



Milpitas Muse

September 2021

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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Sorry, No Meeting or Picnic in September

The Milpitas Historical Society regrets having to announce that due to concerns over the rising cases of COVID 19 and care for our members, many of whom are in an older and more vulnerable group, even though fully vaccinated, our Board has decided that it would be best to cancel a general meeting for September, which would have been held on September 8 at the Milpitas Library. The library has indicated that its auditorium would not have been available that night in any case, due to other events.

We were then planning to at least have the bare minimum requirements for a meeting take place at a picnic, our usual end-of-summer picnic, at Kim Parker's, as usual, but again this was considered to be a little too risky for these times.

So we will concentrate on having a Zoom meeting with a speaker on Wednesday, October 13, and we will let you know at the beginning of October what the details are.

In the meantime, hope you can be having some fun outdoor meetups with a few friends and family members. Stay healthy, and we'll see you in October!



Membership

NO DUES needed for 2021!

As we have said before, the Board of Directors of the Milpitas Historical Society in January decided to waive all dues for membership in Calendar Year 2021.

The Stories of Milpitas Parks: Augustus Rathbone Park



Augustus Rathbone, for whom this park is named, was born in 1818 in Rhode Island, where his fifth great-grandfather migrated to British Colonial America in 1620 on the "Speedwell," a ship accompanying the Mayflower. Augustus was the oldest son (but fourth child of eleven) of Stephen Kilton Rathbone and Sarah Waterman Brown. Despite being an eighth-generation Rhode Islander, the siren call of the California Gold Rush brought Rathbone west in 1852-1853.

In July 1854, Rathbone was appointed U.S. Postmaster of Alviso Township, but the post office was actually located in Milpitas. This means that Augustus Rathbone preceded Frederick Creighton as Milpitas's first postmaster; Rathbone's store, in which the mail was delivered to townspeople, was on the southwest corner of the same intersection as French's Hotel, to be later called the Milpitas Hotel. Rathbone also was one of the organizers who founded the Republican Party in Milpitas in 1856, and it was in Rathbone's store/saloon that the townspeople gathered to drink in celebration of the 1860 election of President Abraham Lincoln.

After 1870 and before or about 1880, Rathbone sold his business and moved to Santa Clara, after which he was living in San Jose until his death in 1909.

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The Augustus Rathbone Park is one of the newer public parks in Milpitas. It is located at 386 Expedition Lane, which can be reached via Trade Zone Boulevard and then turning north onto either Momentum Drive or Journey Drive to access Expedition Lane. The new Mabel Mattos Elementary School on McCandless Drive is located on the west side of Montague Expressway, and the park is located on the east side of the Expressway. McCandless Drive and Trade Zone Boulevard connect at Montague Expressway.

While of modest size, this newer park provides a grassy open play area, modern play equipment, and several benches from which to watch your children play, as well as several tables that are generously covered to provide shade on sunny days and shelter from sudden rains (admittedly rare here). There are some trees, but of course they have not yet achieved their fully mature size. There is also an impressive large statuary artwork with indigenous animals peering from its heights at one of the park's corner access paths.



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>

Do You Have Any Historic Milpitas Photos?



Sometimes old photos can reveal unexpected things about the historic surroundings where they were taken, as well as preserving your own and your friends' and relatives' memories! Do you have any old photos taken in Milpitas that show the way things, as well as people, looked in those days? If so, we'd love to see them, and maybe copy them for our historic archive. For more information, or to donate, contact bill@billhare.tv

Buying from Amazon?



If you make any purchases using Amazon, did you know that you can help support the Milpitas Historical Society each time you buy something there? If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, simply sign up at smile.amazon.com and select Milpitas Historical Society to start generating donations, at no cost to you.

- From a computer, click on the "Get Started" button, sign in to your account, (or open one), goto what you want to order, remember to click on the Amazon Smile icon on the upper left of the screen, and then place your order.
- From a phone, open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone to place your order.

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