

THE BUGLE

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WWW.WRFMC.COM

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BIG Article Appears in the Cleveland Plain Dealer Calls bring donations: fire alarm system, free labor, with more to come!

By Scott Capenter

On Monday, February 4th the PD published a wonderful article about the Fire Museum. The reporter, Brian Albrecht, learned about the project when he stopped by to cover our Citizen's Heroes Award ceremony. What's the Citizen's Hero Award? Well, on Monday morning, November 26th, fire struck a home on E. 75th Street. The family had fled the flames of the raging inferno only to be trapped on a porch roof. A woman walking by, seeing the flames and smoke, wasted no time, she jumped a backyard fence, called 911, and then ran to the aid of the family—telling the father to drop the children. One by one she safely caught each of them and then watched as the father jumped to safety.

That Citizen Hero was Norma Johnson.

The Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center recognized Ms. Johnson for her safe and decisive action. We held a small press event at the Fire Museum. The PD and several local TV news organizations covered the event. After the ceremony the re-

porter from the PD, Brian Albrecht, asked if he could come back to do a story about the project. A month later he returned with a photographer to tour the facility and to find out more about the project. Brian spent more than two hours touring the Fire Museum and talking with trustee, Stuart Warner, executive director Dan Hayden, and me. If you missed the story visit our website at www.wrfmc.com. There you'll find a link to the complete article. It appeared on the front page of the Metro section, above the fold!

After the article came out we started getting phone calls and emails from friends of the Fire Museum. Trustees and capital campaign committee

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see BIG ARTICLE)



PRESIDENT'S LOG

By John Zangerle

Last year was pivotal in the progress of the Fire Museum project. We are seeing the benefits of our new organizational structure and expanded Board. We are finding sources for new donors while maintaining our strong membership base. In addition, we added several significant pieces to our collection in the last year. We have also achieved much greater visibility in the community through excellent media stories culminating in the Plain Dealer's feature article on February 4, 2008. This type of publicity is invaluable helping us grow.

This year will be a transformative year for the Fire Museum. Late in 2007 we met with Donley's Construction and our architects, Doty & Miller. We are poised to have contractors start work on the building by late spring. One of our first projects will be work on the elevator through funding provided by Bruening Foundation.

While we are working on the major project of building restoration, we are moving forward with a variety of other activities. Work on converting the 1980

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This newsletter is dedicated to informing the members of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center of its activities and events.

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BIG ARTICLE

(Continued from page 1)

members called with congratulations and praise—"Genius!"

And the timing, it couldn't have been better. On the Thursday the week before the article appeared, Sam Miller was telling us how important it was that we get some press for the project. I assured him that an article was coming out soon. And then it did, the very next Monday. Timing! Needless to say, everyone was impressed. And as the week went by strangers to the project started calling, asking how they could help. One of those calls was from Bill Boettcher of Doan Pyramid Electric. Bill called our architect and capital campaign committee member, Chuck Miller. Bill told Chuck that he had arranged for all of the fire alarm equipment to be donated by Siemens and that Doan would contribute everything needed to install it, including the labor. That's a \$40,000 donation from Doan Pyramid Electric. See what a little press can do ya?

But that's not all—as I am writing this article there are at least 4 other contractors looking at our architectural drawings with an eye towards making a contribution of goods and services. Hang on! This pumper is picking up a big head of steam!

LOG

(Continued from page 1)

American LaFrance to be used as a funeral caisson is progressing through the efforts of Rob Sheldon and his volunteers.

Another annual activity, the Flea Market, will be held March 1st. Bob Gahr and Steve Hiltebrant are again working to provide a great chance to socialize, clean out your garage, and find new treasures to refill your garage. Joe Mason is coordinating the Museum's participation in the Firefighters Memorial Ride on May 25th. The Fire Museum is planning to participate in Cleveland's Fourth of July parade at Kamm's Corners.

With all of this going on, 2008 looks like a very busy year and one in which the Fire Museum can make great strides in completing the building. All members can help by volunteering or providing financial support. Don't forget to check our website, www.wrfmc.com, for the latest information and activities.

The Fire Museum Receives Major Gift from the Jack and Lilyan Mandel Foundation

By Scott Capenter

You never know when someone important is going to call. I was in a meeting one morning in January when my cell phone rang. It was Chief Norman. Yes, the chief is important, but his wasn't the important call.

