

### A Message From Your President Fred Parr

Dear Members,

Fall is shaping up to be a busy season for the CHPS and the Circle City. The Board has been involved in some historic acquisition and preservation activities which we will share with you in the near future.



any interest at all, I encourage you to reach out to myself or any of the Board members or visit one of our Board meetings to get a better idea if volunteering for the Society might be for you.

The November 8th General Election is quickly approaching and creating lots of media attention to say the least. Locally

Please look into this Newsletter to gain information on our 3rd Quarterly Meeting tour of the beautiful Lemonia Grove. I hope you can join us on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and want to say thank you in advance to homeowners Patti and Jim Anderson for their hospitality and generosity.

We are taking an in depth look at and updating our Historic Marker program and have plans to utilize new technology to make the information more accessible and reach a broader audience. I am excited to announce that we are going through a Strategic Planning process as a means of envisioning our future and to help provide a framework to more effectively achieve our mission. We will be completed with our Strategic Plan by year's end and will surely make it available to you all.

This would be a good time to mention that we have an opening on the Board of Directors. If you have

we will be electing two City Council members and voting on Measure N which will divide Corona into Council Districts where our leaders will reside in the District they are representing. Within this newsletter are responses from three of the four council candidates to questions with a historical perspective. We hope you will find it informative and thank the candidates for their willingness to communicate with us in this fashion. Passage of Measure N would be a big change and the particulars are provided by the City at [www.mapcorona.com](http://www.mapcorona.com).

I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Board of this great organization and thank you for your support of the Corona Historic Preservation Society.

Best wishes,

FRED PARR



### Upcoming CHPS Events

**Mark your calendars now!**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 - Our third Quarterly meeting of 2016: A visit to Corona's special oasis at Lemonia Grove. 10:00 AM. Estate is located at 2750 Rimpau**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 5 - Annual Holiday Party at the Clubhouse of the Corona Woman's Improvement Club from 6:30 - 8:30 PM.**

**A wingding of an event is being planned for this year!**



## Update on the Fifth City Council Candidate's Responses



September 13, 2016

Dear CHPS Members:

When the Sept-Oct *CHPS Newsletter* was printed on September 1, the staff realized that a fifth city council candidate was not included.

An email was immediately sent to candidate Alejandro (Alex) Garcia containing the same questions sent to other candidates as well as a week deadline to provide his answers.

We committed to send copies of Mr. Garcia's responses to all CHPS members, insert an extra sheet with his responses in all hard copies of the *Newsletter* as well as add a page to the website copy of this *Newsletter*.

An email message informing our members was sent to let our members know of the omission.

In spite of our efforts to reach out to Mr. Garcia, we learned through his Executive Assistant that he is on vacation and is unable to provide responses.

Mary Winn, Editor

# Corona City Council Candidates' Responses

Four questions selected by the CHPS Board of Directors pertaining to historic preservation issues were submitted to all four Corona City Council candidates on August 19<sup>th</sup> so that their responses could be incorporated into this issue of the *CHPS Newsletter*. They were respectfully requested to send their answers to newsletter editor Mary Winn within a week's time so that the deadline for this issue would be met. We express our sincere appreciation to three candidates who took time out of their very busy schedules to respond. This process is to help you, our members, in making your decision as to whom to cast your vote in the upcoming election on:

**Tuesday, November 8, 2014**

**Please keep the candidates' stated positions in mind and PLEASE BE SURE TO VOTE!**

1. The City's motto is "To Cherish Our Past, To Plan Our Future." From a historical perspective, what does the motto mean to you and are there any specific actions you plan to take in the next four years, if elected, to protect and preserve our historical resources and heritage?
2. The Corona Depot was included in the Historic Resources Survey of Corona undertaken by the County of Riverside in 1983 and was identified as one of Corona's most significant historical buildings. It is identified on the Corona Register of Historic Resources, the Riverside County Historical Resources Inventory and on the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, State Historic Preservation Office, Historic Resources Inventory. Many are concerned that it could be threatened by development in the area. What are your thoughts? Do you have any ideas that would incorporate it into renewal plans for the North West Grand Boulevard corridor?
3. The Library's website declares that the W.D. Addison Heritage Room is at the center of local history allowing the public to explore Corona's history through an online catalog, exhibits, website & print collection. Funding and resources have been dwindling for many years. Much of the collection is no longer available online and public access to the collection has been reduced to 11 hours per week or by special appointment. What are your thoughts on improved public access to the Heritage Room and do you have any insight as to how to help staff achieve their mission?
4. What is your favorite historical building still standing in town?

