

FIRE MUSEUM WATCHDESK

Fall 2009



Collecting · Preserving · Educating · Interpreting



Imagine walking past a fire house in 1871 and looking in the front door. You can do just that when you visit the Fire Museum of Maryland. In 2008 a four-year dream was realized when the Whiting-Turner put up the steel support structure and the cast iron columns of old Engine Co. 8.

The staff with the leadership of Greg Case and Rick Bray installed a plank floor 12x36' using 125 year old pine which still

shows its original circular saw marks. Our research shows that circular saw technology had been introduced in the 1860s and was so superior to the up & down saw that most of the East coast saw mills converted within ten years.

From February through April of 2009 Rick Shaneybrook and his crew installed the balance of the dozens of cast iron pieces

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and began making wood replicas of the missing iron pieces. Volunteers at the Museum painted the face of the façade with the color determined by the paint systems expert, Matthew Mosca, and dashed cream-colored sand onto the surface while the enamel was still wet. We also installed tongue & groove matchboard to simulate a portion of the interior wall. Plans for the next couple of years include installing a partial T&G varnished ceiling with brass sliding pole and harness retrievers, a pot-bellied stove, and panels on cooking and horses.

Meanwhile, the Education Department, alias Rob Williams, Ryan Hirsch



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seeks donors to underwrite aspects of the exhibit and the tour.

Contributors of \$5,000 or more to the 1871 Fire House are: Preservation Maryland, Willard Hackerman, John H. Willock and The 1772 Foundation

and Tom Colleran, is pulling together a new inter-active tour on the life of an 1871 fireman. Picture yourself a Civil War soldier returning to Baltimore during the reconstruction and landing a job at Engine Co.8. Participants will be reading and talking about their experiences with life during such a dramatic time. Baltimore was booming with industry and wrestling with intense racial issues. The Museum

Join Us!

A member of the Fire Museum receives:

- Unlimited admission for one full year (including annual members-only pizza party and Christmas train garden)
- 10% discount on all museum shop purchases
- \$20 discount on all birthday parties

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$55

(includes 2 parents or 2 grandparents and children/grandchildren under age 18)

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP: \$15

SENIOR/FIREFIGHTER MEMBERSHIP: \$30

ENGINEER MEMBERSHIP: \$75

LIEUTENANT MEMBERSHIP: \$125

Your membership dues will help strengthen our educational programs and activities.

JOIN TODAY! You'll be glad you did!

Birthday Parties



We have the very best birthday parties here at the Fire Museum with:

- A party room (with 4 tables covered with red vinyl)
- A play room (Discovery Room) – put on fire gear and climb on a real fire engine
- Fire engine rides in the parking lot
- Tours of the museum
- Visiting fireman in full gear to give safety talk

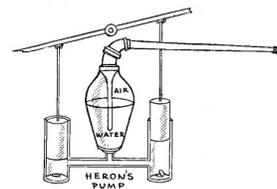
While mom is setting up the party, the kids can play in the Discovery Room putting on fire gear, climbing on a real fire engine and playing with dozens of toys.

We carry birthday party supplies and special birthday gifts in our Gift Shop. Call us early at 410-321-7500 to schedule a party – or check our website at www.firemuseummd.org.

EDUCATIONAL RUMINATIONS

BY ROB WILLIAMS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The four revised tours and the quality of tours given by Tom Colleran and Ryan Hirsch continue to bring in rave evaluations from the teachers. The newest Build the Engine tour continues to thrill students as they put together a working pumping engine, which they actually pump water on to an imagery fire. This tour meets Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC) elementary science standards by demonstrating how parts of mechanical system work, and by requiring students to use critical thinking skills and work together as a team.



New this spring, the Post- Civil War tour, based on the Engine 8 exhibit, meets the VSC requirements for 3rd grade students by demonstrating historically how people create a supportive community, how they participate in the city's political system, and how individuals become productive citizens. The Children's Fire Academy Saturday activity, to be released in late October, will have children pretending they are cadets learning how to save people caught in a fire. In the process, they learn fire safety techniques and may be inspired to become fire



STEAM SHOW

The first Saturday of May

Opening day of the season is a special time, and this year the new York Road sign was up, and the York Road widening nearly done. Walt Rice and his team of Percherons pulled young visitors around the parking lot inside the 1898 hose wagon. Hand and steam engines, plus models, and Dalmatians fill out the roster of the 32nd Annual. Wise Avenue F.D. cadets set up a refreshment stand.



LANTERN NIGHT

Coming up! Saturday, October 24, 6-8 p.m.

Experience the Museum collections in a whole new light! Wear your Halloween costume and get in half-price. Candle and kerosene lanterns will be lit. Bring a friend.



F.D. CHRISTMAS GARDEN

Opens November 28

The Christmas train garden is set up by our intrepid volunteers. Look for the big fire, the highway accident, the Fire Museum and a surprise this year. Special openings will be Dec. 26-29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. each day, and every Saturday in December. Santa will be here for free photos with the kids on Nov. 28.

Thanks are extended to the following photographers for sharing their images: Len Brown, Lee Smith, Rob Williams, and Steve Heaver.



MOTOR MUSTER "CRUISIN' FOR OUR HEROES

The second Saturday of every September

Co-sponsored with the Balto. Co. Sheriff's Department, this is the largest event of the year. Motor-driven emergency equipment comes from E.M.S., police, military, airport and, of course, fire agencies to show off and some pump water provided by Chestnut Ridge V.F.D. There was a motorcycle and antique car display as well as a new flea market and model show. We offer a big 'thank you' to the men and women who keep us safe every day.

Museum Store

The Museum Store has an exciting array of books, gift items, jewelry, apparel, and toys available. Our mint tins feature a new series of historic fire houses. Buy the first four in person or via the Web for \$4 each. The first image is of our 1871 Engine Co.8 house.



An Event Planners and Hotel Staff reception in September provided time for a photo. Left to right: Jack Day, Rob Williams, Bob Chason, David Steinitz, Lee Smith, Bill Pearce and Steve Heaver.

Larry Spangler is gilding the seat and gas tank of the 1916 Mack E-23. Refurbishing this rig to the way it looked in 1925 has been ongoing for two years and will be finished in 2011. About \$8,000 is sought for new solid rubber tires. Can you help? Another project, the 1920 Seagrave, is on hold awaiting a final paint job and decorating.



PLANNED GIVING

Please consider including the Fire Museum of Maryland in your will. If you are interested in discussing Planned Giving, contact Steve Heaver at 410-321-7500.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Fire Museum of Maryland is to collect, preserve, display, and interpret historically significant apparatus and related artifacts, memorabilia, and records of the fire service in the United States; and to educate the public about the history, people, equipment and techniques of the fire service and about fire prevention and safety.

This newsletter is printed by Sir Speedy BWI in honor of the 61 years of service of Dee Neighoff to the Arbutus V.F.D.

**FIRE MUSEUM
OF MARYLAND**
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