

THE WATCHDESK

ANNUAL REVIEW 2018



COLLECTING + PRESERVING + EDUCATING + INTERPRETING



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy Thanksgiving to you from your friends here at the Fire Museum of Maryland.

The year that is covered by this Newsletter, (roughly November '17 through October '18), has been extremely busy making great things happen for you. One of my favorite activities in the Museum is the restoration and operation of historic vehicles and we just transitioned from finishing the 1899 steamer to resuming work on the 1920 Seagrave motor pumping car. Seagrave was a great innovator in the fire service and our rig, their Model CT-6 was the Tesla of its day. Come see this amazing machine under restoration. You might remember it as the one which was stripped down to the frame. We are currently making two helical gears for \$7,200 which was made possible through a gift by John Teichmoeller, and we're looking for a donor (or three) who will underwrite the gold leafing and decorating which will cost \$25,000. Call me if you would know the details.

Thanksgiving is a great time of the year. When the weather is cooler but we're not snowed in; when our Summer activities and recreations have drawn to a close; when we are planning out our hobbies and family gatherings for the Winter. Please give as fully as you are able when our form arrives at your door. I hope that



you will enjoy reading through this Watchdesk as much as Eric has enjoyed collecting the images and Christy has done the layout. I am always impressed that we accomplish so much in a year; so a tip o'the hat to my staff who are amazing. Please think of them as you make your pledge for 2019!

I want to thank the Governor's Office for sharing money through his educational program to make County and City public school tours free. Thanks to the County Arts & Science Commissioners who made two special events free. Thank you to the donors who gave to the Annual Campaign because you are ultimately the backbone of this institution.

2018 was the third of three years of a massive Capital Campaign '18 for \$1,000,000. Some readers gave to both campaigns: a special thank you! The CC'18 is described on our Web site, and next year's Watchdesk will be devoted to it, but in the meantime I ask that all of us think (and act) about expanding the Museum's sphere of friends and donors.

Sincerely yours,

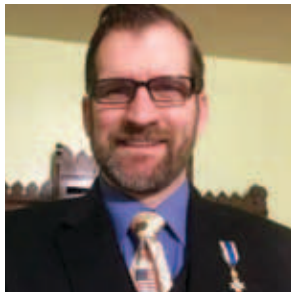
Steve Heaver

Stephen G. Heaver, *Director*



Capital Campaign Draws to a Close

By E. M. Kelso



As you are reading this our Capital Campaign 2018 is drawing to a close. I first want to thank everyone who has donated to the million dollar campaign. For

those of you who may not know we started a Capital Campaign in 2015 to complete some important projects. In 2017, we were able to repave and seal coat parts of our parking lot, change over all the lighting on the second floor to LED light fixtures, install some of the new track lighting in the Main Exhibit Hall, and we

replaced the boiler on the 1899 American Fire Engine Co. Steamer as part of its restoration. This was an important part of the campaign as we operate this steamer every year as part of our educational mission. It was through the generosity of early donors to the campaign that made all of this possible.

This year has been not without its ups and downs for the campaign. Progress has been made on many of the goals of the campaign. On June 29th visitors to the museum were able to walk through the new glass entryway



Bob Adams Masonry begins to make an opening in the wall



New doors arrive from Caplan Glass



Glass doors being installed



Finished doors and new Donor Recognition Wall going in

Capital Campaign Draws to a Close

(continued)

for the first time. This was constructed by Bob Adams Masonry and Caplin Bros. Glass. The new entrance transformed the appearance of the museum inside and out, and allowed for the creation of a donor wall. Contributors to the museum will be recognized there as a public thank you for all they have done in support of our mission.

The largest project undertaken has been the replacement of the roof. The old roof had begun to leak in places, and the numerous sky lights were costly to maintain the UV protection as well as being the site of several leaks. In addition, the old insulation only had a value of about R-6 which adds to the energy costs of the building. I am happy to say, that all the skylights have been removed, R-30 insulation has been installed, and a new energy efficient white TPO roof membrane was put down. I want to thank our friends at Cole Roofing for their great work on this project. They have kept us informed every step of the way with a tireless effort to minimize the impact on museum operations while also safeguarding the collection.

The next project to commence is the expansion of the research center. The research center is home to our collections storage, archive, and research library occupying two thirds of the second floor. When this project is completed it will occupy the entire second floor. As we have continued to grow, our collection has exceeded the space we have. This improvement will allow us to continue our efforts in preservation and research. The larger Marsh Research Center will see an increased storage area for collections, a better equipped archive for

the care and maintenance of the collection, and an antiquated system of humidifiers, dehumidifiers, wall mounted AC units, and base board heat will be replaced with an archival quality HVAC system. This system will not just keep a constant temperature in the research center, but will also monitor and maintain the humidity levels in these rooms. We hope to begin work on this by April 2019.