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## Responses from Margaret Beltran

1. "To Cherish Our Past" is an eye to the future. History has a habit of repeating itself. But the beauty of the past we don't get back except through pictures unless we have preserved some of the historic sights we have. We need to learn from the past in hopes of not making the same mistakes and in hopes of making our future better for all around us, especially the young, for they are our future.
2. In the redevelopment of north west Grand, I have hopes that the city will put up signs so people can find the depot and see some of the history this city has. At the depot you can see what a phone booth looks like. If you ask a child what a phone booth is they don't know. There has not been any for 20 plus years. We all have cell phones. They can see the platform that was used to load the box cars of goods produced here in Corona. Also, people were loaded onto the trains to go to other places. There are many people who don't know about the depot. Many of the young know it as a bar and not of the past. Maybe the owners could open it up during the day for luncheons or bring back the bar and grill of yesterday. My granddaughter, who was born here knows nothing of it. What a shame.
3. Now the library's website needs to be a little more user friendly for the older generation. Some still don't know how to use a computer. Let's help both the young and the old. As far as the historic room, maybe we can get some of the parents and grandparents to volunteer to help. Bring the schools in for a field trip with the parents to get them interested. Maybe ask them to help with fundraisers to help with the cost to keep it open more hours. In general, we need more information out there so people know where and when it is open.
4. My favorite building is the Historic Civic Center built in early 1922 and opened as a school in 1923 and the painters still hadn't finished. I am so glad to see it is still standing and doing well. I have a family member who

## Margaret Beltran's Responses (continued)

member who has gone there for dance classes when she was small; now she is 28. My family went there to see the Passion of Christ at Easter time. I enjoy the looks of the building. My only wish is that I would like to see the fountain work more often. I also like how they put the newer buildings on the back and they don't take away from the beauty of it.

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## Dick Haley's Responses

1. If not done by now, we should take an inventory of all buildings, with significant history, in Corona. We should also do a city wide search of residents who have actual knowledge of these buildings. Their stories and anecdotes must be recorded, in their own voices and saved for the future. We should also transcribe these stories and have them attached to pictures of what remains. I spoke recently with a 90 year old lady who spoke fondly about an olive tree inside the Boulevard where she played as a child. This should be saved as well.
2. The city council can investigate and perhaps pass an ordinance that would preclude developers from the demolition of this type of sight. It could actually be the center point for a development. Fanuel Hall, in Boston, is a perfect example. The shell of the building exists and looks like it did in the 1700's. The inside has been gutted, remodeled and now houses eateries of all shapes and sizes. You can literally have a cream donut in the exact spot where Benjamin Franklin stood.
3. Many of the high schools in the CNUSD, Boy & Girl Scouts as well as many churches have your volunteer requirements. The library can have an outreach for assistance with the online additions. David Montgomery-Scott is an excited library director who has accomplished much since his arrival. We should tell him what we want and then get out of his way. He is a "can do" and "will do" and "does do" man.
4. With no doubt in my mind, the Corona High School which became the Corona City Hall which is now the Historic Civic Center. By walking those halls you can almost hear algebra being taught. How many lifetime friendships were begun there that are still going? How many ideas were debated for the betterment of the citizens by elected officials and outstanding staff? Now it is the home to non profit arts groups who cater to those as young as 6 and those as old as **me**.

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## Jason Scott's Responses

1. As a Council Member and Mayor, I had the opportunity to ensure our Historic Civic Center was preserved. This former Corona High School and City Hall site now serves many non-profits which benefit our community. Additionally, my serving the last eight years on the City Council, I proudly voted many homes onto our list of Historic Homes. I also had the pleasure of serving on the Infrastructure Committee approving the new Historic District signs around Grand Blvd.

As Mayor in both 2013 and 2016, it has allowed me "To Cherish Our Past" by hosting 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events for the first and last Road Races held in Corona. It was important to me to remember these important events from our history. Thank you CHPS for your participation at each.

It has been a pleasure being a member of and working with CHPS for 14 years so together we could strive to cherish remembrances of Corona's past while at the same time planning for Corona to always be improving for its residents and businesses.

