



**SAN RAMON HISTORIC FOUNDATION**

**Dedicated to the preservation of San Ramon's early farms and homesteads**

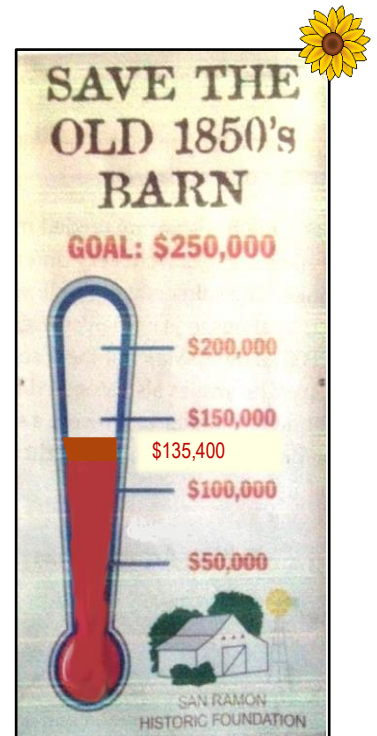
## A Message From The Board

Forest Home Farms is open to the public every Tuesday to Saturday from 10AM to 4PM. Visitors can take a self-guided tour by using their cell phone and the code located at the Kiosk at the entrance to the farm. Tours of the Glass House Museum are available at 1PM every Saturday for a \$5 fee. The Tractor Barn has a huge collection of antique restored tractors and engines for everyone to view. Visitors may also shop for unique gifts and toys in the Gift Shoppe on Saturdays. In addition, group field trips and tours can be scheduled by appointment by calling 973-3284.

Every Saturday is Fun on the Farm with a themed presentation and hands-on activities from 11AM to 2PM. Some of the themes are Behind the Scenes with Tractors, Cinco de Mayo in California, Home Composting for Busy People, Learn the Ropes, Farm Chores, City Chicks, Hay Hoisting, Old Fashioned Games, Mystery Tools, Old Fashioned Ice Cream Making, Leather Crafting and many other fascinating themes.

On September 9th, the Farm will be closed, as we are encouraging everyone to attend the San Ramon 150 Celebration at City Hall from 11AM to 2PM. On September 23rd, Forest Home Farms will hold a 20th Anniversary Party. In 1997, Ruth Quayle Boone bequeathed Forest Home Farms to the City of San Ramon in honor of her husband Travis. We have been

*(See Board on pg. 2)*



**...and counting!**

## Forest Home Farms

## Celebrates Oktoberfest



On October 14th, the San Ramon Historic Foundation is sponsoring the annual OKTOBERFEST to fund the Ole 1850 Barn Restoration. It will be held at Forest Home Farms from 11AM to 4PM and features the Olympic Fields Brass Band, Golden Gate Bavarian Dancers, Dachshund Races and a delicious German themed lunch! There will be fun activities for all ages! Advance ticket sales are now being offered online through PayPal at [www.srhf.org](http://www.srhf.org). Adult: \$25 includes lunch, beer stein and 1 beer; Ages 13-20: \$15.00 includes lunch and root beer; Ages 6-12: \$10 includes lunch and root beer; Ages 5 and under FREE. Day of the event sales = Adult: \$30.

If you have any Dachshund (doxie) dogs that you would like to enter into the races — visit [srhf.org](http://srhf.org) for an entry form. Prizes will be given and costumes are encouraged! Volunteers are always needed at all our events, so do not be shy, join in the fun!



## Board

(cont'd. from pg. 1)

enjoying this special Historic Park ever since! On Saturday, September 23rd, everyone can step back in time and enjoy Victorian tea and scones. Historic pictures will be on display to see how the farm has changed over time. Lawn bowling and croquet can be played, as everyone enjoys the anniversary party.

See you at the Farm and thanks for being a member of the San Ramon Historic Foundation!

Carol J. Rowley  
President of the Board



## New Look for Membership Renewal Envelope

Over the last ten years the Foundation's membership procedures have evolved. Several years ago the membership card was eliminated with the Foundation relying instead on our database and printed lists at the Gift Shoppe. At that time our membership drive was reorganized, and all members now receive renewal notices in the fall and all memberships are valid January 1 to December 31.

This year we are redesigning our membership renewal envelope so you may clearly designate your donation intent. Most people send membership donations to support all the programs and grants the Foundation funds, but others have a specific interest such as the Old Barn. Sometimes a check includes several goals but without clearly stating how the money should be divided. Hopefully this simple check list will help the Foundation comply with your wishes. Please look for the envelope and its new format when you receive your membership drive letter this fall.

