

THE MUSEUM TRUMPET



Vol. 13. No. 4

The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum

October 2022

SJFM APPARATUS COLLECTION UPDATE

Over the past year, volunteers at the San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) have been working on several apparatus projects. One of the main projects being worked on, the 1945 American La France Old Engine 6, is slowly coming together. Miscellaneous parts such as the bumper and grill have been chromed along with several smaller trim pieces. The radiator has been installed and the volunteers are currently working on rewiring it. Cosmetically the engine needs a lot more work but progress is being made! Other projects the volunteers have been working on have centered around operating, maintaining and driving the various apparatus which include two 1995 Hi-Techs, the 1988 Snorkel, the 1937 La France, the 1954 GMC, the 1951 Mack, the 1923 La France Torpedo, and the 1905 Cadillac.

There are several apparatus that are in need of repairs in order to get them operational which include the 1958 La France, the 1931 Mack, the 1929 REO, the 1981 Diplomat and the 1981 Brush Patrol. We are always looking for people that are willing to help us with these type of repairs. The volunteers are in the process of developing a maintenance plan which would involve wiping down, cleaning the oil pans, as well as starting up and driving the apparatus. In addition, there are several other apparatus projects which are currently in the planning stages and several we just don't have the capacity to begin.

Finally, we have a collection of over 55 pieces of rolling stock which include hose carts and a hand pumper which many of you have had the privilege of being able to view. As you can imagine, keeping track of the registration and insurance needs of our fleet is a project in itself and can be very time consuming. The San Jose Fire Museum Board of Directors would like to send a special acknowledgement to Retired Fire Captain Jerry Durk for his volunteer work on our historic apparatus collection. If you are interested in helping with any of the above mentioned projects, please contact John McMillan or Jim Carter whose contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter. And thank you to everyone who has volunteered and given of their valuable time which the SJFM greatly appreciates!

CONGRATULATIONS EILEEN TOWNLEY

At the August 22, 2022 SJFM board meeting, SJFM secretary Eileen Townley received the "Lifetime Volunteer Award for 2021"



A SNEAK PEAK

Pictured below, a small draft painting of the "Cheim Lumber Fire" that Bill Vujevich is contracted to do at OFS1. The next step is for Bill to paint this picture on the rear south wall under the awning. The mural when complete will be roughly 15 feet tall by 20 feet long.



WANTED: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

WANTED

The San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) has needs in a number of areas listed below and are reaching out to you for your assistance. We would really appreciate it if you would consider helping out with any of the items on this list.

1. A really important need at the moment is that we are looking for people that have pictures of fire crews, emergency events, the interior and exterior of fire stations, and important fire documents in their possession that they can share with the SJFM.
2. We are always in need of volunteers for the restoration of fire apparatus, cleaning the warehouse, and assisting in projects at Old Fire Station One (OFS1).
3. As we proceed with a Fire Museum design at OFS1, there are certain design projects that we need help with. This includes historical information gathering, ideas for display design layouts, or even suggesting new ideas for the overall design itself.
4. A constant need of the SJFM is collecting historical items that support our mission of preserving the History of Firefighting in the San Jose Fire Department. If you have any items such as badges, uniforms, helmets, turnouts or tools and equipment, please contact us so we can arrange to receive these donations.

The SJFM is relentless on moving forward to become a state-of-the-art Fire Museum in downtown San Jose but need your help to accomplish this goal!

President's Message

By John A. McMillan



Hello friends, supporters and firefighters. As summer 2022 draws to a close, the San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) continues to be very grateful for your financial and volunteer support. The summer saw numerous projects completed and new ones started at Old Fire Station One (OFS1). We helped host a firefighter memorial service for Retired Fire Captain Walter Capp. We also hosted a big birthday party for Sam Seibert's 103rd birthday which was enjoyed by all in attendance and for which highlights from this wonderful celebration can be found on the next page.

We are very happy to report that the OFS1 power upgrade is complete for which the total cost should come in around \$314,000. With a \$100,000 line item contribution and a \$200,000 grant coming from Santa Clara County, we should only have to use roughly \$14,000 from the SJFM OFS1 restoration fund for this. The final step is for us to submit our reimbursement funds request to Santa Clara County. When OFS1 was built around 1950, a 200 amp electrical power service was installed. With the new main power upgrade, OFS1 will now operate with a 1,600 amp service. The next project we are working on is getting our 20 foot conex storage container rehabbed which includes giving it a new paint job to match that of OFS1. We also received the seismic upgrade study of OFS1 which we will be discussing with Garden City Construction and Duquette Structural Engineering with regards to our options and hope to provide you with an update in our next newsletter. Finally, artist Bill Vujevich provided us with a final art rendering for the south side wall under the awning which when complete will be approximately 20 feet wide by 15 feet tall. The painting, which is pictured on the first page of this newsletter, is a depiction of a scene from the Cheim Lumber Fire on April 15, 1955 which at the time, was the largest fire in the City of San Jose's history.

