

THE MUSEUM TRUMPET



Vol. 5, No. 1

The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum

April 2014

Museum's Fundraiser A Major Success

SJFD's 160th Anniversary Firefighters' Ball

The signature event of the 160th Anniversary Year of the San Jose Fire Department (SJFD) was a huge success. The 160th Anniversary Firefighters' Ball raised over **\$13,000** in profits for the San Jose Fire Museum. As advertised, all of that money will be deposited into the Old Fire Station One Capital Improvement Plan account. Thank you to all of our friends who contributed to the evening's success.

Held on Saturday, January 26, 2014, over 300 guests attended the event. There was fun socializing; a formal program with honor guard, bagpipes, and choir; speeches and presentations; a great dinner; and fantastic dancing to a wonderful band.

It was 96 years ago that the SJFD held its first Firefighters' Ball in modern day history. It was the beginning of a long run of dances that always had a fund raising purpose. Ten years ago, the SJFM resurrected the tradition by hosting the 150th SJFD Firefighters' Ball with over 1,000 guests in attendance.

At this year's Ball, the SJFM presented a number of historical displays including fire helmets, badges, and historical journals. We also unveiled our newest apparatus to the collection - an 1800s vintage,

horse-drawn, Studebaker Wagon. It was restored to recreate the Department's Relief Hose Co. No. 5 that went into service in June, 1885. This was a volunteer company that was located at South 8th Street and East San Salvador Street.

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Couples enjoy the band music while diners toast honored guest, Sam Seibert, who, at age 94, also kicked up his heels on the dance floor.

The Keys Are Almost In Hand!

President's Message

By John A. McMillan

I am pleased to report that the San Jose Fire Museum is one step closer to its goal of owning Old Fire Station One. We are getting very close to the day when we will have the key to the front door. This is major, major good news!

For several years now, the SJFM has been working with the staff of the Oversight

Board, the Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency, to make certain that Old Fire Station One stays safe and that the integrity of the structure is protected. In addition, we wanted the SJFM, as a non-profit organization, to be designated as the sole purchaser of Old Fire Station One. In return, the Museum would agree to pay the approved professional appraisal based on the best and highest-value use of the site.

Well, we were just notified that, on Mar. 6, 2014, this request was approved by the Oversight Board. This is a big deal for us.

We know that the City of San Jose and the now defunct Redevelopment Agency had plans to tear down Old Fire Station One and proceed with a high-rise development of 17 to 20 stories.

This is a huge opportunity for the SJFM. We now have 2 years to come up with the building's estimated appraised value of \$1,000,000. If we cannot meet this deadline, then the Oversight Board could open the purchase to interested parties, including local developers.

Over the past ten years, not a day seemed to go by when someone would ask me, "What is the status of Old Fire Station One? Are we still trying to buy it? Has the City of San Jose torn it down yet? Is the Downtown Fire Museum open yet?" After giving these questions a lot of thought, I finally figured out the best answer.

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Plans Moving Forward

"Fill the Hose" Campaign to Fund Old Fire Station One Capital Improvement

The Capital Improvement Plan is a 4-phase program that will take Old Fire Station One from an acquisition phase (Phase 1) through structural repair, remodeling, seismic upgrades, and new display space (Phases 2-4).

The "Fill the Hose" campaign is designed so everyone can get involved. We have a variety of programs for partnerships and sponsorships that allow for cash donations and "in kind" services that are explained in this edition of *"The Museum Trumpet"* newsletter.

We need firefighters, private citizens, local businesses, and corporations to join our team and become a partner with the San Jose Fire Museum.

Phase 1: Acquisition of Property

To be completed by 2014. This important, initial step will give us ownership of the existing building at 201 N. Market Street. This structure, built in 1950 and in service for 50 years, is located adjacent to San Jose's current Fire Station One. Estimated to cost \$750,000 to \$1 million.

Phase 2: Structural Repairs and Remodel

To start in 2014 and be completed in 2015. This work will allow us to open the doors to the public. It will include restoration of all exterior elements of the building, including a complete seismic retrofit, site work, and a remodel of 9,068 sq. ft. of the first floor space. Estimated cost to be \$4.3 million.

Phase 3: Remodel of Upstairs Floor Space

To start in 2015 and be completed in 2016. Work will include adding an elevator to the second floor to give public access to additional display, classroom and rentable event space. The project will update and remodel approximately 6,730 sq. ft. of interior, upstairs, multi-use floor space. Estimated to cost \$2.2 million.

Phase 4: Construction of New Display Space

To start in 2017 and be completed in 2019. This "dream" project will recreate the façade of the original Fire Station One - built in the late 1800s. With all 3 station facades on one site, Phase 4 will complete our goal of telling the station's entire history. As such, it will be the only place in the nation to have all three Station 1's on the same, 1-acre site. This project will add approximately 9,804 sq. ft. of floor space on two levels. The structure will occupy an area at the rear of the existing station that was formerly used as a work yard. Estimated to cost \$4.4 million.



