

THE MUSEUM TRUMPET



Vol. 6. No. 1

The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum

March 2015

\$1 Million Milestone Achieved

SJFM Has Purchased Old Fire Station One!



It's official! After years of hard work, the San Jose Fire Museum now owns "Old Fire Station One".

On February 19, 2015, the San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) hosted a special Check Presentation Ceremony in downtown San Jose. At this event, the Brandenburg Family Foundation made their donation public. Because of their generosity, Old Fire Station One is now the future home of the San Jose Fire Museum.

In front of invited officials from the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County, members of the downtown business community, and friends of the Museum, Lee and Diane Brandenburg signed an oversized check for \$1,000,000 made out to the SJFM. There were over 100 people in attendance to witness this great moment.

John McMillan, president of the SJFM, was master of ceremonies on a day where the sun shone brightly on the event and the future of the Museum. There were speeches by Mayor Sam Liccardo, SJFD Interim Fire Chief Curtis Jacobson, and San Jose Firefighters Local 230 President, Joel Phelan. All the guest speakers touched on the history of the building and the many firefighters

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Top: Lee and Diane Brandenburg spoke to the crowd as they presented their check for \$1 million to the San Jose Fire Museum. The donation was used to purchase the building.

Left: The San Jose Fire Department flag once again flies over Old Fire Station One in downtown San Jose's historic district.

Right: San Jose's mayor, Sam Liccardo gave his support to the purchase of SJFM's future home.



President's Message

By John A. McMillan

Hello everyone. This is such an exciting time for the San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM). We are very happy to announce as you read this message, that the SJFM is in the final process of purchasing Old Fire Station One. The check is in escrow and we are moving forward towards completion of ownership.

In this newsletter, you will read about the recent Check Acceptance Ceremony that we

hosted at Old Fire Station One. The well-attended, invitation-only event featured Lee and Diane Brandenburg presenting a ceremonial \$1,000,000 check to the Fire Museum. This money has allowed the SJFM to purchase Old Fire Station One as the future home of the San Jose Fire Museum.

Now, we are excited to announce that during this past month the Museum also received a donation of \$250,000 from Retired Fire Captain Sam Seibert. This generous

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Tours and Events



Over 40 people from the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America (VCCA) combined with the Buick Club to visit the SJFM warehouse on Saturday, February 21.

The VCCA is dedicated to preserving antique and classic Chevrolets from the past. The members arrived at the Museum with over 30 of their own vehicles. This is a touring club where the members spend their time not only working to preserve their vehicles, but also driving them on various trips throughout the Bay Area. The SJFM is typical of places they visit during a tour.

The club met at Peet's Coffee & Tea shop then drove as a group to the Museum. After a brief description of the operation and purpose of the Museum, the group was shown the Museum's extensive collection of fire apparatus. As usual with our visitors, there were many questions about the apparatus, the history of San Jose Fire Department, and the future of the San Jose Fire Museum.

The group had lunch in the museum and continued to walk around and ask questions. The club showed its appreciation by donating \$200 to the Museum.

Family Generations and Traditions

SJFD Academy Graduates New Recruits

On January 16, 2015, 22 SJFD Recruits graduated from the class of 2014-01, at San Jose City Hall. They all became San Jose Firefighters! It was extra special for three of the graduates because their dads are all retired San Jose Firefighters. Retired Fire Engineer John Hodges pinned a SJFD Firefighter badge on his son, Sean Hodges; Retired Fire Engineer Michael Fields pinned a SJFD Firefighter badge on his son, Michael Fields; and Retired Division Chief Alberto Olmos pinned a SJFD Firefighter badge on his son, Alberto S. Olmos.



Photo by Craig Allyn Rose

We are so proud of all these recruits choosing a career as a San Jose Firefighter, but it is even more special when it becomes part of a family tradition.

The SJFM was very pleased to host these recruits at the Museum on the day before this ceremony. We had a chance to explain the history of the department they were about to join and they got a chance to see our historic apparatus from the SJFD.

SJFM Presents **10th Annual Car and Motorcycle Show**

This year marks the 10th year of the "San Jose Firefighters' Car and Motorcycle Show". This event, to be held on Sunday, August 9 at the San Jose Elks Lodge, is a fundraiser for the SJFM. All funds raised will go directly towards restoring and preserving our world-class collection.

As in the past, the show is a great way for car buffs to get-together and enjoy all types of vehicles from the 1920s to present day hot rods, classics, and race cars. Once again, the show will include music, good food, and raffle prizes. The event is open to all firefighters, family members, and the public.

If you are interested in displaying a vehicle and want to pre-register, go to our web site (www.sjfiremuseum.org), download an application, and mail it to the address indicated on the application. Cost to register before August 1, 2015 is \$25.00. Day-of-the-show registration will be \$30.00.

For further information, contact SJFM Vice Pres, Jim Carter at: (408) 674-1624.

Admission for the public is FREE. Hope to see you all there!

Sunday, August 9, 2015
10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
San Jose Elks Lodge
444 W. Alma Street, San Jose

Sponsor of the Quarter



798 S. 2nd Street, San Jose, CA - (408) 287-8700

Volunteer Needed - If you have experience as a truck mechanic, or know of someone who does, the SJFM is in need of your help and expertise. Contact John McMillan at: (831) 359-2194.

