

FIRE MUSEUM WATCHDESK

Fall 2008



Collecting • Preserving • Educating • Interpreting

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Photographer

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.



NEW!

Imagine passing a fire house in 1871 and looking in the front door! Firemen and horses lived and worked together: the firemen got to go home one day per week; the horses got better care.

Watch as this fire house exhibit grows over the next three years. Structural Preservation Systems has already cleaned and primed the pieces of Baltimore's only remaining cast iron fire house.

A modern steel structure to hold the cast iron was installed by Whiting-Turner. 100 year old flooring, Belgian blocks, a ceiling & a brass pole are part of the funding plans.

The 1885 Amoskeag steamer was donated by William Willock.

FIRE MUSEUM OF MARYLAND

1301 York Road, Lutherville MD 21093

410-321-7500

• www.firemuseummd.org

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EDUCATIONAL RUMINATIONS

BY ROB WILLIAMS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Hi, everyone. I just started September 8th as the Assistant Director and will be taking on many of the daily operations of the museum, as well as the Education Department. That way Steve can concentrate on fundraising and the collection.

When I came in to interview with Steve, I was amazed at all the changes that have taken place at the Fire Museum since I was here in 2001. The new configuration of exhibits on the floor greatly improves the flow for tours and appears to open the space up for events. The new 1870s Fire House exhibit looks to be a great addition and when the iron façade is finished, it will be instrumental in explaining how firemen lived. I am also impressed with the complexity and the history of the Fire Alarm Office and the size of the Discovery Room. In addition, the number of objects that can be operated by a docent or are in motion during children's tours greatly enhances the children's ability to learn about fire technology and history.

That said, there is a need to find ways to animate later times periods of fire apparatus, which we will be looking to

include in planning exhibits and in future revisions of the tours.

There is also a need to find new ways to advertise our services. As for the Education Department, docents leading school tours will be mentioning that we offer birthday parties, fire engine rides, and museum rentals, which will target chaperones. Every child on a school tour will receive a ruler bookmark that has fire safety information on one side and an advertisement of the museum's services and contact information on the other. In these difficult financial times, everyone meeting the public is a spokesperson for the museum.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments and if I can arrange a guided tour for your group or organization. I can be reached at rcwilliams@firemuseummd.org or 410-321-7500. I look forward to hearing from you.



Above, Lantern Night is always a wonderful way to see the wheeled collections in a new light. Many lanterns, special electric lighting, and interpreters wearing period attire make this THE evening event to attend.

Below, Linhard Towing took us to the Dulaney Valley Association's parade and we ended at Hampton Mansion for a display. Kids and adults tried pumping the refurbished 1853 James Smith engine.



OUTSIDE "EXHIBITS" FOR 2009:
Steam Show, Saturday, May 2
Motor Muster, Saturday, September 12



Above, George Lotz donated the toy Mack Hayes aerial made by his father, Chief Lotz, between 1922 and 1971. The hoist operates on air just like the real ones! George and model are sitting on the running board of a full-sized version.



Above, Cleaning Day in March is critical to our "spotless" appearance. Special volunteers from Fireman's Fund help with the brass.

Have your next business meeting or party at the Fire Museum!
Call Steve at 410-321-7500.



Left, the Motor Muster has grown into the Cruisin' for Our Heroes event and features machines built since 1911. Here is our oldest Mack "Bulldog" with its three high pressure pipes in service. *Above* the annual Steam Show is our longest-running event (31 years). Hand- and horse-drawn apparatus are featured along with the Museum's 1899 steamer. Model builders are invited to run their engines as well.

 www.firemuseummd.org

Museum Store



Stop by on a Saturday to visit the store, see the new items on display, and make those holiday purchases!



The Museum Store has an exciting array of books, gift items, jewelry, apparel, and toys available for visitors to purchase. Some items are available on the Web site for purchase online.



Birthday Parties



A fresh new look for the birthday party room has resulted in a significant in-

crease in the number of children celebrating their birthdays at the Museum. The children love the Discovery Room and the parents love the new look and convenience of the party room! Marilyn is our party person—call her at 410-321-7500 to book a party.

As an added convenience, we also carry Birthday party supplies; parents can order everything from piñatas to paper plates, all with a fire theme. A catalog of items is available for pre-party ordering, or items can be picked up at the Museum store. For that extra-special party a fire truck may be rented to give rides either here at the Museum or off-site. Call for information or look at our website at www.firemuseummd.org.

What's New in Education!

Our goal is to inspire future engineers and fire fighters. America sorely needs new professionals if we are to remain an innovative leader in research and development and keep our communities safe.

- All of our favorite tours continue to be offered.
- We are adding tours to interest fourth through eighth graders to teach them about the decisions inventors and firemen made as they improved fire technologies over the last two centuries.
- The **Build a Fire Engine!** Tour is a great platform to build technology-based tours that will meet the Baltimore City and Maryland State curriculum guidelines on technology and American history.
- Working models of hand pumpers and rotary pumps will help demonstrate how a pumper operates: opening the "black box," and revealing how machines work.
- There are more opportunities for visitors to touch artifacts or operate models in a manner that is safe for both the visitor and the artifacts.
- The museum supports area fire departments by providing vital information about fire safety.



Planned Giving *"That the future may be better"*

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.