

Issue 2012-1

# Texas Fire Museum North Texas Historical Fire Society



# SPOTLIGHT

## Organizational Changes for 2012: Bifurcation

As of January, 2012, the North Texas Historical Fire Society will no longer operate under the umbrella of the Texas Fire Museum. The North Texas Chapter of SPAAMFAA will, once again, be its own, stand-alone entity. During this interim time period, the majority of the past Board of Directors of the Texas Fire Museum from 2011 has been shifted to oversee and operate the club. In time, the club will hold an election for Officers and Directors and begin to function as any **other independent SPAAMFAA Chapter. It will have its own treasury, separate from any of the museum's current accounts**, as well as its own by-laws, newsletter, website, and select membership benefits. If you are interested in any volunteer position within the SPAAMFAA Chapter (e.g., Board of Directors, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, etc.), contact Bill Maddox.

The Texas Fire Museum will continue to "house" the North Texas Historical Fire Society and support its meetings and functions. A portion of this newsletter will focus on the Chapter and its activities in order to act as a bridge between the two entities. The museum, however, is now structured with a Board of Trustees rather than the prior organizational setup when the SPAAMFAA Chapter was incorporated into the museum. The museum is taking forward steps to becoming a professionally run and operated business entity, and it has become a necessity for business-minded individuals with a vested interest in the organization to see it through this time of change and into the future.

## About this Newsletter

One membership benefit of belonging to the Texas Fire Museum is receiving **this newsletter**. Serving as the "Official Newsletter" of the Texas Fire Museum, this publication will feature information pertinent to the growth/development of the museum, its programs, and its exhibits, as well as articles about Restoration Services and other Fire Museum-related features. Planned future issues will include articles about our current and past restoration projects and pictures from the Houston (TX) Fire Museum, the Aurora (IL) Fire Museum, the York County (PA) Fire Museum, and the Pennsylvania State Fire Museum.

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Do you have a contribution to make to the "Spotlight"? We are always looking for new material to include in each issue. Be sure to contact Katrina Falk ([1948ALF@gmail.com](mailto:1948ALF@gmail.com)) in order to submit your material in time to make the next issue.

## Museum Exhibit and Program Changes for 2012

The Texas Fire Museum has a number of exciting changes in store for its facility and exhibits. The following points outline some of the major museum improvement projects that are on the horizon for the next year.

- Museum "Story" and Tour Programs:** What is the museum's story? Why is the museum here? What is its purpose? What is the museum here to teach the public? If the museum is known as the "Fire Truck Place," how do we tailor our educational programs to that purpose? Group and individual tour programs are being created to suit our story.
- Facility:** The South Bay is being transformed into the dedicated location for the "museum" and its historic collections and exhibits. All apparatus that regularly attend events will be relocated to the North Bay, and all of the antique vehicles that are meant for "static display" will be permanently housed in the South Bay. Not only will this ensure no future damage to the static displays by constantly moving and shifting other apparatus around them, it will provide a safe and clean environment for families, tour groups, and other visitors to enjoy. The front portion of the North Bay (as well as the Pump Test Room and old Paint Booth) will continue to be a storage area for "working" apparatus, while the rear portion and the Mechanic's Shop will remain as parking/storage for Restoration Services.
- Exhibits:** We are constructing new, dynamic children's exhibits out of real parts and pieces. Much like the displays in dedicated "children's areas" at other museums, these will be hands-on, interactive exhibits for children to touch and "operate" during their visit to the museum. The displays will educate children (as well as the public) about the working parts on a Fire Engine. Through the use of "cut-away" pieces, children will be able to understand how engines, transmissions, brakes, water pumps, and a variety of other components work. The new exhibits will provide the perfect opportunity for children to have a hands-on experience, while preventing damage to the actual trucks we currently have in our collection. (Tour groups will still be given the opportunity to climb on board a real Fire Engine, weather permitting.)
- Apparatus:** We will eventually be relocating the Kansas City American LaFrance 500 Series into a better-suited display location. Although no restoration is currently planned, we will be thoroughly cleaning it and readying it for static display purposes. It is important for us to showcase the unique pieces of apparatus we have in our collection.