The Chief had received a call from Jack Mandel, a good friend of Sam Miller and a leader in the philanthropic community.

Mr. Mandel wanted to meet with us that day. He wanted us to tell him more about the project and to explain why the Fire Museum deserved his support.

Well, as you can imagine, this phone call took us by surprise. Nevertheless, with a little more than an hour to get ready I called our board president, John Zangerle to tell him the good news. Fortunately, John was already downtown at a business meeting and was available to meet with Mr. Mandel. After pulling everything together, we met Chief Norman at Mr. Mandel's office.

We were greeted warmly and were soon on a first name basis with Jack. The conversation was wonderful, filled with personal stories and sage advice. Needless to say, Jack was very interested in what we were doing and asked us to put together a proposal.

After we left Jack's office I quickly went to work on our request. After a night of writing and half a day of pulling together the required items, I delivered the request, not 24 hours after our meeting.

The next day three of us went to see Sam Miller. He welcomed us into his office and told us that Jack Mandel had called him that morning and that Jack had already received our request. Jack told Sam that he was very impressed and then promised his support.

Thanks to Sam, Jack has agreed to contribute \$50,000 to the project. He's also agreed to become an honorary member of our board—but not until we break ground—giving us all the reason we need to start construction as soon as possible. With support from the Jack and Lilyan Mandel Foundation, people in the philanthropic community will surely know that our project is ready and deserves their support.

Sam Miller and Others Join the Board and Capital Campaign Committee

By Scott Capenter

Since our last issue of The Bugle we have added several people to the Fire Museum Board of Trustees and the Capital Campaign Committee. Chief among them is Sam Miller, Co-Chairman of the Board, Forest City Enterprises. Sam is both a member of our Board as well as the Honorary Chairman of the Capital Campaign Committee. And if you read the article above about the the gift from Jack Mandel, you know that Sam is already hard at work helping raise money for the Fire Museum.

Along with Sam Miller we recently elected three others to the board: Chester J. Ashton, President, Cleveland Fire Fighters, Local 93; Bruce Latimer, Ph.D., Executive Director, Cleveland Museum of Natural History; and William Von Alt, CFO, Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare, Ohio Department of Mental Health. Bill is the brother to Cleveland firefighter Joe Von Alt and is known by many Cleveland firefighters for his help with the annual MDA drive.

Bill is also our newest member of the Capital Campaign Committee. He is joined by John P. Ruddy, otherwise known as Jack. Jack is both a Cleveland firefighter and an investment advisor with Dawson Wealth Management. Welcome aboard to all!

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A few years ago while trying to encourage our members to come on down and volunteer we came up with a poster of me as “Uncle Dan wants you.” The poster was a take off of the famous WWII poster of “Uncle Sam wants you!” It was a lot of fun to do, it did get a lot of attention, and it did bring in the volunteers. But recently I have been asking for more members to come and help, and I was thinking of the “Uncle Dan” poster.

Since our Annual meeting on Jan. 27th, two of our members, Karen Sodini (widow of Walter Sodini) and



Cheryl Davidson (daughter of Lee Davidson who was assigned to Eng 28 and RS1) volunteered to come on down and help out in the archive room. I mentioned at the annual meeting how Dick Bowman has been trying to organize and sort through the magazines, books, and photos. It is a thankless and overwhelming project. There are days when Dick comes out of the room mumbling to himself about how many different fire magazines there are. Now with the help of Karen and Cheryl they have made tremendous progress. And don't think that they won't want more help. So don't be shy.

Also I would like to report on the progress Rob Sheldon is making on the '80 ALF Funeral Rig. In the last “Bugle” Rob asked for volunteer drivers to drive the rig in funerals. He reports that the response has been great, but he still has room for a few more drivers. Remember the saying, “You snooze, you lose?” Rob has been in contact with several companies that have expressed an interest in helping with the truck. Rob has designed the mechanism for lifting the caskets and had his designs on display at the annual meeting. If you are interested in seeing what's planned, the designs are still on display on the wall in the engine bay at the Fire Museum.

And one more thing, recently, one of our life members mailed us a very generous gift for the building fund. With it he sent a little note which read,

“THIS IS THE YEAR” Yeah!