The SJFM is pleased to announce our selection of the Lifetime Volunteer Award for 2021 to Eileen Townley. Eileen has been on our board for the past 10 years currently serving as our Secretary but does so much more! Eileen also manages our Institution of Extramem Donation Program and works year round on making sure our active and retiree firefighter rosters and mailing lists are kept up to date.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Sam Seibert's 103rd Birthday Bash

A good time was had on August 26, 2022 with lots of amazing moments when the staff of the San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM), volunteers, friends and other retired San Jose firefighters were able to join Retired Fire Captain Sam Seibert with a party at Old Fire Station 1 (OFS1) to celebrate his 103rd birthday. The SJFM has hosted Sam's birthday for a number of years now and they just keep getting better and more fun year after year just being around Sam. It is wonderful to watch Sam enjoying everyone's company and truly savoring and living in the moment. Sam is very proud of his long life and all that he has accomplished.

At the party, Sam enjoyed some very special moments. The SJFM unveiled the new Seibert Gallery which is located in the original front lobby of OFS1. The theme of this space focuses on what the lobby area would have looked like back in 1950 when OFS1 opened. It includes pictures of the 4 different Fire Station One's in SJFD's history along with historic apparatus pictures of Hook & Ladder One, Empire One, Torrent Two and Franklin Three. Finally, there will also be a permanent display of Sam Seibert's collection in this space. The collection will include Sam's uniform, helmets, badges, scanners, pictures, and historic fire equipment items, all of which Sam gifted to the SJFM.

Another special moment was a presentation artist Bill Vujevich made to the SJFM. Bill gifted a painting of Sam in his dress SJFD uniform from the 1950's which is pictured below. Bill presented it to Sam at the party and it was hung in the Seibert Gallery where it will remain permanently.

The final memorable moment from Sam's party which was enjoyed by all was when retired firefighters Jim True, Ken Heredia, Jeff Webber, and Antony Radzanowski serenaded Sam with a few songs. Afterwards, the 50 or so guests in attendance sang Happy Birthday, watched as Sam blew out his candles and joined him for cake and ice cream.



Jeff Weber, Jim True, Anthony Radzanowski, and Ken Heredia serenade Sam at his 103rd birthday party at OFS1.

Pictured Above:
Painting of Sam Seibert done by Bill Vujevich and presented to Sam at his 103rd birthday party.

Pictured To The Right:
Bill Vujevich presenting Sam and the San Jose Fire Museum with a painting of a young Firefighter Seibert at his 103rd birthday party.

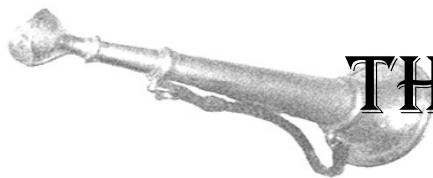


San Jose Fire Museum



PO Box 579
San Jose, CA 95106

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SACRAMENTO, CA
PERMIT NO.
2111



THE MUSEUM TRUMPET

Vol. 13, No. 4 The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum October 2022



DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

**SJFM IS IN NEED OF A
BOARD MEMBER!**

**The San Jose Fire Museum
is seeking to fill a vacant
board position
for
Director of Fleet**

If you or someone you know is interested, contact Jim Carter or John McMillan for more information.

"The Museum Trumpet"

Is Published By the
San Jose Fire Museum

A Non-profit 501(c)3 Corporation

Editor

Kristine Cohen

OFFICERS

President: John McMillan
Vice President: Jim Carter
Secretary: Eileen Townley
Treasurer: Trenna Wardel
Director at Large: Dana Reed
Director of Apparatus: VACANT
Director of Collections: Ed Del Prete
Director of Facilities: Dave Wood
Director of History: Sam Seibert
SJFD Liaison: Sean Lovens
Community Liaison: April Halberstadt

MUSEUM ADDRESS

201 North Market Street
San Jose, CA 95110

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 579
San Jose, CA 95106

John McMillan (Cell Phone)

(831) 359-2194

Jim Carter (Cell Phone)

(408) 674-1624

<http://www.sjfiremuseum.org>