



The Saratogian

Spring/Summer 2013

Recognizing Saratoga's Heritage and History

Preserving the heritage and cultural identity of significant Saratoga landmarks is a high priority for many Saratoga residents. The City works closely with community members to identify and protect these landmarks. The City's preservation efforts have been recognized through the Hakone Estate and Gardens.

In 2005, the Hakone Estate and Gardens was one of the locations used to film *Memoirs of a Geisha* and in 2011, the National Trust for Historic Preservation selected Hakone as one of 12 sites in the nation to receive a "Save America's Treasures" award.

More recently, in February 2013, the State Historical Resources Commission approved the City of Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commissions' (HPC) application to include Hakone Estate and Gardens on the National Register of Historic Places. Listing a property in the National Register gives landmarks protection from future projects or development that may adversely affect the historical characteristics of the property.

The Hakone Estate and Gardens, located one mile west of the Saratoga Village, is the oldest Japanese and Asian estate garden in the Western Hemisphere. It features traditional Japanese gardens with a variety of waterfalls, hillside and strolling gardens, and koi ponds. The garden's fascinating history, starting nearly one century ago, has been kept alive through the support of individuals, foundations, corporations,



Hakone Bridge, photo by venzfinephoto.com



Hakone Entrance Gate, "The Mon"

and government agencies. Such efforts have resulted in national and international recognition.

Throughout this newsletter issue, readers will learn about the City's collaboration with the HPC in helping preserve Saratoga's culture and history, its effort to honor Saratoga's beautiful heritage trees, and information about the Saratoga Historical Museum. With the passion and efforts of many, Saratoga's history and culture will be preserved for many more years.

Hakone's History

- 1916, Oliver and Isabel Stine purchased and developed Hakone.
- 1918, Ms. Stine hired Tsunematsu Shintani to design the Upper "Moon Viewing" House and Naoharu Aihara to design the gardens.
- 1922, Lower House was constructed.
- 1932, Major C.L. Tilden purchased Hakone and added the main gate, also known as "The Mon."
- 1961, Hakone was rescued and restored by Saratoga residents: Joseph & Clara Gresham, Eldon & Deon Gresham, John & Helen Kan, Dan & June Lee, George & Marie Hall, and John & Mary Young.
- 1966, City of Saratoga purchased Hakone to protect it from subdivision and development.
- 1991, Cultural Exchange Center was built as an authentic reproduction of a 19th century Kyoto tea-merchant's house and shop.

Saratoga Historical Museum

The Saratoga Historical Museum is located at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road and contains an extensive collection of early photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia relating to Saratoga's history. Many of the museum items were collected by the late Florence Cunningham, author of *Saratoga's First One-Hundred Years*, and are now preserved by the Saratoga Historical Foundation. Florence Cunningham passed on many family antiques to the Foundation and set up a trust fund from the sale of personal property to help establish the Museum. Through the efforts of the Foundation, the late Miles Rankin and the Rotary Club, the historic Swanee Dress Shop was relocated, restore and dedicated as a history museum in 1976.



Saratoga Historical Museum

The Museum is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and features a permanent exhibit of unique archaeological items found in Saratoga that date back to the Ohlone period in the pre-1700s. Additionally, three times a year, the Museum displays special exhibits from its archives and private collections. The Blossom Exhibit opened on February 8, 2013 and features items from

Blossom Festival events that took place from the early 1900s through 1941. The Museum offers educational programs and tours. Visit www.saratogahistory.com for additional information.

The Museum building also has historical significance. It was built in 1904 on Lumber Street, which is now known as Big Basin Way. In addition to housing a museum, the building has served as a drug store, grocery store, restaurant, and a clothing store. The Swanee Dress Shop occupied the building from 1950 until it was relocated to its present site. The building is located adjacent to the McWilliams House, a small Pioneer-style building dating from the late 1800s.

The City works with the Saratoga Historical Foundation to maintain the building's distinctive architectural design, workmanship and materials. As a result, the building continues to embody the historical associations of its former purpose. Recently, the City has made improvements to the exterior of the Museum building and the McWilliams House to maintain them in excellent condition.

Heritage Preservation Commission

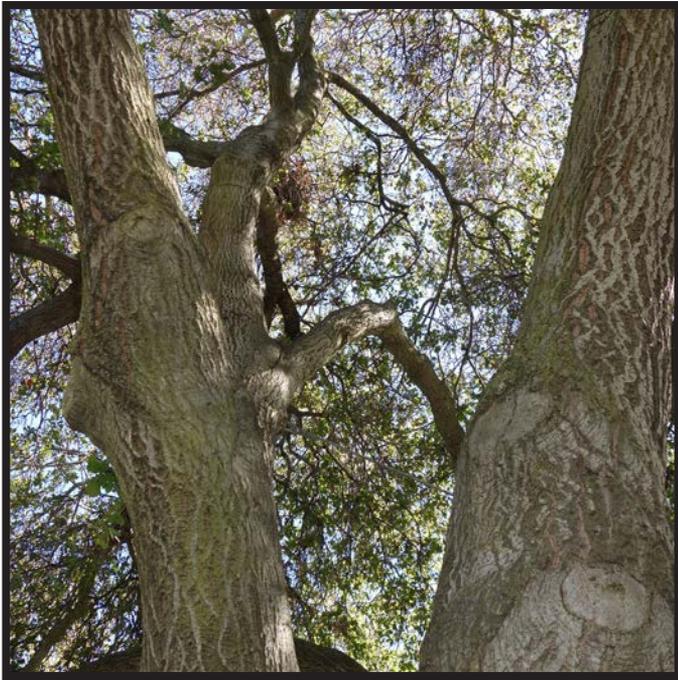
The Heritage Preservation Commission provides guidance to the City in preserving and protecting the heritage resources in the community. The Commission consists of seven members that include one member nominated by the Saratoga Historical Foundation and two members that must be trained or experienced in the field of construction and structural rehabilitation, such as a licensed architect, engineer, contractor or urban planner.

