

3/22 ①

HEART OF STARK

Preserving the Plain Township Fire Department's history

In partnership with The Repository, every Monday, Stark Community Foundation is highlighting positive happenings in our community. Here's to Good News Mondays!

The Plain Township Historical Society (PTHS) is preserving the legacy of the Plain Township Fire Department through its latest project, archiving and recording years of memories, stories and artifacts to give a better understanding and appreciation of how fire-fighting has evolved, protected and remained a pillar of our community for generations.

PTHS started writing about the history of Plain Township in 2015 and has written seven series to date. While look-

ing for historical topics of interest to the community, the organization saw an uptick in donations from families of deceased firefighters.

As PTHS's team talked with current and past fire chiefs, they quickly realized how important it was to preserve the story of Plain Township firefighting before more retired firefighters passed away without having the opportunity to tell their stories. The fire department shared it had an archive that needed cataloged and organized, and PTHS saw the opportunity to partner and tell the stories of many heroic individuals.

The first stage of the project has been organizing and scanning the fire department's archives alongside the firefight-

ers at the station.

When this stage is completed, the team will meet with former firemen to identify people and details in the photos, access more memorabilia and record their stories from their times of service. After research is done to complement the anecdotes, PTHS and the fire department will share these stories with the community.

"Volunteer fire departments were the heart and soul of neighborhoods and communities in their time, and this tradition has continued today," said Cindy Guest, vice president of the Plain Township Historical Society.

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PTHS - Heart of Stark Article

chief can read about his ancestor and share for this project can contact Phyllis Ranked in the top 10 percent of commu-

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“Currently, there is not one place this is written down, and much of the information is in the memories of the firemen. The significance of this project is to pre-

serve the story for future generations, so the great-grandson of a former fire chief can read about his ancestor and have a better understanding of why his father is a third-generation firefighter.”

Every piece of information, story and artifact that is shared is important to telling the history of generations of Plain Township firefighters. Anyone as-

sociated with the Plain Township Fire Department who has information to share for this project can contact Phyllis Rustifo at preserving-plaintwp@gmail.com.

As the community's trusted partner in giving, Stark Community Foundation helps individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits achieve their philan-

thropic goals through a variety of charitable funds and strategic initiatives. Ranked in the top 10 percent of community foundations in the country, the Foundation and its family of donors have granted \$215 million to nonprofits since 1963. Learn how you can simplify your giving and amplify your impact at www.starkcf.org.

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