

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS



The Museum is finally coming back to life. Thanks to many people's efforts, we were able to spread some holiday spirit around the City of Fort Lauderdale. Trustee Taylor Beavers hung the Station 3 Christmas lights and apparatus curator Greg Dahlke drove around the city promoting a photo opportunity with Santa on Saturday December 18th. We hoped to raise some funds but more importantly offer something special to our members and community.

Nathan wasn't your typical Santa Claus, with flip-flops on, at least a hundred pounds shy, and riding in back of old Fire Engine 3, but it created a lot of cheer and generated a lot of smiles. This was also the first time Engine 3 has been driven for any significant amount of time since we finally secured auto insurance after a nearly 2 year search.



“I never imagined being Santa but I threw the ole suit on out of necessity to promote this event. I drove around the city in back of old Engine 3 and was quite taken by all the joy it spread, the smiles I recieved not only from the children but even the adults was priceless.” President Nathan Morris

On Saturday retired Lieutenant Riley Paine, now a Battalion Chief at Lauderdale by the Sea, volunteered to don the ole red suit and over 100 people came to the Museum to take photos with their families. The Fire Department sent an Engine and gave a demo to the children. Battalion Chief Danny Moran and Community Outreach BC Daniel Oatmeyer stopped by, and our Public Affairs Officer all helped promote the event. We did not earn a lot with donations, but thanks to our team it was a real success. We are grateful for everyone’s support..



## TANKLESS

Our hot water heater was inoperative when I stepped in the door two years ago, and was still that way until now. Trustee Mike Grady volunteered to get it replaced. He reached out to DE Josh Cohn and made a request. Mike offered to pay for the new tankless system and Josh agreed to install the new system.

Removing the big old water heater opened up some much needed storage space, so Mike also installed some shelves in the closet, and now we are able to comfortably store most of our chairs, step ladder, and dolly with plenty of extra room for supplies.

Thanks to Josh Cohen and Mike Grady our water heater at the museum is now up to code and we are one step closer to opening our doors to the public.



# REAL GENEROSITY!!



Shannon Ayer, owner of Precision Painting and Waterproofing visited the Museum, after I ran into him at Station 2, to give us a quote for putting a fresh coat of paint on our building. It didn't just need paint, it also needed repairs. A few days later Shannon called me with some great news; he was able to get the paint donated by Sherwin Williams. Shannon offered to donate his painting services, but said he calculated that it would cost around \$2,600 to pay his employees to prepare the job. I found the receipt for the last time the building was painted and it was almost \$6,000. I was surprised to hear Shannon's price, as I had projected spending more.

When the time came to paint the Museum, the Sherwin Williams'

donation fell through due to a paint shortage. Due to considerable extra work needed, Shannon also ended up spending more than he expected on labor. Shannon said we could just pay what we had originally agreed. When I went to pay him, however, he said he was donating the prep, the paint, AND the painting to our Museum. I insisted we pay for his cost of labor, but Shannon refused.

Shannon was born and raised in Fort Lauderdale. He told me "I always dreamed of working for Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue, but I got hired with Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue in 2008". Shannon still lives in Fort Lauderdale and is one of our greatest supporters! This job would have cost our Museum between \$6,000-10,000. Thanks to people like Shannon our Museum

is moving forward! With a fresh new coat of quality paint our Museum looks better than it has in many years. If you are planning on painting your home or business, please consider Shannon's company. We are very impressed with the great job Precision Painting did. They went above and beyond, and even painted our fire hydrants!



## VETERANS TRUST \$5000 DONATION

On November 23rd the Veterans Trust and Human Baton presented the Museum with a \$5,000 check to support our non-profit organization. Public Affairs Officer BC Stephen Gollan referred The Veteran's Trust to us at their Human Baton Experiential event, which occurred during this year's Air Show and Tribute to American Heroes.

Fred Roger, the Executive Director, reached out to me and asked if we need help with anything. When I mentioned our new roof may cost up to \$50,000, he said to hold onto the \$5,000 as he may have someone to donate the work. In return he suggested pay we pay a production team to film it to help promote the roofing companies' contribution. We are keeping our fingers crossed.



