person if you like.

Advertising and Promotion

By Amy Landsman,
Membership & Media Relations Director



The Museum staff always has fun on field trips, but there were one trip which was a real treat: as we headed to Stumpy's Hatchet House in Towson to donate some turnout gear for

their 'Fire Pit' and to throw a few axes. That's just one example of the creative partnerships we seek.

We also headed out to the community for "Open Cockpit Day" at the Glenn L. Martin Museum in Dundalk, we were at the Baltimore's Child "Early Education Fair" in Towson. And the folks from the "Cool Progeny" website hosted a Summer Passport

event here at the Museum which brought in some 200 moms, dads, and kids for a lively morning.

Partnerships with Baltimore County employees are important to us. We extended an offer to provide meeting space for Baltimore County agencies, and both the Department of Aging and the Office of World Languages for the Baltimore County Public Schools were among those who took us up on our offer.

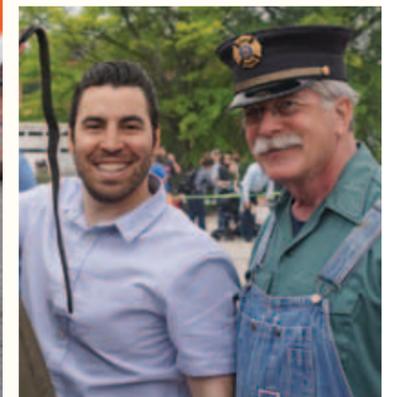
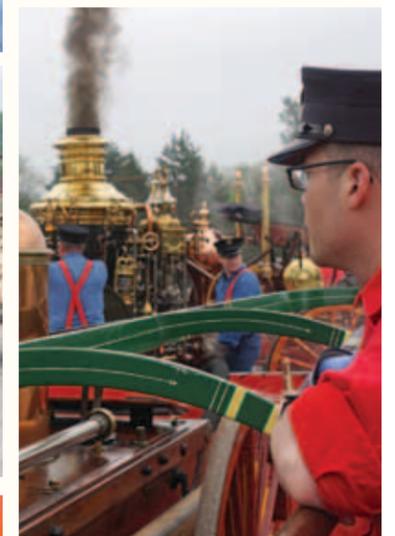
And if you went to the Towson Town Center this fall, you may have seen our window display. Many thanks to Brookfield Properties for sharing their space with us.



