



## Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum The **REGISTER** G. H. A. F. M. Officers

President: Gordon Lillich

Vice President: Jeffrey Cramer

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Assistant Secretary: Jody Cramer

Treasurer: John Lucabaugh

Financial Secretary: Keith Taylor

Museum Curator: Wayne Bollinger

Building & Grounds: Dennis Weaver  
Scott Shorb

Website Manager: Rob Brady

Senior Advisor: Warren E. Peter

Historical Specialist: Edward Markle

Historical Specialist: Ashley A. Vandewater

Emeritus Fire Commissioner: James Roth

Newsletter Editor: Ken Buohl

Newsletter Assistant: Gary Rickrode

The **REGISTER** newsletter is produced by and distributed to all Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum members and supporters as part of their yearly dues payment. Articles may not be reproduced or distributed without permission from GHAFM.

Photos GHAFM or as noted.

Museum news and events may be emailed to the Editor, Ken Buohl at: kb1951@pa.net



# The **REGISTER**

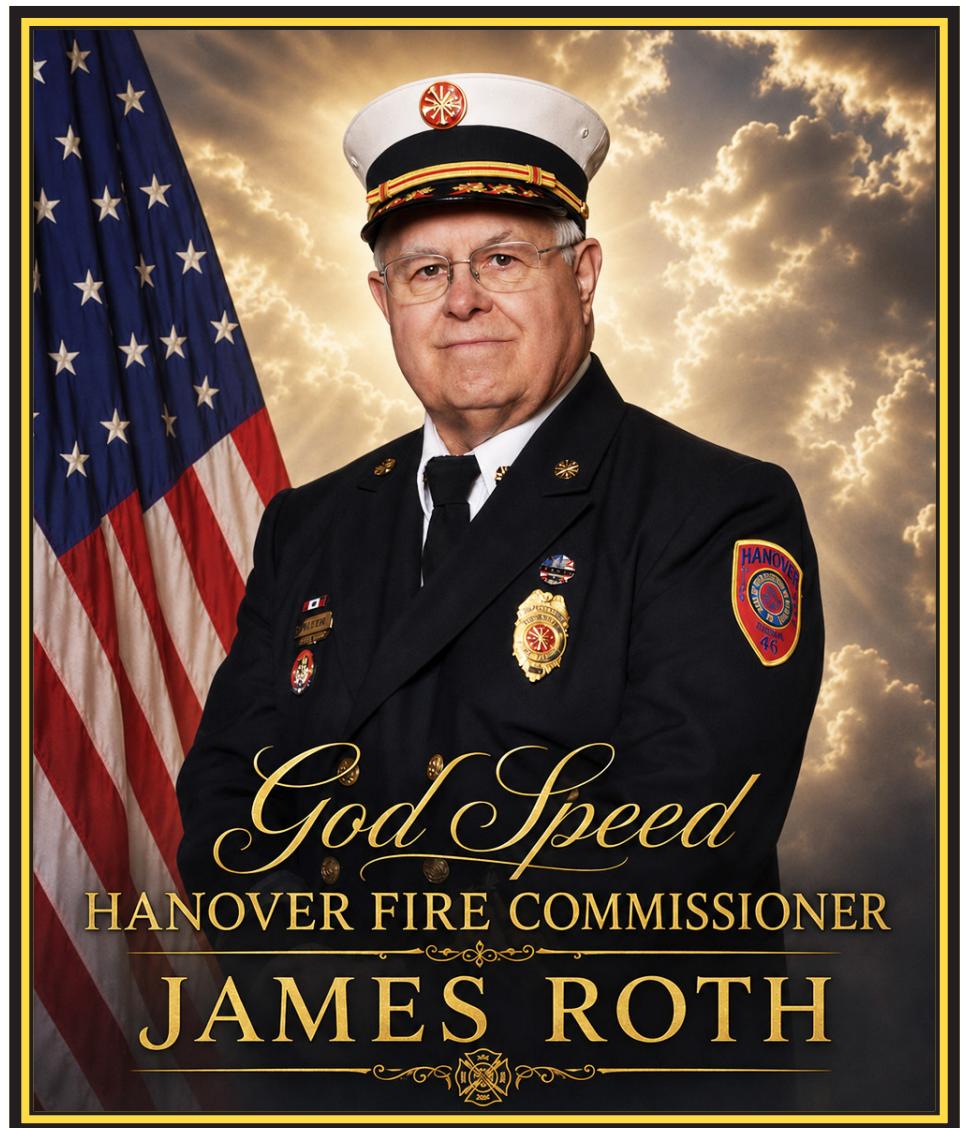
Noteworthy News  
from the  
Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum



3rd Quarter July - September 2026



## Our "Commish"



April 22, 1945 - July 5, 2026

The Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum is profoundly saddened by the death of one of our very best at the Fire Museum. The Commish always exemplified our Historical Fire Service Preservation efforts with his tireless efforts educating people of all ages. Please see our special tribute insert for Jim included with this issue.