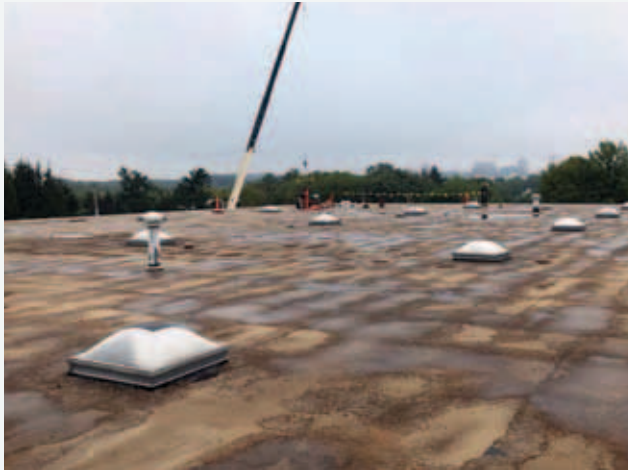
Part of the challenge of museums is fundraising. Most of our support comes from everyday people like you. Sometimes we are

There was a lot of dust and everyone had to help clean up



Capital Campaign Draws to a Close

(continued)



Old roof with sky lights



Covered in plastic ready for roof replacement



Filling in where a skylight once was



Gravel being vacuumed off the old roof



Nearing the final completion of all three roofs



New TPO roof covering going down

Capital Campaign Draws to a Close

(continued)

New TPO Roof no more sky lights!



Still left to do:

- Install Sprinkler System in all buildings. The interior work has already been pledged as a donation by Alarm Tech Solutions, but we need to pay for the water main to come in from the road.
- Complete track lighting in the main hall
- Museum Without Walls: A New Electronic Visitor Experience
- Compact Shelving and Steel Supports for the Marsh Research Center

lucky enough to be awarded grants such as the Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences grant of \$10,000 (down from \$13,000 last year) that helps with the operations. These types of grants form a small part of our \$310,000 annual operating budget. Unfortunately, we are can't be approved for every grant we apply for as numerous museums and other nonprofits are all pinning for the same grants. We applied for a Federal Grant of \$142,000 toward the Marsh Research Center. Unfortunately, we were not selected as an awardee this year. In order to proceed with the expansion we have put off the nstallation of compact shelving and the steel supports necessary for this. We are hopeful that in 2-3 years we will be able to make this happen.

While our Capital Campaign will officially draw to a close November 10th at our "5-Alarm Party" you can still help us fulfill many of the projects in the campaign.

The sprinkler system is a very important part of this campaign. It's especially evident in the world today with the loss of the Natural History Museum in Brazil and the Aberdeen Fire Museum in Washington. It's our hope that these needs may still be met by the end of the campaign, but if not your continued support is valued more than ever. Please feel free to reach out to us at the museum, and ask what you can do to help today.

Donations can be made via our website [Fire MuseumMD.org](http://FireMuseumMD.org), PayPal, or directly at:

[Fire Museum of Maryland](#)

[1301-R York Road](#)

[Lutherville, MD 21093](#)

[\(410\) 321-7500](#)

["A Nationally Significant Treasure"](#)

MEMBERSHIP & BIRTHDAY PARTIES

By Amy Landsman, Membership & Media Relations Director

Word of mouth continued to provide positive buzz for our always-popular kids' birthday parties. Parents were telling other parents, and before you knew it, we were packed with bookings. By the end of September, over 1,000 guests had enjoyed our parties. Fire Museum parties are a low-stress way for guests of all ages to enjoy the fun.

Parents are also strong supporters of our family membership packages, which allow free visits for a year and discounts on birthday parties and in the gift shop. Family memberships are also a popular holiday gift from grandparents – the size is always right and there are no returns to worry about! For party or membership information, email Amy at alandsman@firemuseummd.org



Family Safety Day



William "Bill" Francis McCartin passed away peacefully on Friday, August 4th, 2017. He is the beloved husband of Patti McCartin for over 66 years and had a large family. Proudly serving in WWII, Bill is a veteran of the U.S. Army.

Bill pursued his interests in historic preservation serving on the Board of Historic Jerusalem Mill Village, and working at the Fire Museum of Maryland for 17 years. Bill ensured the preservation of our extensive collection, gave tours, and was an enthusiastic host to all those who came through our doors.

Thank you Bill for your 17 years of service.



HONORING OUR HEROES MOTOR MUSTER

September 8, 2018



HISTORY ABLAZE!

