LOS MEGANOS

Newsletter of East Contra Costa Historical Society

Serving Bethel Island, Brentwood, Byron, Discovery Bay, Knightsen, Oakley

Volume 26, Issue 2 June, 2026

In This Issue

Cruisin' through History
Car Show June 28

Knightsen Satellite Museum
June 7

Local History Days
1,600+ students visited this year!

Pancakes, Farm Animals, & Quilts, Oh, my!

Museum grounds were full of activity on Opening Day

Over 500 visitors enjoyed Opening Day at the Museum

Visit your Museum

Enjoy new and updated displays

Have visitors coming into town? Bring them to the museum

Do you belong to an organization & looking for an interesting outing? Schedule a tour & lunch at the museum

Museum Open Hours
Saturdays & third Sunday
10:00-2:00
April thru October

We are looking for Greeters!
ecchs@eastcontracostahistory.org
Or call/text 925-206-5087

Special Thank You to our fellow local organizations who contributed to the day's success!

Brentwood CA Lions Club & Rotary Brentwood — **Pancake Breakfast**

Oakley 4-H — **Petting Zoo**

Delta Quilters Guild — **Quilt Show**

Your 2026-2027 Board Members

Elected Officers

Mary Black
President

Dall Barley
1st Vice -President

Dennis Nunn
2nd Vice-President

Randi McCall
Recording Secretary

Shirley McCall
Corresponding Secretary

Kathy Bushman
Treasurer

Doreen Forlow
Past President

Community Ambassadors

Ted & Geri Alesna
Bethel Island

Maggie Northcut
Brentwood

Lori Favaloro
Byron

Pam Moore
Discovery Bay

Melissa Cakebread
Knightsen

Kim Ambrosino
Oakley

Tony Campagna
Board Member at Large

2026-2027 Elected Board Members Installed at May Dinner

54 members attended the Member Dinner on May 17th
All enjoyed good company and dinner from El Gallito.
A brief recap of 2024-2025 ECCHS happenings and a call for suggestions for 2025-2026 was shared by President Mary Black.
Newly elected officers were installed by dinner Chairperson Gretchen Tovar.

Your board members look forward to serving ECCHS & keeping local history alive!

Keep up with ECCHS online www.eastcontracostahistory.org

2026 Membership Keeps Growing!

WELCOME to our New Members

We invite you to be active participants & hope to see you at upcoming museum activities & events!!

Lindy Beatie
Maria Bushman
Sue Galbreath-Sly
John & Janelle Largent
Diana & Julie Marini
Steve Mockel
Jim & Katie Senior

Kerry Breen
Joe Sr & Connie, Joe Jr Canada
Janis Hewitt
Jim, Annette, James Lewis
Joe & Michele McMurtrey
Dan Schliesman
John & Nancy Torres

Roger & Jennifer Broom
Johanna DeMartini
Nona Jacobsen
Jeff & Pam Lutzinger
Donald & Gwen Minor
Sandra Sellers
Olga Vidriales

Welcome to our New BUSINESS Members!

Danielle Louise Photography
Port of Subs Restaurant
Team Olga Sells

Check out our page
Support Those Who Support Us
for all Business Members of ECCHS

Have you Renewed Your Membership?

Mail
Membership form online
Download & mail

Click
Go to website
Click on JOIN

Scan
Go to online form

JOIN Now

www.eastcontracostahistory.org

Thank you
for 'Adding a Little Extra' with your Membership Renewal

Doug & Jackie Adams
Jerry & Mary Black
Mark & Jeannette Dwelley
John Gallacher

SAVE THE DATE

MEMBER NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

NOVEMBER 5, 2026

A special evening at your museum with light refreshment under the lights

Program Topic: Celebrating 40 Years as a Museum!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MONETARY DONATION

Daughters of the American Revolution Anne Loucks Chapter
Bob & Terry Damico *(for Vehicle Barn)*
LUHS Reunion Committee
The Men's Club

Special THANK YOU's

Brentwood Napa Auto Parts
(battery for fire engine)
Contra Costa Fire Equipment
(fire extinguisher service)
Dave Peck
(shelving for storage building)

Cruise through History

when classic cars arrive at the museum & local history comes to life!

