



THE BUGLE



Summer 2020

SAVING HISTORY, SAVING LIVES!

Volume 26, Number 2

THE MUSEUM REOPENS AND WELCOMES BACK VISITORS

BY JOAN OLIVER

After being closed for 3 ½ months due to COVID-19 and Ohio mandates, the Western Reserve Fire Museum reopened its doors to the public on July 1, 2020. In order to ensure the safety of all visitors and employees, the Museum is following the guidelines of the CDC, other governing bodies and other museums within our community and has joined with Destination Cleveland to be a Clean Committed place to visit.

With restrictions lifted, the Museum has established new protocols to ensure that the Museum is safe and ready for the public's return. During this closure, the Museum has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to ensure the safety of employees and visitors.

Visitors will again have the opportunity to visit the Museum with a few modifications to ensure the utmost safety of the community. The touch table in the Mandel Gallery as well as the children's dress up area in the Education Wing has been modified to eliminate contact points.



Joan Oliver photo

Jim Bell points out all the new safety protocols

The Museum's hours of operation have been adjusted to allow ample time to sanitize the facilities outside of public hours. The Museum will now close ½ hour earlier and the new hours of operation will be Wed. through Sat., 10:00 am - 3:30 pm. Visitors will be allowed in up to 50% capacity. However, any groups of 10 or more will be required to make a reservation in advance. All visitors will be asked to submit to a temperature check via a no contact thermometer, required to wear face mask, and to adhere to social distancing guidelines, including

Continued on Page 2 (Please see MUSEUM REOPENS)

PRESIDENT'S LOG FEBRUARY 2020

BY JIM BELL

Greetings from the Fire Museum! As I write this column it is another hot and sun-filled day. I hope all of you are able to be in air conditioned homes and are staying cool and comfortable. Likewise, I hope everyone is healthy and are doing their best to avoid the Covid-19 virus.

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed our world and the museum has felt the effects as well. We closed in mid-March and re-opened on July 1st. During that time all activity ceased within the building and that has hurt us. Our volunteer renovation crew was not able to do their very necessary and important work, thus pushing back the goal of getting the second floor dormitory area finished and open to the public. Likewise, being closed for three and a half months has affected our income stream. The money generated by admission fees is put into our general fund and can be used in a number of ways. With this year's closing coupled with our closure last year to install the fire sprinkler system, we have lost over nine months of revenue! This is a very serious situation for the museum and we cannot sustain this long term. At risk of sounding like a broken record, we need financial support from our members and friends, and we need it NOW. Please consider writing a check or going to the museum website (www.wrfmc.com) and making a donation. Every little bit helps the cause.

I want to assure everyone the museum is constantly looking for money through charitable organizations and grant makers across the country. Locally, the Cuyahoga Arts Council has been supporting us for several years. But, like most organizations, their donation can only

Continued on Page 2 (Please see LOG)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2020 Flea Market.....	2
4th of July.....	3
Safety Tips	3
New Board Member	3
CFD Engine Responds	4
Saga of Forest City No. 2	5
Lakewood Fire Dept. History.....	6
Calendar of Events.....	7
Museum Commemorates.....	7
9-11 Ceremony.....	7
CFD Trivia	7

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

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MUSEUM REOPENS

(Continued from Page 1)

maintaining a 6-foot distance from others. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own face masks, but masks will be available if needed. Sanitizing stations have been set up throughout the Museum for visitor safety and convenience.

Evidence shows that all of these safety precautions help to slow down the spread of COVID-19, but achieving them requires the participation of our entire community. We encourage our visitors to do their part to make a difference.

The Museum has also established new health and safety guidelines for employees and volunteers. They will be required to wear masks at all times, have their temperature checked prior to entry, and follow a sanitizing protocol. Employees will also be asked to follow social distancing guidelines, and maintain a 6-foot distance from others.

These are difficult and trying times for many and while some modifications have been made to exhibits and displays, your experiences will continue to be stimulating and educational. So, please come down and experience the exciting new exhibit, "Sound the Alarm, Suburbs Respond to the Need for Fire Protection" featuring Solon, Westlake and Collinwood currently on display through November.

