

A NEW ERA



FOR THE FORT LAUDERDALE FIRE & SAFETY MUSEUM



RAMP SALE SUCCESS!

BUILDING "BROTHERHOOD"

By Nathan Morris

We are entering a new year and a lot is changing. Our Museum is coming back to life with a new team of dedicated volunteers and supporters. A lot of us use the word "brotherhood" sparingly but many of us question if it exists. Most people these days are more concerned about their second job than they are the Fire Department. The truth is the only way it will continue on is through us. The museum is a great place for us to come together, to honor the ones who came before us, and to keep our legacy alive; we can show pride in what our fire department has become and we can have a good time doing it. Over 100 years of history underneath us, we continue to improve and stay at the cutting edge of the fire services across the nation.

We want to thank everyone who has came out to lend a hand in this process. This is "OUR" Museum and it takes a team to keep it alive. This year we are looking at doing a proper election and selecting an official board per the By Laws. Right now we are operating under an interim Board

appointed by the members who have stayed involved.

This year we are looking to re-open our doors to the public but before we do that we want to finish telling the history of our Fire Department. We are currently curating one room and we will be looking at finishing the second room in 2021 as well. We will be including Specialty Team development, creating our EMS system, and integration, to list a few. We are also planning an audio tour that our visitors can use so they can move at their own pace as they explore the Museum. We are planning roof repairs now and an office running by March. We are working with Fire-Rescue management to help keep the Museum staffed so that it can be open on a regular basis. With an old building there are also many things that need to be done around the grounds so if you would like to get involved we could really use your help. We are open to co-creating events and want to start utilizing our Museum to build comradery, "brotherhood," and memories, so let us know if you would like to team with us.

Over the years the museum has accumulated a lot of out-of-service equipment from Support to nick-nacks and collectibles that have been donated. Most of these artifacts have no significance to our Fire Department and are taking up valuable space. Since we also needed funds to make repairs to the facility we decided to take care of two things at once. After pulling everything out of our shed and rooms we had several people from our Union and the Benevolent Association walk through to ensure that items being sold to the public were not historically significant. Then we opened the doors for our active firefighters to get first dibs on some of these artifacts. On Saturday, as the Benevolent Assn. hosted Oktoberfest we opened the doors to the public. At the end of the week, we earned over \$5,000 in donations and sales to help us maintain our Museum and cover the cost of the Memorial engravings that will be taking place in February. Many artifacts were also saved to decorate fire stations thanks to Tim Heiser's generous donation. We want to thank everyone who supported our Museum and contributed to this success.

501(c)(3) and Voluntary Payroll Deductions

Thanks to Todd Kesterson, CPA, of Kaufman/Rossin we were able to complete 7 years of tax returns and we applied for 501(c)(3) re-instatement as a non profit organization at the beginning of December 2020. Shortly after, we received a notice that we should expect a 180-day delay on a response due to a (Covid 19) back-up. Todd was also able to help us reduce a \$2,300 penalty fee from the IRS to zero!

Until we receive our 501(c)(3) re-instatement no deductions will be taken from your account. Thanks to the Ramp Sale and the support from our Union we are in a good place and have funds to continue paying our bills and also fund some maintenance around the facility.

We currently have 140 operations personnel enrolled for voluntary payroll deductions so once we receive our status back we will have regular income thanks to your contributions. We are grateful to everyone who has signed up, and we are working on Membership levels for those who contribute more. There will be incentives and benefits depending on how much you donate. Soon our museum will have monthly income for the first time in its history thanks to John Heiser, Dave Cherry and all of your contributions.

If you have not signed up please contact Dave Cherry or Nathan Morris for assistance. By signing up you also become part of the team and a registered member of the Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum.

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE

We would like to invite anyone out there who has a good story they want tell or anything significant about the history of our fire department to submit it to be included in our newsletter. We will be periodically putting a newsletter out to keep you all updated on our progress and reminded of our history. Submit your stories and articles to Nathan Morris via Nathanm@fortlauderdale.gov with Newsletter Submission in Subject tab



FIRE ENGINES ONE & THREE

By Nathan Morris and Jim Van Drunen

As you may know one of Fort Lauderdale's first fire engines was found last year in a backyard in Miami, a 1924 American La France, (Ft. L. F. D. Engine 1.). The President of the Pompano Fire Museum, Rob Brantley, discovered it and purchased it and after some research found that it used to belong to us.

We were very excited when we first learned about this, but after assessing the damage and the amount of money it would take to restore the engine (\$50 – \$100K) we decided to utilize the 1922 American LaFrance we already own as a replica of the original. It is in great condition and thanks to Greg Dahlke, Keith Garner, Robert Brantley and Mike Grady it is up and running as well. We were able to have the hood repainted and re-lettered for free courtesy of Southeast Truck Specialists and A Sign on Time, thanks to hard work by our new Secretary Jim Van Drunen. Thanks to all of these efforts we now have a great replica of one of our first engines on display.

It is often said that the worst things for vehicles is to Not be used, and our Fire Museum's Engines 1 and 3 have not been used in quite a while. Fortunately, our Museum has a talented team of automotive experts; Mike Grady (FLFR ret.), Keith Garner (FLFR), Rob Brantley (Pompano FD ret.), Greg Dahlke (FF, ret. and Museum neighbor) and others who are returning the rigs to parade service again. Both rigs started, but the team noticed each engine was struggling with large amounts of debris in their carburetors, and also were not cooling as they should.

