



# THE MUSEUM TRUMPET



Vol. 15. No. 3

The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum

July 2024

## CAPTAIN WONDERFUL “DOES IT AGAIN”!

Back in April of this year, Retired SJFD Fire Captain Tom Richardson (aka Captain Wonderful) donated his second Million Dollars to the San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM). Tom donated the first Million back in 2020. Not enough can be said about what this means to our non-profit. Tom wanted us to create a “Big Check” documenting this moment and take a group photograph Referencing the total 2 Million Dollar donation. His hopes are that other firefighters will see this moment and consider helping the SJFM out.

We wanted to provide you an update on restoration (including State & City Building Code requirements) efforts of Old Fire Station One (OFS1). Tom’s donation funds are basically the capital we are using to do this work. We started by using \$300,000 to complete required Voluntary ADA and Emergency Fire Exiting Project on the first floor area. Our next project will include converting the old boiler room to a new 4 unisex bathrooms wing, with 2 of them handicap accessible. This project is estimated to cost \$300,000 and is now in a construction design phase in order to get it ready for submitting construction permits. In parallel to the bathroom project, we also have a Design Team organized (Includes SJFM staff, Garden City Construction, architect, and structural & mechanical engineers). This team has a goal of creating construction documents that would allow us to move forward and totally restore the upstairs, add Sprinklers, do a Seismic Retrofit, add an Elevator, new Fire Exit Stairwell, new Roof and new Electrical & HVAC Systems to the upstairs area. We are not sure what this effort will cost but we suspect it will be around \$250,000. This will leave us a balance of about One Million Dollars that we will keep invested until the day comes we find more donations and/or Grant funds. So, if your wondering, we expect this final restoration construction work to cost a maximum of 5 Million Dollars. With a balance of One Million Dollars (Tom Richardson’s Donation) available, this would mean we need to find up to 4 Million Dollars.

Tom Richardson is a hero to the SJFM! Without donations, we wouldn’t be where we are today. But no matter what, we are focused to move forward and restore historical OFS1.



THIS BIG CHECK DONATION PICTURE WAS TAKEN ON MAY 28TH. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT IS: JIM CARTER, TOM RICHARDSON, TOM’S NIECE COLLEEN RICHARDSON AND JOHN MCMILLAN.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, SUMMER 2024**

By John A. McMillan



A lot has happened since the release of our Spring 2024 Newsletter. Most important was the one million dollar donation from Retired Fire Captain Tom Richardson this past April. We are also pleased to announce we have completed our Voluntary ADA Project and Old Fire Station (OFS1) now meets all City & State of California guideline requirements for handicap access (This covers the first floor area only. The second floor is unfinished and inaccessible).

Over the past couple of months we participated in 2 major events. First, on Friday evening, May 10th, OFS1 was the host site for San Jose Jazz's Annual Fundraiser. We were absolutely excited to allow the rental use of OFS1 for such a significant event. San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) Volunteers spent over 2 weeks preparing OFS1 and some of our key fire apparatus to make this event a huge success. There ended up being just under 200 guests in attendance. The caterer took over the kitchen & dining room for food preparation. A large bar was setup under the rear awning and at the rear of the back yard a stage was setup for live music and dancing. We were proud of the outcome and it helped give our organization the confidence that large events can take place at OFS1. On Sunday, May 19th, SJFM Volunteers participated in the Mtn. View Fire Department 150th Anniversary Parade & Celebration in Downtown Mtn. View. We were honored to be invited by Mtn. View Fire Chief Juan Diaz. Chief Diaz provided us a prime booth spot to watch the parade, he also allowed us to include our 31 Mack Fire Engine and Chiefs Cadillac in their parade. The SJFM Board of Directors congratulates Fire Chief Diaz on how well the parade was organized and run! Many of us commented this was probably the best fire apparatus parade in the Bay Area in our lifetime. The variety of historic apparatus was the best!

SJFM received a major Recognition Award for our efforts restoring Historic Old fire Station One. The Preservation Action Council of San Jose nominated us and we received the award at the Preservation Alliance Awards Night on Friday, May 17th. We also received Recognition Certificates from Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez and California State Senator Dave Cortese at this event. Please check out a picture of the award in this Newsletter.

Finally, "Save the Date", Tuesday, August 27th. The SJFM will host a 105th Birthday Party for Retired Fire Captain Sam Seibert at Old Fire Station One. The celebration will start at 11am with light refreshments served.



**SJFM 1931 MACK ENGINE AT THE MTN. VIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT 150TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE ON MAY 19TH.**



**SJFM TREASURER TRENNA WARDEL WITH SAM SEIBERT AT THE MTN. VIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNIVERSARY PARADE ON MAY 19TH.**



**LATEST DISPLAY OUT IN THE FRONT OF OLD FIRE STATION 1. THESE 2 HISTORIC FIRE HOSE CARTS WERE RESTORED AND INSTALLED BY THE FLAG POLE BY DAVE WOOD.**

# CAR CLUBS ALLIANCE

On June 12th, the Car Culture Alliance met at Old Fire Station One. There were 13 clubs in attendance. The Alliance is a group of car club Presidents & Vice President's that meet to discuss common interests, car club events and concerns regarding the car culture in San Jose. A number of these clubs have assisted us in our efforts to restore our collection and join us in interacting with the community. The SJFM thanks Jim Carter for establishing this great relationship.



CAR CULTURE ALLIANCE MEETING ON JUNE 12TH AT OLD FIRE STATION ONE APPARATUS FLOOR. BACK DROP IS OUR 1958 AMERICAN LAFRANCE, ENGINE ONE.



CAR CLUB ALLIANCE MEETING ON JUNE 12TH AT OLD FIRE STATION ONE APPARATUS FLOOR.

*At this Car Culture Alliance Meeting, the following Car Clubs were represented:*

Rod Nutz  
Saturday Night Cruisers Car Club  
California Vintage Rods  
Classic Chevy Car Club  
Mustang Club  
Inliners International  
Custom Shifter

Rod and Wheelers Car Club  
Goombahs Car Club  
Ford F100 Car Club  
Low Riders Council  
Hormingas Car Club  
South Bay Challengers

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## PICTURES FROM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)



LIVE JAZZ MUSIC PLAYING AT THE SAN JOSE JAZZ SUMMER FEST IN THE BACK YARD OF OLD FIRE STATION 1 ON MAY 10TH



MOOD LIGHTING ON THE APPARATUS FLOOR OF OLD FIRE STATION 1 DURING THE SAN JOSE JAZZ SUMMER FEST HELD ON MAY 10TH



ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET AT THE SAN JOSE JAZZ SUMMER FEST HELD AT OLD FIRE STATION 1 ON MAY 10TH.

San Jose Fire Museum



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*DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT*

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Tuesday, August 27th, 2024  
at Old Fire Station One.  
Please join us in the 105th  
Birthday Celebration for  
Retired SJFD Fire Captain  
Sam Seibert.**

**Party starts at 11am with  
Refreshments served.**

### **"The Museum Trumpet"**

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### **Newsletter Layout**

Accent Graphics

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