Great Baltimore
Fire Event



41st Annual Steam Show



Family with play pipe, Lee Smith, President of the museum's Board of Directors



Steve Heaver with Councilwoman Vicki Almond



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Restorations Underway

by Stephen G. Heaver, Director

If you have ever seen a steam pumping engine run, then you have probably visited the Fire Museum of Maryland for a Steam Show. There are very few 'steamers' operating in this country.

As government regulations get tighter and interest in machinery wains, we find fewer boilers being operated with each succeeding decade, making our Museum's interpretation program even more important! We thrill to the sounds of these historic machines running and try to catch them in videos to be shown inside the Museum.

Talk about magnificence: this year has seen the completion of the 1899 American steamer after about eight years of work. A new boiler and a gold leaf & decorating job were completed due to your support through the Capital Campaign'18; the valves and paint job were done by in-house staff including Lee Smith, Dennis Crawford and Bill Groff. Jim Melia provided his truck to transport the old boiler to Maine. Many hands make light work, as they say. Will you consider helping from time to time?

The next vehicle for restoration is a 1920 Seagrave. Work on this began back in the mid-1970s with staff like George Weldon, Harry Burch and Don Crusse. Due to the distraction of short-term projects such as the



1920 Seagrave restoration underway

1899 American Fire Engine Co. Steamer



1920 Seagrave Ridgway, Pa.



Restoring the 1920 Seagrave



1860s Amoskeag hose jumper, the 1933 Mack BQ tractor pulling the 1898 Water Tower and the 1949 Mack Flood Light Wagon, this amazingly original Seagrave was shoved off time and again. Now we are going full-speed to have her ready for her 100th Birth-day. Not one hole was drilled in its frame or running boards since 1920. Please come by often to see the progress. John Findley is in the shop painting parts; Brian Fiedler is also in the shop putting the transmission together with used parts from Andy Swift; Eric and I are finding parts at the Hershey flea market, on-line and by special order. The lads out in Livermore, Calif., have been of great assistance since they did one a few years back, and I visited them in August. Ray Bennet of North Charleston, S. Carolina, arranged for a new dash board and the cast hood supports. Much of this work could not be done without the support of a bequest from John Berwick, gifts from Scott Ruhl and John Teichmoeller. If you can help with the nickel plating, gold leafing, gear making, buying fabric-coated wiring and so forth, please drop me a line.

Speaking of restoration projects, our new curator, Eric Kelso, and I are putting together appropriate artifacts and documents for our next 'big one': the 1908 American Automatic 65' aerial ladder. Join us!

Fire MUSEUM of MARYLAND

A Nationally Significant Treasure

1301 YORK ROAD
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BE A PART OF HISTORY!



The Fire Museum of Maryland is working to restore this amazing piece of history for its 100th birthday. Originally from the Ridgway Fire Dept. in Elk County, Pa. it has a new life here at the museum. Much of the restoration has been completed such as rebuilding the engine and pump, cleaning and plating various parts, and painting has begun. We still have a lot to do in order to get the old engine finished. Many parts still need to be cleaned and plated; some items need to be located and purchased, and let's not forget reproducing the exquisite painting and gold leaf original to the piece.

Your donation of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500 or more can make all the difference!



DONATE
HERE



LANTERN NIGHT 2017



Tel: 410-321-7500

Email: info@firemuseummd.org

Fax: 410-769-8433

Scouts at the Museum



1



3



5



7

4

6



2



1. Girl Scouts learning about circuits at STEM Career Day

2. Cub Scout William Kelso rides in the Fourth of July Parade Towson, Maryland

3. Scouts learn fire safety with Curator Eric M. Kelso

4. Troop 54 earns their Fire Safety Merit Badge. 100 Scouts have earned their Fire Safety Merit Badge here this year.

5. Girl Scouts of America

6. Scout with Troop 54 of York, Pa. learning fire safety

7. Girl Scouts with Education Director William Roulett in the Fire Alarm Office

MEDIA RELATIONS

By Amy Landsman,
Membership & Media Relations Director

The Museum continued its move away from print media this past year and put more effort into reaching visitors online. We advertised online with Tots2Twins, Recreation News, and on Facebook. In print, we appeared in "Baltimore's Child." Our 2017 ads were bigger this year, and in color too. We continued our partnerships with Groupon, Certifikid, and SHINE FM. Free calendar listings and community notices in such websites as NextDoor and Patch were a no-cost way of keeping our name before the public, and reminding area families that the Museum is right in their neighborhood and well worth a visit.