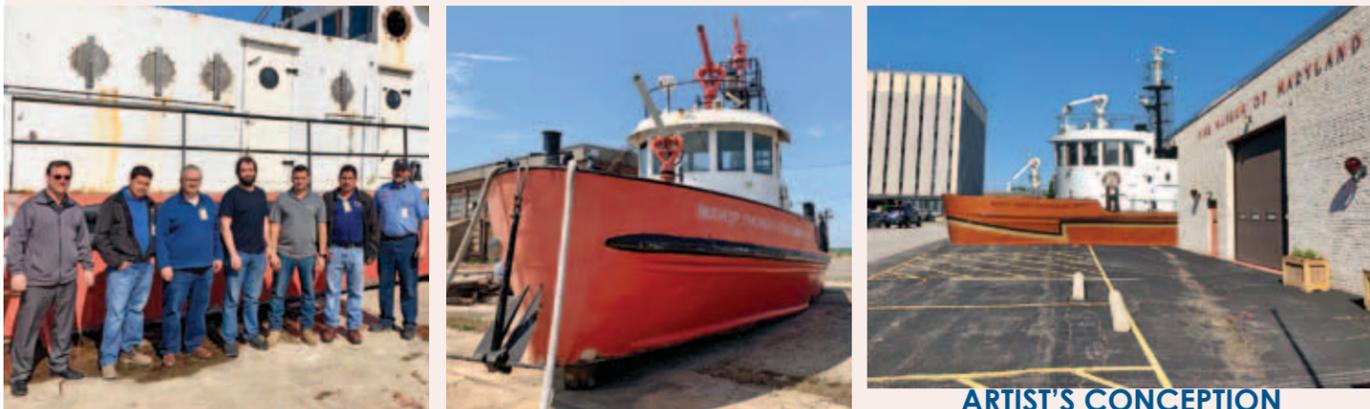
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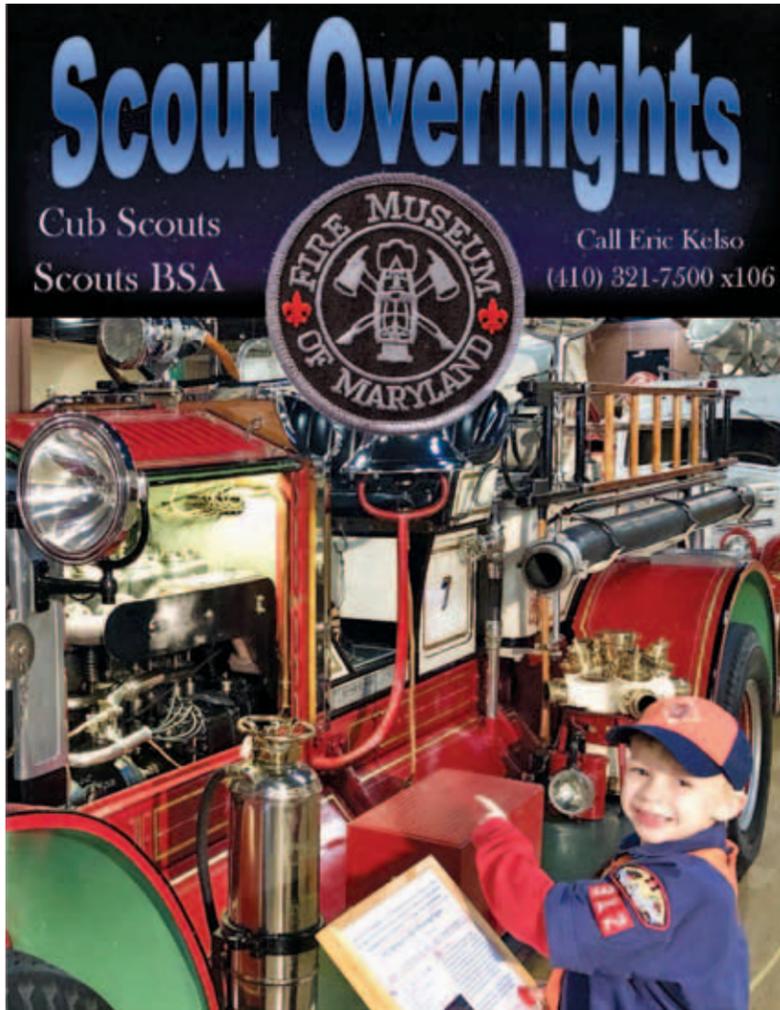
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Like many other businesses, The Fire Museum is using email as a quick and lower-cost way to keep in touch with our friends and supporters. If you haven't been receiving our emails or would like to start receiving them, please email Amy at alandsman@firemuseummd.org and we will add you to our list.

Birthdays & Rentals

by Amy Landsman,
Membership & Media Relations Director

Dozens of future firefighters had the time of their lives in 2019, as our birthday parties continued to show strong performance throughout the year.

By September, we had booked nearly 60 parties, with bookings looking strong for fall and winter. Fire engine rides and visiting firefighter add-ons were also popular. Families showed their creative side, dressing up our party room with fun decorations ranging from Paw Patrol to Pinterest-worthy fire engine centerpieces. Creative cakes and cupcakes ruled the day. Our reputation in the community is so strong that some parents book our party room sight unseen. They have heard so many good things that they simply know everything will be great. For party information, email Amy at alandsman@firemuseummd.org.



LANTERN NIGHT 2018



Motor Muster: Honoring Our Heros



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CHRISTMAS GARDEN

This year's Train Garden and Santa's visit to the Fire Museum is sponsored by

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The mission of the Fire Museum of Maryland is to educate the public about the history, technology, and innovation of the fire service through a unique collection of operating apparatus, memorabilia, and programs.

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Newsletter Layout

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Amy Landsman

Will Roulett

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2020 SPECIAL EVENTS

February 9th - History Ablaze!

March 7th – Family Safety Day – FREE Admission

May 2nd – 43rd Annual Steam Show – FREE Admission

July 11th – Antique Car Show

September 12th – Honoring our Heroes Motor Muster – FREE Admission

October 24th – Lantern Night

November 28th – Holiday Train Garden Open

See website and Social Media for details

410-321-7500 • www.firemuseummd.org