# Hanover Fire Commissioner James Roth



James A. Roth, Hanover's longtime Fire Commissioner, devoted more than five decades to protecting his community and mentoring generations of firefighters. Remembered as "The Commish," Jim lived by four guiding principles: ensure everyone returns home safely, consider firefighting a privilege, pursue constant training, and always greet those who support the fire service.

Jim began as a junior firefighter in Gettysburg before serving in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. In 1968, he joined the Hanover Fire Department, quickly earning a reputation for his dedication, leadership, and exceptional knowledge of the community. Appointed Fire Commissioner in 1978, he led the department for 33 years, modernizing operations, improving firefighter training, strengthening cooperation between neighboring departments, and overseeing construction of the Wirt Park fire station.

After retiring in 2011, Jim continued serving Hanover as a borough council member and became a driving force in the Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum, helping preserve and share the region's fire fighting heritage.

The "Commish" passed away unexpectedly on July 5, 2026, at age 81. He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild. His legacy of service, leadership, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to greater Hanover area fire service and history will continue to inspire the Hanover community for generations. RIP Commish.



## MEMORIES of the COMMISH







# \* At the FIRE MUSEUM \*

## Museum Visitors



Above: We had a very special visitor for our Wet Down ceremony on May 2. Alvie Dielman, daughter of Lewis Dielman Sr., past owner of our 1937 American LaFrance joined us.

Tours at the GHAFM picked up in the 2nd quarter with 331 visitors during that time span.

GHAFM Member Brian Roth traveled from Venice Florida to attend our Homecoming Day and Wet Down ceremony. It was great to see him again.

## Building & Grounds



GHAFM member Scott Shorb will be joining Dennis Weaver with our Buildings and Grounds activities. He is also

helping with weekly museum operations. Scott owns a 1998 RD Murray Spartan Gladiator fire truck from Dowingtown, PA. Please welcome Scott to our GHAFM Buildings and Grounds Team.



## Apparatus

Our truck preservation efforts were in full swing the 2nd quarter having performed general maintenance and making the pump ready on the 1970 ALF. The 1934 Dodge received a modified gasoline pick up tube, the 1961 received turn signal repairs and the 1937 ALF motor evaluation was started including discovering a repair for a frozen shaft on the water pump. MarBar Tires came to the fire museum and replaced a front tire tube and flap on the 1937 ALF.

Thank you Hartmans for your continued support for keeping our fire museum fire trucks on the road.



Dale Hartman pumping 46-2 for the first time after it's return to our fire museum. Pleasant Valley Muster ready!

## Above & Beyond



Above - Mr. & Mrs. Colehouse presented a Robert Colehouse estate item to Curator Wayne Bollinger. It contains items from past Eagle Fire Co. No 2 member Paul Furhman.

**THANK YOU goes out to the following for their GHAFM financial or services support:**

Gary & Deb Rickrode, Rob Holt, Jim Derstine, Ken & Peggy Buohl, Crews of 79-2 and Truck 79 "B" shift Local 2045, Jim Roth, Jeff & Jody Cramer, Dale Hartman, Gordy Lilich, Kirk Engelhardt, Scott Shorb, Bob Plunkert, Roller Printing, Jake Phillips,

HAFRC awarded GHAFM members Paul Zartman a 5 year service award, Shane Baker 15 Year service award and Jason Kopp, 20 year service award.

**Photo Credits for this issue.**

Gary Rickrode, Dale Hartman, Lights and Fire Trucks, John Lucabaugh, Ken Buohl, Pat Wagaman, Kate Klunk, Kristin Phillips Hill, and Henry Hartman.

Thank you for your photos.



GHAFM Secretary and retired professional firefighter Gary Rickrode was pondering the idea that our 1970 American LaFrance was only ever driven by Local 2045 members. Considering this historical fact, he set out to produce a Maltese cross tribute decal with the help of Jake Phillips. Jake applied this decal to the jumpseat window glass. Thank you Gary and Jake for your wonderful effort to honor our fire service brothers and sisters.