All proceeds benefit East Contra Costa Historical Society

Thank you to ECCHS members Joe Favaloro Tony Campagna Gil Hagar Dan Schliesman for organizing this special event to benefit the museum!

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT ECCHS

Would you like to see your business name on sponsor boards at the Car Show?

2026 Collector Sponsor

Ducky's Car Wash

Be a Car Show Sponsor!

Your donation of money, services, or raffle items help offset the cost of the event and supports ECCHS to **'Bring Local History to Life!**

Classic Sponsors

Bill Brandt Ford Brentwood · Campos Family Vineyards · Dailey Chevrolet American Chevrolet · Hannah Nicole Vineyards & Winery · U.S.G. Custom Screen Printing, Graphics & Signs (925) 584-2499 www.usg-graphics.com · NAPA Brentwood Auto Parts · Les Schwab Tires

Chrome Sponsors

Black Bear Diner Oakley · Dad's Diner 1135 2nd St Brentwood, CA 94513 · The Home Depot · Sugar Barge RV Resort & Marina

Cruisin' Sponsors

Byron Roadhouse · Kellogg Creek Brewing Co. · Orwood Resort · Simoni & Massoni Farms

Volunteers Needed to work the day of the Car Show!

Setup/Prep: Friday, June 27 9:00-12:00

During the Car Show: Sell raffle tickets, be a Greeter,

Email cruisin@eastcontracostahistory.org or call 925-584-1717

Full car show information www.eastcontracostahistory.org/cruisin-through-history/

The Past Shapes the Present

On May 10, 1869, the golden spike of the Transcontinental Railroad connected the east and west coasts of the United States. The railroad was on its way to becoming the most powerful form of transportation of goods and people and to having great impact on developing communities of the west.

Wherever railroads went small towns grew into prosperous cities and new towns were founded. Wherever railroads failed to go, communities that had been bypassed declined and eventually disappeared, as in the cases of Point of Timber and Nicols.

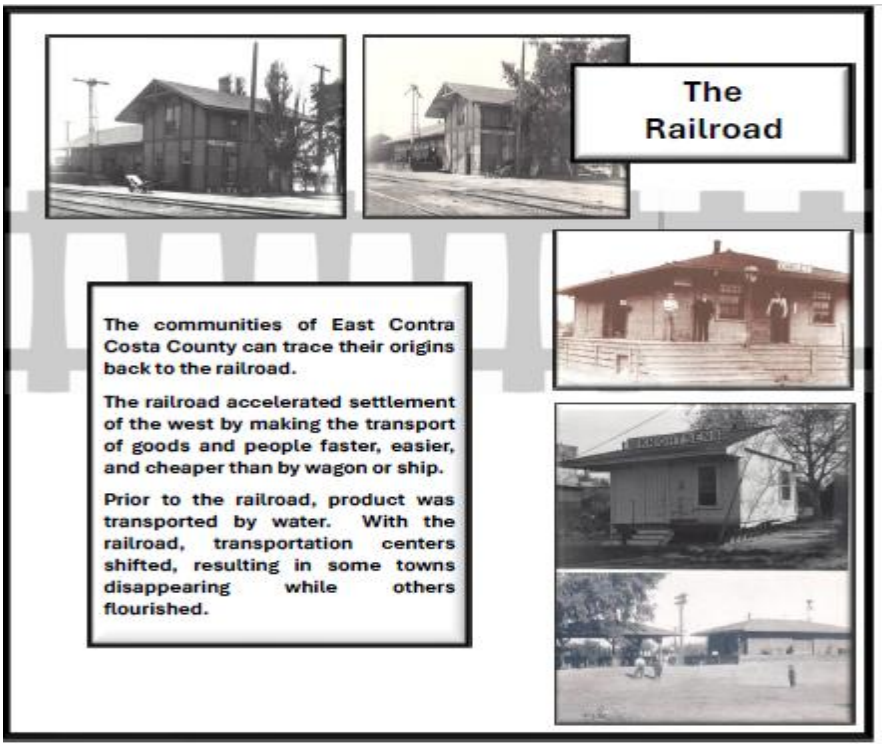
The communities of East Contra Costa today can all trace their origins back to the railroad. Brentwood and Byron were a direct result of the San Pablo & Tulare Railroad arriving in 1878 along the line to connect Martinez with Banta. Oakley and Knightsen developed as a result of the Santa Fe Railroad built in 1898 to connect Martinez with Stockton.

