



Central Ohio
Fire Museum & Learning Center
260 North 4th St., Columbus, OH 43215



The Bell Tower

Winter 2020

Office: 614-464-4099 Tours/Gift Shop: 614-464-4004 Email: cofmuseum@gmail.com

Staff

Ret. Capt. Michael Shimko
Susan Hudak
Lt. Samantha Kerr
Ret. FF Clem Thurn
Ret. Capt. Dan Fancey
FM Tony Criss
FM Josh Harris
Madeline DeRoche
Thomas Shimko

Volunteers

Ret. FF Greg Belcher
Ret. State Fire Marshal
Larry Flowers
Patty Flowers
Ret. FF Bill Guerard
Ret. FF Bill Hall
Ret. FF Lou Hoyer
Ret. Capt. George Hudak
Ret. Lt. Jim Pritsel
Mary Kathryn Smith, Esq.
Terri Furey
Cheri Weiler
Volunteer Emeritus

How Much Time
Do You Have to
Escape a Fire in
Your Home?

Find Out on Page 3!

Museum Establishes James Henderson Memorial to Honor Former Treasurer

The Central Ohio Fire Museum has established the James Henderson Memorial to honor our former secretary/treasurer who passed away in 2019. The plaque which will hang in the museum will have the names of our departed friends who remembered us in their last wishes, starting in 2019. **Jim Henderson**, who served as secretary/treasurer for the museum from 2016-2019, generously left the museum over **\$293,000** in his estate. The board of directors voted to use that donation to fund museum second floor expansion projects as defined in our "Vision 2029" strategic plan. These projects include installing an elevator, sprinkler system and a new HVAC system. Thank you, Jim.



Museum Set To Receive \$50,000 for Fire Safety Education

COFM is set to receive \$50,000 from an anonymous donor to support our fire safety education programs. This donor also gave us \$15,000 in 2019 for the same cause. Thanks to his generosity we have been able to purchase equipment for virtual tours and fire safety classes, update the Home Escape Plan training area and sponsor public safety announcements on a local radio station during Fire Prevention Week in October. Future plans include supplying new smoke detectors with our outreach programs and a more widespread public safety announcement campaign.

National Registry of EMTs Celebrates 50th Anniversary

As part of its 50th anniversary celebration, the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians is producing a documentary about the history of the organization. Shane Cartmill of the Registry's Communication Office was at the museum recently to interview COFM board member and volunteer **Larry Flowers**. The former Ohio State Fire Marshal, state representative and fire chief, was also one of the first paramedics in Ohio. In the interview, Larry related his experiences in the early days of EMS and the role the National Registry played in advancing the profession.





Volunteers of the Year

Our first honoree, **Lou Hoyer**, has been volunteering with the museum for four years. Lou retired as a firefighter/paramedic from Upper Arlington FD in 2015 after 27 years of service. He also worked as a paramedic for MedFlight's fixed wing and mobile programs. Volunteering every Wednesday and Friday has been a big help in keeping the museum staffed to greet visitors, give tours, and take on the varied projects that come up during the day. His willingness to take on any project has made him a valuable member of our staff.

Our second honorees are the team of **Larry and Patty Flowers**.

Larry retired as Ohio's 37th State Fire Marshal in 2019. He began his career as a volunteer firefighter in 1970 and served with the Kirkersville (West Licking), Sharon Township (Worthington) and Madison Township fire departments. He was chief at Madison from 1978-2000, and also served as State Representative from the 19th and 24th Ohio House Districts.

Patty is a retired school bus driver, serving 29 years. During her time as a driver, she said she particularly enjoyed her time working with children with special needs.

Team Flowers volunteer every Tuesday (except when they are out west for the winter). No project is too big or too small and they are always ready to help.

Thanks to Lou Hoyer and Team Flowers for their commitment to the museum!

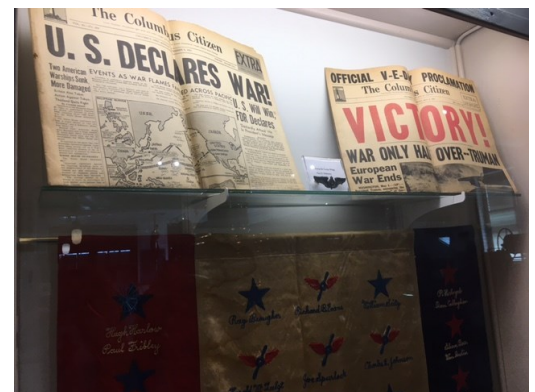


Continuing Education Scholarship

Museum general counsel **Mary Kathryn Smith** received a \$1,400 scholarship for her law license continuing education hours from the Practising Law Institute in New York. Mary was eligible for the scholarship because of her pro bono legal work for the museum.

CFD Veterans Exhibit

There is still time to stop in the museum and see the new temporary exhibit honoring CFD military veterans. The exhibit opened in November 2020 and pays tribute to the Columbus firefighters who served during World War II. On display is a banner donated from the former Paul D. Robinson American Legion post that has the names of all 63 Columbus firefighters who traded in their fire boots for combat boots from 1941-45. The post was named after Paul D. Robinson, the only CFD member killed during the war. The exhibit will close at the end of January 2021.