# "Members ON THE ROAD"



2nd quarter of 2026 our GHAFM members were very busy on the road again traveling to the Winchester, VA Apple Blossom Fireman Parade and Muster, Pleasant Valley Muster, Grace Church, Hanover Borough Memorial Day Parade, HAFRC Memorial Day Service, Macungie ATCA Truck Show, PA Pump Primers Muster, Hanover Borough America 250th Celebration, Give Local York, Gettysburg Region AACA Latimore Car Show, St Mark's Church, Manchester FD parade, Shrewsbury Firemens Parade, Lancaster County Firemens' Association with Columbus Borough and National Fire Academy. Thank You all who participated, you have been ambassadors for the world of Historical Fire Service and spreading the word about our great fire museum. A special "Thank You" for our members and families, job well done.



The Heartbeat of the GHAFM - OUR VOLUNTEERS





## "Homecoming Day" and Montana Fire Trucks Return "Wet Down Ceremony"



On May 2, 2026 The Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum, a museum dedicated to preserving the fire service history of the greater Hanover area, had the opportunity to not only preserve history, it had the opportunity to create history when they held a Homecoming Day and Montana Fire Trucks' Return Wet Down Ceremony in their fire museum in Hanover, PA. Their ceremony was coordinated by fire museum President, Gordon Lillich and event coordinators Rob Holt and Ken Buohl. Sharon Moore coordinated the two receptions for their guests.

This ceremony was an event for having fire museum members, past Hanover area fire fighters, community leaders and invited guests gather and celebrate the return from Montana of a 1937 American LaFrance 400 Series Junior pumper and a 1970 American LaFrance 900 series pumper, previously owned by the Hanover Fire Dept. and in service at the Hanover Fire Dept. Eagle Fire Co. No. 2 fire house, the current home of the Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum. They both had resided in Montana for 55 years and 24 years respectively, only 369 miles apart.

Through a coordinated effort, the ceremony started with a past firemen reception, followed by a reception for invited guests and fire museum members catered by K&K Concessions of Hanover, PA. Promptly after these receptions, President Gordon Lillich opened the ceremony with a welcome speech, followed by retired Hanover Fire Commissioner, James Roth's invocation. Hanover Area Fire & Rescue Commission Deputy Chief Joe Wysocki followed with a thank you speech and coordinated a York County 911 Emergency Services "In Station" radio message.

Hanover Borough Mayor, Heidi Hormel, retired Fire Commissioner, James Roth and Alvie Dielman, daughter of the owner of the 1937 American LaFrance in Montana shared some memories about the 1937 and 1970 American LaFrance fire engines. In addition some comments were also shared from firemen that served on these trucks.

Fire museum members John Lucabaugh and Ken Buohl presented a Power Point presentation titled "A Road Home Traveled Twice", outlining their 6 1/2 day road trip to Montana to coordinate the 1937 American LaFrance return and the coordination for the 1970 American LaFrance return.

Continuing on with the ceremony, several local, state and county government officials presented proclamations to fire museum President Lillich. Hanover Borough Mayor, Heidi Hormel, Penn Twp. Commissioner, Mark Elksnis, PA State Senator, Kristin Phillips-Hill and York County Commissioners, Julie Wheeler, Scott Buford and Doug Hoke participated in the presentation.

President Lillich presented special laser engraved wood plaques produced by Hanover High School to the Montana Truck Return Team. This special team consisted of business owners and private individuals that assisted with monetary and business services. Following this presentation, President Lillich presented a fire bell trophy to the fire museum Vice President, Jeff Cramer, honoring all the dedicated fire museum members that assisted with returning these two fire trucks.

Saint David's UCC Church Pastor Sager followed with a dedication for both trucks including a blessing for a long life at the fire museum. Continuing with the ceremony, fire museum members Ken Buohl and Dwight Bollinger presented a special interest story about the Gamewell Alarm system in the fire museum followed by pulling alarm Box 21, activating the Gamewell house gong. York County Commissioner, Scott Buford played Amazing Grace on his bagpipe in honor of past firemen.

Concluding the ceremony, fire museum officers and members followed by invited guests and other attendees were invited to wet down the trucks with special squirt guns. Wet down is a traditional activity for fire departments when they place a fire truck in service. It exemplifies the firefighter's blessing of their equipment with water.

Wet down ceremony attendees were offered a printed magnetic calendar with a photo of both fire trucks printed on it as a thank you gift for attending the Wet Down ceremony. Moments Magnetic Art provided them for the fire museum.

