

SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE COMMUNITY

by the

Martinez Historical Society

The Martinez Historical Society is managed by a 15 member Board of Directors. The Society operates these facilities:

- The Martinez Museum.
- The Local History Library (published materials).
- The City Archive of historic photographs & other unpublished source documents (unpublished materials).

The Society receives no government funds, but its all-volunteer staff are able to provide these services to the community:

- Permanent Exhibits at the Martinez Museum (located in the Borland House). There is no charge for admission.
- Current exhibits at the Martinez Museum. These exhibits are typically changed several times a year. The new exhibits are kicked off with an Open House for visitors. Currently, there are two simultaneous exhibits:
 - "Look What We Found" features artifacts donated by various Martinez families over the years.
 - Doran Lamb's collection of Martinez business signs, street signs, and automotive memorabilia.
- Special tours of the Museum for out-of-town visitors, groups, clubs and VIP's.
- Age-appropriate tours of the Museum for all 3rd graders in the Martinez School District. Sponsorship of the Teacher of the Year award issued each year by the Chamber of Commerce.
- Advice to citizens on how to utilize the Museum archives to research their family history, the history of their house, the history of their business, or the history of Martinez.
- Assistance to citizens researching the Museum's collection of thousands of historic photographs.
- An extensive website which receives 150hits/day and which is used as a resource by local schools – especially prior to field trips by the children to the Museum, the Cemetery and our historic downtown.
- A guided Downtown Walking Tours of historic Martinez.
- Also a self-guided walking tour brochure -- published by the Society and made available to visitors at the Martinez Tourist Bureau and City Hall. And also at other locations.
- A Martinez Cemetery Walking Tour brochure – published by the Society with input from the Cemetery Commission -- for use by the public.
- Lectures or multi-media presentations at the Society's public meetings (minimum 4 meetings / year).
- The Martinez History Lecture Series at the Senior Center. The following are sample lecture topics:
 - "Riding the Rails" by Richard Patchin, accompanied by the band "Joyful Noise"
 - "The Italians of Martinez" by Angelo Costanza
 - "Celebrate and Commemorate the Martinez Canteen" by Barbara Hannafan
- A monthly brown bag lunch and round table discussion of history for up to 25 people at the Martinez Museum
- Historic markers (bronze plaques) on notable buildings and historic sites. Plaquing is coordinated with over 20 property owners, the City or E. Clampus Vitus, and occurs at an onsite ceremony with the mayor in attendance.
- Publishing projects. Recent books published are as follows:
 - *Images of America: Martinez* -- a pictorial history of the City
 - *The Borland Home: a History of the House & Guide to the Museum*
 - *Martinez: A Handbook of Houses & History* 2nd Edition
 - *To All Enquiring Friends: Nantucketers in Martinez and San Francisco*
- A bi-monthly newsletter. The newsletter publicizes current programs, exhibits and special events. It also features several well-researched and professionally written articles on Martinez history in each issue.
- The Oral History Project. Both video and audio tape are used to capture first-hand accounts of local history by the City's old timers with the help of volunteers from five other groups: Alhambra Creek Restoration & Environmental Educational Collaborative (ACREEC), Alhambra Valley Creek Coalition, Friends of Alhambra Creek (FOACO), Muir Heritage Land Trust and Environmental Studies Academy (ESA).
- Crab Feed -- with prizes designed to raise awareness of local merchants & the Martinez Arts Association.
- Holiday Open House to enable the public to view the Christmas decorations at the Martinez Museum.
- Holiday Frolic. The Museum becomes a "gingerbread house" where young children do crafts and learn history.
- Mini Motorland -- where children operate miniature vehicles, stop at a miniature museum and both see and handle historic artifacts. The event is sponsored by the City of Martinez Recreation Department.
- Historic Home Tour. The tour showcases notable historic homes in Martinez and provides the public with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enjoy the interior of these architectural gems. The John Muir Association, the National Park Services, the Willows Theatre (period costumes), and sponsors such as Shell all assist.
- Research, planning & fund-raising support to the City of Martinez and PRMCC for the Old Train Depot project.
- Survey of Martinez businesses over the last 6 decades. This is a large joint project with Central San.
- A project in process is creating a new display board for the Brown Mausoleum at the Martinez Cemetery.
- An upcoming project is working with City staff to create displays of Martinez history to exhibit at City Hall.