

A Message From Our President Tom Richins

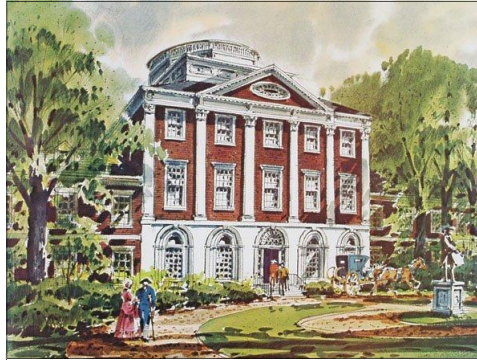
Dear Members:

During the year 1750, Thomas Bond, a notable doctor and surgeon from Philadelphia, conceived the idea of establishing a hospital in Philadelphia. Up to this point, there were no hospitals in the 13 colonies. When Dr. Bond approached the citizens of Philadelphia for support, the answer he always received was, "What are Benjamin Franklin's thoughts of the idea?" With that response in mind, Dr. Bond turned to his good friend, Benjamin Franklin, and asked him for his support.

After hearing Bond's plan of a new hospital, Benjamin Franklin became a strong supporter. Franklin dedicated large amounts of time soliciting the wealthy for the funds to build the new structure. At last, with £2000 donated from private funds, £2000 donated from the Philadelphia City Assembly, and land donated by Thomas and Richard Penn, in 1756 the hospital was constructed and opened for business.

To this day Pennsylvania Hospital is our nation's oldest hospital having been in business for over 260 years. It is located less than a half a mile from Independence Hall and in a very notable historic district, to say the least. Through the years modern medicine has advanced and the population of Philadelphia has grown. The hospital has also had to grow and expand to meet the needs of the people while at the same time remain historic and preserve its past. Pennsylvania Hospital hasn't run from this challenge but instead embraced it. As additional wings have been added, the new architectural features have resembled the original architecture. And, since Benjamin Franklin played such a prominent role in establishing the hospital, a statue of him has been placed out in front. In addition, one of Dr. Bond's ideas was to grow plants that could be used for medicine. Therefore, during the 1970's, the hospital dedicated a portion of the landscaping for plants that could be grown and used for medicine to honor Dr. Bond. Pennsylvania Hospital has done such a magnificent job preserving its past that people come from all over the country and pay \$4 to take a tour of our nation's oldest hospital.

With that in mind, our own Corona Regional Medical Center is



Pennsylvania Hospital
Our nation's very first hospital

also planning to grow and expand. It also lies within the boundaries of our historic district and at the center of the historic Grand Boulevard. I am pleased to announce that through the efforts and encouragement of the Corona Historic Preservation Society, the Corona Regional Medical Center has agreed to add some historical architectural elements to their new buildings to help preserve our history. It has been very encouraging to see them make these changes. We are excited for not only

improvements to our current hospital facilities but also enhancements to our historic downtown.

On a different note, I am pleased to announce that CHPS has been approved to place our 20th historical site marker at the current Corona High School. On behalf of CHPS Board Members, I would like to thank Corona High School alumni for all of the generous financial donations that were given at the 12th annual Corona High School All Year Class Reunion held in July.



Board members at CHS Reunion

Last but not least, CHPS continues to gain ground in establishing the new Palisades Road Historic District over this one-mile remnant of State Highway 18 and US 91 that is essentially the same as it was from 1939 - 1961. The historic background research has been done, signage is in progress and the standards needed for any restoration work on the cement curbing or wooden barricade is nearly complete.

In the words of Benjamin Franklin himself, "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." Thank you for your involvement with Corona Historic Preservation Society. May we continue to learn and cherish our history.

Sincerely,

TOM RICHINS



Third Quarterly Meeting of 2014: Tour of the Corona Theater

Now home to Covenant Life Church, this Classical Mediterranean Italianate Revival Style theater opened its doors in 1929.

You are invited to join us!

Date: Saturday, October 11 at 10:00 A.M.

Location: 211 East Sixth Street

You MUST RSVP to Paula at 951.734.1437

Space is limited and is open only to CHPS members



Our Tradition Continues: Holiday Party & Annual Meeting



Save the Date

Date: Thursday, December 4, 2014 from 6:30 - 9:00 P.M.

