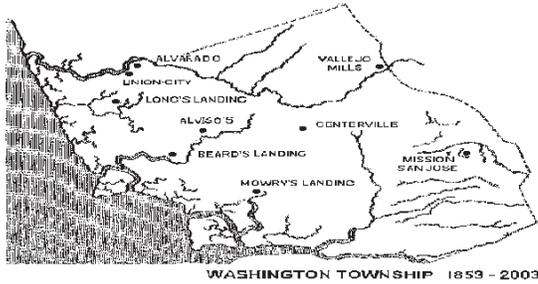


Washington Township Historical Society



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**MEETING DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020, 6:15 PM at
MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY, 190 ANZA ST., FREMONT**

Washington Township Historical Society Editor: Al Minard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Al Minard

Washington Township Historical Society Members and friends,

Welcome to the year 2020, this is the year of the Rat in Chinese New Year. We have accomplished quite a bit in the last year or so. For over 5 years we have struggled with getting plaques on historic sites in Washington Township and in 2019 we succeeded in getting plaques put on the Women's Country Club building on Parish Avenue, now a church and also Old St Edward's Catholic Church which is now a Foursquare Church and the second tallest building in Newark. We are waiting for Broncho Billy's Pizza in Union City to finish some work on the building and then we will dedicate a plaque on that building. The Historical Society is looking at merging with the Washington Township Museum of Local History but this item is not a done deal and there are some issues that your new President and Vice-President as well as the board will have to seriously look at. As with all things there are advantages and disadvantages with merging with the Museum.

We have elected a new President, John Weed and a new Vice President, Paul Sethy. We wish them well as they continue with the activities that Washington Township Historical Society is doing with plaques on historic sites, and bi-monthly meetings with speakers on the history of Washington Township.

One of the things we should be encouraging the City of Fremont to do is another historical building survey of buildings from 1940 to 1975. The last historical building survey was done over 20 years ago and the California Office of Historic Preservation encourages cities to do new historic surveys every 10 years. When Fremont did the survey in 1998, they found 2500 buildings that were over 45 years of age. Now another

20 years have passed and after World War II there were many people who decided they wanted to live in the Bay Area and this was a relatively inexpensive area to live. There were a lot of buildings built during that 20 year time and many of them will be eligible for the State and National Register of Historic Places. With the current low-income housing shortage many of these buildings will be demolished to put up high density housing tracts and once a building is gone it cannot come back to life and its history is gone even if you put a plaque on the site most of the history of that building is gone.

Things get done when people stand up and want to be counted to protect the historic fabric of our community. We need about 200 people to attend a city council meeting demanding that historic buildings are preserved. We have several examples of developments around historic buildings that not only kept the historic building but also focused the development around the historic site, and highlighted the historic building. Our guest speaker for the Monday, January 27, meeting is Matt Breen from the City of Newark. Matt has had a career in Emergency Dispatch for the City of Newark. The presentation will begin at 7:00 PM and if you are interested in the Board meeting it will start at 6:15, and one of the first items of business will be the swearing in of the new officers of the Washington Township Historical Society.

Al Minard

FREMONT FIRE STATION #6 IN CENTERVILLE



This parcel is home to the former Fire Station #6, which was built two years before the City's incorporation in 1954 by the County of Alameda for the Centerville Fire Protection District, and subsequently quitclaimed from the County to the City in 1956. In 2009, a new Fire Station No. 6 was completed nearby at 4355 Central Avenue and the former Fire Station No. 6 was decommissioned and has sat vacant ever since. A structural analysis determined that the building was unsafe to occupy and would require seismic retrofitting and various updates to meet current building codes before it could again be occupied.

In 2007 an historic evaluation was conducted on the old Fire Station for the City by Woodruff Minor which concluded that, although it was not listed on any historic register, the possibility exists that it may have significant value as a good example of a type of historic architecture (specifically, mid-century Modernism in the International Style mode). As such, the old Fire Station is a Possible Register Resource as defined by Fremont Municipal Code (FMC) Section 18.175.430 and eligible for listing on the Fremont Register of Primary Historical Resources.

Do you want a Firehouse? The price is right at only \$1.00. The only catch is that you will have to move it. You will have to decide soon if you want it because the developer only gave 60 days to claim it. Many of us went to Fremont City Council meetings trying to get this firehouse saved, but to no avail. Now it is scheduled for demolition unless someone claims it and can move it to another location. This firehouse was built in 1954 in what is now Fremont before Fremont was incorporated in 1956. The land was donated to Alameda County for a firehouse but apparently there was nothing written down on sale documents to confirm this and now it will end up as landfill someplace. A very sad note to a nice old building that tells so much of our history and the history of the firehouse. This firehouse even has a pole for the firemen (and at that time they were all men) to slide down from the sleeping area upstairs to the firetrucks downstairs. So many of our historic buildings are in danger of demolition just because they are small and

they sit on large pieces of land, that a developer can build multiple housing units on in three or more stories high. The really sad part of this is that what we need is ultra-low income housing and most of the housing being built is market rate which in most areas of Fremont is around the one-million dollar mark.

The story of this firehouse is even worse than some others. SiliconSage the developers of this area of Centerville across from the Center Theatre were willing to restore the firehouse but a few people spoke against restoring it when it went to Fremont City Council, so the council voted to have the firehouse removed from the plans. If we could have had 40 or 50 people at that City Council meeting we might have been able to save this firehouse.

This firehouse has been designated as eligible for the California Register of Historic Places because of its unique architecture.

The Fremont main library will recognize the passing of the Constitutional Amendment for women to have the right to vote in 1910, on February 1, 2020. The library opens at 10 AM and Al & La Vonne Minard in costume with other women will be there to greet people coming into the library until about 1 PM. Come on down and say "Hi". Be aware that California women got the right to vote in all elections in the general election on October 10, 1911 and voted for president in 1912 and 1916. Also be aware that in 1911, when Women's Suffrage was voted on in California that Alameda and San Francisco counties both voted against women having the right to vote. The vote for women to have the right to vote was won by only 3,587 votes, less than one vote per precinct in California at that time. It was the men in the central valley who voted for women to have the right to vote that gave women this right.

Dear Members and friends of Washington Township Historical Society we need new members and we need our current members to pay their dues. We have had to cash one of our CD's to pay for our liability insurance, although we did pay for our plaques out of our general fund. We have lost many of our members by moving out of the area or by death and if we are going to continue as a viable organization we need to get more members or merge with the Washington Township Museum of Local History.

Washington Township Historical Society meeting on January 27, 2020 at the Washington Township Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street, Fremont, starting at 6:15 PM. Our speaker is Matt Breen, who will start his presentaion at 7:00 PM on his career in Emergency Dispatch for the City of Newark

NEW MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR SINGLE ADDRESS

ONE-YEAR \$10, FIVE-YEAR \$40 TEN-YEAR \$70 PATRON: \$50.00 for one year

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-Mail Address _____

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