— Dan Hayden

Annual Membership Meeting Brings Out a Crowd

By John Zangerle

Over forty members from all over Northern Ohio attended the Fire Museum and Education Center's Annual membership meeting on January 27, 2008. The meeting held at the Fire Museum started with our usual array of a wide variety of food and snacks. Our treasurer, Ed Hawk, started with a financial report that showed that the Fire Museum was in good financial shape as a result of prudent spending and contributions over the preceding year. The report highlighted that we have amassed financial reserves that will allow us to start making construction expenditures in 2008. Ed also reported that certified public accountants had conducted a financial review and found our books to be in good order.

The membership report showed that we added sixteen new life members in 2007. Total membership remained over 1000 for the second year in a row. Because of new members and a 7.7% increase in member contributions, our membership is generating over \$78,000.00 per year.

President John Zangerle reviewed highlights from the past year emphasizing that a number of activities had occurred each month. Significant activities during the year included the Flea Market, Firefighters Memorial Ride, dedication of the Firefighters Memorial, Fourth of July parade, the public safety display at City Hall and the reception in Octo-



ber for the Firefighters Memorial committee. The president pointed out that the Executive Committee had held nine meetings during the year and the newly expanded Board had met three times since its inception this past summer. He also mentioned that our website, has been completely revamped by Scott Carpenter and is now a great source of current information, fire history and photographs. John also thanked Rick Rogel, who was in attendance at the meeting, for his donation to the Fire Museum of the beautifully restored 1952 American LaFrance.

On the fund raising front, the president explained that the Capital Committee has been working hard on fund raising and has had some recent successes. He reported that National City Bank had made a significant contribution and that Sam Miller of Forest

City Enterprises, is not only contributing but is helping the Fire Museum find other major contributors.

In addition to our big givers like Sam Miller, we have also received capital contributions from a number of our Life members in response to an end-of-the-year request we made in December.

Executive Director, Dan Hayden, remembered mem-

bers who passed away in 2007. Those in attendance observed a moment of silence. Dan also recognized the importance of the Museum's volunteers and noted those volunteers attending the meeting. Dan told the story of the Museum's acquisition of the 1870 fire bell and it's part in the Firefighters Memorial dedication. Rob Sheldon reported on the status of the 1980 American LaFrance to be used as a funeral caisson.

Project manager, Scott Carpenter, closed the meeting with a report on construction plans for 2008. Scott also showed our membership clips of our media coverage for the past year, including a special feature Channel 3 had done one the Fire Museum.

Many members commented that the meeting was informative and very upbeat. All are excited about prospects for 2008.

FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY

By Paul Nelson

On The Web

The Fire Museum website now includes historical Cleveland Fire information that is part of a multi-year research project entitled *FIGHTING FIRE IN CLEVELAND*. Included is a list of the major resource material used in the project that covers the Volunteer Department (1828 to 1864) and the present-day paid Fire Department that started operation on December 17, 1862. The material on the web at this time is presented in tabular time-line format making it easy to find information of a certain time period, of a certain company or a certain piece of fire apparatus. Future additions to the web will include more narrative history and photos as well as detailed material on specific topics such as fire station history, the telegraph fire alarm systems that began

in 1864, the Fire Department High Pressure Pumping Station and hydrant system, the fire boats, the water tower and a detailed story on the Museum building (Station No. 28). Updates to changing material will be made twice a year.

The Volunteer section includes information on all apparatus, company history with apparatus use and station locations, a department time line, chief officers, disbanding, information on apparatus builders, and disposition of assets.

For the present-day Department, there is a time line of every company that has existed, their location and transition notes. There is a listing and description of every horse-drawn apparatus purchased by the Department along with a description and original assignment. Likewise for the motorized apparatus. It is arranged by decades and apparatus type

which makes it easier to find a specific rig. It includes only fire suppression apparatus and support apparatus, not the delivery trucks or automobiles.

There is much more historical information in the Museum Archives, both written and in the form of photos, and you are welcome to stop by and have a look. The project to find at least one photo of every motorized apparatus is over 90% complete.

History research is a challenge. Constant checking and cross checking facts for accuracy, especially in early handwritten material, often uncovers new data. Thanks to "DELETE." "SEARCH ALL" and "REPLACE ALL" errors can be corrected. If you have questions or doubts on something send an e-mail to: nelsonp@wrfmc.com or call the Fire Museum at (216) 664-6312.

History is a work in progress.