## GRAND RE-OPENING

We have postponed our Grand Re-Opening due to some delays in the installation of our new overhead garage doors. Once these doors are installed, we will set an official date. The Board has decided to start opening the Museum on the last Saturday of each month to allow people to visit, and also add a little anticipation, which we hope will bring in more visitors. We would love to eventually open our doors on a regular basis, so we are working on building a larger volunteer base and hoping that we will be able to utilize light-duty personnel to help in the future, depending on management's approval.

Many things are looking great at the Museum! We have several work parties coming up late January, and we are looking forward to welcoming guests starting on January 29th, from 10 am-2pm. Join us!



# John Yancey Families Memorial Service



Honoring the late Fire Lt. John Yancey, John Yancey Jr., I, is speaking about the impact his father made on his life at the Memorial Service on December 4th 2021.

The service was hosted by the Yancey family at the Fire Museum. with special guests and speaker Bob Simac. Chief Bob Simac said "I didn't know what the fire department was going to do when Yancey retired."



John played an integral role in the Union and was a very important part of our Fire-Rescue team. We are happy to host events like these at the Museum as it reminds us what we volunteer all of our time for. Special thanks to the Honor Guard and Iggy Suarez for coming out to support the Yancey family.

# NEW DISPLAYS IN ROOM 2 (1931-1993)



Thanks to founding member, Board Secretary and curator Jim Van Drunen, our walls share more of FLFD's interesting history. Jim worked several months preparing these displays, which highlight major events that happened between 1931 and 1993. They include FLFD during World War II, the Everglades Fertilizer fire, the evolution of self-contained breathing apparatus and masks, females and African-Americans beginning to serve, the Heart and Lung Bill, helmet

identifiers, Union Local 765 and the IAFF, Technical Rescue, Marine Team, fire boats and more...

We will continue to improve and build on these displays. We are now beginning plans for Room 3 (1994 to present), and are looking for any medical equipment or artifacts that will help us display that era.

Special thanks to Dani Gentile



we now have several new mannequins on display to help our visitors see the changes throughout the years as well.

## SETTING THE EXAMPLE



We have had a lot of our new hires and young firefighters showing up to our work parties, setting a new tone for our future firefighters. It takes a team to ensure our legacies survive. It has been great working with these young men off shift and what a great opportunity to work with legendary Battalion Chief Bill Sharp, one of the museum's founding members and the man responsible for all of the awesome wood work you see at the museum. "Bill is still running circles around us." We are very grateful to see our



It's great to see our young firefighters being part of our Museum's renewal.

# UNEXPECTED GUESTS



**F**ounding members and FLFR retirees Bruce MacNeil and Ann Lindie-MacNeil stopped by the Museum recently with their granddaughter for a visit. They quickly made friends with Bufa, our mascot, and were excited to see how well the Museum is doing.

Ann and Bruce now live up north and are not able to stay active on our Board, but asked how they could help. A few days later I received plans for a new sign courtesy of Ann's brother, who is an



architect. Ann is now working with retiree and general contractor Rich Seabrook. We will soon have an estimate for the cost of building the new sign. What an improvement over our previous sign!!! Thanks Ann and Bruce for continuing to help improve our museum.

# Volunteer of the Quarter!

Todd Kesterson, a Certified Public Accountant at Kaufman and Rossin, a major accounting firm, has volunteered his time and helped our Museum re-establish its 501c3 non-profit status by filing 7 years of delinquent tax returns and communicating directly with the IRS. He helped us update our financial reports and keeps them up-to-date. Todd helps us ensure we stay in good standing with the IRS and keep our tax records accurate.

We want to acknowledge Todd for his much-needed help and for serving on our team as our accountant. Thank you, Todd!



Todd Kesterson, CPA

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE GENEROUS FIRE MUSEUM SUPPORTERS



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THE VETERANS TRUST

**DONT THROW IT AWAY!!** The Museum is looking for fire related photos, articles, artifacts, etc....  
*The Fire Museum has a 501 (c)(3) designation and donations are deductible under IRS Section 170 (c) (2)*

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