



# LOS MEGANOS

Newsletter of East Contra Costa Historical Society

Volume 23, Issue 3

October, 2023

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## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Community BBQ a Huge Success!



Members enjoyed a beautiful afternoon visiting with one other, listening to toe-tapping music by Durt Cheap, and viewing exhibits on the grounds, in the Byer/Nail House, Homer's Shed, and Resource Center.

A good time was had by all!

The annual ECCHS Barbeque is the major fundraiser to keep our museum and grounds operating. It is made possible by dedication of many volunteers and generous donations by community members and organizations.

See full list of Thank You's on page 3.



Our museum sparkled on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> when the City of Brentwood hosted dinner and dancing under the stars to celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> year as an incorporated city.

## City of Brentwood Celebrates 75 Years ~ at the Museum!



Do you know what major project at the museum enabled these 2 events to be so successful? See page 7

Keep up with ECCHS online

[www.eastcontracostahistory.org](http://www.eastcontracostahistory.org)

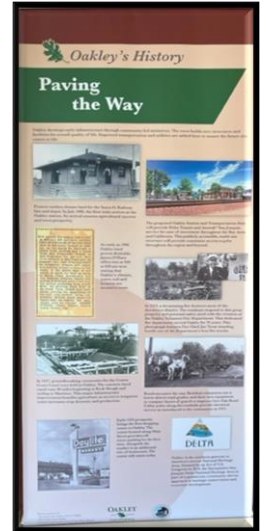


# Resource Center Treasures

New displays in the Resource Center feature the set of 5 History of Oakley Banners

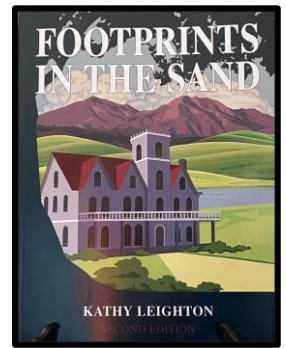
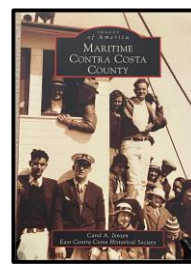
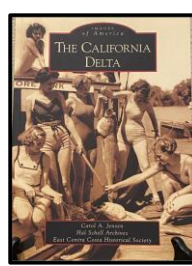
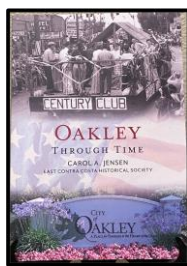
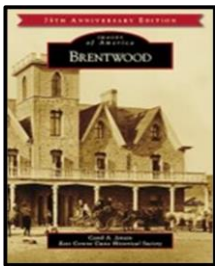
- Historic Sites & Architecture
- Agriculture & Farming Life
- Paving the Way
- Oakley Lifestyles
- Milestones

Agriculture in Brentwood is highlighted on Banners of recorded stories of farming families and on boards displaying local crate labels.

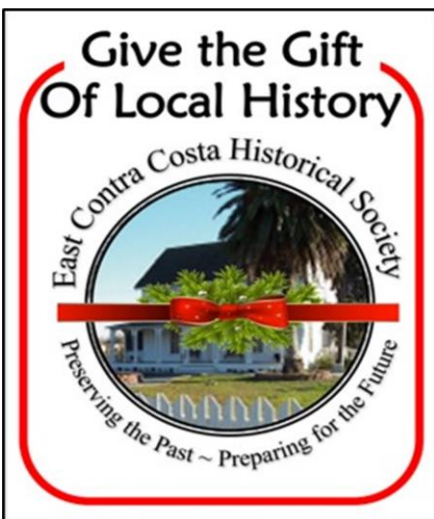


To commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Brentwood, local historian Carol Jensen has created a special edition of the *Brentwood* book. It contains 16 additional pages of historical information and is available for purchase. *A limited number of copies are available.*

History books of *Oakley*, *Byron Hot Springs*, *The California Delta*, *Maritime Contra Costa County*, all by Carol Jensen, are available. (Prices range \$22-\$25)



*Footprints in the Sand* by Kathy Leighton covers history of all ECC communities. (Price \$30)



Looking for a unique holiday gift?  
Inspire a love for local history!

2024 Calendar ~ featuring THEN & NOW local pictures  
See page 4

Books of Local History ~ Learn about where you live!

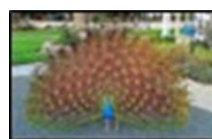
A Year of ECCHS Membership ~ Engage interest all year with museum events, member dinners, newsletters

Old-fashioned Games ~ Teach children and grandchildren to play Jacks, Pick-up Sticks, Old Maid, Fish, Hearts

All gift items can be purchased on our [website](#), or at the museum.

