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# THE MUSEUM TRUMPET



Vol. 15, No. 1

The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum

January 2024

## SJFD 170TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



ON DECEMBER 2ND AT OLD FIRE STATION ONE, THE ROD & WHEELERS, SAN JOSE ALONG WITH THE SAN JOSE FIRE MUSEUM HOSTED A TOYS FOR TOTS DONATION DROP OFF DRIVE THROUGH.

## SAN JOSE FIRE MUSEUM SOFT OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Starting Saturday, February 3rd, first Saturday of every month and every Tuesday.  
Hours each day are 10am to 12 noon.



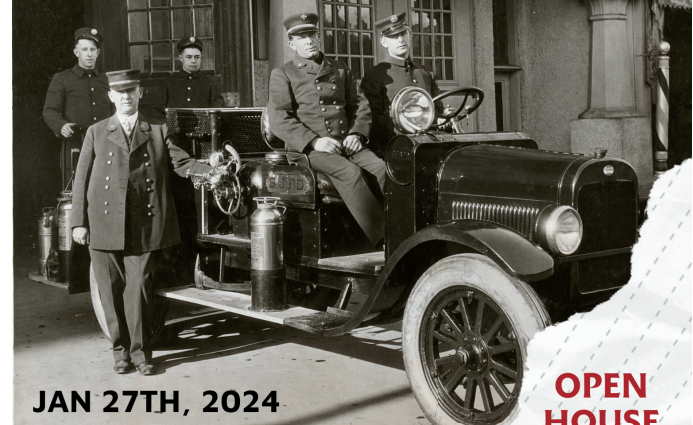
RETIRED SJFD FIREFIGHTERS KIM BORRESON (ON LEFT) AND SCOTT COSCARELLI (ON RIGHT) JOINED TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THEIR RETIREMENTS FROM THE SJFD. THE PARTY WAS HELD AT OFS1 ON DECEMBER 9TH WITH OVER 140 GUESTS ATTENDING.

## SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

170th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST 9-11AM  
CEREMONY 11:30AM



JAN 27TH, 2024

OLD FIRE STATION ONE  
201 N. MARKET ST. DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE

OPEN HOUSE  
9-5pm

## 170TH SUPPLEMENTAL INFO

If you want to attend this historic day celebrating the SJFD 170th Anniversary as an organized Fire Department, please contact Jim Carter at 408-674-1624 or John McMillan at 831-359-2194 and RSVP. The San Jose Fire Museum is so excited to host this event with the support of San Jose Firefighters Local 230 (Who will be providing the Pancake Breakfast) and the San Jose Fire Department Administration.



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DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PLEASE READ!

The San Jose Fire Museum will be providing Docent Training in late January & February, 2024. If you are interested please contact Jim Carter or John McMillan.

More info will be provided through Email in early January, 2024. We hope you will join us and Help us get the opening of the San Jose Fire Museum of the ground successfully!

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR WINTER 2024

By John A. McMillan



Hello to all our friends and supporters. Winter is here and the San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) hopes all is well with you and your family in the 2024 New Year. The SJFM has a lot to be happy with. We are in our 21st year since being incorporated and becoming a 501 (c) 3 non-profit. We are in discussions to create a MOA with the City of San Jose to continue long term storage of our SJFM Historical Collection at Building D1 inside of City of San Jose Corporation Yard and we are now into our ninth year of owning Old Fire Station One.

We start the New Year by sending a special thank you to all our volunteers and donors. Without you our Historic Collection and Old Fire Station One (OFS1) would be seriously impacted. Instead we are flourishing with Capital Improvement Projects, Display Designs, and continued Historic Fire Apparatus Restoration.

We finally have an approved ADA Handicap Project and will start construction immediately. Also, the design of 4 new bathrooms inside the former OFS1 Boiler Room will start very soon. We are also beginning the initial design of the upstairs of OFS1 to add an elevator, new roof, seismic retrofit, and fire egress stairway (The construction phase of this design process is currently unfunded). We are also continuing the major restoration of our 1945 American LaFrance, Old Engine 6.

We also continued to hold and host events at OFS1. On October 13th, 2023, The San Jose Fire Department (SJFD) held a Recruit Graduation for 5 new San Jose Firefighters who received their badge & helmet and were sworn in. The Rod & Wheelers, San Jose joined with the SJFM to hold a "Drive Through Donation Drop Off" Toys For Tots event on December 2nd, 2023. Then on December 7th, 2023, The SJFD held their annual Holiday Party for all Fire Support Staff. About 45 people were in attendance. Next on the list of events was a Retirement Party for Scott Coscarelli and Kim Borrenson on December 9th, 2023 that saw over 140 people in attendance. We closed out 2023 events at OFS1 when on December 15th, 2023, Statewide Roofing Company held their Annual Holiday Party for over 100 employees.

I will close out this message by extending an invitation to everyone, both firefighters, public officials and the public to observe & celebrate the SJFD 170th Anniversary to be held on Saturday, January 27th, 2024 at OFS1. It will be an all day event with pancake breakfast, docent tours throughout the day and an 11:30 am ceremony. The original recognition of the SJFD as an organized Fire Department was January 27th, 1854 by the Common Council of San Jose.



