



PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

The following is public correspondence received by the City Clerk's Office after the posting of the original agenda. Individual contact information has been redacted for privacy. This may *not* be a comprehensive collection of the public correspondence, but staff makes its best effort to include all correspondence received to date.

To send correspondence to the City Council, on matters listed on the agenda please email PublicComment@losaltosca.gov

From: [Bill Hough](#)
To: [Public Comment](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: [External Sender]Public Comment, Study Session, May 23,, 2023
Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023 9:21:09 AM

It is no surprise that a tax increase to fund a new police station would not get enough "yes" votes to pass.

Residents are getting mixed messages from City Hall. Pleading poverty, the city wants a new police station while it doubles the sewer tax. At the same time, they plan is to spend public money on a new theater that should be privately funded.

Why not scrap funding for the theater and redirect that money to the new police station?

Bill Hough
Overtaxed resident

From: [Debbie Crouse](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Tanya Momi](#)
Subject: Heritage Orchard Restoration and maintenance
Date: Sunday, May 21, 2023 12:13:00 PM

Hello,

I'm putting a word in to support maintenance and restoration of the Los Altos Heritage Orchard. My requests are two-fold:

- 1) Make it an *immediate* priority to remove weeds. It's a bit of an embarrassment to the community while care for the orchard is debated.

- 2) Assign care for the orchard to The Los Altos History Museum and eliminate this gap in care. They have an excellent track record for caring for the History House and Agricultural Exhibit and have plans established for arranging for care of the orchard.

I support an overall plan of maintaining the orchard as a green space and place of SV history.

Best,

Debbie Crouse
1273 Windimer Dr.

From: [Craig Little](#)
To: [City Council - Public Comment](#)
Subject: Historic Orchard Study Session Tuesday, May 23, 2023 06:00 PM
Date: Sunday, May 21, 2023 9:19:40 PM

Dear City Council,

This is a public comment regarding our historic orchard. For many years, I have admired the Saratoga Heritage Orchard. It is always green and healthy looking. It is my hope that our Los Altos will do due diligence in looking for the right service to manage our orchard. Please have our city Manager reach out Saratoga to find out what maintenance service they use and consider hiring the same service for our orchard. By hiring an experienced orchard maintenance service, Los Altos will save time and money.

I have included the information provided to the public on the Saratoga City website. They do a lovely job laying out exactly precise details regarding their orchard.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Teresa Morris

From https://url.avanan.click/v2/___https://www.saratoga.ca.us/489/Heritage-Orchard___YXAzOmxcv2FsdG9zY2E6YTpvOjFmN2RlODNiMDEyNDI3YjJmMTg3Y2M4YzcyYTNlNjg5OjY6ODc2OTpIMTE0ZDQ5ZDBlMDZlMTJhNDkMTUyMTRlMmExOWY1YjVhNzhhMjdkZmQ2NTkwYzcyAwY2RkMmZkNGVlNDY5OnQ6VA

Heritage Orchard

2023 Community Harvest

Harvest opportunities will be announced based on orchard conditions. Saratoga residents can learn about these opportunities by completing the [Community Harvest Interest Form](#). After completing the Community Harvest Interest Form, Saratoga residents will be notified by email at least 24 hours in advance of Community Harvest opportunities. This email will include instructions on how to participate.

Residents can also become a Village Harvest volunteer to pick fruit from local orchards that will be donated to local food banks at www.villageharvest.org.

Fruit may only be collected as part of City-sanctioned harvest events or activities. Registration is required. Harvest dates and times are subject to change.

- [View photos from the 2021 Community Harvest](#)
- [View photos from the 2022 Community Harvest](#)

Village Harvest

In addition to the Community Harvest, City has collaborated with [Village Harvest](#) to collect fruit from the Heritage Orchard to be donated to local food banks. In 2020, community members volunteered with Village Harvest to gather more than 6,000 pounds of fruit that was donated. Village Harvest is a nonprofit volunteer organization that works to provide food for people in need, promote sustainable use of urban resources, and preserve agricultural heritage and skills.

Visit the [Village Harvest website](#) to learn more about how you can volunteer to be part of this effort.