Have you noticed anything different at the museum?

Hint: Maybe as you drive along Sellers Ave you have noticed something bright and shiny.

Yes, it is the caboose!

Through the diligent efforts of Alan McCall, we were able to secure a contractor to paint our gem. It's faded green and yellow are now brilliant and vibrant as it proudly sits for all to see. Come on out and visit our show piece as you enjoy the rest of the museum grounds.



Ice is loaded into walls of produce railroad car

Local families traveled by train to the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis

The Railroad exhibit will be one of the first to be added as we expand our museum property. The Railroad Exhibit Committee led by Randi & Alan McCall has been gathering the history and exploring exhibit building possibilities to 'Bring the Railroad History to Life!'

If you have local history related to the importance of the railroad to East Contra Costa County or have an interest in railroads in general and would like to help to create this exhibit area, contact Randi McCall at recordingsecretary@eastcontracostahistory.org

The ECCHS Museum is an Active Place!

Lions Club of Brentwood holds meeting at ECCHS

ECCHS welcomes local community groups who actively partner with us on community events to hold a meeting at the museum. Lions Club of Brentwood supports our Opening Day and Christmas on the Farm events.

Brentwood CA

Group Tours

Deep Roots & New Roots Alike

It was a return to home memories for **Merry Nail**, of the Nail Family who donated the museum to ECCHS.

She shared with members of her church about days growing up in her family home surrounded by grandfather's garage and shop covered with sweet smelling yellow roses *(which still bloom today in the spring!)* and the ranch house that was the base for her imaginative childhood.

Trilogy residents met at the museum for a morning tour to learn their local history. For many of them, East Contra Costa County is a new home.

Welcome to the ECC Community!

The Flag Barn no longer stands on Vasco Road. It was deemed beyond repair by East Bay Regional Parks and was taken down. It is currently stored by the City of Brentwood.

Marihelen Palmer of Brick Time loves her local history!

You may have seen some of her creations at the museum including the Byron Hot Springs wagonette, Delta Theater, or her full display of Harvest Time farms!

She turned her talents to create a scale model of the **Flag Barn of Vasco Road** and hosted a workshop at the museum.

She has also created a scale model of the BNSF Caboose that is at the museum!

Bodie, age 7, proudly shows his Flag Barn!

Interested in a Flag Barn or Caboose workshop?

510-517-3389 or getbricktime@gmail.com

BRICK TIME
Build, Engage, Inspire!

Do you belong to a club or organization who may like to visit the museum as an outing?

Contact us via the website or email docents@eastcontracostahistory.org

Anne Loucks Chapter of Daughters of American Revolution presented ECCHS with the ***Historic Preservation Award*** in recognition of our work to preserve and share local history.

Brentwood Union School District recognized ECCHS Docents for their many hours dedicated to *Bringing Local History to Life* through the Local History Days program for all third grade students.

Local History Days Bring History to Life!

Voices and laughter of third grade students from local schools were heard at the museum during April & May as they learned how their life would have been in the late 1800's. Morning tours and afternoon hands-on activities take students back in time to experience a day in school, play games, and do chores of the late 1800's. 1,645 students plus about 400 parents participated in the Local History Days at the ECCHS Museum this year. Many report that it is the best field trip ever!

Thank You to the Team of Docents who 'Bring History to Life'

Diane Alexander	Didi DelChiaro*	Dennis Nunn
Cheryl Allegro	John Gallacher	Dawn Onalfo*
Tony Allegro	Kathy Griggs	Dan Pacheco*
Deborah Allison	Kathy Gursky	Erica Pantle
Dall Barley	Alice Hengel*	Dave Peck*
Catherine Bartling	Chuck Hunter	Shari Peck*
Diana Beal*	Sharon Johnson	Barbara Pilling*
Martha Berry*	Tim Kelly	Robin Robello
Jerry Black	Carl Knittel	Barbara Rosenthal
Mary Black	Liz Lutz	Kathy Sciortino*
Julie Bretz	Lynn Machado	Tom Snyder
Cindy Cochran*	Barry Margesson	Jo Tennant
Brian Connery	Charlene Margesson	Ed Valenzuela
Linda Cseak	Diane Musumeci	Roy Vinyard
Cynthia DeMaggio	Catrina Mygrant-Lip	Sue Vinyard

** NEW Docents 2025-2026*

What's in the Midden*?