In conclusion of this very special history making event, a special note of appreciation goes out to several individuals who provided no charge services and items for this event allowing for minimal fire museum expenses. A special thank you also goes out to fire museum members assisting with various tasks during this ceremony.

\*\*\*Additional photos and videos will be posted on the fire museum website in the near future.

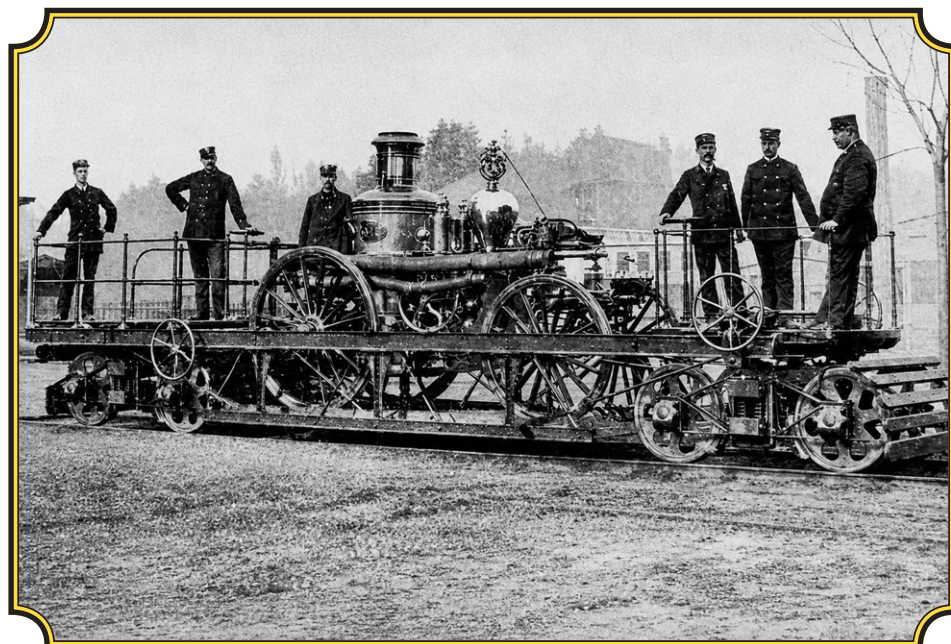






## “From the Archives”

### Springfield MA Fire Dept. and the Springfield Street Railway “Transportation Car “



During the 17th century, Springfield Massachusetts was burned to the ground by an enemy conflict during the King Phillip's War. The settlers of that time became very conscious of the need for some sort of fire protection. However technology and finances limited efforts to the bucket - brigade approach until, by private subscription, the leading citizens of town purchased a tawny yellow, hand-drawn pump which they named "The Lion" in 1792.

On January 17, 1794, these same citizens formed a "fire club" agreeing to preserve the lives and property of each other from destruction by fire, and thus the Springfield Fire Department was born, making them one of the oldest established fire departments in the country. This volunteer department, supplemented by mutual aid from the Federal Springfield Armory, served the community well until the 1850s when the introduction of horse drawn steamers and the growth of the town into a city in 1862 called for a different organization.

In 1872, a paid department was established. This was a period of great advancement for the department including the establishment of a central telegraph alarm system and the establishment of a gravity-fed, reservoir supplied water system. This water system is still in use today. In 1913, the Springfield Fire Department became the first municipal department in the country to become completely motorized, using Knox fire engines manufactured in Springfield.

Serving the Springfield community with fire service sometimes required the use of fast evolving innovative measures. Chartered in 1869, the Springfield Street Railway played a pivotal role in shaping Western Massachusetts. It operated animal-drawn cars before electrifying its system in 1890. The company quickly expanded to neighboring towns, offering convenient transportation until buses ultimately replaced the trolleys in the 1930s.

Realizing the street railway was the transportation of the future and their community was growing, the Springfield Fire Dept. partnered with them to produce a "Transportation Car" capable of transporting their steam fire engine from their Hooker St. Station to fires and musters. It is unknown from the photo exactly how the steamer was placed on the car, however it was evident it required a few firemen on board. Most likely years of service for this car were between 1870 and 1913 and it's current whereabouts are unknown.

Article Resources & Photo Credits: Wikipedia, Facebook, Google AI

## At the Museum



The GHAFM is excited to offer this beautiful night light for sale in the Fire Museum store. It is 8 1/2" tall and 6" wide and has 10 different LED colors. Orders must be prepaid and picked up at the fire museum, shipping will not be available. Please allow 4 weeks for order completion. Price is \$25 each and all proceeds are used for GHAFM preservation projects.

