



# The **REGISTER**

Noteworthy News  
from the  
Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum



1st Quarter January - March 2026



## A "NEW YEAR" at the GHAFM



Ken BuohlPhoto

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

President: Gordon Lillich

Vice President: Jeffrey Cramer

Secretary: Gary Rickrode

Assistant Secretary: Jody Cramer

Treasurer: John Lucabaugh

Asst. Treasurer: Keith Taylor

Museum Curator: Wayne Bollinger

Building & Grounds: Dennis Weaver

Website Manager: Rob Brady

Senior Advisor: Warren E. Peter

Historical Specialist: Edward Markle

Historical Specialist: Ashley A. Vandewater

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 or

Mail to:

The Register Editor, Ken Buohl  
190 East Walnut St, Unit 12  
Hanover, PA 17331

Your Officers of the Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum extend a very Happy New Year 2026 to all our fire museum family. 2026 certainly will have a good challenge to top our 2025 accomplishments. "Montana Madness" with the acquisition of the Eagle's 1937 and 1970 American LaFrance fire trucks, record setting attendance at the Holiday Train Garden 2025, our first GHAFM calendar fund raiser, an increase in visitors to our museum, replacing our archives cabinets with organized contents, excellent fund-raising results and the outstanding public outreach support with our members spreading goodwill and information about our fire museum while attending many events throughout York and Adams County and Maryland with museum and private owned fire apparatus. All of this has set a new 2026 goal for us and WOW, what a list of accomplishments achieved through many volunteer hours. Pele', soccer player and former Minister of Sports of Brazil quoted; "Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do". We should certainly build on Peles' quote and strive to keep the GHAFM one of the leading fire museums in the USA. Look around the fire museum and you can see what we have accomplished, so much success over the last 8 years in the Eagle fire station. Won't you please keep giving and be part of the future success at the GHAFM.

2026 GHAFM Officers in photo above R to L, Gordy Lillich, President, Jeff Cramer, Vice-President, John Lucabaugh, Treasurer, Gary Rickrode, Secretary, Jody Cramer, Assistant Secretary, Wayne Bollinger, Museum Curator, missing Keith Taylor, Assistant Treasurer.

"Thank You" all and may you be blessed with health and happiness in 2026.



# \* At the FIRE MUSEUM \*

## Museum Visitors

We had a few visitor tours at the GHAFM during the Holiday Train Garden. Visiting were: A National Fire Administration Superintendent, he visited GHAFM member Matt Vanderwater, Gettysburg Region of AACA, Hanover YMCA Pre-K, Spring Grove Women's Club and Scout Troop #103.

In addition to our special tours we want to thank everyone that visited us during the GHAFM Holiday Train Garden. No matter if you were returning or visiting us for the first time, we extend a warm welcome to you.



The Flickinger family from Okinawa, Japan visited the Fire Museum.



Paul Zartman and his festive band of holiday merry makers visited the GHAFM Train Garden.

## Building & Grounds



GHAFM Member Tim Kress and his assistant Todd Senseney applied their Christmas lights expertise to light up our fire museum for the holidays. Thank you Tim and Todd.



GHAFM member Kevin Adams repaired and leveled the kitchen hallway floor and set new tiles. They look great Kevin, thank you.



GHAFM President Gordy Lillich applies GHAFM logo magnetic signs to our newly acquired 1970 ALF, Gordy donated these signs for blocking out the West Fork Fire Dept. logo applied when they owned this truck.



GHAFM members John Lucabaugh, Dennis Weaver and Dale Geiman installed a handrail in the rear stairwell. This handrail was salvaged from the old Parkville Fire Co. on Baltimore St. and donated to the fire museum from the Hanover Bible Baptist Church.



# “Members ON THE ROAD”



Last quarter of 2025 our GHAFM members were on the road again traveling to the Hanover Market House Antique Fire Truck Show, Penn Twp. Nite Out, Hanover Historical Society 60th Anniversary, Pleasant Hill VFC Trick or Treat, Hanover Holiday Parade, SAVES Trick or Treat, Conewago Elementary School Safety Day, Westminster, MD Holiday Parade, Tractor Supply Hometown Heroes Day, New Freedom Holiday Parade, F&S Marine open house and HAVFR Operation Claus. All 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.

Photo Credits: Colorful Captures, Rob Brady, Dale Hartman, Ken Buohl, and Gary Rickrode





# TRAIN GARDEN 2025



On behalf of the Train Garden Committee, we extend our deepest gratitude to our members for making the 2025 Train Garden our most successful event to date!

This year, we welcomed 5,626 visitors through our doors — each smile, conversation, and moment of wonder reminded us why this tradition means so much. Your enthusiasm, generosity, and continued support not only keep the model trains running but also help preserve the history and mission of the Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum.

