

THE MUSEUM TRUMPET



Vol. 6. No. 3

The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum

September 2015

Architect Delivers Concept

Board of Directors Gets First Look at Fire Museum Design Possibilities



Well... What do you think?

We think it is gorgeous! After years of dreaming and months and months of meetings with architects, contractors, and engineers, the San Jose Fire Museum's Board of Directors has received the most-recent draft of what our new fire museum *could* look like.

The view shown above is looking to the northwest from the corner of N. Market and W. St. James Streets. It shows the front of "Old Fire Station One" as it *might* appear when a new exhibition hall is added to the back of the Fire Museum. In this first concept design, the new structure would have a flat roof, lots of glass, three apparatus doors, and a group entrance for special events.

This new space, built in the area of the station's rear service yard, would let the Fire Museum display many more of its antique fire apparatus and allow events to be held that could seat up to 300 guests. These events might include memorials, badge ceremonies, and weddings. It could also provide a unique corporate meeting space. And, an upper level will be the site of a full-size, modern fire engine that kids (and adults) can climb on, press buttons, etc.

Curious what the interior space might look like? Look on Page 3 for the view of the new exhibit area from the mezzanine level.

President's Message

By John A. McMillan

The San Jose Fire Museum volunteers continued to be very busy with a variety of events and activities through the summer.

We saw many of you at some of our recent events, including the 10th Annual Firefighters' Car & Motorcycle Show held in mid-August at the San Jose Elks' Lodge. Thursday, August 27, was a festive day as we held a 96th birthday party for Retired SJFD Fire Captain Sam Seibert at Old Fire Station One. And, the month of August closed out with a Memorial Service for Retired SJFD Fire Engineer Mike Rosingana that was attended by over 250 of his relatives and friends. This busy schedule continued into the month of September as we again hosted a Memorial Service – this time for Retired SJFD Fire Captain Gordon Wallace.

As you can see, the SJFM is hosting many more events at our Museum Warehouse located on Senter Road. This increase shows a continued interest in the Fire Museum and helps to justify why we

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Status of "Institution of Extramem" **Financial Donation Program**



An Open Letter from the SJFM Board of Directors

The members of the San Jose Fire Museum Board of Directors would like to report on the status of financial donations made by firefighters through the Museum's "Institution of Extramem" program.

We have received some major firefighter donations through August of 2015. Now that we have control of Old Fire Station One, it is critical that we get all active and retired firefighters on board by making a financial contribution.

First, let us report the status of active firefighter payroll deductions. We are in discussions with the San Jose's City Manager, Noberto Duenos, about establishing a simple, automatic payroll deduction program through the City of San Jose Employee Financial Management System -- called "Eway". With this program, the SJFM would be able to track your donations so we can recognize your contribution through our "Institution of Extramem" Program. Because of the Museum's 501(c)3 non-profit status, all donors would be able to deduct 100% of their donations for tax purposes. We hope to make an announcement by early this fall.

As of August 2015, we have over 350 active and retired firefighters who have made a financial donation to the Museum. Our "Institution of Extramem" Program now has 252 active and retired firefighters who have reached the initial criteria of a \$150 minimum donation. And, we now have 11 members who have made donations greater than \$5,250 and, therefore, achieved the top rank of "Chief Engineer". These top donors include: Sam Seibert, Lawrence Campbell, Larry Cunningham, Ken Martin, Jim Carter, Steve Osteen, Mike Rosingana, Al & Barbara Johnson, Gordon & Patricia Wallace, Jack Spinler, and Joe Roberts.

We keep careful track of all financial donations -- both one-time and on-going.

To date, our largest, on-going, monthly donations are from: Jack Spinler - \$500, John McMillan - \$200, Jim Carter - \$100, Paul Eden - \$100, Ken Martin - \$100, Dale Foster - \$50, Calvin Hom - \$50, Donald Johnson - \$50, Jeff Shackelford - \$50, and Michael Fields - \$40.

We have 3 retirees who have made the largest total donations. They are: Sam Siebert - \$280,000, Larry Cunningham - \$30,000, and Lawrence Campbell - \$25,000. In addition, over the past 21 months, we have received some major one-time donations, including: \$270,000 from Sam Seibert, over \$13,000 from Al & Barbara Johnson, \$10,000 from Gordon & Patricia Wallace, \$6,000 from Joe Roberts, over \$3,000 from Jack Spinler, \$2,000 from Dennis Madigan, \$2,000 from Gerald Haag, \$1,000 from Bob Britton, \$1,000 from Maggie Wisinski, \$1,000 from the James Allen Family, \$1,000 from Lee Suess, and \$500 from Bob Harris.

As you can see, we are experiencing a very successful spike in fundraising. However, this is just the start of a major capital fund raising program that will need to grow even more in the coming years.

Please consider helping us with our goal to build a world-class, downtown Fire Museum.

As always, thank you for your continued support...

SJFM Board of Directors,

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| President: | John McMillan | | |
| Vice President: | Jim Carter | Director of Collections: | Ed Del Prete |
| Secretary: | Eileen Townley | Director of Facilities: | Dave Wood |
| Treasurer: | Rob Cone | Director of History: | Sam Seibert |
| Administrative Officer: | Dale Foster | SJFD Liaison: | Sean Lovens |
| Director of Apparatus: | Mike Igno | Community Liaison: | April Halberstadt |

President's Message

Continued from Page 1...

plan to build new exhibit and event space in the backyard of Old Fire Station One.