Mike and Greg teamed up on Engine 3, with new fuel system parts donated by Tim Habig (FLFR ret.). Rob took home the carb from Engine 1, our 1922 American La France. Rob is an ALF expert, and has rebuilt both of Pompano Beach's historic ALF's. Both engines will now get cooling system flushes, and new fluids, hoses and belts as needed. Thanks to Mike, Rob, Keith and Tim (and financial help from many of you at our recent "Ramp Sale"), both of our engines will be proudly parade-ready again soon.

ROOF REPAIR / REPLACEMENT

By Nathan Morris

WORK PARTY FEB 1st 9 AM - Finish

As many of you know we have had issues with the roof leaking for quite some time. There are several locations that have been repaired in the past leaking again. "We ultimately need a new roof." according to Mark Khayata. After some research and a few quotes we are looking at a \$50,000 roofing job.

We are investigating with the historical society and the City to see what kind of grants and assistance we can receive.

Luckily for the time being Captain Mark Khayata has offered to help us temporarily repair the roof as long as we pay for the materials and also provide 3 people to assist him. No roofing experience is needed just a pair of gloves and a little common sense. If you would like to volunteer, please let us know - we need your help!

COME JOIN THE PARTY!!!



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR (2020)

In 2021 each newsletter we will share some information on one of our board members who are working hard to make our Fire Museum great again. This month's profile is about Greg Dahlke.

Greg Dahlke was looking after the museum before I came along. The water shut off, and he was trying to figure out what to do with the two antique fire engines that wouldn't start. Greg was ecstatic when he first saw me. He had been looking after the museum for several months and had not seen anyone. Since that day Greg has been one of the most dedicated and valued volunteers as he is always available to help and be of assistance.

Greg has been part of the Ft Lauderdale Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) for 24 years, where he is currently serving as the Training Coordinator. Greg was a U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Marine Officer and builder of cruisers, sailboats, trawlers and luxury yachts. A graduate of the Turner School of Construction Management, he has conducted building inspections and worked with FEMA as a PARR building Inspector. Greg currently operates an environmental inspection company and volunteers at our Museum on a regular basis. Please stop by and say hello to him if the bay doors are open; he is usually there working on one of the two engines. Greg is now a trustee of our Museum and the Director of Facilities and Maintenance. He is one of our most valued volunteers and deserves recognition for his service in helping us Preserve our Heritage and Teach Our Youth. We nominate Greg as our Volunteer of the Year for 2020!

WALKWAYS

Work Party February TBA

Thanks to David Cherry and his efforts to get the rotten railroad ties replaced with new ones and Jim Van Drunen's outreach to FEC Railroad we have a good start. How many work parties does it take to finish the job? Good question. We ran into many obstacles replacing the old railroad ties, from rain, to not having enough straight ties, to some time constraints. Since we have our Memorial Service coming up February 13, we are postponing this until after the event, but we are organizing now. Our goal is to finish the job in February. We plan a full day work party (9-5) with BBQ, music and brews supplied to our crew to get it done. We need as many people as we can get. Also, special thanks to Dean Ferrerio for donating his efforts in having the pavers back in place for the Oktoberfest and Firehouse Ramp Sale. **If you are available and willing to help let us know what days work for you.** Looking forward to the fellowship!!!





*ESTHER'S ECHO THE STORY

Our Newsletter is named after one of Fort Lauderdale Fire Department's first dispatchers.

Upon receiving a call reporting a fire, Esther, Fort Lauderdale's telephone operator in 1913, would sound the new fire siren atop the Telephone Company building. Hearing the siren, firefighters would call Esther with the word "Where?" Esther would give them the address of the fire, and the firefighters would rush to the scene to do their very best, just as today. We remember Esther and those pioneering firefighters with this publication, and with our historical preservation efforts.

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2020 IN SUMMARY

As most of you may know the museum was in rough shape, the bank account was depleted, non-profit status revoked, the water shut off, the Board was dispersed and bills were piling up at the beginning of the year. In eight months the new team has been able to turn things around, first by sealing a deal with the City to have our lease amended so we will no longer have to pay a water bill for the remaining 35 years on our lease. We have completed seven years of tax returns and re-applied for our non-profit status, 140 firefighters were enrolled in voluntary payroll deductions, a solid Board of Trustees organized, and we have started working on re-habilitating this historical building and fire station once again. It is amazing what can be accomplished with a little bit of team work, patience, and perseverance. We plan to open the doors the public in 2021 and provide a whole new experience to our visitors. Every bit counts!



BE PART OF THE TRADITION!

Retirees and civilians: You can become a Lifetime Member of our Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum with a one-time donation of \$300! Your Membership supports the Museum's rebuilding, plus includes a subscription to Esther's Echo, a ten percent discount at the Greater Alarm Gift Shop and admission to our Annual Members Day. Our active firefighters support our Fire Museum through payroll deduction. *Your support helps us Preserve Our Heritage and Teach Our Youth!*

YES! PLEASE COUNT ME IN AS A LIFETIME MEMBER!

Name _____

Address _____

Address 2 _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please let us know if you move or change contact information.

Please print and mail with check payable to Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum, 1022 W. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312