The Commission's purpose includes establishing an inventory of the City's heritage resources as well as making recommendations to the City Council on proposals for designation of historic landmarks, heritage trees, heritage lanes and historic districts. As of today, there are 20 designated historic landmarks and nearly 100 properties that have been added to the heritage resources inventory. For more information about historic landmarks and the resource inventory,



Heritage Preservation Commission Members

visit www.saratoga.ca.us/heritageresource. For more information about the Heritage Preservation Commission, visit www.saratoga.ca.us/hpc.



Oak Tree at City Hall Parking Lot

Heritage Trees

The City of Saratoga has a large variety of majestic trees that provide beauty and stateliness to the City. The City Council, with assistance from the Heritage Preservation Commission and the City Arborist, has created a nomination process for identifying these important trees as Heritage Trees. Residents are encouraged to seek heritage status for beautiful large trees on their property. Trees that are approved will be placed on the Heritage Tree Inventory.

The Inventory is honorary and does not add restrictions to the care of the trees nor are there any costs associated with the designation. Photos of trees that are excellent candidates for the Heritage Tree Inventory can be found on the Heritage Tree Society of Saratoga website: heritagetreesofsaratoga.org. If you have questions about the Heritage Tree nomination process, visit www.saratoga.ca.us/heritagetrees or contact Kate Bear, City Arborist, at 408.868.1276 or Cindy McCormick, at 408.868.1230.

2015 by 2015

As a committed member of Tree City USA, the City of Saratoga and its residents are aware of the many positive attributes of trees. Trees are beautiful and create a natural landscape that improve the overall aesthetics of any community. They also serve a functional purpose, providing oxygen and shade to cool homes during the summer season. Trees also act as boundaries or barriers on roads, streets, and sidewalks and help protect the planet by absorbing carbon dioxide. The City places a high importance on trees and works hard to preserve the presence of trees in our community.

In 2010, the City embarked on a challenge to increase the number of trees in Saratoga and set a goal to plant 2,015 trees by the year 2015. As of today, Saratoga is ahead of schedule and 1,731 trees have been planted in the City, only 284 trees away from meeting its goal. If you are planning to plant a tree or have recently planted one and would like it included in the 2015 by 2015 count, please complete the online form at www.saratoga.ca.us/treeform. For more information about 2015 by 2015 and tree planting tips, visit www.saratoga.ca.us/2015by2015 or contact City Arborist Kate Bear at (408) 868-1276 or kbear@saratoga.ca.us.

Arbor Day 2013

Celebrate Arbor Day on Wednesday, April 24th at the Saratoga Library located at 13650 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. The event will begin at 3:00 p.m. and will include a tree planting ceremony, recognition of the youth poster contest winners, light refreshments, and great giveaways!

The poster contest is open to students grades kindergarten to 12th. Posters must be 14"x 24" and must convey the importance of trees. Posters are due to the City Manager's Office at City Hall by Monday, April 15th at 5:00 p.m. For more information about the poster contest or the Arbor Day event, visit www.saratoga.ca.us/arborday or contact Mainini Cabute at mcabute@saratoga.ca.us or 408.868.1275.



Skillet Lickers Performing at Arbor Day 2012

Upcoming Community Events

- Wed., April 24th Arbor Day 2013 3 p.m.- 4 p.m. at Saratoga Library
- Sat., March 23rd Blossom Festival 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saratoga Library Orchard
- Sat., May 18th Heart of our Community 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Saratoga Library
- Sat., May 18th Let's Walk Saratoga 9:30 a.m. at Congress Springs Quarry
- Sat., June 20th The Great Race 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Big Basin and 3rd St.
- Fri., June 21st Saratoga at the Movies 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Wildwood Park

National River Cleanup Day

On May 18th, from 9 a.m. to noon, the West Valley Clean Water Program will be observing National River Cleanup Day and leading a creek cleanup at the San Tomas Aquino Creek at Wesmont Avenue. Students who participate will receive community service credit and youth under the age of 18 must have a guardian sign a waiver of liability. Litter removal tools and garbage bags will be provided. For more information contact info@cleancreeks.org or call 408.354.5385. For information on future events, visit www.cleanacreek.org.



San Tomas Aquino Creek



Ask Our Staff

Have a question? Send your question(s) to mcabute@saratoga.ca.us or (408) 868-1275.

Dear City Staff,

I am interested in having a picnic party at Kevin Moran Park and I would like to serve wine and beer. Who do I need to contact to reserve the park and are there permit requirements for serving alcohol?

Picnic Party Paloma



Dear Paloma,

You may reserve a City park by visiting www.saratoga.ca.us/parkreservation. The City requires that residents obtain a Group Use permit when serving alcohol at parks for more than 12 people. Visit www.saratoga.ca.us/eventpermits for more information.

Nina Walker, Facility Coordinator

Dear City Staff,

I would like to serve as a City Commissioner or City Committee member but I am not sure about what commissions or committees exist and which ones are vacant. Where can I find out more information?

Commission Seeking Sally



Dear Sally,

The City would be thrilled to have you participate in one of our City commissions or committees. Visit www.saratoga.ca.us/commissions to learn about the City commissions and committees and the current vacancies.

Crystal Bothelio, City Clerk



To learn more about *The Saratogan*, make comments, suggest story ideas, or include events in the Events section, contact Mainini Cabute at mcabute@saratoga.ca.us or 408.868.1275. You can also find *The Saratogan* online and sign up for email alerts at www.saratoga.ca.us/saratogan.