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Feb 23, 2009 4:52 pm US/Eastern

### City's Oldest Fire Station Needs Repairs



BALTIMORE (WJZ) — The Roland Park Fire Station is the oldest fire station still in service in Baltimore City and it's in desperate need of repairs.

Reporting **Ron Matz** While the state legislature is being asked for assistance, **Ron Matz** reports on how one community is already reaching out to help.

Engine 44 is returning to its home. The Roland Park Fire Station is the oldest in the city and you can see its age. The facility still houses lockers from back in the day. The leaky roof needed updating and now so do the electrical wires.

"The roof was leaking, that's been corrected. The kitchen is really old and the electrical is outdated," said Captain Stephen Kowalewski, Roland Park Fire Station.

The building is more than 100-years-old. It was built in 1899.

"The city is doing their part. The firehouse is from the turn of the century so you can imagine some of the work that needs to be done," said Captain Kowalewski.



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The station didn't get automatic doors until last year.

"It helps to know the repairs are being done. It helps morale and it helps the firefighters know we have the support of the community and the fire department," said Acting Lt. Rudy Leonard III.

The legislature is now considering a \$110,000 grant to help in the restoration.

They still have the original fire bell here, but kitchen renovations are underway and new showers have been installed. The men and women from Truck 25 and Engine 44 who help this community are thankful for the help being returned.

Last year the Roland Park Civic League and the Roland Park Foundation combined to raise \$14,000 for repairs.

"The Roland Park Civic League has really helped out. A fundraiser just before the holidays raised nearly \$5,000," said Captain Kowalewski.

The community will host another firehouse fundraiser Saturday at St. David's Church on Roland Avenue.

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