**archeological 'dig'*

In addition to the visit to the museum, our ECCHS team of 'Archeology Docents' lead all third grade classes to explore local history through artifacts

A short presentation about Mt. Diablo watershed, Round Valley as natural area for Native Americans, Rancho days of John Marsh' Rancho Los Meganos, and the settling of towns, students sift through mini Middens to discover artifacts that 'tell the story' of each of these areas.

Thank You to our Archeology Docents

Joe Darr	Lisa	Vince
J.C.	McLaughlin	Vidriales*

Want to join the Docent Team?

Call/text
925-206-5087
or
docents@eastcontracostahistory.org

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Brentwood Café

for supplying all of the ice cream and butter ingredients needed for the 3rd grade school tours
(milk, whipping cream & eggs)

Ambassadors Connect ECCHS with Communities

Bethel Island ON DISPLAY

Ambassadors Ted & Geri Alesna put Bethel Island in the spotlight at the March Member Dinner!

Artifacts from Bethel Island immersed all who attended in the rich Island life and evoked memories made locally.

Following a delicious St. Patrick's dinner of corned beef and cabbage, **Chris Lauritzen** shared an informative presentation on **'Double-ended Ferries'** and the extensive ferry system that served our local communities long before bridges connected the islands.

Community Ambassadors
Ted Alesna, Geri Alesna, Lori Favaloro, Kim Ambrosino
Melissa Cakebread, Maggie Northcut, Pam Moore

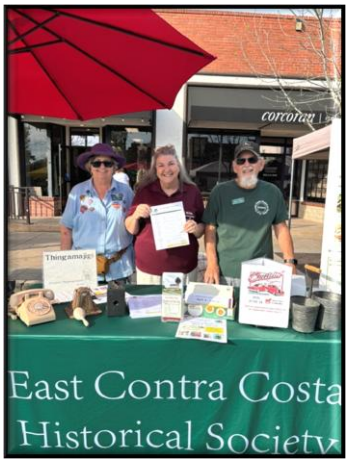
Byron Caboose to Get New Roof!

The Railroad is integral to the history of East Contra Costa. When a train depot was built, it brought opportunity for community growth.

The Byron Caboose was given a shot of elbow grease by the ECCHS Breakers and Byron community members who recently cleaned the roof so it is ready for a new roof to be applied.

Thank you!
Joe Favaloro, Tony Campagna, Punky Pereira, Danny Raymond, Bob Byer

ECCHS at Brentwood Farmer's Market



Byron Satellite Museum Welcomes Reunion Guests

Liberty High School Yearbooks from yesteryear brought many memories of times shared.

Coming Events

Oakley SummerFest
June 27
Visit the ECCHS table

Brentwood July 4th Parade
Wave at the ECCHS entry
Visit us at the City Park celebration

Bethel Island
Boats & Berries – Aug 29
ECCHS & John Marsh Historic Trust will share local history

HOORAY for OAKLEY!

Our own Oakley was featured on Zip Trips on May 29th!

See and hear all about what makes Oakley a special place to live.

www.ktvu.com/shows/zip-trips

ECCHS Ambassador Kim Ambrosino was there!

ECCHS Goals in Action

Your ECCHS Board has established 6 areas of goals to guide and prioritize planning, budget, and implementation of programs and activities to best fulfill our mission to preserve and share local history.

Your goals 'in action'!