Whether you donated, volunteered, or simply stopped by to enjoy the displays, you played a part in creating a magical holiday season for families near and far. We are truly humbled by the love and pride our community shows year after year.

We can't wait to see you again for the 2026 Train Garden — until then, thank you for keeping this tradition on track!

Photo Credits: Gary Rickrode, Carolyn Markle, Miles Morris, Rob Brady and Ken Buohl.





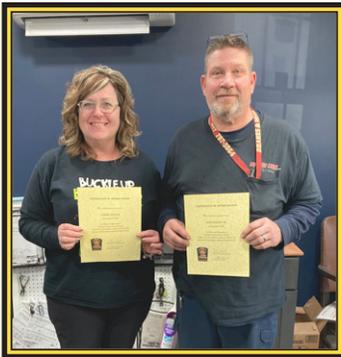
# APPRECIATION CERTIFICATES



Willie Forry - Forry Transport Inc.



Chief Clouser - HAFRC



Connie & Leon Stigler - Brakes & More

GHAFM Officers and Ken Buohl presented Appreciation Certificates to our state and local government officials, business owners and individuals for their assistance with returning our Eagle Fire Co. 1937 and 1970 American LaFrance pumpers from Montana. **THANK YOU** everyone for your wonderful assistance to preserve our rich Hanover area fire service history at the Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum. Missing from photos is Kevin Hayward, OX Industries.

Photo Credits: Ken Buohl



Tim Kress - Hanover Public School District



Larry Marshall - CEO Aero Energy



Lawrence Stone - Runkle's Notary



Andy Hoffman



Lori Musselman - Hanover Borough



Kate Klunk & Eric - PA State Representative



Brian Bosley - Bosley Towing



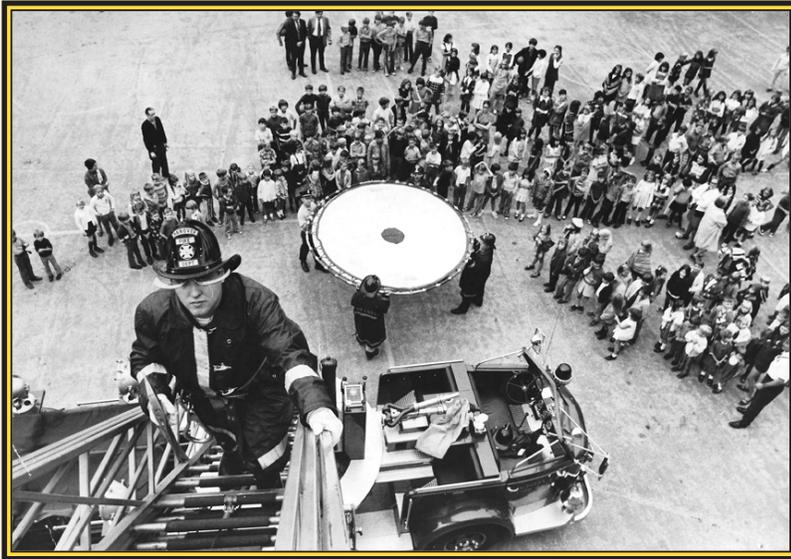
Brad Snyder - Hanover Borough



# “From the Archives”

## Above & Beyond

Members at the GHAFM and our community supporters share their artifacts, skills, knowledge and financial assistance above and beyond for enhancing our museum. Let's share a heartfelt “Thank You” to the following for their generous efforts.



### Browder Life Safety Net

A life net, also known as a Browder Life Safety Net or jumping sheet, is a type of rescue equipment formerly used by firefighters. When used in the proper conditions, it allowed people on upper floors of burning buildings an opportunity to jump to safety, usually to ground level.

The device was invented by Thomas F. Browder, born in Greene County, Ohio, in 1847. During the American Civil War, Browder enlisted at the age of 17, and was wounded at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House on May 9, 1864. He was shot through the hip, sent home the following month, and later discharged from the service. He became a school teacher, and later moved to Greenfield, Ohio, where he invented and patented the life net in 1887. He obtained additional patents for improvements to the life net in 1900, and later also patents in Europe.

Browder's device was similar to a modern recreational trampoline, which was developed later in 1936. Among its advantages were that the life net was always taut when open, never slackened, and had a setup time of only two to three seconds. It used hinges to fold for storage and an automatic locking mechanism when unfolded. Its opaque cover helped reduce panic and increase the confidence of people who had to jump into it. Some models had a red bull's-eye in the center and required 6 to 8 people to hold and move it to an advantageous location.