LOG

(Continued from Page 1)

be used for very specific activities. The money we receive from CAC is used to construct and produce our exhibits in the Mandel Exhibit Gallery. Other donations from the O'Malley family and the Bishop family have been used to further our fire safety education efforts. We are grateful to these donors. Please join them in making a generous donation to the museum.

In closing I ask for another kind of donation. Your time. We need volunteers to serve as docents, custodial staff, renovation workers, collections registrar and more. Our current renovation volunteers have indicated to me that they are winding down their time here and want to be fully 'retired' so they can spend more time with grand-kids, family and travel. I can't blame them. We need fresh blood to step up and continue the renovation of our beautiful building.

Please come down to the museum and see what we have been doing. I wish all of you a safe and healthy autumn. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Jim Bell
440-220-0412

2020 FLEA MARKET

BY JOAN OLIVER

The 36th Annual Western Reserve Fire Museum Flea Market was held on Saturday, March 7th at the Cleveland Fire Training Academy. There was no snow in the forecast and it was a balmy 40°; a pretty nice day as far as March goes. As always, our thanks go out to Chief Tom Schloemer and the staff at the FTA for making it available every year. Steve Hildebrant along with Bob Shimits did a superb job in laying out and organizing the vendor spaces.

Frank Novak managed the Kitchen with help from Chris Sheehe, Stan Socha, Cathy and Ken Jordan. Debbie Hubbard and Karen Sodini staffed the Museum sales table. Dan Hayden and Dean Murad sold 50/50 raffle tickets. Larry Gordon worked the vendor table in the main room selling miscellaneous non collection items and Paul Nelson staffed the Museum information table. A thank you goes out to all the vendors and shoppers who came out to support the Museum that day and make the Flea Market a great event.



Paul Nelson Photos

Ken Jordan at work in the kitchen



Larry Gordon waiting on a customer



Mark Bauman selling Hook-N-Ladder Jerky

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS AN OLD ENGINE ROARS BACK TO LIFE

BY JOHN ZANGERLE

This year's Fourth of July was certainly a very different type of experience for most of us. However, a highlight for North Olmsted residents was the unveiling of their 1929 Seagrave fire engine after a mechanical restoration. The Seagrave was North Olmsted's first piece of custom fire apparatus following a Model T Ford and a Chevrolet chemical and hose. The 750 gpm pumper was North Olmsted's first line apparatus until the mid- 1950's. The city of North Olmsted donated the pumper to the North Olmsted Historical Society in 1968 where it was put in storage at the Society's Frostville Museum on Cedar Point Road bordering the Metroparks. The engine sat at the historical society until retired Cleveland Fire Department Captain John Baker decided it should be restored to driving condition. With the assistance of his sons and members of the LaGrange Engine Club the truck's engine was rebuilt in time for this year's Fourth of July parade. The Seagrave is in very good original condition with its original ladders and equipment. She was cleaned and polished for the parade and ran smoothly. Congratulations go to John and all those who helped bring an old fire truck back to life.



North Olmsted's restored 1929 Seagrave Pumper

MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Fire Museum welcomes Cleveland Fire Lieutenant James Bryne to our Board of Directors.

Jim's interest in firefighting started at the age of 14 when he served as a cadet at his local volunteer department and his service in that department continues to this day. He was hired by the Cleveland Fire Department in October of 2000 and was promoted to Lieutenant in July of 2018. He is currently assigned to Technical Rescue 1. We look forward to his expertise and insights on the many ongoing projects at the Western Reserve Fire Museum.

END OF SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

BY BOB SZABO

With the summer winding down and back to school (maybe) a real possibility. Labor Day, September 7th is the perfect time to wrap up everyone's favorite activities. Pool or beach fun, outdoor cookouts, family gatherings, but implementing safety precautions are still important.

One in three pediatric deaths worldwide are a result of some type of accident. Families should always pay attention to their surroundings and keep in mind the safety measures associated with end of summer activities.

- Firework safety: Even though the 4th of July is past. Many people have unused fireworks lying around the house. Either dispose of properly, take to your local fire department or let a trained adult set them off.
- Pool safety: Drowning is the second leading cause of injury related death among children under the age of 15. Follow all pool safety rules, never swim alone, have adult supervision.
- Sun safety: Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the US and one of the most preventable. Children and adults should avoid direct sun exposure for long periods of time. Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher and reapply when needed.



