



Central Ohio

Fire Museum & Learning Center

260 North 4th St., Columbus, OH 43215



# The Bell Tower

Spring 2020

Office: 614-464-4099 Tours/Gift Shop: 464-4004 Email: [cofmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:cofmuseum@gmail.com)

## Staff

Ret. Capt. Michael Shimko  
Susan Hudak  
Lt. Samantha Kerr  
Ret. FF Clem Thurn  
Fire Medic Josh Harris  
FF Tony Criss  
Madeline DeRoche

## 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  
Ret. Capt. Dan Fancey  
Dan Edwards  
Mary Kathryn Smith, Esq.  
Thomas Shimko

## Nationwide Insurance Donates Fire Safety Education Kits

The Central Ohio Fire Museum and many central Ohio fire departments got a late Christmas gift this January when Nationwide Insurance donated 950 fire safety education kits to the museum. The kits were part of Nationwide's "Make Safe Happen" promotion which ended last year. Each kit had 50 fire helmets, large refrigerator magnet Home Escape Plans, emergency call list forms, activity books and home safety guide for parents. Do the math and that comes out to 47,500 of each item!

Museum staff and volunteers quickly made room in the annex building for the 38 pallets of boxes that were delivered in late January. Once the museum's needs for the foreseeable future were met, word went out to as many departments as we could reach. By the end of February, most of the kits had been distributed.

In addition to the fire museum, the following departments/agencies received kits: Mifflin Twp., Whitehall, Pleasant Twp., Urbana, Westerville, Westerville Schools, West Licking, Madison Twp., Liberty Twp., Jefferson Twp., Junction City, Marion Twp. (Hocking Co.), Bremen Twp. (Fairfield Co.), Genoa Twp., Prairie Twp., Grandview Heights, Monroe Twp. (Johnstown), BSTG, Hebron, Newark, Delaware City, Marysville and Mt. Vernon.



The museum still has some kits available. If your department or organization is interested in coming to pick some up, (after Ohio's Stay at Home order is lifted) please contact us at [cofmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:cofmuseum@gmail.com) or call 614-464-4099.

## "History of EMS Through Art" Exhibit Opened

A new exhibit titled "History of EMS Through Art" opened at the museum February 8<sup>th</sup>. COFM partnered with the National EMS Museum to host the exhibit which features early EMS advertising and artwork from Daniel Sundahl. Daniel is a Canadian paramedic whose artwork illustrates the stresses and mental health issues faced by emergency service professionals. He creates the artwork as part of his own therapy to deal with PTSD.

Part of the exhibit opening included a presentation by Sundahl on his journey using his art as part of his PTSD therapy. The presentation was hosted by Columbus Fire Local 67 at their union hall. The exhibit is included as part of museum admission and will run through October 2020.

## Patches Wanted

The COFM is still collecting patches from departments in Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway and Union counties for our front wall. Contact us at 614-464-4004.

## Central Ohio Fire Museum Board of Directors 2020

George Hudak, President  
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Jay Louks



The Columbus Ohio Fire Fighter's Museum, Inc. (dba The Central Ohio Fire Museum and Learning Center) is a 501c (3) charitable organization formed to preserve firefighting history and teach fire safety education.

## A Message from the Director

Saturday, March 14 the museum temporarily closed its doors to visitors to comply with Gov. DeWine's Stay at Home order. As of this writing, we anticipate reopening to visitors sometime in May, after the current order is lifted. Please check our Facebook page or [www.centralohiofiremuseum.wordpress.com](http://www.centralohiofiremuseum.wordpress.com) for any updates.

Every crisis has its own heroes. Folks who step up and do their jobs under extraordinary circumstances make a huge difference in the lives of people they don't even know. Sometimes it is a simple act they wouldn't think twice about that makes all the difference in the world.

Approximately 1,100 central Ohio firefighters have done a simple act once that is making all the difference in the world. They signed up for payroll deduction to help support the Central Ohio Fire Museum and Learning Center. Old Engine House #16 still has operating costs even when we have no visitors. These donations are the lifeline that keeps us going until the day we can reopen and continue our mission to preserve the history of firefighting in central Ohio and teach fire safety education to our citizens.

Space does not permit me to mention each one of you personally, so I will mention the departments that participate in our payroll deduction program. We are honored to be affiliated with: Columbus Division of Fire, Grandview Heights Division of Fire, Whitehall FD, Madison Township FD, Mifflin Twp. FD, Jackson Twp. FD, Westerville FD, Franklin Twp. FD and our newest member, Truro Twp. FD. On behalf of our staff, volunteers and board of directors, **thank you and all of our donors.**

When the opportunity allows, please bring your families and stop by the museum so we can thank you personally.

Be careful out there.

