

Bistro helps fire station hit fundraising goal

Petite Louis's \$5,000 puts Home for Heroes campaign over top

By Larry Perl
 lperl@patuxent.com

Posted 7/29/09



(Enlarge) The sleeping compartments of the Roland Park firehouse look like a room right out of the 1940s. Funds raised along with donations and city bond money will support renovations of the fire station, built in 1899. (File photo/2008)

A community fundraising campaign to renovate the aging 19th-century Roland Park fire station has topped the \$46,000 goal, thanks to a contribution of \$5,000 from the Roland Avenue bistro Petite Louis.

The donation is much more than the 25 percent of sales that Petit Louis co-owners Tony Foreman and Cindy Wolf said they would set aside for the station on Mondays in June, said Martha Marani of the Home for Heroes fundraising campaign.

Petite Louis is one of many area restaurants and stores that donated a percentage of their sales in conjunction with Celebrate Roland Park Week, June 1-8, and collectively raised more than \$7,000 for the firehouse.

Other participating eateries included Alonso's, Loco Hombre, Miss Shirley's Cafe and S'ghetti Eddie's, all owned by Eddie

Dopkin, as well as the Evergreen Cafe, Donna's and the Village Square Cafe, the last two in the Village of Cross Keys shopping center.

Stores included Chezelle, the Children's Bookstore, Gundy's Gift Shop, Joanna Gray Shoes, Mille Fleurs, Shenanigans Toys, Schneider's Hardware and Thomson Remodeling.

Other fundraising events since the fundraising campaign kicked off in December have included a Holiday Open House, which raised more than \$4,000 and a chili cookoff, which took in \$2,000-plus, Marani said.

Bryn Mawr Lower School students raised almost \$750 at a fundraiser in April. Dopkin; Bill Baldwin, of Wireless Home; and Nancy Cohen, of Eddie's of Roland Park. Roland Park Place residents contributed individually, Marani said.

The money raised has paid for new metal lockers, which provide more room for the firefighters' gear and personal effects, and are ventilated to allow wet coats and pants to dry between calls.

Future funds will be used to renovate the firehouse's dilapidated kitchen in stage 2 of the project.

In addition, the state legislature approved a \$110,000 bond to renovate and improve bathrooms and sleeping compartments.

The city made structural and safety repairs to the roof, gutters, downspouts, brick and mortar, and installed new overhead doors to the truck compartment. The city has also made electrical and exhaust system upgrades.

The firefighters chipped in to renovate their common area.

People at the Roland Park Fourth of July Family Parade who bought \$5 tickets could win prizes including free carpentry service for a day, Marani said.

Between the state grant, funds the community has raised and money from the city, nearly \$250,000 has been raised, Roland Park Civic League President Phil Spevak said last month. That's more than the city budgeted for firehouse maintenance citywide, he said.

The firehouse was built in 1899 and is one of Baltimore's oldest.

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