



CONTINUITY

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Messina Orchard Out, Homes Safe

In 1922, Stefano and Marie Messina purchased 40 acres of orchard land on what is now North Capitol Avenue from Floyd Lundy, and planted prunes, apricots and peaches on the site. In 1935, the Messina's built a Spanish Colonial Revival style house on the property, replacing the original Lundy Victorian house. In 1949, a second family residence was built on the parcel, also facing North Capitol Avenue. The newer house is a two-story Mediterranean style house with a red tile roof.

This second house was built by Stefano's son, Richard for his bride, Anita, in 1949, the year they were married. They were married for over fifty years and raised their family in that home.



1935 Colonial Revival Messina house

Ten acres of the original parcel are still owned by the Messinas, and the orchard surrounding the two homes was operational until 1999. The Mediterranean style house is still occupied by a family member, Marilyn Messina, a PAC*SJ member. The 1935 house, above, is used as a guest house for visiting family members. The Messina property is located on the new light rail line that runs in the medium of North Capitol Avenue.

(Continued on page 3)

BAREC Update

In the last issue of our Continuity we discussed the Bay Area Research and Extension Center (BAREC) at Winchester Road. Here is an update.

SaveBAREC is proposing a sustainable living solution, based on urban agriculture techniques. When completely cleaned, the land could be organized into set plots for fruit orchards, row crops, dense biointensive farming, with a dedicated children's learning center, and landscape training for professionals and the community. Other ideas include a native plant garden/botanical gardens, housing for apprentices in agriculture that would work the land, and a visitor's center/museum that would capture the rich history of this land and the valley.

Other proposed projects which threaten this potential community asset is the construction of 110 single family homes by SummerHill Homes and a 165 unit senior home by the City of Santa Clara.

Once the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) is created, commented on by the public and finalized, it is then presented to the Santa Clara City Council for acceptance. One of the options in the EIR is "no project," meaning that the housing projects would not proceed. The City of Santa Clara has complete control over what happens to the land via zoning. There are only six council members that can vote on the project. If just three council members support keeping the land zoned agriculture, the SaveBAREC proposal could become a reality.

If the City of Santa Clara decides to go through with its housing project, SaveBAREC will need help collecting signatures in the Santa Clara neighborhood to bring this issue to the people for a vote. Most people have no idea this land is even there. SaveBAREC also needs funding, supporters, and volunteers for web master, database administer, or data entry.

There is overwhelming support for this land to be preserved as an agricultural jewel from our history and culture. Learn more information or volunteer at <http://www.savebarec.org>.



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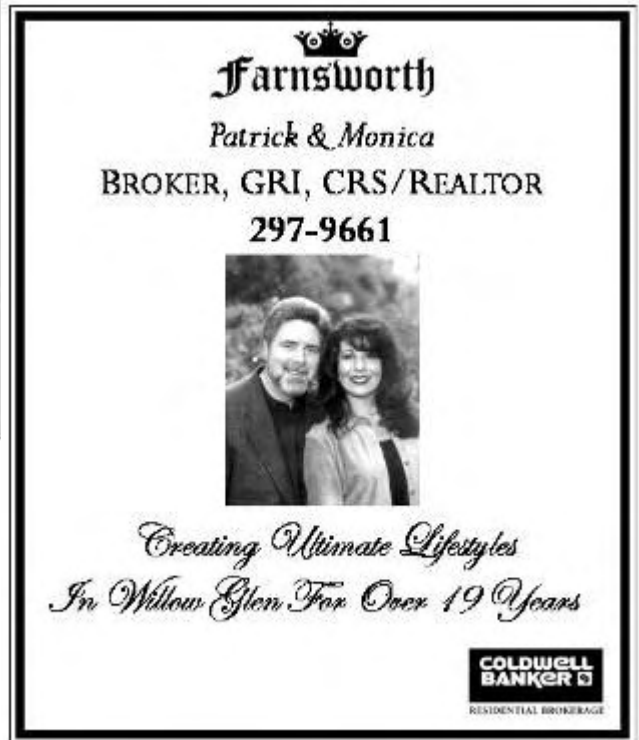
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The Preservation Action Council of San José (PAC* SJ) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving San José's architectural heritage through education, advocacy and events.

We believe that historic preservation is **good for our quality of life and good for business.** We aim to integrate a strong commitment to historic preservation into the land use and development decisions of the City of San José that affect historic resources, as well as into the private decisions of property owners and developers. We try to bring owners and developers together to create historically sensitive projects that make economic sense.

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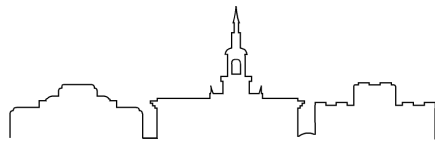
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