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## Fire engines of yesterday spark interest for next generation



Nolan, 4, left, and Michael, 2, sit on an antique fire engine from Ship Bottom during an open house Sept. 29 at the New Jersey Fire Museum & Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Upper Freehold. Photos by Dave Hernandez, for The Star-Ledger

Grab your helmet and put on your boots because there's lots to learn about the history of fighting fires in the Garden State at the New Jersey Fire Museum & Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Monmouth County. From a vision in the 1960s born from the personal collection of Ernest Day of Dunellen, to the site's first public open house in 2016, the museum has charted a journey to becoming an educational showcase and memorial. There, at 4 Polhemustown Road in Upper Freehold, exhibits display tools and technology dating back to the establishment of New Jersey's early fire departments in the 18th century. For information, visit [njfiremuseum.org](http://njfiremuseum.org).

James Moening



Clockwise from above, guests take turns at a hand pumper used to deliver water. Tom Banyacski, museum volunteer, speaks with his son, Tom Jr., and daughter-in-law, Michah, about fire apparatus. Protective equipment worn by firefighters over the years stands on display inside the museum.



Featured in the exhibit, from left, are: a restored Hope Fire Co. of Allentown hand pumper from 1818; a Jamesburg fire engine from 1919; a range of vehicles from Pennsylvania and New Jersey used over the years; and horse-drawn pumper from 1789.