



MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Our last work party was a real success. Over 20 people showed up to support and very few left without getting dirty. We got a lot done and had a great time doing it. There was Music on the PA, Aaron Caja's homebrew IPA on tap, and lunch was provided thanks to our VP Kim Van Sant's delivery services.

We were able to remove all of the old rotten railroad ties that framed the pavers in our walkways and replace them with new ones thanks to our secretary Jim Van Drunen, The FEC railroads generous donation, and everyone's help getting them to the museum.

At first we thought that this would only take a couple days but after diving in, it turned out to be a challenge. It took a few small work parties just to get the new railroad ties, there where run ins with inclement weather and time constraints, but we finally figured out how to approach it and things are looking good. A little more work to get the pavers back in place and we will be able to say it is finished.

We will soon be selling 4X8 bricks with name engravings that can be placed in our walkways for \$100 each, these funds will help support our museum and give our supporters a place on

our walkways. The 8"x8" bricks will be reserved for our founding members and as special rewards to remind our visitors of who's hard work made the museum possible. There will be an awards ceremony during our grand re-opening tentatively scheduled for October 2021. We hope to have our new garage doors installed, the interior and exterior of the bldg re-painted, our walkways in good shape, Engines 1 & 3 running, landscaping upgraded, roof repairs finished, office/gift shop completed, displays in room 2 & 3, and audio tour available by then. If you would like to help us please let us know. We need you!

Voluntary Payroll Deductions Updates + Benefits

As most of you know our 501 c3 status was revoked in 2020 but now it has been re-instated and we have started processing the voluntary payroll deductions which should start within the next couple pay periods.

If you have not already signed up, please take the time to print out the form on our website, fill it out, sign it, and submit it to Debra Flowers via Interoffice mail. Debra will check you off of the list scan the form and submit it to Payroll. It may take several pay periods after submission to start.

We have currently updated our membership levels and added benefits they provide as well. If you would like to upgrade your membership just re submit the paperwork.

Remember all of these deductions are tax deductible, which means instead of allowing the IRS to take these funds out of your taxes you can donate it to the museum and take the tax break..

We are looking for one or two people from each shift (representatives) to help us ensure everyone gets enrolled as these deductions are imperative to sustaining our museum.

We are also looking to get approval for our retirees to join the voluntary payroll deductions as well. All of our financial records are available for anyone who questions where these funds are going.



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS + BENEFITS

\$2 Firefighter Level - Newsletter

\$5 Lieutenant Level - + 25% Rental / Gifts

\$10 Captain Level - + Annual Rental 3 hr

Applications available on website

Memorial Ceremony 2021



Our annual Memorial service was a great success this year thanks to Casey Quinn, Keith Costa, and the memorial committee. We had a great event honoring our fallen brothers and sisters and their families. Special thanks to Mrs. Costa for her awesome photography.

The honor guard, the FBA, Fort Lauderdale Fire Dept, the Local 765 and the Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum all worked together to ensure the events success. Due to the Covid restrictions it was not advertised and open to the public and limited to family members only.

Special thanks goes out to Miss Debra Flowers, Support Services and our volunteers for their support as well. We will always remember those who served here.



A New Breed of "Mascot"



Skipper (photo to left) was the dog at Station 3 in the 1950's, unfortunately while performing his duties he was eaten by an alligator from the nearby new river.

Sterotypically the dalmation was the dog roaming the fire station, but Bufa a two year old stafforshire terrier is breaking down stigmas and is proving to be quite helpful greeting our guests, keeping our volunteers company , and the alligators at bay.

Bufa is in training to become a certified therapy dog through Heroes United a non-profit organization that specializes in rescuing dogs and then placing them with first responders to help relieve PTSD, they then offer free training to the new parents! If you are interested ask for more info.



Honoring "John Heiser"

It has been a year since I stepped into this position as the President at the museum and its hard for me to grasp someone doing this job for over 10 years. It is a lot to make an organization like this work. Even though we are still in the process of getting things back in shape I want to commend John for his work here at the museum.

John was one of the founders and the President of the museum for almost 15 years. When John moved to Palm Beach

County it was hard for him to invest the amount of time it needed. Now I know the challenges he faced with getting people to volunteer their time, managing a board, and efficiently running a non-profit organization. John definitely deserves recognition for his work and dedication to helping create and maintain a museum for our Fire Dept. If you see John please thank him for his selfless service and when you visit the museum please be reminded that it wouldn't be here without him.



ENGINE 3 GETS IT'S NEW FUEL TANK!