CFD ENGINE 32 RESPONDS TO MICHIGAN

BY JOHN ZANGERLE

Ex Cleveland Fire Department Engine 32 is Cleveland's oldest surviving motorized fire apparatus. The 1925 Seagrave 1000 gpm pumper was originally assigned to Engine 16 on Woodland Avenue. She operated as Engine 28 at the Fire Alarm office and eventually became Engine 32 located on West 112th St. just south of Detroit Rd. She is a good example of Cleveland's fleet of Seagraves purchased from the late teens through the early 1930s. She was taken off the roster in 1962 and donated to the Crawford Auto Museum. In 1973 the Museum put her up for auction and I couldn't resist purchasing the engine that had run from the station very close to my childhood home.

I have been the custodian of Engine 32 since then and over time I performed various maintenance and repairs to keep her in good running condition. Recently both battery boxes had started to rot away and fellow museum member and my Seagrave mechanic, Ted Elder, arranged to have new boxes built by Amish craftsmen. The new boxes were installed just in time to take the engine to the annual Frankenmuth, Michigan Fire Truck Muster the last weekend in July. The muster is sponsored by our neighboring Great Lakes chapter of SPAAMFAA (Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America). The muster is held in a very attractive park on the Cass River which is ideal for drafting and pumping. The town of Frankenmuth is the quintessential simulated Bavarian village and tourist attraction. It is a great summer destination for many of our Museum members who enjoy the muster, parade, flea market, and most of all the many good restaurants.



John Zangerle photos

Engine 32 being unloaded off the truck

This year's show was the first large muster held this summer anywhere in the country. Fears of Covid-19 caused all of the other musters, including SPAAMFAA's national summer muster, to cancel. Because Frankenmuth offers a large outdoor park setting, there was ample room to socially distance both the people and the apparatus. The town and Fire Department encouraged us to proceed with what was one of their few organized activities of the summer. The muster drew fire apparatus enthusiasts from all over the country. No one was sure how many pieces of apparatus would actually show up, especially since the muster always draws a large contingent from Canada. Since the Canadian border is still closed, none of our Canadian friends could attend and they were

sorely missed. Nevertheless, 55 pieces of fire apparatus showed for the event. As usual, apparatus drove up and down the main street of Frankenmuth the night before and Saturday featured the usual parade out through the countryside and back into town down Main Street to the park.



Engine 32 drafting from the river

After opening ceremonies, Ted Elder and I asked Engine 32 to show her stuff. She was quickly set up to draft from the river pumping through two of Cleveland's old 3" lines into a very heavy Akron Brass deluge gun from Cleveland. Engine 32 picked up a prime in a few seconds and the deluge gun came to life shooting a heavy stream all the way across the Cass River entertaining the boaters and kayakers on the river who went under the stream. She pumped seamlessly for more than 2 1/2 hours and at one point we calculated her actual output at 750 gpm!! Not bad for a fire engine almost 100 years old.

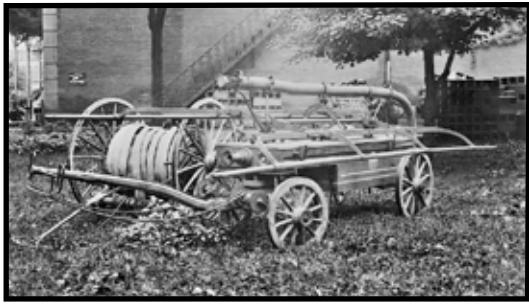


Ken Rybka's restored Mack Pumper

Many other Museum members attended the muster and were thrilled to see a Cleveland icon putting on a show. Retired CFD BC Chris Sheeche and his son, Matt, helped Ted Elder and family set up the hard suction for drafting. Also on hand were Stan and Penny Socha, Museum President Jim Bell, Parker Browne, Vice President Dan Martone and his wife, Louisa, and Tim Elder. Ken Rybka also attended the muster and brought his beautifully restored Corey, PA, Mack pumper. Stu Warner showed his meticulously restored ex-Elyria 1919 White. Harry Berg and the "Lemonade Gang" were there with the restored ex Sheffield Lake 1930 Studebaker. The weather was ideal and we hope next year even more Museum members will attend this annual event a convenient drive from Cleveland.