Call to set time to purchase at museum.  
Contact [Resource Center](#) on website or call/text 925-813-1936

Magnets  
2"x3" \$2



## BBQ Thank You's

This event could not happen without the tireless effort and time donated by our many ECCHS & community members. Their efforts are appreciated more than words can express.

ECCHS owes a huge debt of gratitude to the following individuals and businesses for their donations to offset the costs

Ron & Shirley Nunn	G & S Farms
Brentwood Rotary Club	Nunn Better Farms
Smith Family Farms	Brentwood Café
Bill Brandt Ford	Brentwood Fine Meats
Delta Pure Water	Brentwood Funeral Home
Delta Scrap & Salvage	Oakley Grocery Outlet
Robert Fletcher III	The Press
Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery	

ECCHS thanks these groups and individuals who contributed their time and talent to making the event a success:



Lions Club of Brentwood  
 Rob Brandt & Brentwood Rotary  
 Sons of American Legion  
 Boy Scout Troops 90 and 152  
 Liberty Interact Club  
 Liberty HS Pink Ladies - *National Anthem*  
 Roger Aldous - *Hit & Miss Engine*  
 Ginny Karlberg - *Schoolhouse Lessons*  
 Knightsen School District  
 Stanley Pereira  
 Lauralye Casipit - *Dutch Oven demonstration*

Thank you for the many community donations to raffle baskets:



Zephyr Grill & Bar	McCauley Olive Groves
Gursky Ranch	Brentwood Auto parts
Kinder's Meats	Mountain Mike's Pizza
Trader Joe's	Brentwood Fine Meats
Orwood Resort	Good Scents Florist
Sprouts	Discovery Bay Safeway
Brentwood Auto Spa	Jerry & Mary Black
Bowlero-Harvest Bowl	Delta Black Bear Diner

Thank you to our BBQ Chairpersons:

Special Thank You to Chairperson, Joe Trebino

BBQ Serving Line	Lindy McCall	Ticket Sales	Shirley McCall
Wagon Wheel Bar	Jerry Black & Joe Tovar	Raffles	Marylin Senn
Wine Acquisition	Ken Grunstadt	Boy Scouts	MJ Rock

Thank You to Breakers for grounds preparation and bbq set up.

## ECCHS is Out and About!

ECCHS has been busy sharing their love for local history at many festivals. Here are some places we have been:



### Heart of Oakley Festival

Our booth featured the Oakley History Banners created with support of a grant from the City of Oakley.

### July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade & Carnique

ECCHS pedal car was a happy addition to the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.



ECCHS hosted a game booth at the Carnique ~ a throwback to 1950's-1970's Carnique sponsored by the Brentwood Lions Club.



### La Gran Fiesta Brentwood



ECCHS shared pictures of Hispanic celebrations of the past at this event sponsored by Brentwood Chamber of Commerce to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.



### Thank You Zeigler Insurance

Dirk & Beth Zeigler donated 250 fireman hats for kids to enjoy

Nothing quite brings a smile like sitting on a fire engine at the museum!



## 2024 ECCHS Calendars Are Here!



Do you recognize these buildings  
from yesteryear?

Do you know their history?  
Do you know where they are today?



Explore the history of 12 locations in East Contra  
Costa County on the pages of this year's calendar!

**\$15**

Purchase at the Museum Resource Center  
order on [ECCHS website](#),  
or call/text 925-206-5087



## Christmas on the Farm ~ Looking to 2024

Our wonderful family event held in 2021 was loved by all who attended. Due to heavy rains last year, the event was cancelled at the last minute ~ Not so much because of rain on the day itself, but because of mud in the field used for parking.

DISAPPOINTING NEWS is that ECCHS board made the difficult decision to not plan Christmas on the Farm for 2023.

But the GOOD NEWS is that we DO plan to once again hold Christmas on the Farm in 2024 and continue it as an annual event!

We have made this decision because we do not want to have to possibly cancel at the last minute again. AND the land next to us, including the parking orchard, is being developed by Harvest Time. We anticipate that with this development, the parking issue will be resolved by 2024!

ECCHS is excited about the Agriculture Innovation Center to be built by Harvest Time on the property surrounding Museum grounds. This center is focused on youth, agriculture education, and nonprofit organizations in our farming community.



The center will include working and training spaces for ag-related business and also spaces for local non-profit groups to engage in ag-related activities including community gardens, growing yard for D.I.G. and space for 4-H members to raise animals. Plans include a barn for ag-related events and learning orchards and vineyards.

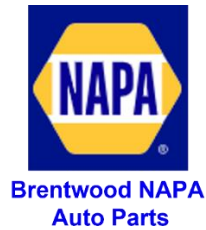
View the video about this exciting project on You Tube.  
[Search 'Brentwood Agricultural Center'](#)

# Support Those Who Support Us

ECCHS values and appreciates our Business Members.