FLFD Engine 3 sat outside for many years rusting and deteriorating before it was restored, but the original gas tank (under the driver's seat!) remained in place. It was recently found to be dangerously leaking gas, and also too corroded for repair. Fire Museum Trustee (ret. FLFD) Tim Habig stepped up and funded a new fuel tank and related parts. Thanks Tim!

Our new tank has arrived, and Mike Grady (ret. FLFD) and Greg Dahlke are shown installing it. They are also restoring the gas gauge which has been inoperative for... who knows how long? Our Apparatus Team plans additional work on the fuel and cooling systems, and FLFD Engine 3 will stand tall on Parade and PR duty again! Thanks, team!



STATION OF THE QUARTER AWARD!!



The Fort Lauderdale and Fire & Safety Museum would like to recognize Fire Station 53 for their ongoing support during this rehabilitation period and we would like to present the station of the quarter award to them.

Station 53 has set the bar. Captain Mark Khayata has fixed the roof leaks with DE Jorge Moral's assistance. Jorge Moral

has continuously showed up to our work parties and has been instrumental in their success. Steven Guernsey donated a high quality vacuum to the museum that will help us clean up the facilities, and Captain Robbie Hamilton and DE Eric Colter showed up to our recent work party to help replace the railroad ties.

What a great example of "brotherhood" this station has demonstrated, coming together as a station to support our museum and our legacy as a Fire Dept. If we want a museum we must come together to keep it alive. Thank you Station 53 for your ongoing support.

The Fire Station Challenge



We would like to challenge all of the fire stations in the city to come together as a team and support the museum in the way station 53 has. We will be presenting a quarterly award to the fire station that shows the most support to our museum. Your on-going support is very important to our museums survival. Though we hope Station 53 continues to support us we also hope that other stations will take the torch and do their part.

There are many things on our list that need to be done before we re-open the facility to the public. We need help enrolling members in the payroll deductions, for those who may not want to get their hands dirty, we will have upcoming work-parties for ; painting (inside and out), Pavers clean-up, and landscaping. Please let us know when your crew is ready and we will schedule it around you.

OPEN HOUSE June 24th & 25th

As you know we have been working hard to get the facility back up to shape but simultaneously we have also been working on finishing the history of our fire dept. Room one, next to the restrooms contains the early history our fire department. from 1912-1940, but our curator Jim Van Drunen never had the opportunity to finish his work due to some conflicts, but thanks to Trustee Mike Grady, Jim is back and we are almost finished with room 2, which is from 1940-1991.

Jim is more knowledgeable about our fire dept and history than anyone I have met but he was never actually part of the Fort Lauderdale Fire Dept. I have reached out to Retired Chief Bob Simac and also been in touch with Retired Captain Jeremy Riffard as well, who wrote the history of our dept for our 100th



anniversary. We have done alot of research and utilized everyones information. We have almost finished our displays for room 2 but before we print them we would like to invite everyone out who is interested to come take a look and help us ensure the correct information goes on the walls. We will also be raising funds to print the new displays professionally, as you may have seen in room 1. There will be a

raffle with give-aways and some beverages available as well.

We are planning to start working on room #3, which is from 1991 - present, as soon as we finish and plan to be complete by September 2021 . We will have another open house then.

We are offering two nights so all of our shift workers will have the opportunity to come. We hope to see you all there!

Meet the Secretary of the Board of Trustees!

Jim is a one of the founding members and is responsible for almost everything you see on the walls at the museum. Recently he was able to obtain the railroad ties, the body work and lettering for our 1922 American LaFrance, he helped get our locks changed, our building fumigated, and also worked with one of Chief Steve Shaw's contacts to get new garage doors all through donations. In addition, Jim organized the "Firehouse Ramp Sale" and helped us raise over \$5,000 to support our Museum while we waited for our 501(c)(3) to be reinstated. Jim's wife Debbie has also taught herself how and created our new website. Please give it a quick visit.

Jim is a fire service historian and was the youngest paid Chief in Illinois history. Jim served as a Jungle Queen Captain for 19 years and in his retirement has taken great pride in helping our Museum. He is one of our most valued volunteers



JIM VAN DRUNEN

and deserves recognition for his service.
Thanks Jim!!!!



Fort Lauderdale
FIRE & SAFETY
— MUSEUM —



DONT THROW IT AWAY!!

The Museum is looking for fire related photos, articles, artifacts, etc....

The Fire Museum has a 501 (c)(13) designation and donations are deductible under IRS Section 170 (e) (2)

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www.fortlauderdalefiremuseum.com

Advertisement Space Available

Contact Jim Van Drunen
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