2. The Corona Depot is privately owned, and the owner is running a business in the building. There are no development or renewal plans currently submitted to the City relating to the Corona Depot.

As mentioned in your question, the Depot is on the city and state historic registries; therefore, any attempt to alter the exterior would require a review of both entities. This protects this historic asset of our city.

I would truly appreciate an individual purchasing the property and finding a way to further highlight the Depot and its historical value to our City such that more people visit the location and learn about its significance.

3. I understand the Heritage Room is available Mondays and Tuesdays in the afternoon to evening, Thursdays from mid-morning to 1:00 and is available by appointment on Wednesdays. While it is not currently possible to keep it open due to budget and staffing, I am glad it is available four days a week at varying times for those who wish to visit.



## Jason Scott's Responses (continued)

I personally contributed items from city events to the Heritage Room to be treasured for the future. One example was a banner from the 2013 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1913 Corona Road Race. Continuing to gather and collect items is important to me as I know it helps to share the present for those who come in the future to learn about our present as their past.

4. I don't think I can name just one building. The Civic Center, Woman's Improvement Club, several of the churches in the downtown area, and historic homes all are buildings I cherish. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to tour many of them because of the generosity of their owners and work of CHPS members.

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City Council candidate Dave Husted sent an apology for not having the time to respond to questions submitted to him by the CHPS Board of Directors. Candidate Alejandro Garcia did not respond to our questions.

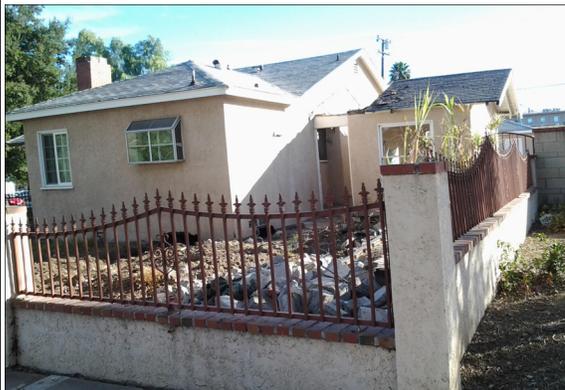
Two of the five candidates that are running will be elected to serve a four-year term on Corona's City Council. Again, we sincerely appreciate the candidates sharing their responses pertaining to local historic preservation issues. It is of utmost importance that we Coronans exercise our right to vote.

**"Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters."**  
- Abraham Lincoln



## Update on Relocated Sheridan Properties

You will notice some changes in the two homes that were relocated from 807 and 819 Sheridan Avenue to make room for the Corona Regional Medical Center parking structure. The 807 Sheridan structure (top left) has lost the garden window on the right front of the house, the addition on the right side, some of the overhang and the hip roof facing the street has disappeared in favor of a nearly flat shed roof, when compared with the current image (below left). The 819 Sheridan structure (top right) has lost some of its overhang and historic detail elements on its



front-facing gable, but the large multi-pane windows flanking the door and full-width porch depicted in the current image (lower right) preserve much of its historic appearance.

For any who wish to follow the progress of the repurposing of these homes, you may see them on the inside of the Grand Boulevard circle in the 800 block alongside the alley.



These homes are not yet complete and should be viewed as "works in progress." It is a tribute to the contractor vision and city staff patience that these homes have been able to survive and be reused as residential infill projects within the Grand Boulevard circle.



# Quarterly Meeting: Visit Planned to Lemonia Grove

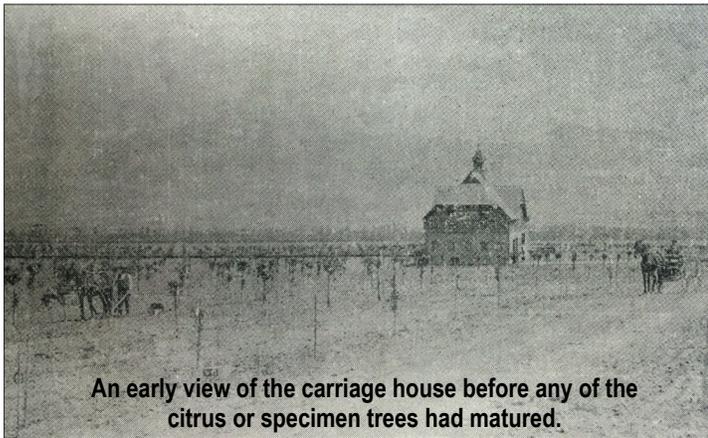
We have been able to schedule a visit to the unique property of early South Riverside businessman and citrus rancher Oscar Thieme for our third Quarterly Meeting for 2016. Located at **2750 Rimpau**, (the west side of the street between Taber Road and Chase Drive) this 2 and one half acre remnant is all that is left of the almost 90 acres once planted in Lisbon Lemons.



