

Milpitas Historical Society

The Milpitas Historical Society was founded in 1980 by 79 Milpitans who wanted to preserve the history of our city. Since then we have grown to over 100 members who not only live in Milpitas but in other cities as well.

The Society sponsors presentations about history on the second Wednesday of each month September to June in the Milpitas Public Library. The meetings are open free of charge to everyone.

The annual community tour is also open free of charge to all who wish to attend.

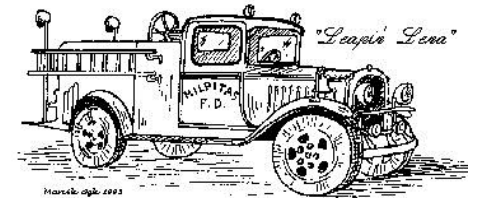
The Society also has a gala Installation Dinner in February that, although not free, is open to the public.

The Society maintains the first City of Milpitas fire truck, "Leapin' Lena," at the Library parking garage. The Society has historical artifacts on display at City Hall regularly. And the Society maintains the Ford History Display at the Great Mall (near the food court).

Following the decision by the Milpitas City Council to permit a community museum to be located in the new Main Street Park to the north of the Library, the Society has been raising funds and helping to organize the Milpitas Community Museum, a non-profit corporation.

If you would like to donate or to join the Milpitas Historical Society, call or email us. Or mail your name, address, phone number and email address to the address on this brochure.

160 N. Main St.
Milpitas, CA 95035
Address Correction Required



**Saturday,
June 30, 2012
10:00 am**

**Milpitas
Historical
Society**

**Annual
Community
Tour**

**MILPITAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
160 N. Main St.
MILPITAS, CA 95035**



Places of Interest In Milpitas

Each year the Milpitas Historical Society and the City of Milpitas offer a tour of places in our city that are of interest from a historical or unique perspective.

In the past, the tour has included:

Ed Levin County Park

Big Dog Winery

St. John's Cemetery

Downing Ranch

Alviso Adobe History Park

This year we will start the tour at **10:00 am** at

- **The Jose Higuera Adobe Park**

(on North Park Victoria Blvd. at Wessex Pl.)

Then at **11:00 am** we will drive to the

- **Historical Center of Milpitas**

(Intersection of Serra Way and Main Street)

We will end our 2012 tour at **11:30 am** at the

- **Silva Family Orchard**

(at 891 Piedmont Road).

Look for the signs at each destination!

Jose Higuera Adobe Park

The first European settlement in Milpitas was built here by Jose Higuera in 1822 on his Rancho Tularcitos land grant. Eventually, Higuera's ten children built seven additional adobe structures near the one we see today.

After Jose Higuera died from injuries suffered from falling off a horse, his son, Valentin Higuera, took over this portion of the rancho.

Valentin Higuera sold this land to Clement Columbet in 1860. Columbet created a resort by adding a second story to the original adobe house so that it could be used as a hotel, adding a redwood saloon to the north next to Calera Creek and running a coach from the complex down to the Mission Road.

Eventually, Columbet's resort failed and Henry Curtner bought the land and buildings. He used the adobe as a bunkhouse and used the saloon for storage.

By 1960, Marian Weller, daughter of Curtner, owned the land and structures. She tore down the rickety second story and enclosed the remaining adobe bricks inside modern bricks. She turned the storage building into a residence and for many years offered it free of charge to Milpitas Police Officers who would provide security by living there. In the early 1970s, Mrs. Weller donated the east end of the present park to the city.

Old Center of Town

The corner of Serra Way and Main Street is the most historical intersection in Milpitas.

Here the Mission Road, linking the San Jose Mission with the Pueblo of San Jose met the Alviso to Milpitas Road, which ran west to the Port of Alviso. The latter was a toll road.

It was east of this intersection that Frederick Creighton is credited with building the first store in Milpitas. At the northwest corner Alex Anderson built the "Milpitas Saloon and Hotel" that was bought by Alfred French in 1859 and came to be called "French's Hotel". At the southwest corner was a store and saloon built by Richard Greenham that after 1856 was operated for many years by Gus Rathbone. In the mid-1890s, John Smith built "Smith's Corner", later called "Campbell's Corner," which is now a restaurant.

Silva Family Orchard

Kelly Silva and his family have grown apricots on Piedmont Road for generations. Once Milpitas had many orchards growing prunes, pears and other fruits. Today this is the last commercial orchard in the Milpitas area. Here we will see picking, cutting, pitting, drying and processing apricots.

The Milpitas Historical Society
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Milpitas, CA 95035
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