THE SAGA OF FOREST CITY No. 2 CLEVELAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

BY PAUL NELSON



CFD Archives

No. 2 1852 Button and Hurlburt Hose Reel

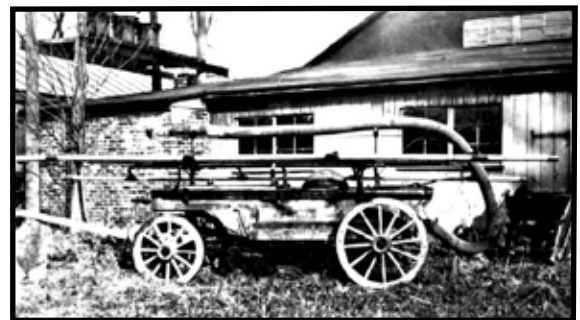
If only the 1852 Button hand engine of the Cleveland Volunteer's Forest City No. 2 could talk. We know it served at No. 2 from 1852 to 1863, was sold in 1863, ended up in Seville sometime before 1870, became the property of the Cleveland Fire Department, was donated to the Western Reserve Historical Society and currently is on loan to the Fire Museum.

Forest City Hand Engine Co. No. 2 was established January 6, 1852 with 120 men on the roster and Michael Keefer as Foreman. The original Co. No. 2 was established in 1834 as Neptune No.2 and remained in service until 1847 when it disbanded. Between 1847 and 1852 a No. 2 did not exist.

In 1852 the City purchased an engine from the Button Fire Engine Works, Waterford, NY, for \$806. It was a second-class, 22-manpower engine with side brakes; 9 ¼-in. cylinder, 6 ½-in. stroke. The City also purchased three 2-wheel hose reels with 350-ft of hose from A. W. Hurlburt at \$80 each. One was assigned to Company No. 2. A 2-story brick single bay fire station (19-ft wide x 32-ft deep) was built at Erie (E. 9th) and Kinsman Streets. The architect was W. P. Southworth, a well-known Cleveland name at that time. Since the volunteers did not need sleeping quarters, they rented out part of the second floor for a dentist's office with a flight of stairs on the exterior wall.

Forest City No. 2 disbanded on May 5, 1863 as the paid fire department was then operational. At the time of disbanding, H. H. Rebbeck was Foreman with only 40 men on the roster. A single line item in the Fire Chief Engineer's Report 1863-64 stated the engine was sold for \$400 in June 1863. Another record stated the firehouse was sold to R. R. Herreck for \$650.

The engine's life after 1863 is somewhat of a question. Tom Doyle, Little Wiz Fire Museum of Medina, has provided us with information that the engine wound up in Seville (Medina County). These two photos came from Seville.



The photo on the left has the notation on the photo *The old "Forest City" – Seville's Hand Pumper Fire Engine*. It has the physical characteristics of the Cleveland Button engine. The photo on the right in front of the same building has slightly different characteristics and appears to be a different engine. The front of the "tub" is rounded and the cut-out for the tub's front wheels is diagonal rather than vertical, different from Forest City. Both have the appearance of a Button engine.

Historical records indicate a volunteer fire department was established in Seville in 1869. In 1870 a major fire broke out in downtown Medina. At 3:00am, a man on horseback rode to Seville and asked them to bring their hand engine to Medina. It is known that neither an interurban or railroad line existed and the engine had to be hand drawn (possibly a horse assist) the seven miles to Medina to fight the fire.

Forest City No. 2 then would be in Seville in 1870. When it got there is not known which leaves the period between the 1863 sale and 1870 in question. Also in question is when it left Seville. Seville received a Haynes chemical engine in 1916 with two 45-gal tanks. No. 2 eventually returned to Cleveland. There is a note that a Button hand engine was at the Warrensville Infirmary in the 20's but not identified. No. 2 was used by CFD for parades and demonstrations in the 30's and 40's. It was then donated to the Western Reserve Historical Society.

The 1852 Button has had an interesting life for its 168 years of existence and is still in its original condition. Perhaps someday the missing facts of the time line will be found.