## 2027 Calendar

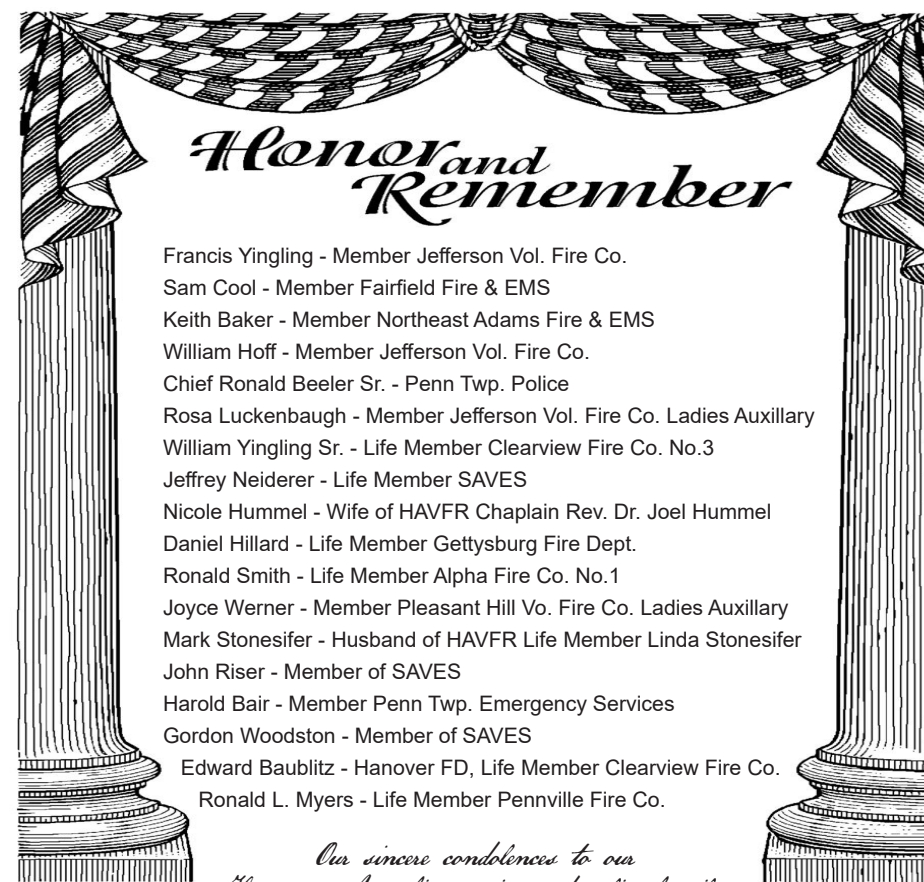


After a successful attempt at producing a museum fund raising calendar last year, the fire museum will be producing a 2027 Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum calendar. Sales will begin on July 15, 2026 at the fire museum. Cost is \$10.00 each when picked up at the fire museum and \$5.00 additional if mailed. Contact Jeff Cramer at the fire museum or visit our Fire Museum online store.



## Fire Museum.....Do You Know!

### In Remembrance - Last Call



Francis Yingling - Member Jefferson Vol. Fire Co.  
Sam Cool - Member Fairfield Fire & EMS  
Keith Baker - Member Northeast Adams Fire & EMS  
William Hoff - Member Jefferson Vol. Fire Co.  
Chief Ronald Beeler Sr. - Penn Twp. Police  
Rosa Luckenbaugh - Member Jefferson Vol. Fire Co. Ladies Auxillary  
William Yingling Sr. - Life Member Clearview Fire Co. No.3  
Jeffrey Neiderer - Life Member SAVES  
Nicole Hummel - Wife of HAVFR Chaplain Rev. Dr. Joel Hummel  
Daniel Hillard - Life Member Gettysburg Fire Dept.  
Ronald Smith - Life Member Alpha Fire Co. No.1  
Joyce Werner - Member Pleasant Hill Vo. Fire Co. Ladies Auxillary  
Mark Stonesifer - Husband of HAVFR Life Member Linda Stonesifer  
John Riser - Member of SAVES  
Harold Bair - Member Penn Twp. Emergency Services  
Gordon Woodston - Member of SAVES  
Edward Baublitz - Hanover FD, Life Member Clearview Fire Co.  
Ronald L. Myers - Life Member Pennville Fire Co.