Whatever Happened To The Fireboat MARVET?

Museum member and retired FDNY/NASA firefighter Bill Davis has been doing some interesting research and has found some fascinating material from some unlikely internet sources. He has uncovered some undisputable material on the fireboat that was part of the Department from 1946 to 1961, a converted lake fishing boat that was used by the Coast Guard in Cleveland during WWII, and then became Engine 21, the *MARVET*, OR WAS IT?

This story is a great example of the challenges of history research. The *MARVET* is really the *MAVRET*, or more precisely the *MAVRET-H*. This was verified by Great Lakes shipping documents, the US registry of ships and Coast Guard documents. The boat was never identified by its name in CFD documents and reports. For some reason the boat never had its name painted on the hull (so found in all archive photos). In a few written references it was called the *MARVET*. And, a Plain Dealer news clipping describing the sale

of the boat in 1963 called it the *MARVET-H*. Time to use the "SEARCH ALL" and "REPLACE ALL" because the boat was the *M-A-V-R-E-T*.

Even a more astounding fact is that the boat, built in 1927, is still alive and well and working in upstate New York. It is being used as a tow boat in a dredging operation verified by U.S. and Coast Guard records and a telephone conversation with its owner.

There will be a complete story on the *MAVRET-H* with photos in the next issue of The Bugle.



Above: Engine 21, converted lake fishing boat. CFD Archives.

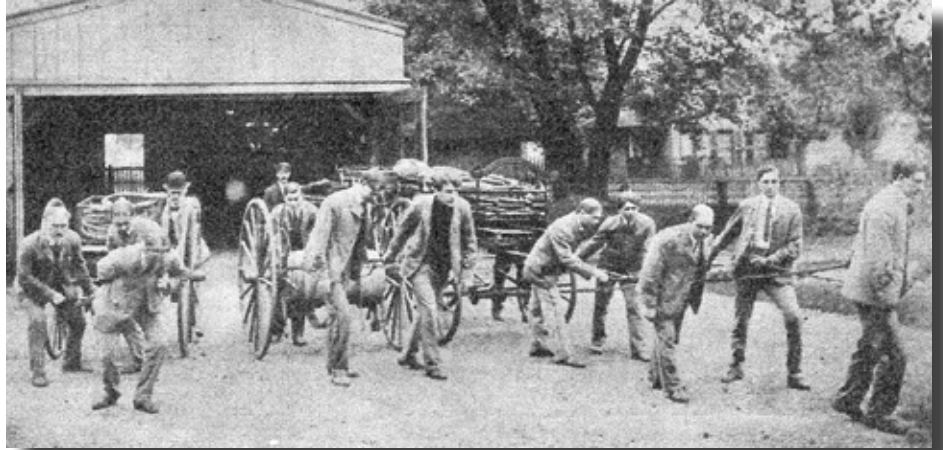
Former Cleveland Fireboat currently used as tow boat. Photo courtesy of current owner.

Another City Fire Department

By Paul Nelson

Fire Museum member and retired CFD firefighter Bill Martens, one of the regular Thursday workday volunteers, has made a lifetime effort at saving clippings and photos. One of the recent articles he brought in showed a volunteer fire department at the State Hospital on Turney Road. The 1896 photo shows three hand-drawn vehicles. At the far left, it appears to be a 2-wheel hose and chemical based on the basket shown at the front of the reel. In the center is a traditional 2-wheel hose reel. At the right is a 4-wheel ladder carriage. No information is given on the origin of the apparatus, whether purchased directly for the hospital or a hand down from some municipal department.

The ladder probably was not a Cleveland volunteer ladder since their only ladder carriage (an 1855 Pine and Harts-



Hand-drawn apparatus of the State Hospital on Turney Road *Plain Dealer* Photo

horn 4-wheel carriage) was acquired by the paid department, converted to horse-drawn use and at some time added a tiller. It was assigned to Ladder Co. 1 when established in June 1863, latter Ladder 2 and Ladder 4 and retired in 1893. It

carried a total of 122-feet of ladders, the longest being 50-feet. The ladder in the photo has a decorative bar in front, where the driver's seat would have been located. The turnout gear leaves a little bit to be desired!

