

# THE RECORD

## Historic Resources Ordinance Passed!

*Could these downtown structures have been saved and adapted for reuse?*



Courtesy of the Burlingame Historical Society



*Clockwise from left: The Peninsula (Fox) Theater 1926-1978, Old City Hall 1913-1970, John Donnelly home 1860s-1964*

On June 16, 2014, with seemingly little fanfare, the Burlingame City Council passed a voluntary Historic Resources Ordinance. Since at least the 1970s, many Burlingame residents have felt that some type of preservation ordinance would be desirable. The building boom following WWII gave rise to the demolition of many historic buildings and a heightened awareness of our nation's history around the time of the bicentennial in 1976 made many Burlingame residents nostalgic for what had been lost. Indeed, the birth of the Burlingame Historical Society in 1975 was rooted in awareness that our history and sense of place were literally being dumped and our past, disappearing. Last month, our city council took steps to address those concerns.

In a nutshell, the new voluntary program adopted last month provides incentives for owners to preserve historic properties by offering attractive tax benefits, reduced permit fees for remodeling and use of an Historic Building Code. Only properties that meet certain criteria and are within a very limited geographical area of the downtown (El Camino to Anita Road and Peninsula to Oak Grove) are eligible under the new ordinance. These potential benefits can simplify, and make more financially attractive, adaptive reuse of and improvements to properties that would otherwise have difficulties meeting current building standards. Property owners must apply for coverage under the new ordinance; applications will be processed through the Planning Department and Commission. An initial professional survey conducted in 2007-8 (required by CEQA laws as part of the Downtown Specific Plan) identified several properties that would be eligible for the new ordinance, though others may also apply. Structures identified range from the 1941 United States Postal Office on Park Road . **Ordinance** *continued on page 3*

**History Weekend:**  
**Saturday and Sunday Aug 2-3**

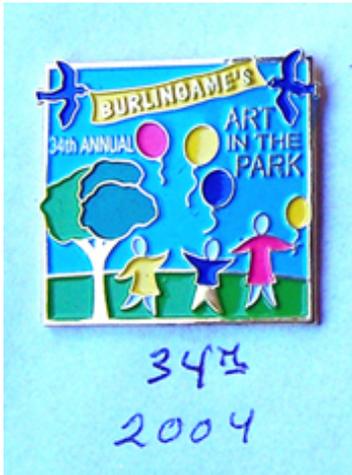
**Downtown Walking Tours**  
 Saturday, Aug 2 from 11AM-12PM  
 Meet at Burlingame Ave. train station

**Party on the Green**  
 Sunday, Aug 3 from 1-3 PM  
 at Kohl Mansion



*more on page 3*

**NEW ACQUISITIONS**



THANKS TO: **Gina Borba, Burlingame Parks and Rec. Dept.** for an assortment of “Art in the Park” decorative pins designed by **Leona Moriarty** from the mid-2000s, **Rob Adams**, for several misc. items belonging to **Egidio A. Bertioia** (deceased, of 112 Bayswater and 142 Channing), including

Emmons; to **Carl Martin**, from his late father-in-law, **John Benson**, for a large Sanborn insurance map book of Burlingame, March 1921; **John Parkin** for several Burlingame Civil Defense armbands, c. early 1960s, a “Letter of Promulgation,” for disaster preparedness/civil defense, to the Citizens of Burlingame and a City of Burlingame Emergency Plan Booklet, Sept. 1978. and a “I was there Earthquake 7.1” Loma Prieta t-shirt of the BPD, Oct. 17, 1989; **Brad McCulley** for an assortment of historic newspapers; **Michael Ratliff Lutz**, great-great-grandnephew of Anson Burlingame, for information related to his family’s history in California; **Farris Horak** for a Burlingame Book Shop book marker, formerly located at 1411 Burlingame Avenue; **Shirley (Castle) Carpenter** for matchboxes of misc. Burlingame businesses; **Dr. Gregory Ross** for a large SM County wall map c.1940s and a Burlingame Realty sign, 1090 Burlingame Avenue, c. 1930s, belonging to his father, who owned Burlingame Realty beginning in the 1930s and developed several homes in the Burlingables subdivision; **Linda Field** for misc. archive supplies and memorabilia, including printed matter related to Kohl Mansion, and the village of New Berlin, Chenango County, New York, birthplace of Anson Burlingame; **Mary Packard** for misc. archive supplies; **Eric Ribeiro** for a framed SF Chronicle magazine article “Coming Home” signed by Diane Dwyer, December 2001; **Paul Constantino** for several obits, and misc. clippings related to former and current Burlingame and Hillsborough residents; and an **Anonymous Donor** for three large prints of our station area, 1930s-1960s.

1966 local newspapers related to SFO and local aviation history, 3 Burlingame “B’s” from the early 1940s, Burlingame Elementary Tidings re: School Bond Election, Oct. 1956; an undated receipt from John Lee Laundry & Cleaners, 220 East Lane, a 1965 Peninsula Midweek supplement to the Advance-Star newspaper featuring “Cruisin’ and Hangin’ on El Camino: Teen-Agers’ Restless Hunt for Fun and Excitement,” Oct. 20, 1965 and a c. 1965 extensive promotional newspaper of the Woodlake Apartment complex, designed by architects Wurster, Bernardi and

