

# THE FUTURE OF THE FORT LAUDERDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT



## NEW HIRES

Twenty three new Firefighters sign conditional offers, receive their orientation, and start a new tradition at the Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum.

We are honored to host our new hires, introduce these new men and women to the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department, and showcase our history on the walls.

A great way and place to start careers! The museum reminds us of our history, tradition, and gives us a sense of pride in what has had to happen for us to be where we are today.



# LEGENDS



Our open house on July 25th was a success with over 20 retirees showing up, thanks to retired Chief Bob Simac. Many people looked over the drafts for the new displays and we only recieved a few suggestions which reassures us all the information we put on the walls is accurate. We also recieved some donations to help fund professional exhibits for room 2 which will cover 1941-1991 which will include restarting Fort Lauderdale's economy after WWII, the everglades fertilizer fire, ending segregation, the evolution of breathing apparatus, Florida Heart and Lung Bill, IAFF 765 history, Specialty teams beginning, and Fort Lauderdale's deadliest fire. ~Nathan Morris

## JULYS OPEN HOUSE

After 18 months of hard work and help from generous supporters, our Fire Museum is ready to receive guests again! This month President Nathan Morris and Vice President Kim Van Sant hosted 3 Open Houses for active and retired firefighters.

The Saturday event, above, was "Retiree's Day". While the whole Museum was on display, everyone enjoyed the special opportunity to see and comment on the drafts of the new Room 2 exhibits (1941-1991) before the permanent exhibits are built. One comment: "I wouldn't know how to make the Museum one ounce better!" Thanks!

To help complete the restoration of Historic Fire Station 3 and our historic engines, everyone is urged to become a "Museum Member", if not already. Active firefighters become members via the Museum Payroll Deduction Program. Retirees and civilians can become Members through the Annual Membership Program.

~Jim Van Drunen

# MAKING HISTORY

Three of Fort Lauderdale's finest (retirees) telling stories of the old times, challenges, struggles, and sharing laughs at the museum. As they took a seat on the bumper of our 1927 American LaFrance, a replica of one of Fort Lauderdale Fire Depts first engines (Engine 1), we snapped this shot of these legends.

Bobby Glenn was the first African American hired with the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department in 1970. He also became the first African American Lieutenant and later the first African American to retire with 23 years of service. Below Bobby Glenn, is reviewing the exhibit draft that tells his important story, including a photo of Bobby on duty in front of Fire Station 3. (now the Museum)



Bobby Glenn  
(1970 - 1991)

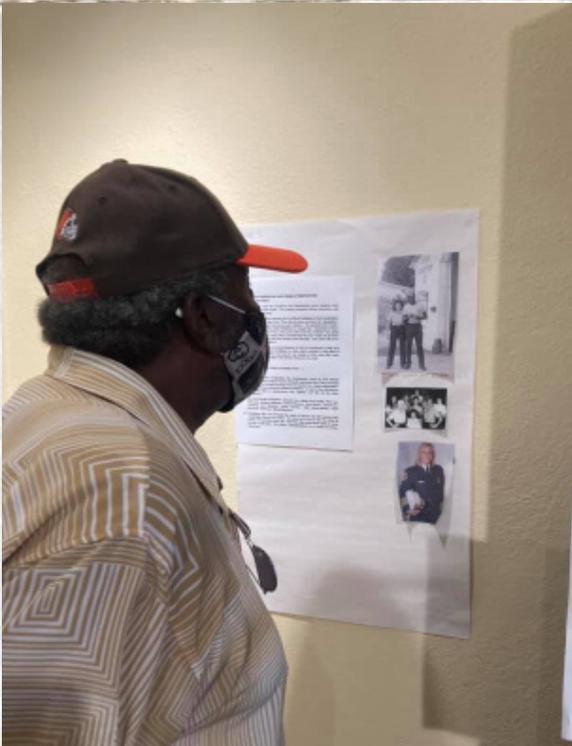
Rory O'Connor  
(1966-1991)

Truck Peavey  
(1984-2009)

## HOMEBREW ON TAP!!!

Thanks to Driver Engineer Aaron Caja's efforts and all of your donations we now have a kegerator with some homebrews on tap, available to our guests, work parties, volunteers, and customers. There are three taps so we are looking to have one kombucha on tap for non alcohol drinkers.

Special thanks to Rolando Busto for designing the custom wooden door.

