



April 2012

The Society Page MEET OUR NEIGHBORS



SAN BENITO HISTORIC VILLAGE

Come with us on a local adventure! Meet us at San Benito Historic Village on SATURDAY, APRIL 21st at HIGH NOON. Bring your own lunch..... we'll have a picnic there, followed by a wonderful tour of the village, led by Don Pidd of the San Benito Historical Society.

The Village is located just off Hwy 25, one mile south of Tres Pinos. Watch for the sign on the west side of the road. If you'd like to car pool, some of us will leave from the Gilroy Museum at 11:15 AM.

"The Village" at the San Benito County Historical Park has many buildings of historical significance moved to the Park from various parts of San Benito County including the Sullivan House (one of the first homes in Hollister), the Tres Pinos Jail, the Willow Creek School (relocated from near the Pinnacles), and one of the three original Firehouses from Hollister. Other structures, antique farm equipment, a nature trail, gardens, a children's play area, and several large picnic areas make a visit to the Park enjoyable for all.

GOALS FOR OUR ENDOWMENT FUND WITH THE GILROY FOUNDATION

We are making excellent progress on our Museum Endowment Fund, thanks to our most generous donors. The purpose of the fund is "to benefit the Gilroy Museum", with our primary goal to eventually be able to hire a Museum Director, at least half time. We are doing well for now at the museum with a wonderful cadre of 30 volunteers. We believe that in the long run we will benefit from having a professional director to continue the work of being a significant local history museum and research center.

Now, for the realities of our efforts and our goal. In order to hire a museum director half time, 20 hours per week @ \$20/hour x50 weeks/year we would need income of \$20,000/year. You can see that for our endowment fund to produce this kind of income we will need a very sizeable amount. We are doing very well so far, with a current balance in the Foundation of \$79,710.42. In the future we will also want to coordinate with Warren Lindeleaf about the use of the Lindeleaf Fund, whose purpose is to keep the museum open for visitation. The City of Gilroy is doing its part too, by maintaining our wonderful Carnegie library building. The Gilroy Museum will always want and need volunteers, but a professional director will ensure the integrity of the collection for posterity.

Thank you all for your generosity in continuing to support our efforts. We very much appreciate your donations. See a list of our 2011 donors.

COMING UP SOON...MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wednesday, April 11th, 7a.m. to 10p.m.-- fundraiser at MIMI'S RESTAURANT

Mark WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11TH on your calendars. That's the day to bring your family and friends to EAT AT MIMI's. Their food is delicious, their menu varied, and you can eat any time of day from 7 AM to 10 PM. Just be sure to bring the flyer below with you.

When you give it to your server, the Society Endowment Fund will get 15% of whatever you spend for your meal. Make copies of the flyer to give to your friends so they can help us too!

SATURDAY, MAY 19th, 2-6 PM - Art and Wine Stroll

- Art and Wine Stroll in historic downtown Gilroy. There are nineteen great downtown business locations to visit. Stop by the new Gilroy Downtown Association Office at 7780 Monterey St. for presale tickets at \$25.00 each, a ten-dollar savings over buying tickets that day.

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, MAY 19 & 20, 10a.m.-5p.m. Music Festival at GYHS

"A Walk Through History" Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to preserving, restoring and protecting the former resort is holding a fundraiser on May 19 and 20, 2012 at the Hot Springs. Activities will include music, tours, historical demonstrations, old-time games and much will offer a selection of foods and beverages including wine. Camping opportunities will be available on a limited basis for an additional charge. The Hot Springs will be open from 10:00 to 5:00 on both

Saturday and Sunday. For admission charges and additional information please visit our website at www.friendsofgilroyhotsprings.org or call (408) 314-7185.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23 - Castro Valley Ranch tour & Annual Meeting

On SATURDAY, JUNE 23, a special treat is in store for Society members and guests. We will go to Castro Valley Ranch, which is rarely seen by visitors. David Bozzo will cater our lunch for \$10 apiece and Don Long, ranch manager, will tell us about this historic cattle ranch. Thank you Jeanne Gage for making these arrangements. Be sure to save this date and think about inviting prospective members! Details will be in our June newsletter.

