



PRESS release

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"Boy and Girl Under Umbrella" Fountain at Fire Station 2 Restored

Akron firefighters have spent countless hours restoring the historic "Boy and Girl Under Umbrella" fountain located at Fire Station 2 on E. Exchange Street. The fountain is fondly referred to as "the babies" by East Akron residents. The babies were originally donated to the City in the 1880's, by prominent sewer pipe manufacturer David E. Hill.

"In my opinion it has *never* looked better," said Fire Chief Rob Ross. "The babies are an East Akron icon and a great source of pride for members of the fire department who have overseen its care for many, many years."

Those involved with the restoration include Lt. Shepherd, Firefighter Dustin Sands, Station 2 personnel, and volunteers from Newsome Metal refinishing.

The cleaning and painting of the pool was accomplished by Station 2 personnel across all shifts. The figurines were sand and bead blasted by Newsome Metal refinishing, and stripped of all old paint. Once stripped, it was discovered that the original figures were fabricated with as many as 20 cast pieces. Fire Lt. Shepherd, with the help of Firefighter Sands, worked on the statue for over a month. The paint work and finishing was accomplished primarily with automotive products. The umbrella is made of copper and had to be stripped by hand. Upon doing so, it was discovered that some of the finer details had been hidden under layers of paint.

“Quite honestly I do not believe the figures have ever looked better,” noted Deputy Fire Chief Dale Evans, “and while we will never know, I suspect they look better than they did when they were brand new. John Shepherd and those who helped have truly done an extraordinary job of preserving this unique piece of community history.”

(See photos below.)





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