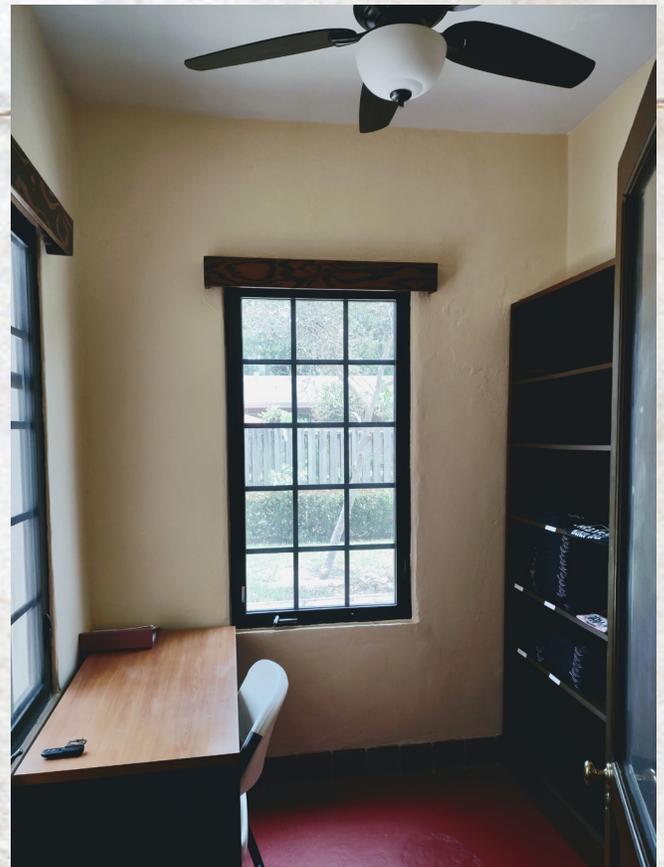


# GIFT SHOP IS BACK !!!!

When I first walked in the door of the museum in March of 2020 we had some leaks that caused some significant damage to the interior ceiling and walls. The office and old giftshop were being used for storage and there was a significant risk to our audio visual equipment. It took some time but with patience were able to get the roof repaired at to Captain Mark Khayata and George Moral that happened at a low cost to the museum and then we hired a private contractor to repair the stucco and ceiling in our office / gift shop.

Once the roof was repaired we got several quotes and finally hired a contractor to repair the walls and ceiling. One of our volunteers painted the walls and now we finally have our office and gift shop back.

~Nathan Morris



# THE FLOORS ARE SHINING ONCE AGAIN



Thanks to former Vice President Gerald Bagwell and his company Superior Tile and Grout our floors are shining bright red once again. Gerald restained the truck bay floors and cleaned both the kitchen and bathroom area. We are excited that all of our founding members are coming back to help re-habitate the museum.

We hope that some young blood comes to fill there shoes and keep our legacy alive. Thanks to all of those who have signed up for payroll deductions we are able to pay for some of the repairs that need to be taken care of. Though these funds are very important to keep our museum alive it is even more important that people take pride in the museum and show up to help.

The museum is a creative opportunity for anyone who wants to utilize there skills and abilities to benefit our department. We welcome everyones efforts and hope to build a new team to take our museum to the next level. Please reach out to me if you have any ideas or would like to get involved.



# 1922 American LaFrance Engine 1



Our American LaFrance is almost identical to one of Fort lauderdale's first motorized vehicles. Thanks to a genrous donation by Signs on Time we have replaced the lettering to match Engine 1. We are now using them to help replace our museum sign in the front yard.

Engine 1 is running but needs some work to be parade ready.

## Back in Action

Retired Battalion Chief Bill Sharp and also one of the founding members of the museum was out of service for almost a year due to a shoulder surgery, but now he is back and making a difference. Most of the woodwork around the museum is thanks to Bills hard work. He is a talented woodworker and craftsman.

He recently installed our new bathroom sinks, repaired our framing around the bay doors, and is now working to clean-up our pavers in the walkways. We are glad to have Bill back. Thank you for all of your hard work!



## Water irrigation system back in service



Our water was shut off when I arrived over a year and half ago, there was a very large outstanding bill and it took some time but with some negotiations and powerful requests the water was turned back on with a new amendment entered in the museums lease agreement. The Fire Museum would no longer have a water bill for the remaining 35 years left on our lease. This is a monumental accomplishment, but what we did not know at the time was that the city had removed the water meter

for our irrigation system. Once we figured this out we contacted the city and had the meter reinstalled. With the help of John Aurelius a former city commisioner and founding member of the museum we had the irrigation system fixed and now we are ready to upgrade our landscaping design.

# GRAND RE - OPENING POST - P O N E D

Our initial plan was to have the grand re-opening of the museum in October of 2021, but even though there has been so much progress we have decided to postpone the event to ensure things are looking their best. We are planning to have our history up to date and include an audio -tour, with Will Anderson narrating, which will be available by scanning a bar code with your cell-phone. We are still awaiting our new garage doors and looking to re-paint the bldg soon. We are all excited to open the doors to the public and resume normal operations, but for now we are only open for special events.

We have not decided on a date as of yet but we will keep everyone posted once there is a definitive date. We apologize for any inconvenience and are all looking forward to seeing the doors open and the museum thriving.



A generous contribution from Wawa. Thanks to Chief Gollan and Jim Van Drunen for being present to receive this \$1000 check

## Volunteer of the Quarter!

Mike was hired in 1984 and retired in 2009. Also one of the founding members Mike has been in service to our department for over 30 years.

Mike was one of the first people I invited to rejoin the team, as I knew he had taken care of Engine 3 and I had worked with him a few times before he retired in 2009. Mike was happy to hear from me and very ecstatic to come back. Mike and his wife Dotty have been an instrumental part of our team, taking initiative to help-out with the rehab of the building and also getting our historic Fire Engine's running again.

Mike lives in the Keys with his wife Dotty on their 36' live-aboard trawler and travels to Dania a couple times a month to visit family. While he is in town he is always at the museum making things better, from pressure cleaning the walkways, to engine repair and maintenance, to touch up painting, and



Mike Grady

removing our old water heater. Mike is a real pleasure to be around, humble, and always optimistic. Thanks for your outstanding service to our museum Mike!



**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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