Increase Membership & Member Involvement

Annual membership drive

Keeping members informed

The Windmill email
(twice monthly)

LOS MEGANOS newsletter
(3x per year)

Member Night at the Museum

Connect Community Members with Museum

Opening Day

Cruisin' through History Car Show

Community BBQ

3rd Grade Local History Days

Christmas on the Farm

Museum Open Hours
April-October

Group Tours of Museum

Promote Local History of All 6 Communities

Active Ambassador in each community

Parades, Festivals, Community Events

Satellite Museums in Byron & Knightsen
(goal to have in each community)

Community Tree & Artifacts
at Christmas on the Farm

Downtown Brentwood Walking Tour
(goal to have for each community)

Member Dinners held at different community locations with speaker about local history

Develop Informative & Engaging Displays of Local History

Davis Camp interpretive panels
at Sunset/Brentwood Blvd

Annual team process
to evaluate & upgrade museum displays

Developing Rotating Displays on specific topics to add new & interesting information

Exhibit Teams researching and planning displays for property expansion

Your board is continually searching for new ways to 'Bring Local History to Life!'.
We welcome ideas that will help us reach – and exceed – our goals.

Have an idea? Share it with us!

Knightsen ECCHS Satellite Museum Opens June 7th

ECCHS is proud to partner with the **Knightsen Garden Club** to bring Knightsen history to the community.

Knightsen Ambassador Melissa Cakebread has worked with local residents to create a special space to display local history artifacts and photos to 'tell the story' of the rich heritage of the community of Knightsen.

Join local residents for The Big Reveal!

Thank you to John Gonzalez for use of your map!

Support Those Who Support ECCHS

ECCHS values and appreciates our Business Members

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

Bloomfield Vineyards

NAPA
Brentwood NAPA Auto Parts

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

Gursky Ranch Country Store
1921 Apricot Way, Brentwood

Downtown Brentwood Coalition

Brentwood's CoCo County wine company

John Marsh Historic Trust

Delta Protection Commission State of California

Bethel Island The Heart of the Delta California

Black Bear Diner
Oakley

Brentwood Citrus Company

ONE REALTYONEGROUP ELITE
Patrick McCarren Real Estate
2510 Sand Creek Rd, Brentwood 925.899.5536

Go Granny
Traveling Notary Public

Danielle Louise Photography

3 Brothers Tractor Services

East County Insurance Agency, I

The Press
Brentwood · Discovery Bay · Oakley · Antioch

R:12 Window Cleaning

Maggiore Ranch

Signature Properties
Borden • Merrill
Roseann Dicano-Jones

DLP Entertainment
Dino Piquero
(510) 828-9626

Farmer's Daughter
Est 1986
Produce Stand & U-Pick

Three Nunns Farm

The Urban Edge
Food You Trust. Farmers You Know.

Knightsen Garden Club

Port of Subs
Your Neighborhood Sandwich Shop
Brentwood

Rock Slough Farms
Brentwood, California

Team Olga Sells!
OLGA Vidriales

F.A. Maggiore & Sons Ranch

Does your business already belong to ECCHS?
THANK YOU!

Do you own a business that should belong to ECCHS?
JOIN TODAY!

Do you know a business that should belong to ECCHS?
ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN!

Here's a SHOUT OUT!

For cleaning windows and power washing all buildings for the museum opening!

THANK YOU!!

R:12 Window Cleaning

Our Museum Collection is Growing

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

Thank you to
Don and Gwen Minor
for donation of an
Hit & Miss Engine
with LOTS of local history!

This model of the
Gasoline Economy Engine
was manufactured 1895-1910

This particular engine was purchased from 'Fritz' Ohmstede in 1978

It had been used about 70 years in Ohmstede almond orchards of Knightsen and was restored and used as a teaching aid by Don Minor at Dublin High School for 30 years.

Thank you to these Donors

Mike Arata	Wooden shipping box
Joe Canada, Sr	Schoolhouse Clock, Lock, Hand pump
CCC Historical Society	1913 Burroughs adding machine, Grinding wheel
Patti Fly	Collier's yearbooks, Scales, Maps, Street Guides
Stuart & Sherrie Hamilton	Antique trunk, Camera, Vintage folding chairs
Chris Lauritzen	Delta Ferry System Map, Tule Cutters *(book)*
Jim Lewis	Monroe calculating machine, Lone Tree Way sign
Dawn Onalfo	Little Rosebud *(book)*
Nancy Slatten	1918 Byron Times
Ole & Linda Stein	1800's era buggy, Horse harness, Grape press
Luz Torres	Charro outfit
Nancy Tovar	Welcome to Station 93 (coloring books)
Cathy Voortman	Holiday parade program, Brentwood Chamber of Commerce booklet

Do you have typing skills and enjoy formatting?