world travels and planted by Mr. Thieme, still remain to populate the property and beautify our community. Most were planted over 100 years ago. Three Moreton Bay Fig trees, over 150 feet tall, are found at Lemonia Grove. We are truly blessed to have this oasis and collection of wonderful and exotic plants to stand out in the midst of the residential homes that now surround it.

This property is unique in that the original carriage house still remains after more than 120 years and many of the specimen trees, so carefully selected in his

**WHEN: Sat., October 22 at 10 AM  
DON'T MISS OUT!**



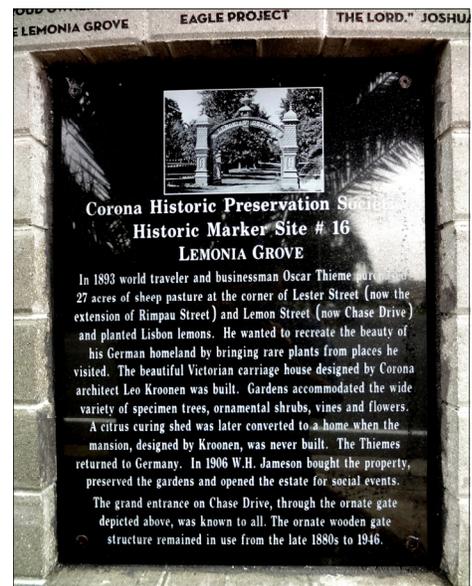
An early view of the carriage house before any of the citrus or specimen trees had matured.



A view of the carriage house prior to reconstruction of the staircase with help from a CHPS grant.



An historic view of the original decorative gate on Chase Drive that welcomed all who came to visit Lemonia Grove up until the 1940s.  
Image courtesy of Corona Public Library



Monument is located to the left of Rimpau entry.gate.

# Corona's Forgotten Memorial

By Wes Speake

In December of 1968, a portion of the new Butterfield Stage Park was designated as a Memorial Park to be dedicated to those military men and women who were serving in Vietnam. Approval was given to build a Memorial Wall, which was to be constructed of adobe with three arches - one to include a bell. A city Planning Department employee designed the wall.



Courtesy of Corona Public Library

the original adobe has worn away. The structure is being held together by the mortar and rebar and, sadly, the hole remains where Rena's bell was once attached.

Some of the history behind the wall was presented to the City's Infrastructure Committee last month and was warmly received. Therefore with the City of Corona's approval the CHPS would like to announce its intention to preserve and celebrate this part of Corona History by preserving this wall for future generations.



Mayor Rena Parker seated below the central arch and bell.

Courtesy of library

The memorial wall was dedicated on Memorial Day 1969 by a beaming Rena Parker, Corona's first female mayor. Rena had worked tirelessly to raise money for the wall and acquire an appropriate bell. Sadly, because of the political climate the wall was vandalized shortly after it was dedicated and its precious bell stolen; bronze plaques were pried off the newly built wall. The wall was used for Memorial Day celebrations for a few more years. However, because of the vandalism and the unpopularity of the

Above, we can see how the triple-arch wall segment reminiscent of California Mission architecture appeared after construction

war the wall was left to deteriorate and was abandoned and forgotten. Due to the use of unsealed adobe blocks and the constant watering of the lawn, the wall has been slowly worn away to its current condition, as you can see below. Today, the reflecting bench, and most of

erations. Vice Mayor Haley pledged the first \$1,000 to start the process. Our plans include: changes in irrigation, excavation around wall to keep additional moisture off of it, installing decorative fencing, stabilizing the wall, some slight repairs, sealing the wall to prevent further damage, installing a CHPS marker, and most importantly acquiring some sort of bell and installing it to remember Rena Parker, not only as Corona's first female Mayor but as a champion for this wall.