To assure your donation is allocated to the correct category(s), please indicate your preferences:

Membership	Old Barn	Tractor	Memorial	1600 Club	1877 Club	General Donation
Amount of donation:	Amount of donation:	Amount of donation:	Person to be honored & amount:			Any special designation:

Your signature will confirm your donation category(s).

\_\_\_\_\_

## Signs of the (Historic) Times

Perhaps you've noticed the new Historic Site signs installed this spring, along San Ramon Valley Blvd., directing visitors to Forest Home Farms. They are the final phase in the long road and countless hours of research by a dedicated volunteer to inclusion of the property on the National Register of Historic Places.

Volunteer Jane Jennings took on the task, with help from Jill Johnson of AIG in San Francisco, who had completed a property assessment for the City. Jane began researching the property and matching the criteria for obtaining Register status.

In order to qualify, a property must have demonstrable significance not just locally, but also nationally. What made Forest Home Farms unique? Just being "old" wasn't enough. Continued research revealed that Travis Boone was quite the inventor. Recognizing the need for streamlining agricultural tasks, he invented a special walnut picking device. The Farm  
(See Signs on pg. 3)



## Signs

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and the 19 buildings original to the property associated with Travis Boone thus became historically significant.

But Jane's work was not finished. She still had to research and identify historical significance, if any, of the Glass house. After painstakingly scouring old newspapers of that era, she spotted an article announcing the beginning of building the house. Then later, the completion was announced. Aha! This was the evidence she needed. In 1877 creation of such a house was worthy of county-wide news! Using the architecture of the house and accompanying tank house as the qualifiers, the Historic Register application was submitted.

After an intense two years of research, the property, including all 21 structures, was found to qualify and state recognition was granted at the State meeting on June 28, 2002. Shortly thereafter the National ranking was confirmed.

We owe our gratitude to Jane Jennings for her tireless efforts to see this important process through to completion, and finally, 15 years later, the Historic Site markers along the boulevard.

*Acknowledgment to Jane Jennings for providing details for this article. Photo provided by Ron Simmons*

## Update on Ole Barn Restoration

The Ole Barn project is progressing well, and an early October completion date is anticipated. The foundation and floor has been poured, and now the contractor is working on drainage installation and board repair/replacement for the walls and roof. The roof shingles were special ordered from Canada and installation will begin soon. Below is an aerial photo showing the progress. Once the project has been officially completed the Historic Foundation and City of San Ramon will start planning the grand opening celebration. *(Photos provided by Dall Barley & Brad Morris)*



## Gratitude for our Members

*Vielen Dank* (Many thanks) for your continued support of the San Ramon Historic Foundation. Your help affords us the opportunity to preserve Forest Home Farms Historic Park for future generations. We welcome you to volunteer for our upcoming events and activities.

January: Crab Feed

October: Oktoberfest

April: Sheep Shearing

December: Holiday on the Farm



If you're interested, please contact Carol Rowley at [caroljrowley@yahoo.com](mailto:caroljrowley@yahoo.com).

Many thanks to the **Dougherty Valley San Ramon Rotary Foundation** and **San Ramon Valley Kiwanis Foundation** for their generous support of our elementary school education programs at the farm. These programs serve over 2500 students annually from local schools and would not be possible without grants from these wonderful organizations!

# COMING SOON!

## September

September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Closed  
for Labor Day  
September 9<sup>th</sup> – Closed for  
SR 150 Celeb.  
September 16<sup>th</sup> – Johnny  
Appleseed Day  
September 23<sup>rd</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>  
Anniv. of Forest  
Home Farms  
September 30<sup>th</sup> – Candle  
Making

## October

October 7<sup>th</sup> – Pumpkins &  
Gourds  
October 14<sup>th</sup> – Oktoberfest by  
SRHF  
October 21<sup>st</sup> – Vintage  
Vehicles  
October 28<sup>th</sup> – Trick or Treat  
at the Farm

## November

November 4<sup>th</sup> – Beautiful  
Kernels of Corn  
November 11<sup>th</sup> – Soap Making  
November 18<sup>th</sup> – Jam & Bread  
November 25<sup>th</sup> – Closed for  
Thanksgiving

For details about these events, see the SR Parks & Comm. Svcs. Fall Activity Guide

## Follow Us



**WEB:** <http://www.srhf.org>




**FACEBOOK:** San Ramon Historic Foundation



**TWITTER:** @srhfor



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