Michael Shimko  
Executive Director  
Ret. Captain, Grandview Heights

## Museum Staff Member Spotlight: Clement Thurn

This issue we are recognizing Clement Thurn. Clem has been with the museum since 2003 as a volunteer and staff member. He began giving tours and eventually became one of our fire safety educators.

Clem joined Columbus Fire in 1988 and served on several engine and ladder companies. He finished his career at station 4, retiring in 2017.

It is great having him as part of the museum family. He loves sharing his knowledge with visitors and is always willing to jump in and help with any project that comes along.

You will find him working at the museum on 3-unit days. He also volunteers with other amazing Columbus organizations such as COSI, CAPA and Shadowbox Live. He keeps busy in the summer at car shows showing off his 1946 Chevrolet Coupe.

COFM would like to thank Clem for all his years of service to the museum and look forward to many more.

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

## Holiday Surprise

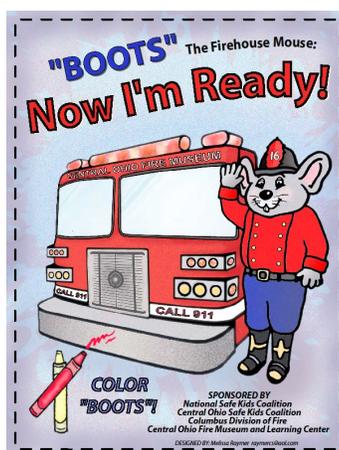
Last November, museum manager Sue Hudak received a phone call from an out of state visitor who wanted to see the museum but could only make it on a Sunday or Monday. Normally we are closed those days, but the following Sunday there was a work party at the museum to replace window coverings on the annex building. Sue would be in the building anyway and offered to give a tour to the caller on that day. Our visitor arrived that day and a normal 1.5 hour tour of history and education turned into 3 hours. He told Sue he was very impressed with the museum and her passion for fire safety. Before leaving he said he would like to make a donation to the museum. Two days after Christmas, the museum got a check for **\$15,000**, with the request that it be used for fire safety education and that he remains anonymous. The COFM would like to thank our anonymous donor for his generous contribution. A committee has been established to set guidelines for how the money will be used.

## CME Funds Reprinting of "Boots" Activity Book

Thanks to a donation from CME Credit Union, the museum is updating and reprinting the Boots the Firehouse Mouse "Now I'm Ready" activity book. The book is a creation of museum manager and lead educator Sue Hudak.

Hudak created the activity book in 2004. The book has been updated several times to follow current national guidelines for fire safety education. It is aimed at preschoolers and supplements the museum's "Matches and Lighters Are Tools, Not Toys!" preschool program.

Big thanks to CME Credit Union for their support of the Central Ohio Fire Museum.



## 1991 Columbus Division of Fire Yearbooks Available



COFM has a supply of 1991 Columbus Division of Fire yearbooks available for sale. These books are in mint condition, in the original box. Cost of the book is \$25.00 plus tax and shipping (if applicable). Better yet, stop by the museum, (after the quarantine, of course) pick one up, say "Hi" and see the new "History of EMS Through Art" exhibit while you are here. If you have any questions please call 614-464-4004 or email us at [cofmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:cofmuseum@gmail.com).

## 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!



**2020** Unit Day Pocket Calendars Now Available  
Calendar \$6 (plus tax)

Call the museum at 614-464-4004 to place an order for mail or pick-up

## Bell Tower Spotlight: Prairie Township Fire Department

Prairie Township consists of approximately 20 square miles and serves roughly 18,000 people. In 2019, PTFD took 5,338 total runs, 73% of which were EMS, and 27% were fire. Station 241 in the east took over 87% of the total runs, which matches its population density. There were 6 structure fires in Prairie Township last year. Their coverage area is bordered by I-70 from the north to Johnson road to the south, and from the east at I-270, to the Madison County line (Big Darby Creek) to the west. Prairie Twp. participates in automatic aid agreements with all neighboring agencies; specifically, the City of Columbus, Franklin Twp., Jefferson Twp. (Madison Co.), Pleasant Twp., Norwich Twp., Pleasant Valley Fire Prot. Dist., the City of London, and Central Twps. Fire Dist. In 1942, Prairie Township Trustees entered into a contract with the Prairie Township Fire Association for fire protection. The Fire Association had a 500 gpm truck that carried 500 gallons of water. They had 1 Fire Chief and 10 volunteers. In 1944, the Department was formally taken over by the Township, with volunteer members being paid \$1.00 per hour of fighting fires.



Prairie Twp. FD now boasts 2 stations (241 and 243), over 60 full and part-time members, a dispatching and information services agreement with the City of Grove City, and have cutting-edge training and equipment. In 2019 Prairie Twp. FD celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. With the strong support of the community, Trustees and administration, they look forward to a future of continued growth and development.



Annual memberships to the Central Ohio Fire Museum are used to support museum improvements. Your gift is tax-deductible. 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**

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



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I Year Family \$78 \_\_\_\_\_

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