Check out our Facebook page!



Read our reviews at
TripAdvisor.com

MISSION

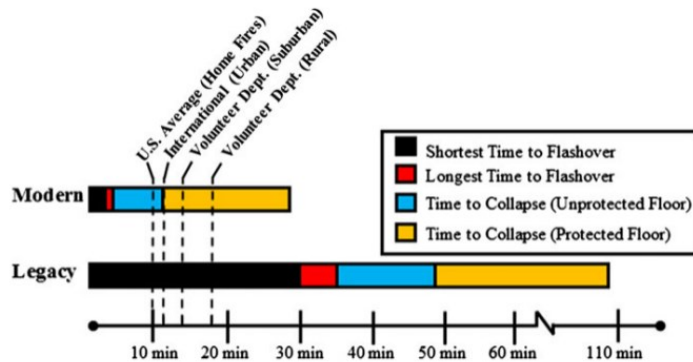
- To Preserve Engine House No. 16
- To preserve and teach the history of American fire fighting
- To teach year-round fire prevention to children and citizens of central Ohio

How Much Time Do You Have To Escape?

With the variety of synthetics and other materials in our homes today, home fires are burning hotter and growing faster. The burning materials often produce smoke that has cyanide, benzene and other toxic substances in it. Residents who live in modern construction (built after 2005) now have less than 3 minutes from the time the fire ignites to escape. Be fire safe in your home and remember to develop a home escape plan with your family. Steps to the escape plan include:

1. Working smoke detectors on every floor.
2. Knowing two ways out of every room in your home.
3. Sleeping with your bedroom door closed.
4. Have a family meeting place outside your home.

This graphic from the **National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)** shows difference in time to flashover in legacy construction (built before 1970), which is almost 20 minutes, to modern construction which is less than 3 minutes. Develop your home escape plan today!



Firefighter Memorial Sunday Open House

An open house at the museum was held on Sunday, October 4th in honor of Firefighter Memorial Sunday. The event is held annually to remember those firefighters who passed away this year. Twenty-two new memorial pavers honoring members of the Central Ohio Retired Firefighters and others were installed in the ramp in mid-September. If you would like to donate a paver in honor of any firefighter, please contact the museum at 614-464-4004 or email cofmuseum@gmail.com.

Bell Update

The Columbus Fire bell featured in our last issue is now portable. Big thanks to **Bud Wycoff** of Canal Winchester who donated time, talent, and materials to fabricate a frame mounted on an industrial cart. The bell, donated by retired CFD firefighter **Charles Schultz** is believed to have been from old Station #2. The museum staff is continuing to research the history of the bell. The next step is refinishing the bell and finish work on the frame.



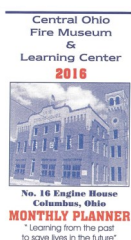
Fundraising Notes

Shop at Amazon.com? Your next purchase could benefit the fire museum.

Smile.Amazon.com is an off-shoot of the big online retailer. You get the same prices and deals as Amazon.com and 0.5% of your purchase price is donated to the registered charity of your choice. For your next online purchase simply go to Smile.Amazon.com and select the Central Ohio Fire Museum as your charity. Thank you and happy shopping!



Did you know you can support the museum by grocery shopping? If you are not already supporting another organization, please consider registering your **Kroger Plus Card** at <http://krogercommunityrewards.com> to help support the Fire Museum. Our registration number is **90566**. Thanks!



2021 Unit Day Pocket Calendars Are Available!

Calendar \$6

Call the museum at 614-464-4004 to order yours now!

The Bell Tower Spotlight: Genoa Township Fire Department

The department was established as a volunteer department in 1973 and transitioned to a career department in 2001. Genoa Township Fire Department, led by Chief Joseph Ponzi, consists of over 40 highly trained personnel including 36 who have been certified as firefighter/paramedics and 6 as firefighters/EMT-Bs providing the following services:

Emergency Medical Services

Fire suppression

Rescue

Hazard Mitigation

Fire prevention and public education services

Fire and EMS staff are deployed from one strategically positioned fire station located at 7049 Big Walnut Road, Galena, OH 43021. The Department is fully equipped with two engines, one truck, two medic vehicles, a water rescue boat and hazardous materials decontamination trailer. Genoa Township Fire Department's primary response area is 21.5 square miles and provides automatic aid to eight neighboring Townships and three neighboring municipalities. Genoa Township Fire also has a minimum of 2 public safety divers on duty 24/7, to provide an immediate response to water rescues to Delaware and surrounding counties.



Annual memberships to the Central Ohio Fire Museum are used to support museum improvements. Please make checks payable to:

Central Ohio Fire Museum
260 North Fourth Street
Columbus, OH 43215

**Open Tuesday-Saturday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Children \$6 Seniors \$7 Adults \$8
Group tours by appointment
614-464-4004**

YES, I want to be a friend of the Fire Museum



Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

I Year Family Membership \$78 _____

Annual membership includes unlimited access during regular museum hours, 10% discount in our gift shop and invitations to special events.