

Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum



ESTHER'S ECHO*

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

September, 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



PROGRESS AT REACTIVATED FIRE MUSEUM!

A September to Remember!!!

We are very happy to give everyone an update on all the progress taking place at our Fire Museum, and share our vision for the future. The water is back on, and volunteers are slowly working to repair, maintain and improve the building. If you have any skills or time we could use your help! Our volunteer coordinator, Kim Van Sant, has also been working with several high school student volunteers who need public service hours to keep everything clean and the brass polished!



OUR FIRE MUSEUM!

Last month we were able to get the overgrown trees trimmed and mitigate the leaks inside the museum by removing debris from the roof. Some active and retired firefighters have historic Engine 3 running again, and another team is getting our historic Engine 2, a 1921 American LaFrance ready for duty as well. A volunteer CPA is bringing our financial records up-to-date, which in the future will be open to view. We are applying for reinstatement of our 501c-3 tax-exempt status and hoping that will be back before the end of the year.

Several of the founding members who helped build our Fire Museum have returned to offer their expertise and help as we re-activate. We will be fumigating for termites this month thanks to their contributions and they have helped replace the locks on the building. We have started the Firehouse Wellness Program (see below for more details), and we are looking to offer fire safety, first aid, CPR, AED, babysitting, windstorm and other valuable programs to all ages in the future

Nathan Morris, President

9/11 Ceremony/COVID

As we all know, things are different this year than they have been in the past. Instead of organizing a special event to commemorate 9/11, we have to honor social distancing and other requirements. While this prevents us from having an official ceremony, we are working together with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department and city administration to insure this day is properly remembered.

There are plans to release a short video to pay respect to those who gave their lives, and their families, on this day. Please take a few minutes out of your day, or maybe a few moments of silence, to honor those courageous people who sacrificed their lives, and to remember the families that have been left behind.



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.



ACTION AT YOUR FIRE MUSEUM!

Voluntary Payroll Deductions

If you have not signed up yet for the voluntary payroll deductions please contact VP David Cherry. He will also be visiting fire stations to enroll all fire personnel. No funds will be withdrawn from paychecks until the IRS 501c3 tax-exempt status is re-instated. This may take a few months due to the IRS covid back up, but we still need everyone's support in helping us get this paperwork finished and submitted to Miss Debra Flowers asap. This is very important to help maintain the Museum. With the help of city staff and some generous donors, we have overcome several financial hurdles in recent months, but we still have ongoing needs for repairs that need immediate attention. The sooner we get repairs and maintenance completed, the sooner we can focus on Preserving Our Heritage And Teaching Our Youth. Your small contributions will ensure that we are able accomplish projects like these below. Here are several items that need attention in the very near future:



Upcoming Projects:

- Replace RR ties on walkway, 40 total X \$40 each (approx. \$1600)
- Pavers need repaired (approx. \$2000)
- Ceiling repairs from roof water leak (approx. \$1000)
- Historic Engines repair and maintenance (ongoing)
- Monthly Insurance (\$150 monthly)
- Roof replacements (approx. \$50k)
- Termites Tenting (\$3000) **DONATED!**

In-kind donations of labor and materials are also very much needed and appreciated! Can you help?

HELP NEEDED!

Treasurer

Our Fire Museum needs a Treasurer, so if you, or someone you know has some experience with bookkeeping, and is willing to help serve on the Board please let us know. This is an Officer position and will require approx. 3 hours each week of your time. In a change from previous policy, we will have a transparent, open book policy. For more details and to discuss the possibly of helping the Museum, 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 birthday parties, retirement parties, receptions and various types of special events. If you or someone you know likes people and special events, is good with children and might be interested, let's talk! President Nathan Morris.

Yoga Instructors

We look forward to offering yoga every morning at 0830 for the off-going shifts. If you know someone who might be interested in volunteering as a teacher please let us know. Classes are open to the public and teachers retain 80% of the donations from students, plus the enjoyment of helping others. Please contact Samantha Marcum, Firehouse Wellness Program Director samanthamarcum.com@gmail.com

Preserving Our Heritage and Teaching Our Youth

Firehouse Wellness Program

The Firehouse Wellness Program is aimed to offer our members and the public alternative therapy as well as generate income for the Museum. Rather than just hosting birthday parties we can open the space up for other forms of revenue that are also beneficial to our members, such as health and wellness programs. We are specifically looking at hosting activities related to treating stress, anxiety, and PTSD, conditions that we are all subject to in our line of work. This is part of an overall health and wellness incentive, and will allow us to seek grants for these activities in the future.

We are currently offering yoga classes every Saturday at 9 AM on the lawn at the Museum, and we will be introducing bi-weekly workshops as well. We are looking at offering daily after-shift yoga at 0830 once the restrictions for social gatherings are lifted. We want to encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to try something new, get your stretch on and become more flexible both in body and mind. Even if you do not suffer from PTSD, do it for your own well being, to try something new, and to support a great program by joining in.

Current Events:

Workshop: Yoga on the Lawn with Samantha

Every Saturday at 9 AM



Lorraine Thomas Scholarship Awards

Several years ago, the late Lorraine Thomas, the wife of the late Dave Thomas, Wendy's founder, joined with the Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum to create a college scholarship for the children of Fort Lauderdale firefighters. Wisely invested, the fund continues to grow each year.

Our Scholarship Board just finished reviewing all the applicants. Board members were thoroughly impressed and excited with the quality of all the students that applied. We are delighted to announce these awards for our co-workers children. Congratulations to these fine young scholars, and best wishes to all for a very successful future.

Blake Adams \$2,500 Benjamin Carroll \$1,500 Aaron Schaefer \$1,500

New Graphics and Stickers

We have some really cool new graphic designs donated by one of our members, along with our new stickers which are selling for \$3 to raise both funds and awareness of our Museum. We have something to be proud of, so how many places can you put stickers to show your support?



Nathan Morris

President, Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum

1022 West Las Olas Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Preserving Our Heritage and Teaching Our Youth

CITY NEWS



We want to acknowledge and thank several City Commissioners and City Staff members for their cooperation and help with the Museum in areas as diverse as lease adjustments to trimming trees that were endangering the roof. Thank You!

GRATITUDE

We would like to commend **Kyle Archaki** for volunteering his time and equipment to help with landscaping improvements and removing some stumps, **Keith Garner** for his efforts to get our historic 1921 American LaFrance Engine 2 back on the road and in service again, and **Richard Olympio** for helping **Mike Grady** get historic Engine 3 operating again also.

We are very grateful for your time and efforts. Thank you for helping us keep our legacy alive. All of us have skills, and our Fire Museum needs a wide variety of them. Thanks, because all of 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 to cleaning and polishing, we really need YOU! Thanks for helping to make our Fire Museum a success.