



THE MUSEUM TRUMPET



Vol. 15. No. 2

The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum

April 2024

CELEBRATING THE SJFD 170TH ANNIVERSARY

On January 27th, 2024, the San Jose's Fire Department (SJFD) celebrated its 170th Anniversary at Old Fire Station One (OFS1). The event included the help of San Jose Firefighters Local 230, San Jose Fire Administration and the San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM). It was held on a beautiful Saturday starting with a pancake breakfast prepared by San Jose Firefighters with the ceremony following. Over 150 people were in attendance.

We were honored to have a speech by the Honorable Mayor Matt Mahan, SJFD Fire Chief Robert Sapien and San Jose Firefighters Local 230 representative, Fire Captain Ben Naranjo. Earlier, before the ceremony, Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez presented the SJFM with a Certificate acknowledging this historic date. The SJFM also used this event to acknowledge significant individuals that have helped tremendously with the success of the SJFM.

First, we recognized Retired San Jose Firefighters Jose Guerrero and Tony Ojeda as SJFM Volunteers of the Year for 2023. They took on the challenge to organize our

historic collection of 1,500 SJFD Journals that date back to the 1950's. They spent over a year documenting the inventory and organizing in a way that will make it easy to find a journal when a request comes forward.



The SJFM also recognized Retired and deceased SJFD Fire Engineer Randy Perez for his 20 year commitment to the SJFM and the history of the SJFD. Randy was selected unanimously by our Board of Directors to receive the Director Emeritus Certificate. His wife Mandy Perez was present to receive the Certificate. A copy of the Emeritus Certificate will permanently be on display

at the SJFM.

The final ceremonial moment was when the SJFM Board of Directors presented Jim Carter with the SJFM Lifetime Volunteer Award for his 20 years of dedicated volunteer service. Jim's commitment goes way beyond the normal volunteer. He is committed to volunteering almost full time. Besides, even before the organization of the SJFM, Jim was very active in the San Jose Firefighters Muster Team. Jim is extremely deserving of this recognition.



PICTURE OF TABLE SETTING FOR THE SJFD 170TH WITH FIRE CHIEF CADILLAC AND SAN JOSE FIREFIGHTERS BBQ SETUP IN BACKGROUND.



SAM SEIBERT JOINED BY SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUPERVISOR CINDY CHAVEZ AT THE SJFD 170TH.



SJFM VICE PRESIDENT JIM CARTER PRESENTING THE 2023 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD TO RETIRED SAN JOSE FIREFIGHTERS TONY OJEDA & JOSE GUERRERO AT THE SJFD 170TH.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, SPRING 2024



By John A. McMillan

The San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) is finally open to the public. The turnout is small right now, but with our website and word of mouth we expect it to grow. Our hours are very limited right now to every Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon and the first Saturday of every month from 10am to 12 noon. We do plan to expand our hours and will announce it in the near future. A key part of expanding our hours is the preparing and training of our first ever Docent Team of volunteers. Jim Carter is building the team and providing them with the training.

We hosted a few events this past quarter at Old Fire Station One (OFS1), including the San Jose Fire Department 170th Anniversary Celebration. Please take a look at the more detailed article on this event in this newsletter edition. We also recently hosted a Memorial for Retired SJFD Fire Captain Ralph Padilla. The turnout was about 175 people with a combination of family, friends and firefighter retirees. This event took place on Saturday, March 30th.

We are also right in the middle of our Voluntary ADA Compliance Project. This project involves making all exterior and interior openings wheelchair accessible. The front sidewalk areas near the 2 front doors will see a removal of existing concrete and new concrete installed that will meet the proper grades for wheelchair access. Also, there will be electric Touch Bars to assist any person with a disability access inside and all doors inside will be a push pull type. Finally, electric exit signs showing emergency egress are being installed throughout. The pictures on the right show some of the work being done. All this work is being performed on the first floor only. This project is costing the SJFM \$300,000. We are expecting the majority of this project to be complete by May 1st, 2024.

