

Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum



ESTHER'S ECHO*

• At Historic Fire Station 3 • www.fortlauderdalefiremuseum.org •

November, 2020



*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.

Nathan Morris
President

David Cherry
Vice President

Debbie Flowers
Secretary

Treasurer

Jim Van Druenen
Editor



MOMENTUM AT THE MUSEUM!

An Outstanding October..!

First, I want to acknowledge our volunteers for the outstanding work they are doing. We are making a lot of progress with almost no budget, so without their hard work and contributions we would not be able to share all of these amazing accomplishments.

Progress With The City!

When I stepped into this position, I discovered a huge past due water bill! It was not a leak; the City was charging \$150 per month for our fire sprinkler line, and an also \$150 per month when the water was shut off. I was

shocked, and spoke with Chief Kerr, Scott Bayne and several Commissioners about the matter. I then made a powerful request to the City for our Fire Museum, as a City institution, to be exempt from past and future water bills. To my delight the City was very receptive, agreed to cancel the outstanding bill, and to adjust our lease for the 35 years remaining. What a relief! This means the Museum can focus all our funds on our mission instead of water bills for decades. We salute Chief Kerr, Scott Bayne, Commissioner Sorensen and Vice Mayor Glassman for your help and support in making this happen!

Progress with Our IRS 501c-3 Tax Exempt Reinstatement!

We are excited to announce that after 6 months of hard work we have compiled all of the historical financial information needed, and we have submitted our application to the IRS for reinstatement of our 501c-3 tax exempt status. Our volunteer accountant, Todd Kesterson, says it may take 3 to 9 months to receive approval due to a "virus back-log" at the IRS, but we are hopeful it may come sooner. We will soon be able to offer tax deductions to donors and to receive the voluntary payroll deductions. A big Thank You and a "Tip of the Helmet" to Todd!

Progress with IAFF Local 765 Cooperation!

In the past the Museum received an annual \$5,000 contribution from our Local 765 to support the maintenance and upkeep of the Museum. Due to some confusion, and the lack of financial reports, the Union decided to withhold contributions. Thanks to the hard work of our accountant we can now provide financial information, and the Union made the contribution for this year. This support is more important this year than ever, as having been closed, and having had to cancel fund-raising events due to the virus, have prevented us from earning income and receiving donations. With Local 765's help, we will now be able to cover current expenses like insurance and electricity, and fund some upgrades that the Museum needs to reopen soon. Our thanks and appreciation to everyone at our Union for having the Museum's back when we needed it!

(Please Help Make) Progress at our Upcoming Work Party!

The FEC Railway has donated new railroad ties to line our walkways (see article nearby). Thanks to VP David Cherry and a Work Party these railroad ties are at the Museum. Our next step is to remove the old ties and install the new. We are now arranging a November Work Party, which will go from 0900 to 1700 (finish?), with lunch and beverages provided. **We are aiming for Wednesday, November 17th.** Please contact David Cherry at 954-551-4518 ASAP if we can rely upon you to lend a hand to OUR Fire Museum (and to have enough lunch on hand!).

Thanks to everyone for all your help and cooperation. *Happy Holidays!* Nathan Morris, President



Muscle Men!

Preserving Our Heritage and Teaching Our Youth

The Mission of the Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum is to:

- Preserve and display the 1927 architecture, history and environment of Fire Station 3.
- Educate the public about the tradition and service of the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department, and its heroes,
- Teach, in an exciting way, fire, medical and severe weather preparedness,
- Display significant historical fire service equipment and artifacts,
- Encourage young people to consider careers in the Fire Service, and to
- Create an additional cultural exhibit to add to the ambience of Fort Lauderdale's Historic District.



Al Lemay



Herbie Dick Blabon



ACTION AT YOUR FIRE MUSEUM!

Kim's Crew Keeps Things Spotless and Moving Forward

Our Volunteer Coordinator (retired FL F-R) Kim Van Sant solved two problems with one great solution. She knows a group of high school students who need Community Service Hours to graduate, but due to the virus, find it difficult to donate their efforts. The Fire Museum needs help in many areas, including cleaning and moving materials. Solving both problems, Kim's crew recently prepared for our termite tenting by moving spare bricks and many other obstacles. They also gave the entire Museum a deep cleaning. The Museum is now spotless, and ready for the public as soon as we reopen.