SJFD BADGE AND SWEARING IN CEREMONY AT OLD FIRE STATION ONE ON OCTOBER 13TH, 2023.  
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: FIREFIGHTERS ALEX BARRON, CONNOR LOHRKE, JOSH BROCKETT, KELYN LAMPKIN AND DEKE MADSEN.



THE SAN JOSE FIRE MUSEUM WELCOMED U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN ZOE LOFGREN FOR A TOUR OF OLD FIRE STATION ONE ON DECEMBER 19TH.  
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: BOARD MEMBERS DAVE WOOD & JIM CARTER, CONGRESSWOMAN ZOE LOFGREN, AND BOARD MEMBERS SEAN LOVENS, APRIL HALBERSTADT AND JOHN McMILLAN.

## FIRE CHIEF RICHARD F. BROWN REMEMBERED

Fire Chief Richard F. Brown, served 1901 - 1904 & 1908 - 1910

San Jose Fire Department

Chief Richard Brown was appointed Fire Chief mid 1901. Chief Brown was to become one of the most popular Fire Chiefs. Although Chief Brown had only been a Firefighter for three years, he was never the less appointed by the city council. Chief Brown was born and raised in San Jose and was the son of Fire Chief William D. Brown (Served from 1881 - 1884), the Chief of both the Police Department and the Fire Department in the 1880's.

Chief Brown was a former bartender at the old Newland Hotel and at the age of 23 became an Extraman on Franklin Engine Co. No.

3. After two years he was appointed Forman of the Franklin Engine. Soon after being appointed Forman he quit and became a member of the police force from there he became the Fire Chief. Needless to say there was much controversy over the appointment of Chief Brown. The Assistant Fire Chief Charles Brodie, was passed over for Chief Brown.

Controversy surrounded Chief Brown from the start as he was only two years into his job when he was requested to appear before the Common Council on accusations of favoritism to some Firefighters in disciplinary matters. In addition to those accusations, he was accused of dereliction of duty. Foreman Furrier spoke regarding the poor performance of Chief Brown while George Hines and Bill Tennant spoke in support of Chief Brown. The Council decided to fire Chief Brown and replace him with George Hines.

There was a political upheaval in the year 1908. A new council came into office and resulted in the resignation of then Fire Chief Tonkin, Police Chief Carroll and the entire Police & Fire Commission. Chief Brown was reinstated as the Fire Chief. After

his firing he had been running a saloon on the Alameda and tending bar at other establishments. The Fire Chief at the time had little control over the firing of his department, terminations, resignations, demotions and transfers were abundant. The Mercury News proclaimed it a slaughter. Chief

Brown did make a notable suspension of then Extraman Charles Plummer for using vulgar and profane language in the criticism of Mayor Davidson.

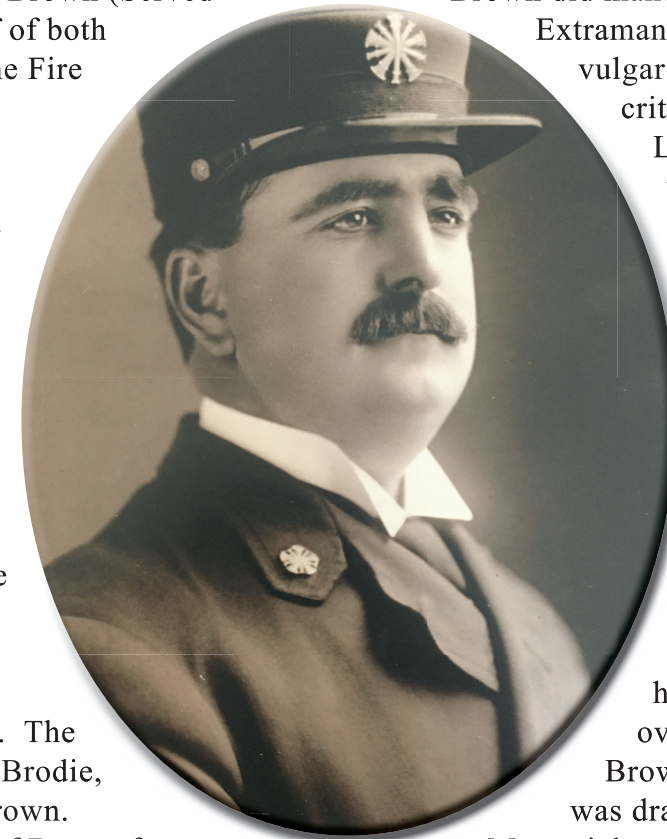
Later, Plummer would continue with his career and eventually become the Fire Chief in 1926 and served as Fire Chief for 18 years.

As mentioned Chief Brown was a well liked Fire Chief. His tenure was short however and ended in 1910 when on a return trip from a Fire Chiefs Conference in Stockton.

Chief Brown lost control of his city owned car, the car overturned and killed Chief Brown. Chief Browns casket

was drawn by two horses from the Memorial at St Patricks church to Oak Hill

Cemetery, and thousands lined the streets. Chief Browns tombstone can be viewed at Oak Hill Cemetery and is easily identified by the distinct Fire Helmet on top of his tombstone.



# San Jose Fire Museum

