

# The Western Star

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## Waynesville's Lock-Up may become a museum

By Justin McClelland, Staff Writer

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WAYNESVILLE — For almost 75 years, the long one-story building at 260 Chapman St. was the jail and fire station for the village of Waynesville.

Then for nearly as long, it was abandoned and fell into a state of disrepair.

Now a group of Waynesville residents hope that the once prized Lock-Up building can be of use as a museum celebrating the history of police and firefighters in the village.

The Lock-Up was built in 1881 to house the village's fire equipment, according to village historians. In 1886, an iron cage was added to the building and the site became known as the Lock-Up. The building was used until the 1950s.

"This is a great old building," said Mary Bunker, one of the organizers of the drive to turn the Lock-Up into a museum.

Organizers are looking for more people to assist in the building's cleanup. Also sought are people who have artifacts and can provide their own stories about the fire and police departments.

"We're still in the baby steps," said Dolly McKeehan. "We have an area that is very rich in history and lots of residents who have an interest in that history. Working together, we can make a good museum here."

While Waynesville never had a run-in with John Dillinger or Pretty Boy Floyd like some of its neighboring communities, a good deal of local lore surrounds the police and fire crews.

In 1900, fire engulfed a sizeable chunk of Main Street and was fought using a Wayne Twp. truck operated by 30 men.

"There are a lot of people who are interested in what the police and fire do," said Waynesville police Chief Gary Copeland.

Copeland said the museum could showcase the history and evolution of police and fire work.

"There used to be call boxes on every corner in the days before radios and cell phones," Copeland said. "The museum could show the history and how its evolved."

Wayne Twp. fire Chief Paul Scherer said the building could also be used as an educational tool for children, to teach about fire and police safety.

The members of the Lock-Up group stressed the plan is a private initiative and doesn't involve public funding.

For more information or to volunteer contact McKeehan at (513)897-1607.

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