

Milpitas Muse

November-December 2020

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXXI, No 4

Electing Officers and Directors for 2021

At the Milpitas Historical Society's Board meeting on November 4, 2020, again in Mary Ann Udoutch's beautiful back yard, the Nominating Committee announced the following slate of candidates for Officers and Directors for 2021:

Officers

President: Bill Hare
Vice President: Catherine Pelizzari
Secretary: Carolyn Tiernan
Treasurer: Joe Ehardt

Directors

Archives: Joseph Ehardt
Education Outreach Program: Joseph Ehardt
Historian: Joanne Souza
Membership: Dan Cosper
Programs and Publications: Catherine Pelizzari
Publicity and Public Relations: Harriett McGuire
Special Events: Harriett McGuire

Because we cannot yet have in-person meetings to vote to accept this list of candidates, we are going to have to ask members to telephone Dan Cosper at (408) 685-7960 or send an email or text message to him at Daniel.Cosper@yahoo.com to vote the new Board in. **Please do this to vote *aye* or *no* as soon as you get this newsletter** so that we can get a consensus before the New Year.

Regarding annual membership dues, if you paid them in 2020, your membership is automatically renewed for 2021 for free. If the pandemic understandably caused you to miss paying them last year, then you will receive a special renewal notice by email or land mail.

Happy Holidays!

We are very sorry to say that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be able to have our annual Milpitas Historical Society's Christmas Pot-Luck gathering, but we want you to know that you are all in our hearts, and that the Society wishes you and yours a beautiful, safe and happy holiday season!

Historic Names Come Together

From the City of Milpitas Recreation and Community Services Department



A few weeks ago two important names in Milpitas history came together! Milpitas has renamed Albert Augustine Jr. Memorial Park, located in the Sunnyhills neighborhood, to Sunnyhills Albert Augustine Jr. Memorial Park. Look for our new park sign next time you visit.

The Sunnyhills Neighborhood drew national attention as the first planned racially integrated neighborhood in the United States. This development, led by Ben Gross, paved the way for other cities to turn away from segregation and create communities where all people were welcome.

Mr. Albert Augustine Jr. was a leader of the African-American community in Milpitas, lived in the Sunnyhills neighborhood, and worked at the Ford Automobile Plant. He also started the Sunnyhills Breakfast event, and served on City commissions including the Planning Commission and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Commission. One of his last actions before passing away was attending a Commission meeting to advocate for the Sunnyhills neighborhood.

Attending or Watching an Online Meeting

Bill Hare, Joe Ehardt, and Catherine Pelizzari have formed a subcommittee to work out the logistics of having our meetings online (as long as the pandemic threatens us) via Zoom, a conferencing program that lets you see the speaker, the presentation, and all the attendees at a meeting safely from your mobile smart phone or tablet or home computer.

We would like to see whether we can have an online Zoom Installation Dinner, complete with the oath of office administered by our Milpitas Mayor Rich Tran.

Early next year we will send you instructions about how to join a Zoom meeting. If you don't have either a computer or a mobile smart phone, perhaps you can ask a family member or friend to let you use their device just for a few hours once a month. Ask around, or if this just doesn't work for you, call Bill Hare at 408-910-0598 or Joseph Ehardt at 408-263-1351, and we'll see what we can do to give you access.

However, in the meantime, we are planning an online historical presentation in mid-December that uses Facebook and YouTube, applications that make it much easier for you to just click on a link to watch the show. This quick link will be sent out in December to all members and as many other interested people we can think of!

Mourning a Founding Member

We are sad to share the news that Elaine Levine died peacefully at home attended by family members on Thursday, November 17. She was one of the Milpitas Historical Society's founding members, along with her husband Mort Levine, former owner and editor of the Milpitas Post, who suggested that any donations in her memory be given to the Society. No services have been announced.

Our Society's Contact Information

You can contact the Milpitas Historical Society:

- by mail at 160 N. Main Street, Milpitas CA 95035
- by email at tmhs@milpitashistoricalsociety.org
- at our website: <http://milpitashistoricalsociety.org>,

Milpitas Historical Society
160 North Main St.
Milpitas, CA 95035

Historic Building's Future Unknown



Photo courtesy of Robert Burrill

166 South Main Street now

The building shown above, at 166 South Main Street, until recently the site shared as a psychic reader's office (left side) and Sign-A-Rama, a company that manufactured signs (right side), is now vacant.. Those who have lived a long time in Milpitas might remember this building actually is the historic 1953 Firehouse Number 2 with a modified front for retail use; it was the place where people went to vote back then.

What will be the future of this site? The Milpitas Historical Society is keeping an eye on it, and will let you know how things progress.

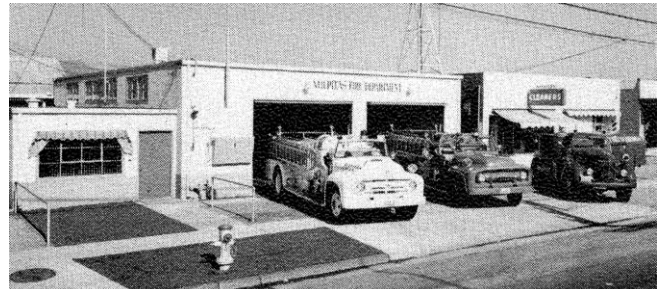


Photo courtesy of Robert Burrill

166 South Main Street in the 1950s

First Class