We encourage all members to frequent these local businesses who support YOUR ECCHS

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380 W Country Club Dr. Suite G  
Brentwood, CA 94513  
925-754-OILS (925) 754-6457



1921 Apricot Way, Brentwood

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6901 Brentwood Boulevard (Hwy 4) 925.634.5990

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Does your business already belong to ECCHS?  
**THANK YOU!**

Do you own a business that should belong to ECCHS?  
**Join today!**

Do you work for a business that should belong to ECCHS?  
**Encourage them to join!**

Contact Shirley McCall for a Business Membership application  
[membership@eastcontracostahistory.org](mailto:membership@eastcontracostahistory.org) or 925-634-4049

**THANK YOU**  
For supporting ECCHS  
at  
**Brentwood 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



## Local History Days Bringing History to Life!

Voices and laughter of third grade students have been heard at the museum the past couple of weeks. Morning tours and afternoon hands-on activities have been enjoyed by classes from 6 schools.

A couple of new docents joined in, too!

Fall visits will close at end of October, but classes and docents will be geared up to start for two full months of hands-on history in April & May.

## Watch for ECCHS

Brentwood Holiday Parade – Nov25

Knightsen Holiday Parade – Dec2  
*(possible)*

ECCHS Christmas Tree– Dec 15-Jan 5  
(Brentwood Deck the Park)

P.A.L Super Bowl Cook-Off – Feb 12



## From your ECCHS Board

Lots of activity and planning going on at your Museum!

One of our largest projects this past quarter has been the pouring of cement under the Pole Barn. The board has been considering this major project for years and finally moved forward in July.

## WHAT A DIFFERENCE!!!

The display space for our vehicles is spacious and the clean cement sets off the vehicles beautifully. Many of you enjoyed the new space at the BBQ, the Brentwood Anniversary evening looked wonderful, and with kids now at the museum, so much less dust is kicked up during lunch!

The Board will devote an entire day in November to goalsetting for the coming year as well as long-range planning. We will evaluate progress made toward our goals set last November and set further goals to continue our forward movement in all areas.

A summary of our goals evaluation will be sent to members along with invitation to join in upcoming projects!

ECCHS looks forward to Harvest Time building their Ag Innovation Center next door and we look to expanding our displays to bring more of our local to life through exhibits that 'tell the story' our communities of East Contra Costa County.

Many items are being donated that enrich our collections and thus enhance displays. More and more community members are visiting and joining. Local organizations are actively participating in our events: Thank you again to Brentwood Lions Club, Rotary Clubs of Brentwood and Oakley, Sons of American Legion, Boy Scout Troops, Liberty Interact Club.

There are many exciting things happening at your museum

~ and a few surprises that we are waiting to confirm so we can share with you!



### 2023 Goal Areas

- Membership
- Museum Programs & Events
- Promote ECCHS in Community
- Facility Maintenance & Improvement
- Museum Displays & Collections
- Internal Coordination, Communication
- Financial Solvency



# Our Museum Collection is Growing!

ECCHS depends upon the donation of photos, documents & artifacts to build collections and displays.



**We are  
looking for**

## **Artifacts from Packing Sheds**

If you have anything to help us put  
together a display on this treasured  
part of Brentwood history, contact

[our House Display Team](#)

## **Thank you to these Donors June-September**

Tammy Bulcao	1950's Show bills from Delta & Oakley Theaters
Librada Davis	Train track switch
Jon Elam	Fruit crate labels
Carole Klokkevold	Byron Times, LUHS yearbooks, Houston photo album
R. Paul Krey	Mormon cart and painting
Lucia Leyva	1857 First Primer reader
Porfirio Medina	Telegraph receiving unit
Marietta Poldrack	1900s wicker laundry basket, Garin fruit crate
Leslie Servin	3 washboards, circa 1900
Penny Rubio Smith	Armoire & 1880 dresses
Sheila Sparacino	Book, bell, stereopticon

## **ECCHS Welcomes New Members**

Riley Barnett	Robert Gregory
Genie Bettencourt	Kevin & Dawn Humphrey
Julie Bretz	Kenneth Marsh
Marion Brown	Richard L. McCartney
Jeanette Aden Cereske	Michael & Robin McClellan
Oleksii Chuiko	Ana R. Nunez
Patricia & James Davis	Michael & Lynnda Painter
Karma Dewitt	Britt, Mary, Sierra Parks
Denise Duran	Jyoti & Janak Pantel
Palo Gailani-Ismen	Danny Raymond
John Gallacher	Joy Rogers
Gary & Carole Gamino	James & Donna Wilder

**Welcome aboard!**

**We hope you will be an active participant  
in ECCHS events and activities**

## **LUHS Class of 1973**



**Members of Liberty High  
Class of 1973 celebrated  
their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion this year!**