As far as activities go, we remain hard at work planning the new museum at Old Fire Station One. To help in this effort, a Marketing Study and a Feasibility Study are currently in progress.

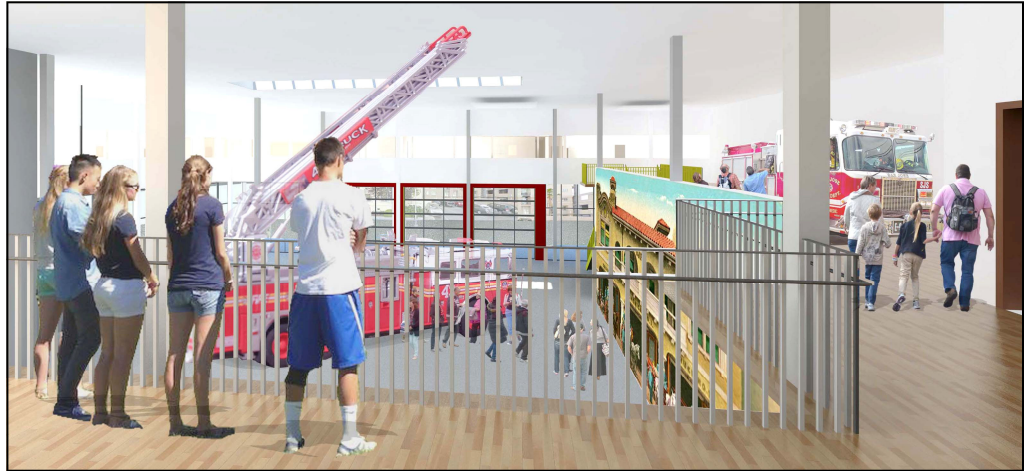
To get a better idea of the Museum's potential, we hired a marketing consultant who polled members of the public, potential investors, current and retired SJFD Firefighters, and friends of our Museum. This essential information will help us determine future community support for our downtown fire museum. In addition, a construction cost estimate is being developed to help us with fundraising efforts.

We have also been meeting with a general contractor, an architect, and an engineer to design changes and additions to the existing building. You can see some artist renderings of an initial design concept in this newsletter.

Keep watching for further exciting news as we build a world-class fire museum in downtown San Jose.

Exhibit Space as Viewed from the New Mezzanine

Here's the Interior of Our Jewel Box!



Gallery at New Museum Named for Seibert Family

At a recent event celebrating the 96th birthday of the Museum's Founder Emeritus, Sam Seibert, a designated gallery and display space at Old Station One was named in honor of the Seibert family. Sam and his family have done more for the creation of this future museum location than almost any other person. The surprise announcement was made by Museum president John A. McMillan, who said, "He knew we were having a party, but he didn't know we were going to be dedicating a space in the new museum in his family's name." The lunchtime event was attended by 80 of Sam's friends and fellow SJFD retirees. Sam, who is San Jose's oldest living firefighter, was also featured in Sal Pizarro's column in the *San Jose Mercury News*.



Car and Motorcycle Show A Big Success for the Fire Museum



The 10th Annual San Jose Firefighters' Car and Motorcycle Show was a big success. Over \$2,400 was raised towards the building of the SJFM's new home at Old Fire Station One. Those in attendance enjoyed looking at over 80 custom and antique vehicles. Raffle prizes were donated by Winchester Auto, Hyland Bike Shop, and Brizio's Street Rods. Bryan Aquino was DJ for the day and Rod & Wheeler Car Club again supported the event and helped out with parking. We also received acknowledgement from Nora Campos's office for service to the community.

Old Station One Photos Needed

Do You Have A Photo Like This One?



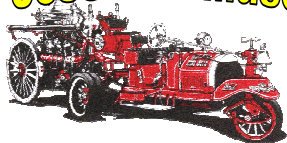
This 1992 photo shows all three shifts of firefighters at SJFD Station One. After serving the San Jose Fire Dept. for 52 years, this will be the new home of the San Jose Fire Museum.

The San Jose Fire Museum is reaching out to firefighters, families and friends. We are hoping that many of you have photographic prints, negatives, digital files or old movies of Old Fire Station One that you may be willing to loan or gift to the Fire Museum. Our highest priority right now is obtaining images that include Old Fire

Station One, apparatus that was in service at Old One, or personnel who worked there. We would especially like some photos of activities that took place inside the old fire station.

If you can help, phone John A. McMillan at (831) 359-2194.

San Jose Fire Museum

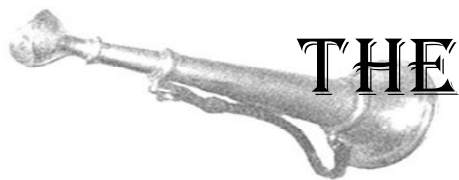


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DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calendar of Events

- Oct. 13, 2015 SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon
- Nov. 10, 2015 SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon
- Dec. 8 2015 SJFM Board Meeting at the Museum
9:00 A.M. to Noon

Are You A Mechanic?

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

"The Museum Trumpet"

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Editor

John Whitaker

OFFICERS

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| President Emeritus: | Josh Weggeland |
| Founder Emeritus: | Sam Seibert |

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