Another New Gem

By Paul Nelson

Kay Birt gave us a collection of photos from retired Cleveland firefighter John B. Birt who worked at Station 10 and 39. Among the photos was a photo (front end partially obscured) of Ladder 15's 1925 Seagrave service ladder (no aerial) that they used from 1935 to 1951. It is the first photo of this truck we have found, the only Seagrave service ladder used by CFD (the Department has only had three service ladders).

Another photo in the collection shows apparatus in front of Station 10. The Ahrens-Fox pumper was used by Engine Co. 10 until 1941 while the ladder was used by Ladder Co. 8 until 1929.

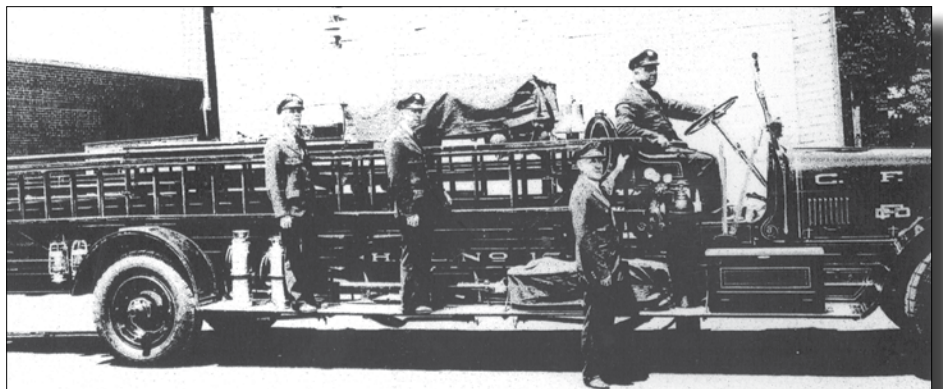


Photo above: Ladder Co. 15, an 1925 Seagrave service ladder truck. Photo courtesy of Kay Birt



Photo to the right: Engine Co. 10, an 1918 Ahrens-Fox, 900gpm piston pump (left) Ladder Co. 8, an 1907 horse-drawn American LaFrance 65-foot aerial converted to motor driven 1913 Peerless Tractor (right) Battalion Chief 8 (at that time) roadster in center. Photo courtesy Kay Birt

ALONG THE RIVER

By Paul Nelson

The Cleveland Fire Department has maintained fireboat service on the Cuyahoga River since 1886 initiated after the great Flats Fires of 1884. During the first Flats Fire one of the steam fire engines arriving from out of town was placed aboard a barge and pulled down the river where it supplied streams to fight the fire from the river. (That steam fire engine was from Elyria.) So impressed by its success, City Council authorized the purchase of a fireboat and a company to man it. Engine Co. 15 went into service on November 1, 1886. The Fire Museum has recently acquired some new photos surrounding that part of the Fire Department history.

Station No. 21

Station No. 21 was opened on October 16, 1924 at Carter and Scranton Road replacing a house at the southwest corner of the bridge at Seneca Street. The photo above by an unknown photographer was taken shortly after the station opened as suggested by the unfinished grading and landscaping around the structure. The fireboat was berthed in an unique inlet away from the shoreline of the riverbank on either side of the slip. The structure was physically moved to its present site in 1939-1940 during a redirection of the river's curve (station closed from October 2, 1939 to July 24, 1940). The berth at the current location is parallel to natural riverbank.

Fireboat GEORGE A. WALLACE as a Canadian Tug

The fireboat *GEORGE A. WALLACE* was placed in service on July 18, 1916 as Engine Co. 15 and remained operational until February 11, 1934. At that time it was taken out of service in poor condition, badly in need of repairs that the City could not afford. The other fireboat *JOHN H. FARLEY* (Engine Co. 21) had been taken out of service on January 18, 1933 under similar circumstances. The *WALLACE* was "boarded-up" at the dock with the company disbanded and the house vacated. There would be no fireboat service until 1942 when the US Coast Guard placed a fireboat in service at Station No. 21 for the duration of World War II.

The *GEORGE A. WALLACE* was sold by the City to Harry J. Dixon of Toronto, Canada in 1936 and rebuilt by the Toronto Dry Dock Co. into a harbor tug with a Canadian Registry Number 170511. In 1940 the boat was sold to Maritime Towing and Salvage, Ltd. of Halifax, Nova Scotia and moved to that port. In 1946 it was sold to a company named *Foundation Wallace* who continued to operate it as a tug under the new name of *FOUNDATION WALLACE*. The last record of the boat was in 1953 when it disappeared from the Canadian Registry without any information on its disposition.