MUSEUM NEWS

Very exciting news is that we hope to begin filming a video of the main floor of the museum this spring. The main purpose of the video CD is to provide an alternative form of handicapped access for people who are unable to climb the thirteen steps into the museum. We discovered that the Historic Building Code allows alternative methods of providing access if traditional methods prove infeasible. The wonderful thing is that the CD can be taken to schools, club meetings and shown on TV, plus we can use still photos on our website. A big THANK YOU goes to the Gilroy Rotary Club for awarding us a matching grant of \$1000. We've applied to the Gilroy Foundation for the match and should find out the results soon. [Update: Yes! We got it! Thank you, Gilroy Foundation! <http://www.gilroyfoundation.org/recipients.htm>]

Volunteers have been working on a major project of identifying and indexing all of the photos. Next will come the laborious task of entering them into our Past Perfect software. After this is completed it will be much easier to find a photo by subject. Corinne Speckert of the local online newspaper, Gilroy Patch, stopped in to talk with us about submitting historic articles on a regular basis. We're eager to publicize the museum and help readers learn more about our unique community. Topics can vary widely, but all articles must have a photo or graphic. We started off by submitting a few brief articles on Women of Achievement, because March was Women's History Month, and hope that the museum volunteers will keep it up. Visit www.gilroy.patch.com to see what is written.

GIVE US YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR OUR 2012 ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

Have you noticed a historic building that is "looking good" this year? Submit your nominations for the Society's 2012 Architectural Awards. by e-mail to the Gilroy Museum at Gilroy.Museum@ci.gilroy.ca.us or by regular mail to the Museum at 195 Fifth St. by April 30th.

The categories are:

- 1) Historic Design Award for a new building in the downtown Historic District that enhances historic downtown and complements the original historic buildings.
- 2) Historic Commercial Building Award for a building at least 50 years old in the downtown Historic District that restores, retains or preserves the building's historical, cultural or architectural values.
- 3) Historic House Award – for a home that is at least 50 years old that is an outstanding example of restoration and renovation, exterior only.
- 4) Certificate of Commendation for residential or commercial. This can be for new construction, restoration, renovation, additions, landscaping, painting or significant improvement.

BOARD BRIEFS

Linda White and **Eileen Cavallaro** with help from member **Laura Dominguez-Yon**, have been working on several projects to bring us into the 21st century electronically. Now you can find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/GilroyHistoricalSociety>. And they are also working to upgrade our website with more photos and content.

You've noticed that we are trying to support Gilroy's historic downtown, hence the listing for the wine stroll next month. Our local historic district runs along Monterey Street from 4th to 8th Streets. We've learned that this could be upgraded to a National Register District if the interest and the political will are there. What do you think?

We're sorry to report Jeanne Gage's resignation from our board. We'll miss her energy and dedication. She says she's going to be busy the next few months!

And special Thank You goes to Kelly Martin, owner of Papa Murphy's in Gilroy. In addition to donating a prize for our Bowl-a-thon last fall, he has been baking pizza, selling it to us at a discount, and bringing it down to Gilroy Bowl on a monthly basis. There Linda White has been selling slices to her fellow bowlers. Over several months this has earned about \$250 for our Museum Endowment Fund. Papa Murphy's take and bake your own pizza is delicious, fresh and economical. Try it!

MAYORS ON PARADE

Mayoral candidates have been in the news recently. Stop by City Hall to see the new display featuring all thirty of Gilroy's mayors since 1870. Which ones have served the longest? Two are tied at 16 years apiece! Which father and son have both been mayors? Who is the only woman mayor? Check the display in the center of City Hall for the answers! Thank you Barbara Biafore and Deanna Goodrich for creating the display and deputy City Clerk Susan Johnson for ensuring the accuracy of their dates in office.

SHUTTERFLY FOR DUMMIES – LIFE IN GILROY

Read about **Phil Laursen's photo collections** related to Gilroy, California. It is also found at the "Life in Gilroy" tab in the Menu Bar at the top of this web page.

Notes on the January 2012 presentation of the Amah Mutsun Band

Read **Claudia Salewske's comprehensive report** under "Reports" on the menu tab above.

Music Festival at Gilroy Hot Springs, May 19-20

See, and download the flyer for this 4th Annual "Walk Through History" event, including concerts in the price of admission.