

The Mercury News

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Around town

» Sal Pizarro

Old fire engines only get cooler; check out some for free in S.J.

Club Auto Sport, the swanky luxury car “condominium” in North San Jose, is now home to a few fancy vehicles of a different sort.

The facility is exhibiting part of the collection of the San Jose Fire Museum, including a ladder truck from the 1870s, an 1810 James Smith Pumper and a 1937 American LaFrance Engine.

It's the first chance the general public has really had to view the amazing collection, which I got a peek at a few months ago in a warehouse on Senter Road. **John Davis**, a co-owner of Club Auto Sport, was instrumental in donating the space for the summer. The exhibit follows on the heels of fundraisers held at the facility for the Canary Foundation and the Parkinson's Institute.

Of course, the Fire Museum's goal is to get those items and so many others now in storage into a permanent spot — the old Fire Station No. 1 on Market Street.

The exhibit will be on display at 521 Charcot Ave. through Aug. 29. It's open Wednesdays through Fridays, noon to 6 p.m., and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on three Saturdays (July 26, Aug. 9 and Aug. 22). Best of all, it's free.

BIG THANK YOU: Parents Helping Parents showed its gratitude to **John A. Sobrato**, **Sue Sobrato** and the Rev. **Paul Locatelli** at a re-

ception Thursday at the Silicon Valley Capital Club.

The Sobratos have been generous supporters of Parents Helping Parents, most recently by donating space to the group in the new Sobrato Sobrato Center for Nonprofits. Locatelli, the outgoing president of Santa Clara University, has been a 20-year supporter of the group, serving on its community advisory board.

Among the 50-odd guests were PHP co-founders **Mary Ellen Peterson** and **Florene Poyadue**; **Mike** and **Mary Ellen Fox**; **Larry** and **Claire Jinks**; and **Tom McEnery**.

ROCKIN' GOOD TIME: A sold-out crowd of nearly 500 people will flock to the San Jose Elks Lodge tonight for a barbecue, dance and car show. It's a celebration for San Jose High School alumni from every year of the 1960s.

In addition to showing school spirit, the former students are helping their current counterparts — proceeds benefit the school, now known as San Jose High Academy.

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