

# Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza News

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*The Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza is a place of tribute to Fallen Fire Chief David Campbell combined with a memorial wall sharing the names of all Portland Firefighters who have given their lives in service. The public plaza will be a place of remembrance, reflection, and interpretation of the vigilance of Portland Fire & Rescue's service to Portland.*

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## Dates of Importance

On March 18, 1914, Portland's would create the Fire Prevention Division. This was an important step to reduce or eliminate nuisance fires that plagued Portland. Poor housekeeping (outdoors) and careless attitudes contributed to the problem. Jay Stevens, Portland's first Fire Marshal, brought fire losses down from \$1.7 million in 1914 to \$234,000 in 1917.

## The Messenger Bell Makes A Move

On Monday January 13, the Messenger Bell, which has stood in the Memorial Triangle since June 2000, will be moved. This will begin about 7:00 AM.

The move helps clear the space for the future development of the Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza. The bell will be taken to the Logistics Center of Portland Fire & Rescue for restoration and storage.

And speaking of restoration, the lanterns that previously graced the wings of the David Campbell Memorial are nearing completion of their restoration. Firebird Bronze Foundry in Troutdale, Oregon has been working hard to repair the damaged metal, clean, and fully restore the metal portion. They will then be turned over to Fire Art Glass to have new lenses created. The final stop for the lanterns will be GKA Lighting for new electrical internals to allow state of the art lighting to enhance their appearance.

The lanterns and the Messenger Bell will likely remain in storage until work is near completion on the balance of the site.

The Messenger Bell was purchased in 1873 after August 2, 1853 conflagration

### More On Community Support

Funding to complete construction of the Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza has yet to be completed. The DCMA is seeking funding sources but also accepts donations from the community. Visit our web site to find our donation portal.

that leveled 22 square blocks of Portland. Problems alerting firefighters drove this decision.

The Bell would be placed in the tower above Vigilance Hook & Ladder's station at SW 4th and Yamhill. Weighing in at 4,200 pounds, 600 pounds of which is pure silver cast into the bell. The clapper alone weighs 50 pounds. Accounts from the day say it could be heard as far away as Oregon City. It would be moved to the Portland Heights Fire Station in 1914 and later used only for special events while stored at the Central Fire Station.

Other restoration efforts for the David Campbell Memorial will begin soon. This includes stone cleaning, painting, and repair of the floor.



[www.DavidCampbellMemorial.org](http://www.DavidCampbellMemorial.org)

"David Campbell Memorial Association" on Facebook