The other major Capital Projects we are working on include design of 4 new bathrooms in the old OFS1 Boiler Room (2 will be ADA compliant). We will be using Cavagnero Architecture for this work. In parallel, Jim Carter and I are joined with Cavagnero Architecture, Duquette Engineering and our team leader Jim Salata from Garden City Construction. This team has a goal of adjusting the original programming of OFS1 first established in 2016. The goal now is to simplify some of the design ideas to save money, introduce engineering to handle seismic issues and finalize where the new key structural elements will be located like elevator and fire emergency exiting from the upstairs. We have funds remaining to cover the design & programming along with building the 4 new bathrooms downstairs. Our challenge as I have mentioned in prior newsletters, is raising the funding to actually do the construction documents and building construction to complete the total remodel of OFS1. During this programming phase, we will take into account the eventual buildout of the backyard enclosure and its relationship with OFS1. An estimated cost for all this work has not been identified yet.

There are many other smaller projects still ongoing. We are working on finishing up the new Fire Chiefs Wall Display outside the Fire Chiefs Office Display. We are also designing multiple displays of our historic SJFD Badge Collection. Jim Carter and Scott Boucher are taking on multiple fire apparatus repair & restoration projects along with getting the SJFM Warehouse in better order.

In conclusion, the SJFM is very thankful where we are at today. We still feel very lucky that we own OFS1. Over 500 active & retired San Jose Firefighters have made some kind of cash donation to us. We plan to mail out a thank you to many of you who contributed donations to us in 2023. You should be receiving this letter from us by June, 2024.



THERE ARE NOW ABOUT 15 OF THESE NEW ELECTRICAL FIRE EXIT SIGNS DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE FIRST FLOOR OF OFS1 SO WE WILL MEET STATE MANDATED EMERGENCY EXITING STANDARDS.



7 INTERIOR DOORS/OPENINGS AT OFS1 REQUIRED DOOR EXPANSION OF THE WIDTH TO A MINIMUM OF 32 INCHES FOR WHEEL CHAIR ACCESS.



DEMO OF FRONT OLD CONCRETE AREA TO PREPARE FOR NEW CONCRETE SURFACE THAT MEETS VOLUNTARY ADA COMPLIANT GUIDELINES.

SAN JOSE FIRE MUSEUM DOCENT PROGRAM

How would you like to be involved with the San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) Docent Program?

If you have always had an interest in helping educate the public about the San Jose Fire Departments history, we have an opportunity for you.

The SJFM is now open to the public every Tuesday and the first Saturday of the month at Old Fire Station One (OFS1). The SJFM would like to be open more often, however we just don't have the capacity to accomplish that, meaning we don't have the bodies to be present for opening more than what was just described. How can we be open to the public more often?

The SJFM Board has begun a Docent Program. The program is very simple. The SJFM will conduct a two hour basic orientation on the SJFM along with a session describing what the SJFM has on display.

Currently the SJFM Board has taken the docent training along with other members of the public interested in being a docent. The docents will be present during the hours of operation at OFS1. Along with being present during those hours we may request the attendance at special events, such as recruit academy graduations, promotional ceremonies, memorial services and other events scheduled at OFS1. These requests are all voluntary.

If you are interested in being a docent, learning and informing others of the rich history of the San Jose Fire Department and vast collection of memorabilia, apparatus and collectibles please contact John McMillan or Jim Carter (their contact information is on page 4). You may also contact any member of the SJFM Board of Directors.

PICTURES FROM SJFD 170TH ANNIVERSARY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



SJFM PRESIDENT JOHN MCMILLAN PRESENTING THE EMERITUS CERTIFICATE TO MANDY PEREZ, WIFE OF DECEASED AND RETIRED SJFD FIRE ENGINEER RANDY PEREZ. MANDY'S MOM, TERRY GONZALES IS ON THE FAR RIGHT. PRESENTED AT THE SJFD 170TH.



SJFM PRESIDENT JOHN MCMILLAN PRESENTING THE SJFM LIFETIME VOLUNTEER AWARD TO SJFM VICE PRESIDENT JIM CARTER AT THE SJFD 170TH.



SAMPLE PRESENTATION OF FUTURE WALK SJFD FIRE CHIEF WALL DISPLAY AT THE SJFD 170TH.

San Jose Fire Museum



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DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

DONATE!

The San Jose Fire Museum is encouraging everyone to consider making a donation to support our effort to restore Old Fire Station One.

We guarantee your contributions will support construction, displays, restoration, utilities & maintenance cost.

"The Museum Trumpet"

Is Published By the
San Jose Fire Museum

A Non-profit 501(c)3 Corporation

Newsletter Layout

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