President's Message

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donation will be used as the "seed" money to start the restoration of Old Fire Station One. This will allow the SJFM to move forward with the steps necessary to develop what will become a major downtown attraction. These next steps include:

1. Mitigation of asbestos and lead paint within the building.
2. Arranging for power, water, and phone services to be back in operation.
3. Installation of low-voltage security, alarm, and smoke detector systems.
4. Continuation of work with Garden City Construction and an architect to complete some early programming for the station's design and future use.
5. Updating the SJFM Business Plan and hiring a consulting firm to perform a Marketing Study with completion expected by the end of June, 2015.
6. In July, 2015, we will hire a consultant to perform a 3-month-long Feasibility Study. This study will be used to help the Museum Board plan future fundraising efforts and guide construction plans.

7. While all this work is going on, the SJFM volunteers will clean up the apparatus space. The goal is to unveil this area as a museum display space by hosting a BBQ in the late summer at Old Fire Station One for all active and retired San Jose Firefighters. Then, in late September or early October, we will host a private sector celebration for potential partners and donors.

So, you can see that the SJFM volunteers will be very busy over the next 6 months.

Active and Retired Firefighters

I want to take this opportunity to reach out to all active and retired SJFD Firefighters and ask for your help. We can use your assistance in a variety of areas. Here are some options for you to consider:

- We need you to consider making a financial donation -- one-time, or on-going.
- We have two openings on our Board of Directors. These are two very important jobs that require a small time commitment. We need you to consider joining our team.
- We need volunteers to help out at Old Fire Station One or help us at the Fire Museum Warehouse on Senter Rd.

Private Sector

Our SJFM Board of Directors also wants to reach out to our friends in the private sector. We understand that there are many individuals who want to help us develop a downtown Fire Museum and we welcome everyone. The previously mentioned bullet list of tasks for active and retired Firefighters also applies to our many friends in the private sector.

In conclusion, the SJFM is in the fast lane and we have a lot of different challenges ahead of us. The purchase of Old Fire Station One is just one step with many more to come. We will need to raise a lot of funds and work hard to get that grand old building ready for remodeling. We can do it!

The SJFM has developed a donation program for everyone to use. We have the "Institution of Extramun" for all Firefighters -- both active and retired. For the private sector, we offer a Partnership Program at multiple levels of participation. This includes our top, Founding Partner level called the "Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1".

If you want to help out in any way, then please contact me, John McMillan, at (831) 359-2194 or E-mail me directly at macmhalain@yahoo.com.

\$1 Million Check Ceremony

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who worked there, the importance of a downtown Fire Museum to draw visitors into the area, and the value of adding another piece of San Jose's history to the downtown's Historic Walking Trail.

The highlight of this great celebration was when Lee and Diane were introduced and stepped up to the podium. Lee stated, "This is just the beginning (and) with this crew of retired firefighters, this is going to happen."

Not coincidentally, the day was also the couple's 63rd Wedding Anniversary. Lee seized the moment to serenade his wife with a few refrains from the two songs most appropriate to the occasion: "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" and "I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire".

The SJFM thanked the Brandenburg Family by presenting them with a few gifts. One of these gifts was a San Jose Fire Muster Team

Exemption Certificate made out to the Family Foundation. The document was appropriately mounted in an antique wood frame. This certificate was created in 1970 and very few have been presented over the years.

Lee was presented with a ceremonial SJFD Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 Fire Chief's helmet. This helmet is presented to members of the Founding Partnership. It signifies the highest level of financial partnership with the SJFM. Finally, Diane received a beautiful bouquet of flowers to mark the occasion.

As one can imagine, this was a very special day for the SJFM. Not enough can be said about the incredible donation of \$1,000,000 by the Brandenburg Family. Lee met with John McMillan about 3 years ago at Old Fire Station One and saw the possibilities for its future use. At that time, Lee made a personal commitment that he would help the Museum purchase the old fire station.

His word was solid and he came through like he said he would. We can only hope that others in the community will see this level of commitment and make a significant donation of their own.

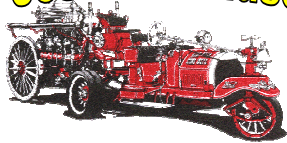


Lee Brandenburg, shown with his wife Diane, was presented with a ceremonial chief's helmet from "Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1" signifying the importance the family's donation.



The check presentation ceremony was broadcast by three of the Bay Area's top television news stations and received coverage from other radio and print media reporters.

San Jose Fire Museum

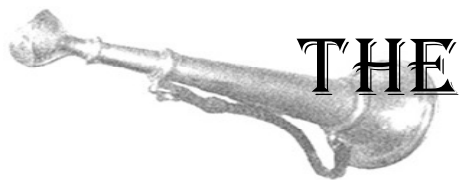


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DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calendar of Events

April 14, 2015 SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon

May 12, 2015 SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon

June 9, 2015 SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon

Save the Date

10th Annual Firefighters' Car & Motorcycle Show

August 9, 2015 — 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
San Jose Elks Lodge, 444 W. Alma St., San Jose
Classic vehicles, music, good food, and raffle prizes!

"The Museum Trumpet"

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John Whitaker

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