About the Orchard

Saratoga began as a frontier town and an industrial settlement before becoming an agricultural hub with many fruit orchards and vineyards. Saratoga's bountiful fruit harvests made it a popular trading post. Glen Una was one of the largest prune ranches in the area, and the Blossom Festival started as a result of agricultural influences. Saratoga, and the valley as a whole, transformed its identity once again and Saratoga became a residential community.

The Heritage Orchard was designated as a City park in 1984 in recognition of the City's agricultural heritage. It was designated as a Heritage Landmark by the City in 1988. The Heritage Orchard is now one of the few remaining orchards in the Bay Area. It includes plum, apricot, and cherry trees. In 2020, the City Council adopted the [Heritage Orchard Master Plan](#), which was developed by the [Heritage Preservation Commission](#).

Orchard Maintenance

The City works with an orchard maintenance contractor for the care of the Heritage Orchard. Some of the common maintenance practices are noted below by season.

Winter

- Perform pest management following integrated pest management practices
- Prune cherries and plums
- Plant new trees
- Manage understory

Spring

- Perform pest management
- Thin the crop to prevent limb breakage and to size up the fruit
- Mow

Summer

- Harvest cherries, apricots, and prune plums
- Prune apricots
- Mow

Fall

- Manage cover crop/understory
- Mow

Integrated Pest Management

The Heritage Orchard is maintained using integrated pest management principles. Integrated pest management focuses on the prevention of pests through a combination of ecosystem-based techniques, such as habitat manipulation and other natural options. Fungicide and insecticide are only used in the Heritage Orchard if necessary. Additionally, only organic (OMRI approved) products are used when spraying is needed. Examples of integrated pest management practices include the planting of native, flowering shrubs that provide a habitat for predatory insects and birds that eat orchard pests.

Heritage Orchard Cover Crop

Various plants can be found below the canopy of the trees in the Heritage Orchard. The space below the tree canopy is also referred to as the understory. These plants in the understory are a cover crop that has been intentionally planted to support the health of the Heritage Orchard. The use of cover crops in orchards is very common, dating back to the Roman Empire. Cover crops eliminate the need for annual discing, prevent soil erosion, regulate moisture, attract pollinators, and provide natural weed and pest management. Additionally, the cover crop helps feeds nutrients into the soil, encouraging a healthy microbiology in the soil that helps the Heritage Orchard trees stay healthy and withstand stress throughout the year.

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From: [Tom Stevens](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Jane Packard](#); [Nancy Stevens](#); [Mary Popek](#); [Anne Roberts](#)
Subject: Orchard Restoration
Date: Monday, May 22, 2023 8:36:45 AM

My wife and I would like to show our support for the Orchard Restoration project headed by Jane Packard. We believe that the orchard is a significant community asset that needs restoration and preservation. We are fortunate to have the leadership of Jane Packard and all of us should be willing to provide her the support she needs.

Thank you,

Tom & Nancy Stevens

From: [Pat Marriot](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT ORCHARD STUDY SESSION MAY 23, 2023
Date: Monday, May 22, 2023 9:21:52 AM

Council Members:

I strongly support restoration and care of our Heritage Orchard. It often looks unkempt, full of weeds, which is a shame because it's at the entry point to our Downtown and Civic Center. I'd like to see it fully planted and cared for so we can be proud of preserving a small bit of the Valley of Heart's Delight.

With all the growth in the Bay Area, with all the new projects under the Housing Element, we should be grateful for this last plot of apricots.

Sincerely,

Pat Marriott

From: [Couture, Terri](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: study session ; Los Altos orchard May 23
Date: Sunday, May 21, 2023 8:59:10 AM

Dear Council members

I support restoration of the Los Altos Heritage Orchard. With its excellent track record in caring for the History House and Agricultural Exhibit, the Los Altos History Museum is well suited to take the lead on arranging for orchard care. The trees are a vital part of our history, not to mention all the healthy contributions trees give to our mental and physical health.

thank you Terri Couture & Fred Tuerk

***Wire Fraud is Real*. Before wiring any money, call the intended recipient at a number you know is valid to confirm the instructions.** Additionally, please note that the sender does not have authority to bind a party to a real estate contract via written or verbal communication.