CFD Archives

No. 2 1852 Button outside Station 1

LAKWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY COMES ALIVE

BY JOHN ZANGERLE

What if your department found its first motorized fire apparatus and was given an early fire station that could house it - all in the matter of a few months? Yes, this actually happened in Lakewood, Ohio and it is a remarkable story.



John Zangerle photos

Recently restored exterior of Station 3

On June 1, 1912, Lakewood took delivery of a new American LaFrance Type 12, 800 gpm pumper, one of the first motorized pieces of fire apparatus in this area. The pumper's serial number is 98, making it one of American LaFrance's earliest pumpers. The engine was damaged in an accident in 1917 and was returned to American LaFrance for repair before it was sent back to Lakewood later that year. Lakewood traded in their pumper to American LaFrance in 1926 when they took delivery of a new ALF Type 75 pumper. American LaFrance sold the 1912 engine to the American Cyanamid Chemical Company in Linden, NJ in 1929. At some time after World War II it was donated to a Boy Scout camp. The pumper was later abandoned in the woods but was discovered by members of the Clark Volunteer Fire Department in Clark, NJ who decided to rescue the engine and restore it to use as a parade vehicle.

Former Lakewood Fire Chief Scott Gilman began a search for past Lakewood fire apparatus. He turned to his friend, Museum member Ted Elder, who tracked down the location of Lakewood's 1912 American LaFrance in Clark, NJ. In 2019, Lakewood's Fire Marshall (now Chief) Tim Dunphy put together an effort to bring it back to its original home. He completed arrangements to purchase the engine from the Clark VFD and transport it back to Lakewood. Chief Dunphy is proud to have this rare pumper back at Station 1.



CFD Archives

Original 1912 American LaFrance Pumper

Now the rest of the story: In 1926 Lakewood built a new single bay station on Hopkins Avenue to protect the east side of the city. This served as Station No. 3 from 1926 until 1976 when a new

and much larger Station 3 was opened on Clifton Blvd. After the Hopkins Avenue station was closed, the city sold the building to the Great Lakes Actor's Guild (part of the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival) to use the building to make and store costumes. Actor Tom Hanks is one of those pictured working on costumes in that station. Eventually the building was sold to Rockport Square Development. A row of attractive town homes was built next to the station on Detroit Avenue and the developer used the station as a sales office during the building of the development. The developer installed central air conditioning in the station and it has its own adjacent parking lot.



Volunteers working on exterior

Once the development was completed the building was used as a community center, but last year the developer decided it no longer needed the building. Fortunately, some Lakewood firefighters interested in history expressed a desire to acquire old Station 3 and formed the Lakewood Firefighters Historical Association, a 501(c)3 non profit organization. The building was donated to the Association in March of this year. The Association has more than 90 current and retired members of IAFF Local 382 and a number of them have started work to repair and restore the building to use as a museum. They are now raising money for repairs. The volunteers have completed roof repairs and are scraping and repainting the windows as well as working on second floor bathroom plumbing and repairing apparatus bay doors. Doesn't this all sound very



Tin ceiling in restored Station 3

familiar to us? Our Museum has invited the Lakewood Museum Board to come for a visit and compare notes. The plan is for old Lakewood Station 3 to house the 1912 American LaFrance pumper as well as other firefighting photos and memorabilia.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Friday, September 11, 2020** –9/11 Ceremony, Honoring Our Departed Brothers & Sisters, Fire Museum, 310 Carnegie Ave, Cleveland, OH, 9:00am on the Plaza in front of the Museum. RSVP required to safely accommodate guests 216-664-6312. Info at www.wrfmc.com.
- **Saturday, September 12, 2020** –Special Day to Commemorate the Citizens of Solon, Ohio and Solon Fire-Rescue. 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Fire Museum, 310 Carnegie Ave, Cleveland, Ohio, RSVP required to safely accommodate guests, 216-664-6312. ½ Price Admission for City of Solon Employees & Residents. Details at www.wrfmc.com.
- **Saturday, October 3, 2020** – Special Day to commemorate the citizens of Westlake, Ohio and Westlake Fire Dept. 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Fire Museum, 310 Carnegie Ave, Cleveland, Ohio. RSVP required to safely accommodate guests, 216-664-6312. ½ Price Admission for City of Westlake Employees & Residents. Details at www.wrfmc.com.
- **Saturday October 10, 2020** – Fire Prevention Week Open House, Fire Museum, 310 Carnegie Ave, Cleveland, OH. 11:00am – 2:00pm. Free Admission. Activities, Fire Safety handouts for the children, along with tours of Museum. RSVP required to safely accommodate guests, 216-664-6312. Details at www.wrfmc.com.

