



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Just Confirmed: “Old Lady” hand pumper that extinguished the 1861 Frederick Courthouse blaze throws water for the first time in nearly a century

Public invited to watch her in action Sunday, May 1 at 3 p.m.

Frederick, MD - It was just confirmed that the "Old Lady" 1821 hand tub pumper that helped extinguish the Frederick County Courthouse fire in 1861 is able to pump water. Chip Jewell, director of Frederick County Emergency Communications and president of the Frederick County Fire and Rescue Museum, said they will publicly demonstrate the “Old Lady” throwing water on May 1, 2011 at 3 p.m. at Courthouse Square in Frederick, Maryland. At 3 p.m., the public is invited to participate in the community bucket brigade to fill her tank, and then watch her throw water like she did in 1861. Also at Courthouse Square, additional antique fire apparatus will be on display from 1-5 p.m. on May 1.

According to Jewell, today is the first time she has pumped water in 75-100 years. They spent 6 months working on the “Old Lady” to get her into the condition to pump water again. This event is being held in conjunction with many weekend activities to commemorate Frederick’s 150th Anniversary of the city's season as the state capital in 1861 during the Civil War.

For more information on weekend programs and activities, visit www.fredericktourism.org or call (301) 600-4047 or (800) 999-3613.

ABOUT

The Tourism Council of Frederick County (TCFC) is the recognized Destination Marketing Organization for Frederick County, Maryland. It operates the Frederick Visitor Center and related programs that include Destination Marketing, Group Tour Marketing, Frederick Historic Sites Consortium, and more. For information about more things to see and do in Frederick County, visit www.FrederickTourism.org or call 1-800-999-3613.

Comprised of portions of Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties, the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area is a certified heritage area in the Maryland Heritage Areas program and is a partner in the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area. It promotes the stewardship of our historic, cultural, and natural Civil War resources, encourages superior visitor experiences, and stimulates tourism, economic prosperity, and educational development, thereby improving the quality of life of our community for the benefit of both residents and visitors. For more information, visit www.heartofthecivilwar.org or call (800) 999-3613.

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