Memorial

We want to take a moment to remember and honor two legendary Fort Lauderdale firefighters who recently passed away. Memories of Al Lemay and Herbie Dick Blabon (pictured left) will always live on with us.

Voluntary Payroll Deductions

A modest donation, each pay period, multiplied by several hundred firefighters, makes a huge difference assuring OUR Fire Museum's success. We must pay for things like insurance, building maintenance, historic fire engine maintenance, exhibit signage, and many others. No funds will be withdrawn until our IRS 501c3 tax-exempt status is re-instated. As soon as repairs are finished, we can focus on *Preserving Our Heritage And Teaching Our Youth*. Thank you very much.



Help Needed!

Treasurer Our Fire Museum needs a Treasurer, so if you have some experience with bookkeeping, and are willing to help to Preserve Our Heritage and Teach Our Youth, please contact President Nathan Morris.

Events Coordinator We are looking for a special person who would like to earn extra income by marketing and operating special events at the Museum. This includes retirement and birthday parties, receptions, memorials and various types of special events. If you are interested, let's talk! Nathan Morris.

Yoga Instructors We look forward to offering yoga, and if you are interested in teaching, please contact Firehouse Wellness Program Director Samantha Marcum at samanthamarcum.com@gmail.com

Preserving Our Heritage and Teaching Our Youth

Walkway Upgrades Begin With Good RR Ties!

The Florida East Coast Railway learned that we need some good used ties to line our brick walkways (to replace the ties that they donated about 10 years ago!). FEC donated 28 good ties, but we needed to move them from SW 17th Street near Andrews Avenue.

David Cherry, our VP, asked for some help, and he sure got it! After going off shift, a crew of our fire-fighters teamed up to move **2 tons** of ties to the Fire Museum. Thanks to our Mighty Muscle Men, including Joseph Inserra, Roy Machin, Caseare' Brownlee, Geaffrey Chandler, Marco Tarazona, David Granja, and David Cherry. We look forward to getting some more great help in a few weeks to finish the walkway repairs. Then OUR Fire Museum can reopen!



Goodbye to Termites!

Thanks to the generous contribution of one of our Museums' founders, John Aurelius, the Museum has been tented and fumigated for termites, a job long overdue. This will help sustain our museum and prevent further damage. Thanks to people like John, our museum is able to make progress even during this challenging time.



Sprinkler System Progress!

Several years ago, Caribbean Sprinkler Co. made the huge donation to our Museum of a complete fire sprinkler system. They returned last week to donate complete annual system maintenance, upgrades and inspection. After their maintenance, our system passed with flying colors! Thanks to Sam and Santos Santiago and Caribbean Sprinklers!

And A Personal Note From Our President...

We hope this Newsletter finds each of you in great spirits as we approach the Holiday Season. We all know that this can be a very exciting, yet also stressful, time for some. I'd like to remind anyone going through challenges that the Peer Support Group is available to you, for someone to vent to, or to find help, at www.local765strong.org or reach me at the number below. We want to support each other; so please know that you are not alone regardless of how things might seem. If you are not comfortable speaking with the Peer Support Group, our Wellness Staff is a great alternative. That said, we wish each of you a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

Nathan Morris
President, Fort Lauderdale
Fire & Safety Museum
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Fort Lauderdale
FIRE & SAFETY
— MUSEUM —

Preserving Our Heritage and Teaching Our Youth

CITY NEWS



We again acknowledge and thank several City Commissioners, City Staff and Fire Rescue officials for their ongoing cooperation. Each step forward helps OUR Fire Museum achieve its goals. Thank You!

GRATITUDE

Here are several more projects that our volunteers are completing to reopen OUR Fire Museum.

Our web site, www.fortlauderdalefiremuseum.org is up! Modest now, it will keep growing.

Our American LaFrance Engine 1 sat for many years. Keith Gardner and Rob Brantley are rebuilding it's fuel and cooling systems so that it can return to Parade Duty.

Donors are re-lettering our American LaFrance to:
FT. L. F. D. ENGINE No. 1

Our volunteer plumber inspected and improved all our plumbing fixtures to fine working order.

We are very grateful for all of our volunteer's work to reactivate Historic Fire Station 3. *Your help counts!!!*

Help Needed

From replacing RR ties to patching plaster to using QuickBooks to welcoming visitors to marketing special events to teaching fire safety, we need YOU! Please help make OUR Fire Museum a success.