



THE MUSEUM TRUMPET



Vol. 17, No. 4

The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum

October 2026

INTRODUCING THE SAN JOSE FIRE MUSEUM ADVISORY COUNCIL

What Is the Advisory Council?

The San Jose Fire Museum Advisory Council is a group of community leaders, professionals, advocates, and ambassadors who believe in the importance of preserving and sharing the history of the San Jose Fire Department. The Council provides an important connection between the Museum and the community. Members bring their professional experience, knowledge, community relationships, ideas, and resources to help strengthen the Museum and advance its mission.

The Advisory Council also serves as a resource to the Museum's Board of Directors, providing community perspectives, professional expertise, recommendations, introductions, and support as the Museum moves toward its future goals.

What Is Expected of Advisory Council Members?

Membership on the Advisory Council is intended to be an active and meaningful role—not simply an honorary position. Each member is encouraged to participate

in ways that reflect their individual experience, relationships, interests, and abilities.

Every Member Can Make a Difference

The Museum recognizes that every Advisory Council member brings different experiences, skills, relationships, and resources. There is no single way to contribute. One member may help make an important introduction. Another may provide professional advice. Someone else may assist with fundraising, volunteer at an event, connect the Museum with a community organization, or provide financial support. What matters is active engagement and a shared commitment to the future of the San Jose Fire Museum.

Building the Museum's Future Together

The Advisory Council plays an important role in helping the Museum expand its visibility, strengthen community relationships, increase support, and preserve the history of the San Jose Fire Department for future generations. Through leadership, advocacy, expertise, relationships, philanthropy, and community involvement, Advisory Council members help the Museum move closer to its vision.



San Jose Fire Museum
201 North Market Street San Jose 95110

TOYS FOR TOTS

Drive Through Donation Drop Off
November 1, 2026
9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM



Benefitting Los Bomberos of Northern California

ROD and WHEELERS
SAN JOSE

NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS ONLY PLEASE
Hot Dog, Chips and Soda \$5.00
with the proceeds going to the Fire Fighters Museum



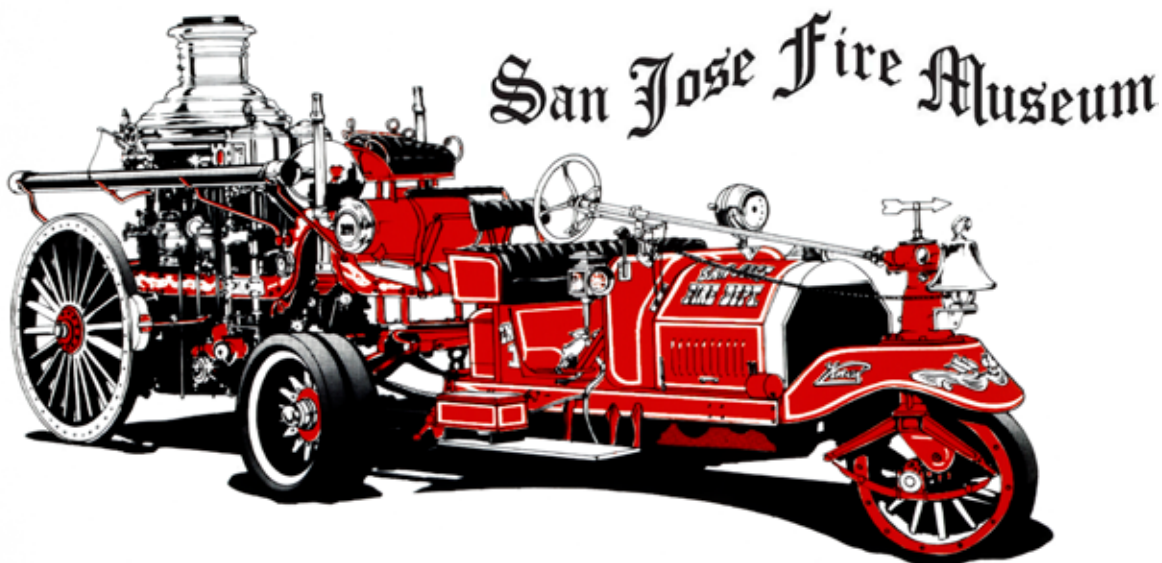
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, FALL 2026



By John A. McMillan

Hello everyone, the San Jose Fire Museum hopes all is well as we head into our Fall Season of 2026. We have so many projects and a grant application process happening all at the same time. As you may recall, I talked about all of these items in the Summer Newsletter.