Firefighters believed that the practical height limit for successful use of life nets was about six stories, although people survived jumps from an eighth story into a life net. Life nets often failed to save people, and sometimes firefighters themselves were injured or killed by falling bodies.

In 1958, a fire department official in Eugene, Oregon expressed reservations, saying that the term “life net” was misleading, and that they should be used only as a last resort. As late as 1961, the Chicago Fire Department still emphasized the life net in its training programs. However, modern aerial apparatus often known as a ladder truck has made the life net obsolete, as this ladder equipment makes it possible for firefighters to carry out rescues more safely, at greater heights and with smaller crews.

Hanover Fire Dept. carried a life net on its 1950 American LaFrance ladder truck as shown in the above photo during a Fire Safety program at one of the Hanover Public Schools. GHAFM member Robert Houck is shown holding the net.

Article Resources: Wikipedia, GHAFM Archives, Wayne Bollinger.



Above - GHAFM member Michelle Bollinger, front row right and a member of the R.U.M. Runners, a Relay For Life Team donated donuts to the GHAFM Train Garden cake and cookie sale.

**THANK YOU goes out to:** Mandi Smith and Jodi Cramer for leading the cookie sale at the train garden, IAFF Local 2045 Greater Hanover Professional Firefighters, monetary donation. Gary & Deb Rickrode, new front tires for 1961 International, Dale Hartman, gift card, Shane Baker, monetary donation, Larry Spangler, industrial fire bucket, HAFRC Capt. Kevin Adams, new flag, Ashley Cutter, drink donation, Life Source Service, drink donation, David French, 5 USA flags, Terry Fix, 2025 York County Convention book, Gordy Lillich, GHAFM door signs for 1970 ALF, ABC-27 for train garden coverage, Josh Hale, HAVFR and Rick Riser, SAVES, fire hose, Daniel Szetela, sink & faucet, Scott Shorb, monetary, Neva Hagerman, 1960 Mueller Fire Hydrant, Dale & Henry Hartman, spark plugs for 1934 Dodge, and using their fire truck for train garden banner display, Sharon Moore, Larry Sherfey and Linda Sherfey, food for train garden on Saturdays, Jeff Cramer, train garden advertising assistance, Pleasant Hill VFC, train garden exposure on their electronic sign and Anita Buie, monetary donation.

### #Giving Tuesday! 2025

Under the direction of GHAFM member Rob Brady, the GHAFM participated in Giving Tuesday, a nationwide donation solicitation effort for local communities. “Thank You” to all those who donated,



# Fire Museum.....Do You Know! In Remembrance - Last Call

## Wedding Bells



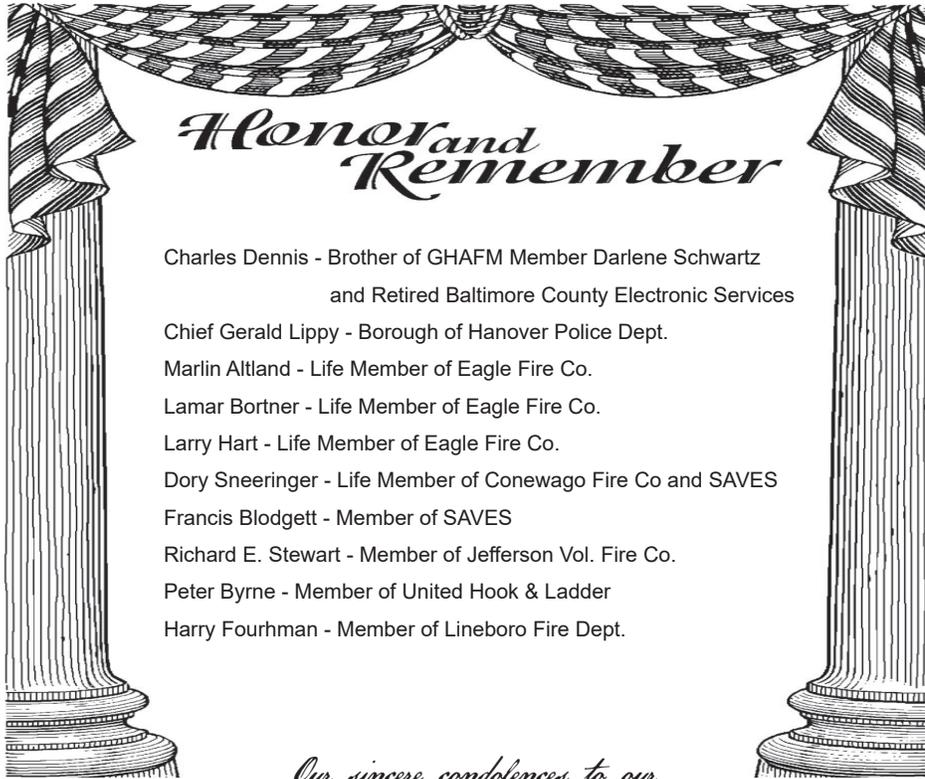
GHAFM Life Member Landon Eshbach and Erin Duff will enter into marriage on January 24, 2026 at Z & Z Farms. The members of the GHAFM wish both of you a lifetime of happiness.