We are looking for a member to help type and format signs and labels for displays at the museum.

All information is provided and you can do this at home and on your own schedule.

Contact:
ecchs@eastcontracostahistory.org

What made the Jeep the perfect machine?

Its simplicity!

Find out what made this vehicle so vital and valuable to the troops in WWII

Resource Center Director Doreen Forlow is creating a special display on the JEEP as part of the museum's celebration of America's 250th Anniversary.

It will be unveiled at the *Cruisin' through History* Car Show on June 28th and remain on display through October.

"The Jeep didn't care about mud or shell holes. It bounced through both.
We joked it could climb a tree if you asked it."
Pvt Robert Leckie, USMC
from a letter home

THANK YOU!

Susannah Meyer

for your creative talent, energy, and time to completely renovate the museum restrooms!

Rustic charm infused with local history!

Make a Lasting Gift to ECCHS

Buy-A-Brick

Honor family members, organizations, special occasions with an engraved brick!

Look for Bricks Recognizing These Community Members

Emerson Dairy
purchased by Katy Emerson

Debra Janis
purchased by Doreen Forlow & Sharon Ellingson

Barbara Byer
purchased by Shirley McCall

David Ciruli Fred Gensler Danny Raymond
purchased by Lions Club of Brentwood

Edna Heidorn Hill
purchased by Robin McClellan

John & Karen Mosher

Joe Kick
purchased by Robin McClellan

$125 per brick
Addition of symbol or logo add $10
Full information about logos available online

Recognize a family member, organization, pet with a brick at the Museum!

Contact: Kathy Bushman 530-519-2404 or Shirley McCall 925-634-4049

Make a Memorial Donation

A gift to East Contra Costa Historical Society is a special way to remember and honor friends and loved ones.

Name of the honored person is displayed on a plaque on the Rose Garden Memorial Board. The family of the individual will be notified *(no amount mentioned)*

Memorial Donations February thru May, 2026

Honoring	From	Honoring	From
Barbetta Pastor	Lynn & Jim Machado	Barbara Byer	Pauline Bonilla
	Shirley McCall		Ruth & Sherissse Dozier
	Leslie Servin		Doreen Forlow
Mryvin Somerhalder	Mark & Sharon Johnson		Shirley McCall
			Leslie Servin

$200 per rose
(includes rose, plaque, planting, care in perpetuity)

Memorial Roses at the museum honor cherished memory of a loved one.

These roses in the garden and lining a front walkway are absolutely beautiful when in bloom.

Memorial Roses

To Honor Gene & Anne Soble
purchased by Alan & Randi McCall

To Honor Virginia Mitton
purchased by Nancy Roberts

Contact: Kathy Bushman 530-519-2404 or Shirley McCall 925-634-4049

Honor & Celebrate

Looking for a special way to honor or celebrate a special occasion?

Make a donation to the Historical Society!

The honored person(s) will be notified of the donation *(no amount mentioned)*.

38th Annual Community BBQ

September 13, 2026

SAVE THE DATE

Enjoy an afternoon with friends and family at the Museum

Great BBQ

BBQ Tri-Tip
Beans

& Sides

Corn-on-the-cob
Tomato Salad Rolls
Dessert

House, Eden Plain Schoolhouse & Homer's Shed will be open

Toe-Tappin' Music ~ Raffles

BBQ Tickets will be mailed to members by August 1

We will be selling tickets to the larger community starting August 10th this year, so be sure to buy your tickets early!

Annual Bakeless Sale

Watch for your Bakeless Sale letter in the mail!

Celebrate NOT turning on your oven on these hot summer days and keep local history alive at the same time.

ECCHS raised $3,653 last year ~ Let's top that in 2026!

Thank you for being an EMAIL subscriber!

Money saved on printing and mailing costs will be used on museum projects!

East Contra Costa Historical Society
P.O. Box 202
Brentwood, CA 94513

NONPROFIT ORD
US POSTAGE PAID
BRENTWOOD, CA
PERMIT 42