1. The Design Display Project - This project continues to develop. We have a design concept that covers the entire history of the San Jose Fire Department (SJFD). It is broken into five (5) Eras. It will all eventually be laid out and built on the apparatus floor of Old Fire Station One (OFS1). For the time being we are working with our consultants to design and build just Era One & Two. Era One, "The Hand Drawn Apparatus & Response" which covers the history of the SJFD from 1850 to 1876 is about 90% complete in the design phase. We hope to begin construction of the Era One Display in the coming months. Era Two design will not start until we get a cost estimate from our consultants for design & construction. The remaining three Era (3, 4 & 5) Displays are on hold at this time while we wait to determine major seismic construction and roof replacement at the rear of the apparatus floor
2. Updated Capital Campaign Document - This document has been in design for the past three months. It is about 95% complete. It is an eight page document that tells the story of the San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM), describes our historic collection, shares our ideas for upgrading the second floor, and finally provides all the cost identified to complete the renovation of OFS1 including a new stand alone steel structure in the backyard.
3. Roof Replacement Project - The project is on hold until the summer of 2027. Originally this project was planned to be completed this past summer. We estimated a budget of \$250,000 to complete. In order to do this work, we first needed to evaluate and identify any seismic needs in the roof area and interior bearing walls. We were not able to get the needed evaluation done in time before the rainy season arrives and found the project will cost us more like \$900,000 because of required seismic upgrades.
4. Cost Estimating the complete renovation of Old Fire Station One (OFS1) - We have an updated cost estimate for restoring OFS1. The total updated Conceptual Estimate amount is \$7,066,258. At this printing, we don't have a cost estimate to add a stand alone steel structure for the back yard of OFS1.
5. Complete the application process and submit two (2) Community Resiliency Center Grants. We successfully submitted these grants by the September 30, 2026 deadline. We will now wait until January, 2027 for a decision by the State of California. We are now in the process of submitting one other grant to the State of California by October 13, 2026. All together the three grants if approved could bring up to 20 million dollars in grant funding. There will be a detailed article in the Winter Newsletter about this process and what it would mean to the San Jose Fire Museum.



NEVER FORGET!



SJFD 25TH ANNIVERSARY PIN FOR PATRIOTS DAY.



ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 PUBLIC SAFETY MEMBERS FROM THROUGHOUT SANTA CLARA COUNTY MARCH FROM ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH TO THE FIRE BELL IN FRONT OF FIRE STATION ONE.



SJFD FIRE CAPTAIN TYLER MATCHEM IS DRIVING THE SJFD 31 MACK WITH MARIA WARDAL SITTING IN THE CAPTAINS SEAT ON PATRIOTS DAY. IT IS POSITIONED BETWEEN TWO SJFD TILLER TRUCKS AT ST. JAMES STREET. EARLIER THE MACK DROVE MAYOR MAHAN AND OTHER DIGNITARIES FROM ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH TO THE FIRE BELL AT FIRE STATION ONE.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The San Jose Fire Museum has over 55 pieces of apparatus and rolling equipment consisting of hand-drawn hose carts to Hi-Tech Engines. The museum receives numerous requests to attend parades, car shows and special events. Volunteers are needed to help drive and maintain the engines that are currently operational. We can help you learn how to operate the equipment and would greatly appreciate your help.

If you are interested in just wiping apparatus down, or sweeping a floor we always need that. There are many other areas that we need help with.

If you are interested contact; John McMillan, Scott Boucher or Jim Carter.



San Jose Fire Museum



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DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CELEBRATE 150 YEARS OF PAID SERVICE

**The San Jose Fire Department
became a Paid Fire Department
on October 30, 1876. The
Common Council of San
Jose made it official. They
approved hiring 29 Firemen
and a Chief Engineer.**

"The Museum Trumpet"

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Accent Graphics

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