

Fall 2024 Newsletter



Welcome Commissioner Thompson: On Thursday October 24, Fireman's Hall Museum held a reception to officially welcome Jeffrey Thompson as the new Fire Commissioner of Philadelphia and to commemorate fifty years of the Philadelphia Fire Department Historical Corporation's support of the museum. Thank you to all who joined us for this special evening, and a special thanks to Mayor Cherelle Parker and Councilman Mark Squilla. Everyone enjoyed a buffet of delicious food and drink (including desserts from our friend Mick Houston from Jack's Firehouse!).



Commissioner Thompson is a native of Philadelphia and the son of a firefighter who has served in every rank of the PFD across his 35-year career. Mayor Parker and PFDHC President Eugene Janda each offered testimonials to his dedication and service.



We thank our generous event sponsors and all the participants in the evening's silent auction, who together raised over \$13,000 towards ongoing museum programming, exhibits, and restorations.

2024 Firefighter and EMS Provider of the Year: Congratulations to the 2024 Firefighter of the Year and 2024 EMS Provider of the Year, honored Tuesday October 8 with an award ceremony at the Fireman's Hall Museum. Fire Commissioner Jeffrey Thompson presented the two honors alongside Fireman's Hall Museum Curator Firefighter Brian Anderson and PFDHC President Eugene Janda.



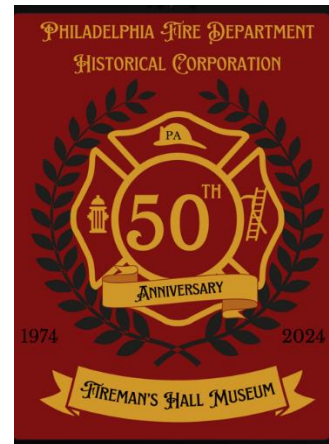
Fire Captain Michael Strimel was chosen for his heroic actions in saving two children from a house fire. Paramedic Sofia Oakes was announced as EMS Provider of the Year during EMS week in May. Her training enabled her to rescue an injured person in a stuck elevator. FSP Oakes was harnessed and lowered nearly forty floors on top of an adjacent elevator during this rescue.



Funding for Fireman's Hall is supported by a general operating support grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We are grateful to them for their ongoing support.

Fireman's Hall Museum

PFDHC 50th Anniversary: Fifty years ago, The Philadelphia Fire Department Historical Corporation legally incorporated to support the efforts of Fireman's Hall Museum, the city museum dedicated to promoting fire prevention and preserving the history of Philadelphia firefighting. Led by the city's major insurance companies, other leaders of the business community, and city officials, the newly formed organization helped the young fire museum to expand, professionally develop exhibits, advertise, and become one of the premier museums of its type in the country. This year, we celebrate the ongoing work of the Philadelphia Fire Department Historical Corporation to support the work of Fireman's Hall Museum and look forward to the next fifty years!



New Online Store: Check out [FiremansHallStore.com](https://firemanshallstore.com) or the Gift Shop link on the museum web page; we've been busy! We've added a few new products, including an insulated tumbler, keychain, plush fire dog, great fire prevention books for kids, and our most popular new item: firefighter rubber ducks! We'll be having a 10% off sale on Small Business Saturday (11/30) and 10% off online sales on Cyber Monday (12/2). Visit us online or here at the museum for some unique holiday gifts!



Santa is Coming! The Holiday Season in Old City officially begins with the tree lighting at Betsy Ross House at 6pm on the evening of Wednesday December 6, joined by Santa Claus arriving atop his fire engine.



Scavenger Hunts: Do you know when to call 911? Kids are invited to test their skills with various scavenger hunts as they and their families explore Fireman's Hall Museum!

Kids of all ages can also find Santa here at Fireman's Hall Museum from 12-2pm on Saturdays during December. Come discover everything we have planned for the season!

2025 Memberships: Keep an eye out for renewal notices coming soon, or become a member of the museum today: get discounts to our new store and invitations to the special events described here in the newsletter!



Social Media: Keep an eye on the Fireman's Hall [website](https://www.firemanshallmuseum.org) and follow the museum at [@firemanshall](https://www.instagram.com/firemanshall) on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](https://twitter.com/firemanshall) for all the latest news, and subscribe to our [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) channel for the Curator's Corner and other updated offerings! Join the museum's [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/firemanshall) group to become part of the conversation on ongoing research and to view photos and stories from our archives!

www.firemanshallmuseum.org

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