



PRESSRELEASE

Menlo Park Fire Protection District 170 Middlefield Rd Menlo Park, CA 94025 650-688-8400 Fax: 650-323-9129

For Immediate Release

Date: June 21, 2019
Contact: Harold Schapelhouman, Fire Chief
Phone: (650)380-1006 Cellular

Downtown Menlo Park Fire Station project completed after an 11 year effort

Menlo Park Fire Protection District

June 20, 2019 (Thursday) - Today's Fire Station 6 ribbon cutting included a select list of former and current Board Members, other elected officials, active and retired Menlo Park Firefighters, involved staff and the construction team. The small ceremony was at times humorous, emotional and uplifting.



From left to right – Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman, Director Jim McLaughlin, former Director and retired Fire Engineer Rex Ianson, former Director and retired Chief Ollie Brown, Board President Virginia Chang Kiraly, Director Rob Silano, Director Chuck Bernstein, former Director Peter Carpenter – **Photo Credit Peter Mootz Fire Photographer**

When the Fire District decided to rebuild its down town Menlo Park Fire Station in 2007 it determined that the same location was desirable and ultimately purchased a residential property directly behind the 700 Oak Grove Avenue Station so it could properly expand the facility and allow for drive through access. However, it never anticipated the project would take 11 years.

The Worldwide Recession first stalled the project, followed by complications associated with the Downtown Specific Plan and then Fire Chief Schapelhouman breaking his neck in 2013. But the project gained steam again when the Chief returned in 2014. The funding was dedicated, local Architectural firm CJW was hired and Gonsalves and Stronck, who had built three of the Districts seven Fire Stations in the 1990's, was awarded the bid for its fourth Fire District Station.

The neighbors and community are invited to visit the new facility which is open to the public Saturday, June 22, 2019 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Fire Chief Schapelhouman said, "I believe we've succeeded in building an attractive, modern, resilient, highly functional essential services Fire Station. Everyone we here from loves the look of this Fire Station and this is now the place to work for our Firefighters. But this project was always about more than just the Fire Station itself, we've created a unique environment for adults and children to learn about the history of our organization, the Fire Service and Menlo Park. We've preserved over a hundred years of local history, in an accessible central location for generations of visitors who can come here to enjoy."

Fire Station 6 was the District's third busiest Station last year with 1242 emergencies. 28% of Station 6's response area is in Atherton while 71% is in Menlo Park. That includes the Down Town Menlo Park Business District, El Camino Real to the Palo Alto border and most of the new building development on the west side of the Rail Road tracks.



The new two story, drive through 8,335 square foot building can accommodate two emergency vehicles and eight firefighters, The Station has an emergency generator and uses smart station technology that allows it to interface with the USGS Shake Alert early warning earthquake notification system – **Photo Credit Peter Mootz Fire Photographer**

Total Project Costs for the new Fire Station 6:

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| Station 6 | |
| Design Fees | \$ 828,953 |
| Plan Check & Environmental Review Fees | \$ 237,801 |
| Project Management Fees | \$ 730,916 |
| Construction Fees | \$ 7,827,750 |
| Administration and Legal Fees | \$ 57,129 |
| Furniture, Equipment, Temp. & Signage | \$ 215,021 |
| Special Inspection, Engineering and Utility | \$ 129,692 |
| Subtotal | \$ 10,027,262 |
| Building & Land Purchase | \$ 1,508,302 |
| Grand Total | \$ 11,535,565 |



Pictured Above – Fire Chief Tom Cuff who served the District from 1936 – 1955 – **Credit Menlo Fire**

April 1948 – *“The Fire District was established for the welfare and safety of the entire community which it serves. The proposed location of Station 6 appears to be the most adaptable and practical of all properties. It is certainly located, and permits, free and easy access to the businesses and residential areas of the downtown area of Menlo Park.”* **Fire Chief Tom Cuff explaining to local neighbors why a Fire Station needed to be built at its current location at Hoover Street and Oak Grove Avenue.**

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