IGNITING CURIOSITIES:

Free Education Programs at the Fire Museum

By William Roulett



When people ask what I do at the Fire Museum the simplest answer, and possibly the most accurate, is that I get people in the door. To be more specific, I get students and teachers in the door. For over three years as Education Director, I have striven to align our programs with standards in Maryland's curriculum, streamlined the resources of our educators, attended community events at schools, met with teachers to advocate for the Fire Museum as a resource for them, increased electronic and print marketing for our education programs, and opened the museum's doors by offering a free meeting space for teachers' professional development meetings. All this does nothing for the prohibitive cost of field trips and transportation. However, for the first time this year, we have overcome that obstacle too!

Programs for Maryland public schools are now funded by Maryland State Department of Education's State Aided Institution grant program. To date, 745 students from Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County are scheduled to benefit from free STEM and Social Studies programs. Thanks to this special grant, we are able to bring our own costs down to \$0 but what about the cost of school buses? This is where a serendipitously timed grant from the Motorola Solutions Foundation came to the rescue!



IGNITING CURIOSITIES:

Free Education Programs at the Fire Museum

By William Roulett

Motorola's gift supports STEM programs and allows the Fire Museum to provide a transportation subsidy to Title I schools in Baltimore City and County. These audiences were strategically targeted as not typically being able to benefit from Fire Museum programs. 2018 is the third consecutive year the Motorola Solutions Foundation has funded STEM programs for underserved audiences at the museum and we are extremely grateful for their support.



Grants, like the two mentioned above, are great for meeting a specific need but the money is often fleeting. Donations from individuals are what the museum really depends upon to keep functioning and serving our community. So this holiday season, please consider making a donation to the Fire Museum of Maryland, a nationally significant treasure.



A YEAR OF NEW PARTNERSHIPS, 2018

By Amy Landsman,
Membership & Media Relations Director



Over the past year, The Fire Museum has connected with new vendors and partners. The Roving Coffee cart was out in the parking lot during the holidays. We partnered with Brew House No16 to sell beer at Lantern Night and our Great Baltimore Fire Seminar. Foxtrot Chocolates sold hand-made goodies at Lantern Night. Artist Lisa Marie Penn showcased her fire-themed paintings. Several local authors also set up shop here in the Museum during the year. "The Art of the Car" author, Bob Paulding was here a couple of times. Author Donna Bertling sold and signed copies of "Runway Fire," a novel set during the Great Baltimore Fire

of 1904. And Rebecca C. Jones joined us to promote her new work "The School's on Fire," about the 1958 Our Lady of the Angles school fire in Chicago. As for rentals, our favorite rental of 2018 was the marriage of Tom Heaver and Megan Hiltz in May. Firefighter Tom is Steve and Melissa Heaver's son, and Megan is the manager of our Museum store. Our most innovative partnership of the past year was with Spaces by Select, which is now managing our rentals, bringing corporate parties, family events, and weddings and other gatherings to the Museum. To learn more about Museum rentals, email Natalie at events@firemuseummd.org.



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.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE DONORS

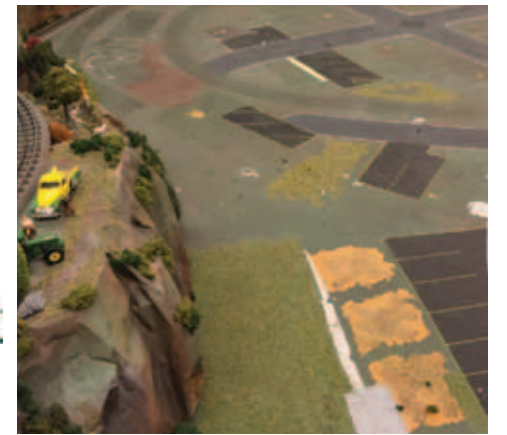


CHRISTMAS GARDEN

This year's Train Garden and Santa's visit to the Fire Museum is sponsored by the Fairgrounds Plaza Branch of The Columbia Bank



← Changes underway for 2018 →



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November 1, 2017 – October 18, 2018

(Capital Campaign donors to be recognized in next years issue)

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Anonymous

\$50,000 and greater

Melissa M. Heaver
Stephen G. Heaver, Jr.



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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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Amy Landsman

Will Roulett

Lee Smith

Len Brown

2019 SPECIAL EVENTS

February 10th - Great Baltimore Fire Coach Tour

March 2nd - Family Safety Day - Free Admission

May 4th - 42nd Annual Steam Show - Free Admission

September 14th - Honoring our Heroes Motor Muster - Free Admission

October 26th - Lantern Night

November 30th - Holiday Train Garden Open

See website and Social Media for details

410-321-7500 • www.firemuseummd.org