You Can Join Our Team

Founding Partners

San Jose Hook & Ladder No. 1

\$100,000 donations and above

Corporate Partners

Empire Engine Company No. 1

\$50,000 to \$99,999 donations

Torrent Engine Company No. 2

\$25,000 to \$49,999 donations

Franklin Engine Company No. 3

\$10,000 to \$24,999 donations

Eureka Hose Company

\$1,000 to \$9,999 donations

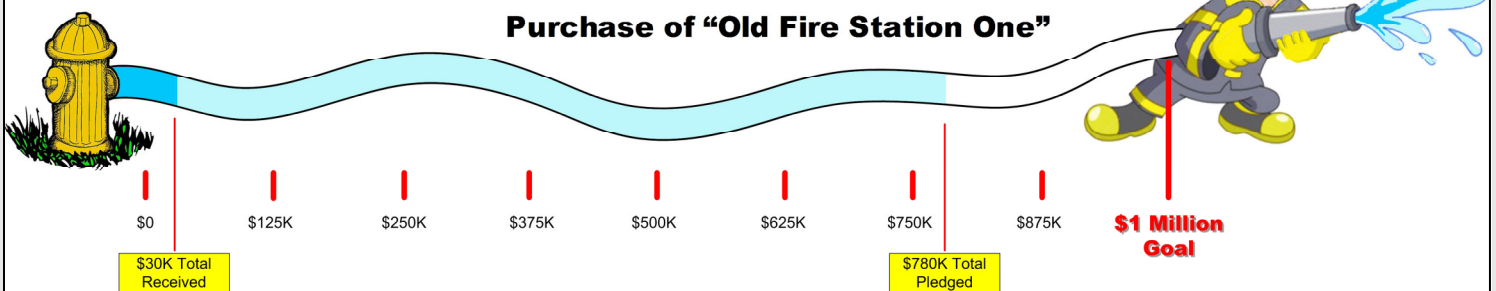
Alert Hose Company

Individuals, business or organizations who contribute "in kind" services and materials for station improvement.

Fill the Hose!

PHASE 1 GOAL

Purchase of "Old Fire Station One"



President's Message

Continued from Page 1...

I now tell everyone that the San Jose Fire Museum's greatest accomplishment to date has been saving Old Fire Station One. Today, the building is still standing as a Historic City Landmark.

The SJFM Board members, along with local preservation groups and volunteers from the community, have worked diligently to find ways to stop any destructive action by the Redevelopment Agency. In fact, just a few years ago, with the leadership of the City of San Jose's Landmark Commission, we succeeded in getting City Landmark Status for Old Fire Station One. And, we are now in the application process that will allow the building to be added to the prestigious National Historic Registry.

Now we have the next layer of great news. Recently, we submitted a request to occupy a small area of Old Fire Station One as a presentation and/or display area. We would pay the Successor Agency a monthly rental fee and this would give us a chance to set up displays and apparatus for viewing by potential purchase partners or future construction contractors. The good news is that we were just notified that the Successor Agency will be approving this request very soon which will enable us to occupy a limited area of the downtown station.

Please take a look at our article on Page 2 of this newsletter about our "Old Fire Station One Capital Improvement Plan" and four-phase plan to some day open a downtown Fire Museum in San Jose.

We now have great hope for the future.

SJFM Promotional Videos Completed



Recently, two promotional videos, produced by Hans Halberstadt and Vera Williams, were completed and delivered to the San Jose Fire Museum. These videos will be utilized to promote visiting the museum and enhance the on-going outreach to raise funds for saving Old Fire Station One.

The first video is entitled "San Jose Fire Museum - A Hidden Gem". It features Museum President John McMillan describing the Museum's collection and explaining the Museum's goal of purchasing Old Fire Station One. The second video is shorter in duration and is intended for use by a variety of media outlets as a public service announcement. Both videos are available for your viewing on YouTube at:

<http://youtu.be/bSutC9oj774>
or
<http://youtu.be/5EHaDEI7OY0>

Sponsor of the Quarter



Joe Scarff, on the left, owner of Campbell's Towing, recently received the San Jose Fire Museum's "Sponsor of the Year" Award for 2013. A plaque was presented by SJFM President John McMillan. Campbell's Towing has been providing "in kind" services to the SJFM for over ten years.

Anniversary Ball Deemed A Success

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We were also very fortunate to receive on loan, the Chief Engineer fire helmet of Rudolph Hoelbe, the Department's chief from 1889 to 1892. It was loaned to us for

the 160th Ball by Lou Rosendin and was on display in our Fire Helmet Display Case. A photo of the helmet, along with other memorabilia, was featured in the 160th Firefighters' Ball Souvenir Program.

During the formal program, the SJFM was very proud to announce and recognize three great friends of the SJFM. Selected as our "Volunteers of the Year" for 2013, were Nick Grossi, Peggy Donatelli, and Karen Allyn. We also announced Campbell's Towing as our selection for "Sponsor of the Year" for 2013 - with a special "Thank You" to its owner, Joe Scarff.

Everyone involved with this great moment - including our sponsors, the many volunteers, the Jesse Charles Band, the San Jose Elks Lodge, and our speakers for the evening - can be very proud of this significant milestone in the history of the SJFD.

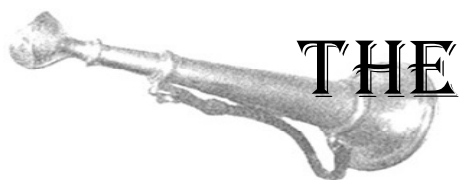
Photo At the Left: The SJFM's recreation of Relief Hose Co. No. 5 was prominently displayed at the 160th Anniversary Firefighters' Ball.





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CELEBRATING THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT 1854-2014

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 8 | SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon |
| May 20 | SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon |
| June 10 | SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon |
| July 8 | SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon |
| Aug. 12 | SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon |
| Aug. 16 | Annual San Jose Firefighters' Car and
Motorcycle Show
Held this year at the S.J. Elks Lodge
9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. |

"The Museum Trumpet"

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