*Our sincere condolences to our  
Hanover Area fire service and police family.*

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## Special Proclamations



Several special ceremonial proclamations were preseted to the Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum during our Homecoming Day and Montana Fire Trucks' Wetdown Ceremony on May 2 at the fire museum. Presentors included Hanover Borough Mayor, Heidi Hormel, Penn Twp. Supervisor, Mark R. Elksnis, PA State Senator, Kristin Phillips-Hill and York County Commissioners, Julie Wheeler, Scott Burford

and Doug Hoke. Fire museum President Gordon Lillich accepted these proclamations from our distinguished guests on behalf our fire museum members.  
Photo above includes GHAFM officers from L to R, Retired Hanover Fire Commissioner, Jim Roth, President, Gordon Lillich, Vice President, Jeff Cramer, Treasurer, John Lucabaugh, Museum Curator, Wayne Bollinger and Secretary, Gary Rickrode proudly displaying our proclamations.

## Gary on the GO



GHAFM members Gary and Bill Rickrode traveled to the Charlotte, NC Douglas International Airport's second fire station on Father's Day weekend where they were greeted by Josh Shank, son of past Gettysburg Fire Dept. Fire Chief Hurshel Shank. Josh was their tour guide and arranged a ride in a crash truck for them.

Notice those smiles on their faces, they are priceless.

Tune in next issue for another Gary on the GO article.



HAFR Chief Anthony Clouser received an email from Painted Rocks Vol. Fire District Chief Shane Jessop in Darby, MT announcing they have replaced this Hanover Fire Dept. donated 1981 Pirsch fire engine. Chief Clouser contacted GHAFM President Gordy Lillich who presented the offer at the July 2 membership meeting for bringing this engine back to Hanover. A motion was made by Ashley Vandewater to research the costs of returning the truck and a building to store it. Ashley's motion carried and John Lucabaugh will research these items and report back at next Membership Meeting.





## Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum

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Hanover Pa. 17331

hanoverfiremuseum46@gmail.com

Phone: (717) 637-6674

hanoverfiremuseum.com



Stamp

“Where our Greater Hanover Area Fire Service History Thrives “

# HUMOR ON THE TAILBOARD

Pat Wagaman Photo



Can this be Bob Adams and Tony Wagaman  
reminiscing their past years riding on 46-2 together?  
YES it CAN - Enjoy your ride fellas.



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Dates and Times for Events  
are subject to change. Please  
check with the appropriate  
members for new dates and  
times or check the calendar  
in the  
Fire Museum  
or contact  
HAVFR or HAFRC.

## Fire Museum & Other Events - Save A Date

**Wednesday Museum Open:** 9 am to 3 pm.

**Saturday Museum Open:** First and Third Saturday 9 am to 3pm.

Work Days to be announced as needed. (Announced in Monitor email)

Other Visits by appointment. Call 717-637-6674 and leave a message.

### Events at the Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum

August 6 - Fire Museum Membership Meeting at the Fire Museum 7 pm.

September 3 - Fire Museum Membership Meeting at the Fire Museum 7 pm.

October 1 - Fire Museum Membership Meeting at the Fire Museum 7 pm.

November 5 - Fire Museum Membership Meeting at the Fire Museum 7 pm.

November 27- GHAFM Train Garden open to public

December 3 - Fire Museum Membership Meeting at the Fire Museum 7 pm.

### Future Special Interest 2026 Events

August 4 - Hanover Area National Night Out, 5:30 - 8 pm, 225 Bowman Rd. Hanover, PA

August 15 - Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum "Mini Muster", Frederick, MD Rose Hill Museum

August 26-29 - SPAAMFAA Summer Conference- Marlborough, MA

August 22 - Pleasant Hill VFC 5th Annual Fire Muster & Flea Market, Pleasant Hill, PA

October 5 - 8 - Hershey PA Region AACA Flea Market and Car Corral

October 9 - Hershey PA Region AACA Car Show

Visit <http://www.cafaa.net/anita/anita.html> for addition fire service related events.

Thank You Roller Printing  
for Your  
Generous Contribution  
of Printing Services  
for our Newsletter.



## What's Happening at the HAVFR & HAFRC

**HAVFR Monthly Company Meeting:** 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm. Use Clover Lane Fire Station building rear basement door and ring door bell, someone will assist you.

**HAFRC Monthly Meeting:** 3rd Thursday of each month, 5:30 pm. Use Clover Lane Fire Station building rear basement door and ring door bell, someone will assist you.