*"The new exhibits will provide the perfect opportunity for children to have a hands-on experience, while preventing damage to the actual trucks we currently have in our collection."*



### ==Blast from the Past==

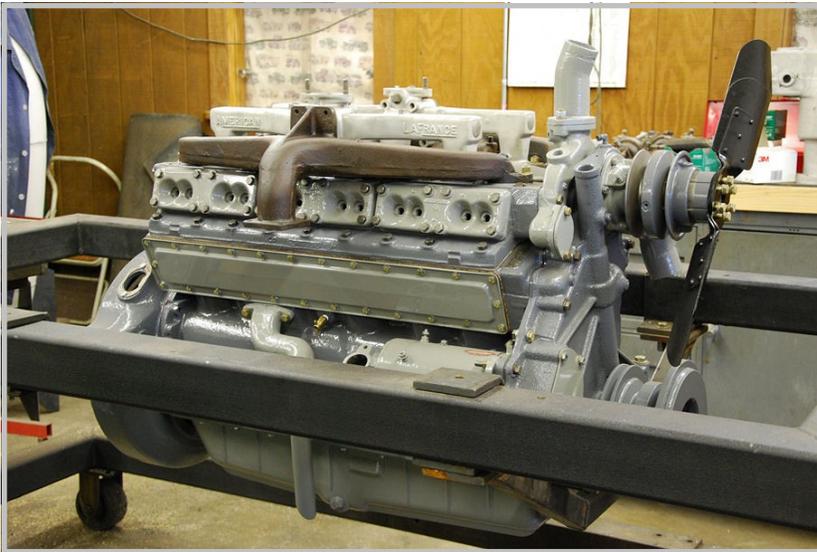
Pictured to the left is a 1952 American LaFrance 700 Series Engine that was formerly in service with the Irving Fire Department in Irving, Texas. Note the 800 Series-style cabinets around the rear fenders as well as the fog lights and quadruple red warning lights on the nose. Photo by Robert Knowles.

## Restoration Feature: American LaFrance V-12 Engine Service

As Texas Fire Museum Restoration Services' business continues to flourish, its staff is working diligently behind-the-scenes to develop new and exciting products and services. One such project Restoration Services Manager Katrina Falk and Shop Foreman Doug Kindred are particularly proud of is Restoration's newly-established American LaFrance V-12 Engine Service, affectionately dubbed "The V-12 Shop." Never before has a restoration shop concentrated specifically on the "Junior" and "Senior" V-12 Engines manufactured by American LaFrance. The purpose behind the development of this project stemmed from the direct need to address the up-and-coming generation of American LaFrance apparatus (e.g., the 400 through 800 Series).

The main goals of this project are simple:

1. To address an over-looked "industry" need through offering a dedicated line of products and services.
2. To assist the "everyday" antique fire apparatus owner/operator by keeping costs at a minimum and still offering quality products and services at an affordable price.



The American LaFrance Engine Service itself encompasses many services, including:

- Stock, "crate"-built engines for sale.
- Complete/partial engine overhaul.
- Carburetor rebuilding and repair.
- Water pump rebuilding and repair.
- Distributor repair and modifications.
- Parts sales.
- See [www.thev12shop.com](http://www.thev12shop.com) for a complete list of available services and reference material.

From simple tune up's and parts requests to scratch-built engines, Texas Fire Museum Restoration Services has the experience and means necessary to meet even the most stringent project requirements.

### Did you know?

Texas Fire Museum Restoration Services has built engines for customers as far away as Australia and supports customers abroad in countries such as the United Kingdom and Germany.

Texas Fire Museum

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**A Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization**

### **MUSEUM HOURS:**

Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays  
10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Closed on National Holidays.

Off-day tours may be scheduled with an appointment.

Please call ahead to make arrangements for group tours.

### **PHYSICAL LOCATION:**

2600 Chalk Hill Road  
Dallas, Texas  
75212-4506

We are located next to Dallas Fire-Rescue Station  
16, on Chalk Hill Road.