**DID YOU KNOW? The S.S. Coxe: This ship has sailed!**

Last month, (June 2014) after spending 43 years in Burlingame’s Sanchez Channel, the *S.S. General Frank M. Coxe* was towed by its new owners to Stockton. Our archivist emeritus, Martha Rosman May, loved that ship, which was built the same year she was born. **Martha May tells us the ship’s story here:** “The Sherman Restaurant in the historic 91-year-old *S.S. General Frank M. Coxe* closed its doors early in 2010, approximately two years after opening. Built as a 150-foot river steamer in 1922 in West Virginia for the Army Quartermaster Corps, the *S.S. Coxe* was sent to San Francisco to serve as a harbor transport for Army personnel and their families between mainland SF and the island forts around the Bay. After being decommissioned from the Army in 1946, the *S.S. Coxe* became a scenic cruise ship in the Bay until 1955, when it steamed under full power to Stockton to become the “Showboat.” In 1958, the ship was towed to Oakland and soon continued as the “Showboat” in Jack London Square. In 1971, it was towed to Burlingame where it housed nine different restaurants in 43 years. The ship was in Burlingame longer than any other location.”



**Walking Tours and Party on the Green**

**Sat and Sun Aug 2-3**

In lieu of our regular quarterly meeting for summer, you are invited to help blow out the birthday candles when **Kohl Mansion turns 100 on Sunday, August 3, from 1-3 PM.** Come dressed in period costume dress (if you'd like) for an afternoon of music, mansion tours, a classic car show, a slice of birthday cake and proclamations by community leaders.

Also, on **Saturday, August 2, from 11 AM to noon, we will be conducting FREE, 1 hour walking tours of the station and downtown area,** in conjunction with SM County Historical Association's Victorian Days.

**No need to pre-register, just show up!**



**The first weekend of August promises to be a history packed weekend!**

**Special thanks to:**

**City of Burlingame** for their generous Community Grant to the Historical Society. And, thanks to **all those who helped us move our heavy vintage signs** and other bulky items to make room for CalTrain operations who requested to reoccupy the baggage/freight room on the north side of the station.

***Can you help us?  
We are looking for a  
1999, 29th Anniversary  
of Art in the Park pin to  
complete our collection  
(see Acquisitions pg. 2)  
650-340-9960***

**Welcome New Members!**

- Beth Dominik - Individual**
- Mary Denney Griffith - Individual**
- Lee Kriloff Johnson - Individual**
- Arlene Mowles - Individual**



**Historic Resource Ordinance** (continued from page 1)

to two pioneer residences of early Burlingame: The George W. Gates residence (on Donnelly) and the James and Jessie R. Murphy Residence (on Douglas Avenue). Both of these homes had been rolled off Burlingame Avenue around 1917 and moved to their current locations, as the once residential Burlingame Avenue became increasingly commercial.

If the new Historic Resources Ordinance is successful, it may eventually be expanded into residential neighborhoods. In other communities similar programs have proved to be quite popular and effective in preserving a community's historic resources and sense of place.

**Sign up for E-SCRIP to maximize your gift to our society!**

Several local merchants, such as Lunardi's, Mollie Stone's, Piazzas, Draegers and Trags will donate a percentage of your total monthly purchases to the Burlingame Historical Society through their Community Card Program. It's easy to sign-up -- just inquire at the cashier or online! Our Group ID# is 500045347 (or you can write in "Burlingame Historical Society"). Please check the following website for other participating merchants:

<http://www.escrip.com/merchants/search/>



Burlingame Historical Society  
P.O. Box 144  
Burlingame, Ca 94011  
[www.burlingamehistorical.org](http://www.burlingamehistorical.org)  
650-340-9960

**Address Service Requested - Time Dated Material**

## Calendar

### History Weekend

Aug 2-3

#### **Walking Tours of Downtown:**

**Saturday, August 2, 11 AM - 12**

Meet at Burlingame Ave train station

#### **Party on the Green:**

**Sunday, August 3, 1-3 PM**

Kohl Mansion Centennial

#### **Museum Open:**

1st Sun. of each month, 1-4 PM.

Sept 7, Oct 5, Nov 2 (closed Aug 3 for Party on Green) **Docents Needed!** No experience required. Please call 340-9960 to volunteer.

*Please remember us in  
your will!*

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THE BURLINGAME HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## President's Message



It would be hard to overstate the importance of the Historic Resources Ordinance, recently adopted in Burlingame. It is no secret that this issue has taken many, many years of often heated council and community debate to arrive at this point. Indeed, with each decade being marked by a substantial rise in Burlingame property values, the concept of preservation has become more and more complex. And yet, invariably, when new residents and visitors comment about all that Burlingame has to offer, the city's historic charm is mentioned in the same breath as its great schools and cherished heritage trees.

I'd like to personally extend my heartfelt thanks to the current city council and their staff for taking the first leap-one that I hope will be considered and embraced by those

willing to explore all benefits afforded them with registry of their properties.

This journey would not have been possible without the formidable and passionate efforts of many former Burlingame Historical Society Board members and several enlightened council members, over the past century. Most are no longer with us but recognized early on the tangible (*and marketable!*) aspects of Burlingame's historical assets.

More recently, longtime Historical Society Board members, former Burlingame Council member **Russ Cohen** and former Mayor **Cathy Baylock**, deserve particular recognition and gratitude for many years of hard work in this regard, both on and off council. Each has shown a passionate and unwavering vision for our city that has always emphasized the importance of embracing Burlingame's history.

*- Jennifer Pfaff*

### **Current Officers 2012:**

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VP - Museum

Russ Cohen

VP - Membership and

Education

Diane Condon-

Wirgler

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Secretary - Rosalie

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Oral and Living History -

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Corresponding Secretary -

Mary Packard

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