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Gary Rickrode won an award at the Hanover Holiday Parade with his 1940 Chevrolet fire truck.

\*\*\*\*\*

Corrections to last issue: Page 4 - West Fork Fire Dept., not Great Falls Fire Dept. Page 8 - Eddie Schwartz photo.



- Charles Dennis - Brother of GHAFM Member Darlene Schwartz  
and Retired Baltimore County Electronic Services
- Chief Gerald Lippy - Borough of Hanover Police Dept.
- Marlin Altland - Life Member of Eagle Fire Co.
- Lamar Bortner - Life Member of Eagle Fire Co.
- Larry Hart - Life Member of Eagle Fire Co.
- Dory Sneeringer - Life Member of Conewago Fire Co and SAVES
- Francis Blodgett - Member of SAVES
- Richard E. Stewart - Member of Jefferson Vol. Fire Co.
- Peter Byrne - Member of United Hook & Ladder
- Harry Fourhman - Member of Lineboro Fire Dept.

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

# Train Garden 2025 Special Interest

## LEGO Man and His LEGO Train

GHAFM member Matt Vandewater the “LEGO Man” at the 2025 GHAFM Holiday Train Garden displayed his LEGO building skills for our train garden attendees enjoyment. Matt received his first LEGO items at age 5 and continued collecting other LEGO items all his life. Matt spent 1 1/2 months creating and designing his layout before bringing it to our museum. After 42 hours of layout his 109 LEGO sets with 34,374 LEGO pieces was ready for it’s reveal.



A special edition to Matt’s layout was an interactive FIND-ME sheet, suggested by his wife Ashley for visitors to find 14 LEGO figures on the layout. In addition, 1,240 visitors participated in a contest to guess how many LEGO pieces were on the layout. Matt, Ashley and son Henry donated a LEGO City mobile crane, Yellow Taxi and a Hedz Fornite figure for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. There were 34,374 pieces of LEGO on his layout.

Stay tuned for next year’s train garden with another Vandewater spectacular LEGO layout. Thank You “LEGO Man” and family.



Drum Roll please.... Winner of the 2025 Holiday Train garden HOBO AWARD is the Exchange Club of Hanover. Above photo is a group of Exchange Club visitors at our train garden this year. Congratulations and Thank You for your continued support for our Holiday Train Garden.

In support of our Holiday Train Garden, sponsors for our train displays are solicited. Then our Train Garden Committee judges those displays and a winner is chosen.



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“Where our Greater Hanover Area Fire Service History Thrives “

# HUMOR ON THE TAILBOARD



It was only a matter of time Chief.  
 But - it responds great on the golf course.

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

**Events at the Greater Hanover Area Fire Museum**  
 February 5 - Fire Museum Membership Meeting at the Fire Museum 7 pm.  
 March 5 - Fire Museum Membership Meeting at the Fire Museum 7 pm.  
 April 2 - Fire Museum Membership Meeting at the Fire Museum 7 pm.  
 May 2 - Homecoming Day and 1937 & 1970 American LaFrance truck wet down. Details to come.  
 May 7 - Fire Museum Membership Meeting at the Fire Museum 7 pm.

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



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**Future Special Interest 2026 Events**  
 March 3-7 - SPAAMFAA Winter Conference. SanAntonio, TX  
 March 8 - 8am - 2pm - Old Fire Farts Firematic Flea Market, West Manchester Fire Dept. Station 502 Shiloh Fire Station, 2190 Carlisle Rd. York, PA 17408  
 April 18-19 - Spring Melt Auction & Marketplace, Allentown, PA (Auction on Satturday)  
 May 2-3 - National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, Emmitsburg, MD  
 May 15 - 16 - Lancaster County Fireman's Associatin Fire Expo. Harrisburg, PA Farm Show Building  
 June 6 - Chesapeake Antique Fire Apparatus Association Spring Muster, Pleasant Valley CFC  
 July 11 - 50th Annual PPP Muster, Riverfront Park, Harrisburg, PA (*Last Muster at Riverfront Park*)  
 August 22 - Pleasant Hill VFC 5th Annual Fire Muster & Flea Market, Pleasant Hill, PA  
 Visit <http://www.cfaaa.net/anita/anita.html> for addition fire service related events.

## 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.