As a child I played on that wall after baseball games as kids do today, in fact, to take the pictures I had to wait a few minutes for kids to finish the easy climb along the top. After my presentation last month to the city, Councilman Haley (a Vietnam combat veteran himself) suggested that we stabilize the wall and allow kids to continue to use this wall but also to remember the men and woman who served in this war.

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The two present-day photographs above show how time, weather, water and constant use have caused the deterioration of the monument. The image at the left shows how the upper surface of the adobe blocks, including entire blocks, have literally "melted" away and, as an unintended consequence, the continuous mortar joints have provided an excellent surface for small and large athletic shoes to gain secure foothold when used as a climbing obstacle. The image at the right shows how the squared-off end pilasters have gradually been rounded off over the years from the effects of rain and sprinkler water on unsealed adobe.

Editor's Note: CHPS will share additional details in future *CHPS Newsletters*.

# Membership Information

**When joining or renewing your membership, please make your  
tax deductible check payable to "CHPS"**

|                   |          |                          |                               |                          |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Individual Member | \$20.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>I'd like to volunteer!</b> |                          |
| Family            | \$30.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hospitality refreshments      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Student           | \$10.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Newsletter writing articles   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Business          | \$50.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Vintage Home Tour             |                          |
| Patron            | \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | docent / volunteer            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Life              | \$500.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Board of Directors            | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Gift from \_\_\_\_\_



Membership Status: Renewal  New

**Please complete form and mail to:**

**CHPS**

**P.O. Box 2904  
Corona, CA 92878**



## We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Carol Ackerman  
JaNell Acosta  
Jennie Adamo  
ALLEGRA Print•Marketing•Mail  
Jim & Marie Cambuzzi  
Doris Haddy  
Dick & Christine Haley

Rita (Brooks) Koch  
Robert & Ruth Kremer  
Stephen & Erma Paloma  
Fred & Vicki Parr  
Dottie Reichard  
Wes Speake  
Jay Stemska

Juergan & Gerlinde Stens  
Kathy Sinkovich & Dana Sutton  
Ola Talbert (Patron)  
David & Lynette Tougas  
Marcelle Turk / Eveline Zadeh  
Nancy Wyatt

## Our Home Preservation Grant Program

The CHPS Grant Committee along with the Board of Directors of the Corona Historic Preservation Society would love to assist local homeowners in making exterior improvements to their historic homes.

We will process any application within 60 days after submittal. Once a grant has been approved and reimbursement limits established, funds will be made available upon completion, inspection and onsite final approval.

Take this opportunity to do some fixing up and have part of the material cost covered by CHPS. Remember we are interested in helping people beautify their homes for others to see, so applications are primarily for curb appeal projects. If you



have a place that you feel needs help, either your own or a neighbor's, please contact CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program Chairman Tom Richins at [tom@alignarc.com](mailto:tom@alignarc.com) or 949.231.8596. We will assist you in any way possible to provide the information you need to complete the application process.

Grant applications are available at the Community Development Department at Corona City Hall at 400 South Vicentia, and at the Heritage Room of the Corona Public Library.

More information and grant applications may also be downloaded from our website:

[<http://corona-history.org/grants.html>](http://corona-history.org/grants.html)

***Please share this information with others!***



Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

## Board of Directors

President - Fred Parr  
Vice President - Wes Speake  
Secretary - Doris Osko  
Treasurer - Richard Winn

### Directors

Trisha Henson-Cabrera  
Paula Muñoz  
Tom Muñoz  
Mary Winn

### Advisors

Marla Benson  
Tom Richins  
Ted Taylor

To contact us call  
**951.898.2044**

*Please leave a brief  
message*



## Our Mission Statement

The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is a nonprofit tax-exempt organization dedicated to preservation and revitalization of Corona's historic buildings, neighborhoods and sites.

Through education, persuasion, legislation and organization, CHPS acts as an advocate for the preservation of Corona's historic resources.

## Monthly Meetings

CHPS Board meetings are held each month to transact Society business, discuss issues affecting the Society and preservation of local historic resources.

**All members are invited to attend.**

The next meetings will be:

**Thursday, September 15, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office**

**Thursday, October 20, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office**



**Visit our Website at [www.Corona-History.org](http://www.Corona-History.org)**



Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

P.O. Box 2904  
Corona, California 92878-2904



Be sure to vote on November 8



1893 Carriage house at Lemonia Grove

**Join Us at Lemonia Grove** See page 5 for details