Fireboat THE CLEVELANDER

The sixth of seven CFD fireboats was placed in service on October 15, 1954 at Engine Co. 21. It was named *THE CLEVELANDER* and is shown in this newly acquired photo. (Engine Co. 15 operated another boat named *CLEVELANDER* from 1894 to 1916.) In 1961 *THE CLEVELANDER* was reassigned to Engine Co. 15 and remained in service as the second fireboat until January 29, 1964 when that company was deactivated and the firehouse on Riverbed Road vacated. The vessel was kept in reserve and tied up at Station No. 21 until 1974 when it was sold to the Marine Development Co. based in Cleveland and converted to a tug. It carried a US Registry Number of 268373 until 1980 when it was sold to British buyers with further use unknown.



Station No. 21 with fireboat *JOHN H. FARLEY* tied up at dock. WRFMC Collection



Former fireboat *GEORGE A. WALLACE* as tug in Halifax, NS renamed *FOUNDATION WALLACE* George Harris photo / Historical Collections of the Great Lakes/ Bowling Green State Univ. Library



Fireboat *THE CLEVELANDER* in the Cuyahoga River in undated photo and unidentified individual. WRFMC Collection

Calendar of Events

- **Saturday, March 1** – Cleveland, OH, WRFM Annual Flea Market, Cleveland Fire Training Academy. Saturday, March 1st, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, 3101 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

For information including directions, log on to our website, www.wrfmc.com, and click on the Flea Market link.

- **Saturday and Sunday, April 19 -20** – Allentown, PA, Fire Memorabilia Auction, Allentown Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 19. Flea Market at Fairgrounds, Sunday, April 20. Contact Donn Zalewski at www.donnandassociates.com.
- **Saturday, April 26** – Jackson, MI, Great Lakes Chapter Flea Market, Jackson County Fairgrounds at 8:00 AM.
- **Sunday, May 25** – Cleveland, OH, 4th. Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride. Bikes will begin to stage on Alfred Lerner Way at 8:30 AM. Contact John Kikol at kiksharley@aol.com.
- **Saturday, June 21** – Reynoldsburg, OH, Central Ohio Chapter annual muster at the Ohio State Fire Academy. Contact Bill Davis at gwilliamdavis@netscape.net.
- **Saturday, July 26** – Frankenmuth, MI, Great Lakes Chapter annual muster at Heritage Park, July 26, Frankenmuth, MI. For details see the Great Lakes Chapter website at www.gliafaa.com.
- **Wednesday - Sunday, July 30 - August 3** – Syracuse, NY, SPAAMFAA 50th Anniversary Summer Convention and Muster. Contact Gary Thurston at www.cnyspaamfaa.com or call (315) 487-1137.

Plans Unveiled for New Entrance

In February the Capital Campaign Committee met for a briefing on the latest developments and to discuss fund-raising plans and responsibilities. The growing group of supporters were treated to a beautiful rendering of the Museum's new entrance. The illustration was commissioned by our project architect, Doty and Miller, and executed by illustrator Pete Maric. For more on this story log on to our website at www.wrfmc.com and click on the Project link at the top of the page.



Fire Museum Passes Muster of City Landmarks Commission

On February 14th, the Fire Museum received a valentine from the City of Cleveland Landmarks Commission when it approved our project. This means that the architectural plans can now be submitted to the building department for construction permits. To follow the progress log on to our website at www.wrfmc.com.

For the Very Latest on Fire Museum News Log on to Our Website at www.wrfmc.com

DRIVERS WANTED! Funeral Carriage Gearing Up to Offer Services

The Fire Museum is still looking for a few good drivers, active or retired firefighters, willing and able to drive a fire truck. When on funeral duty drivers will be expected to wear Class A uniforms. Participating volunteers will need to attend a short orientation program and will be compensated for each driving assignment.

If you would like to help, please contact the project coordinator, Rob Sheldon, at (440) 466-2138 or email at trumpets@windstream.net.



Don't Miss the 23rd Annual Firematic Flea Market

For details see our Calendar of Events on page 7 of this issue of The Bugle.

The Bugle is a publication of the Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland, Inc., 310 Carnegie Ave, Cleveland, Ohio 44115. Entire contents © by Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland, Inc.

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