**The morning after their  
reunion dinner, they  
enjoyed breakfast at the  
museum.**

**Museum resources including yearbooks and  
newspapers were shared and good times recalled.  
Many joined ECCHS from this reconnection with  
their hometown museum.**

**Thanks to Lill Pierce for suggesting and planning  
this fun gathering!**

**What major ECCHS project enabled BBQ, Gala and Class of 1973 Reunion to be such a great success?**

## **CEMENT**

**The Pole Barn was recently upgraded with cement flooring!**

**This project has been discussed for many years and we finally did it!**

**What a difference it has made to not only use of the Pole Barn for events, but it has greatly reduced  
the dust and dirt that would constantly cover our vehicles.**

## Memorial Donations



A gift to East Contra Costa Historical Society is a special way to remember or honor friends and loved ones. The person's name will be honored on a plaque displayed on the Rose Garden Memorial Board.

### June – September, 2022

Honoring	From
Manual Alvarez	Shirley McCall
Ray Armstrong	Shirley McCall
Ray Carter	June Johnston
Earline Dal Porto	Shirley McCall
Kathy Leighton	Traci Gibbons
	Karon Halford & Family
	Lizette Kelleher
	Bud Martin
	Carolyn Wofford

Our Rose Garden Name boards have been refurbished!  
*Thank you to Paul Krey and Tim Karlberg  
 for your work on this project!*

## Buy-A-Brick

Engraved bricks border the sidewalk of the Resource Center. The bricks can honor family members, pets, organizations, or others.

**\$100 per brick**

Contact [Kathy Bushman](#)  
 530-519-2404  
 or [Shirley McCall](#)  
 925-634-4049



Brick Purchase Forms  
 available on ECCHS website

### Thank You to our Brick Donors

Steve & Sherri Ayers for Betty Ayers King Drake  
 Natalie Head for Julie Cleek  
 R. Paul Krey & Family  
 Lizette Kelleher for Trembley Family

## The Windmill has New Lights!



Extreme winds last winter destroyed the lights on the windmill.

Thank You to Joe Favaloro  
*(with help from Steve Verduzco)*  
 for securing the windmill wheel and tail and  
 for installing new lights for this holiday season.

The windmill will be lit Dec 1 – Jan 1 to wish all  
 a happy holiday from ECCHS

And THANK YOU to  
 Swinerton Sacramento Medical Division  
 For donating rental of the Boom  
 so the work could be done!





# Breakers Update

Two major donations and a major restoration project underway will soon vastly elevate the quality of the outdoor displays at the museum.

The Heidorn water wagon has been sitting behind Homer's shed since 1993, and weather has taken an enormous toll on it. Watching the wooden structure crumble and the large tank rust has led to the decision to resurrect this unique piece of history.

The tank was carefully removed utilizing a forklift. The deck of the wagon was so badly rotted that it was totally removed with very little need for hand tools. The underlying frame is quite solid, but the wheels are fragile.



An amazingly well-preserved seeding wagon owned by the Cakebread family has been donated to the museum. It is in remarkable condition and is still sporting its' original paint with a wonderful patina from years of hard work.



As icing on the cake we are now the proud owners of two vintage gas pumps:

A 1914 12' tall visible gas pump which for years was in the office of Frank Byer in his office at his gas station.

And a Union 76 gas pump from circa 1960's.



## Thank You

Brentwood Auto Parts, Rick Wilson  
Discount on fire engine parts

Contra Costa Fire Equipment  
Servicing of all fire extinguishers

Mt. Diablo Resource & Recovery  
Dumpsters for Events, year-round service

McGraw Forklift of Tracy  
Support of forklift rebuild

A working forklift is essential for our work at the museum!

Special Thank You to Justin Milam, Bob Byer's grandson,  
who donated time and expertise to totally rebuild  
our forklift at no cost to the museum.



# November Member Dinner

Sunday, November 12

San Joaquin Yacht Club – Bethel Island



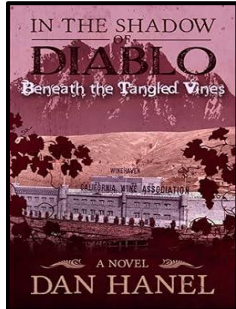
1:30 – Gathering/Socializing

2:30 – Dinner served

3:00 – Speaker: Dan Hanel, local author

In the Shadow of Diablo

~ Historical Mysteries of Contra Costa County



Enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner  
with all the Trimmings!

\$35/Dinner

Reservation Letters were mailed to members mid-October.  
Reservations due Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

Thank you for being an EMAIL subscriber!

Our Museum has welcomed 412 visitors during Open Hours this summer!

*An increase of 157 visitors over last year and we still have 2 Saturdays to go!*

How did they learn about us? *(as reported on sign-in sheets)*

Driving by      Google      From a Friend  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grader visited with school      Newspaper