MUSEUM COMMEMORATES SOLON & WESTLAKE

The Museum has set aside the month of September to commemorate Solon as a featured City in this year's current exhibit, "Sound the Alarm, Suburbs Respond to the Need for Fire Protection". On September 12, 2020 at 1:00pm a special event will be held at the Museum to acknowledge the citizens of Solon, OH and Solon Fire/Rescue in their bicentennial year. President, Jim Bell will start off the event with opening remarks followed by short presentations by Solon Fire/Rescue and Solon Historian, Bob Shimits.

In October we will commemorate Westlake, the other featured

city in this year's exhibit. On October 3, 2020 at 1:00pm a special program will be held to commemorate the citizens of Westlake, Ohio and the Westlake Fire Department at the Museum. Presentations will be made by Westlake's Historian and the Westlake Fire Department.

Admission will be half price for these events in the months of September and October for city employees and residents of each city featured. Everyone is encouraged to come down to the museum and take a look at both of these fascinating exhibits.

9/11 CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT MUSEUM

On September 11, 2020, The Museum will have a special memorial in front of the Museum to honor of all those lost their lives on 9/11. In order that we never forget the horrific events that happened that day and to honor our departed brothers and sisters the Museum will be holding a special 9/11 Ceremony. The

ceremony will begin at 9:00am and will be held on the plaza in front of the Museum located at 310 Carnegie Ave, Cleveland, OH. RSVP is required to safely accommodate guests. Please contact the Museum at 216-664-6312 to make your reservations. Further details available at www.wrfmc.com.

CFD TRIVIA

Q: When was a CFD Chief's Car stolen?

A: On May 27, 1936, hijacked by two perpetrators.

BY PAUL NELSON

Rarely does a crime story find its way into the pages of CFD history. A truly bizarre incident involved the Fire Department on May 27th but had nothing to do with fire fighting. Chief James A. Granger had stopped at the Hollenden Hotel to visit some out of town friends while his driver/aide waited in the Department car on Superior Avenue. About 10:30pm the driver, FGF C. L. Trinkler, was startled by two men who forced open the door of the black Buick roadster. They demanded that he drive them to New York, emphasizing their request by showing a weapon. Without many available options, he started the car and drove off with the two men in the back seat. They were adamant that Trinkler not use the car's siren to attract attention. At that time the car did not have a two-way radio.

The car headed out Euclid Avenue and then traveled along US Route 20 through Painesville and Ashtabula. They crossed into Pennsylvania and by the time they reached Girard, the car was beginning to run low on fuel. The captors demanded Trinkler's wallet taking money to purchase gasoline at a roadside station.

After leaving the gas station, Trinkler was able to attract the attention of the local constable and indicated he was in trouble. The constable realized something was not right since the car was marked "C.F.D." and "CHIEF." He summoned State Troopers who stopped the vehicle, surrounding it with guns drawn. The troopers took the two men into custody. They were charged with kidnapping across state lines under the Lindberg Kidnapping Law. It was learned later that the men were wanted in Cleveland for various crimes and no doubt the reason for their escape plan. Disposition of the case is unknown although the newspaper account indicated the perpetrators would face serious jail time.



CFD Chief's Car 1932 Buick Roadster



**Western Reserve Fire Museum
at Cleveland, Inc.**

310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

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**PLAN TO ATTEND
SATURDAY OCTOBER 10, 2020
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSE
AT MUSEUM 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Don't Throw
That Away**

The Fire Museum is looking for fire related photos, articles, artifacts from Cleveland and all of the Lands of the Western Reserve as we preserve area fire history.



There will be activities and Fire Safety Handouts for the Children along with tours of the Museum. Free Admission during Open House Hours. RSVP required to safely accommodate guests, 216-664-6312. Future details at www.wrfmc.com.

The Bugle is a publication of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center. The entire contents © by Western Reserve Fire Museum at Cleveland, Inc.

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