Location: Woman's Improvement Club of Corona
1101 South Main Street

Come and enjoy the spirit and music of the Holiday Season with other members of Corona Historic Preservation Society.



We just may surprise you with some new party activities!



Video of Panel Discussion is Now Available Online



If you weren't in the audience of 85+ attendees on June 21, you missed out on a great opportunity to learn from those who lived in our Circle City during the 1940s. Sweet stories and humorous anecdotes were shared; historical information was revealed as each panelist talked about his/her memories from over 70 years ago.

The URL below is where you can access the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVS4RZh-234>

Our Panelists



This was the first in a series of Quarterly Meetings planned by CHPS.

In 2015, "**Growing Up in Corona -1950s**" will be presented utilizing the same format - the panelists will be Corona High School graduates from the 1950s era.

Corona City Council Candidates' Responses

Four questions pertaining to historic preservation issues were sent to all six Corona City Council candidates on August 13th so that their responses could be incorporated into this issue of the CHPS Newsletter. We express our sincere appreciation to all six candidates who took time out of their very busy schedules to respond. This process is to help you, our members, in making your decision as for whom to cast your vote in the upcoming election on **Tuesday, November 4, 2014.**

Please keep the candidates' stated positions in mind and PLEASE BE SURE TO VOTE

QUESTIONS submitted to all candidates

- 1) Within the city's Downtown Revitalization Specific Plan are found Historic Architectural Design Guidelines to reclaim its own unique identity for the downtown area. Do you feel that there is any good reason to exempt any buildings proposed for Corona's historic core from those design guidelines?**
- 2) With the city's motto "To Cherish Our Past, To Plan Our Future" in mind, please be very specific in how you intend to implement our motto and preserve Corona's historical resources and heritage for the future.**
- 3) Flint Strategies was hired to assist the city to develop a Strategic Plan. Community forums and surveys revealed that many Corona residents are greatly concerned with renewal of the downtown area within the Grand Boulevard circle. Please be very specific as to what your vision is to revitalize Downtown Corona.**
- 4) Blighted conditions in Corona's central core continue. Please provide specific plans you envision to revive historic neighborhoods, homes and yards in order to protect historic resources for future generations.**

Responses from KEVIN BUTTON

- 1) Corona's Historical past is very important to me. We have seen decisions in the past which have destroyed our history in Corona. Unless a building is beyond saving, I do not see any reason why we should exempt buildings from the Historical Architectural Design Guidelines. As an elected City Council-member I will work hard to preserve the history in our downtown area.
- 2) To maintain Corona's cultural history I plan to open a discussion with city staff to create a Historical Commission to oversee the preservation of the historical buildings and properties in Corona. Our history is very important to me. I want to make sure that it is a priority in all city discussions.
- 3) The 6th Street corridor is vitally important to the successful business growth in the City of Corona. I plan to work with business owners to create a Business Improvement District in the downtown area so business owners can work together to raise awareness for the development of the area. I will also work with the State of California to have the Corona Mall property sold to one developer so we can bring in an anchor restaurant like Taps, so people will want to venture downtown. I will also work with our police department to focus more dollars on patrols along the 6th Street corridor to help alleviate problems with prostitution and homelessness.
- 4) Our historic district is important to the City of Corona. We must protect historical properties inside the historic district. I plan to work with the city staff to find grant money that can be used to revitalize historic properties and assist those owners who cannot afford to take care of their historic properties. We can also work with local non-profits to focus local clean up projects on historical properties which need assistance.

Responses from RANDY FOX

- 1) I think all proposed buildings in the downtown area should comply with the Historic Design. Having been a builder myself, I know it is not that difficult to accomplish nor is it that costly. I think exempting any buildings would hurt the entire "historic feel" and open up the door for others to seek exemptions from the guidelines. I would also hope to see some of the existing buildings participate in a program to utilizing facades that blend in with the Historic Design.
- 2) I believe our city's future should be planned around our cherished past. The Key to our future is determining what aspect for our past to emphasize. Last year at our Corona Road Race Centennial a series of events that day gave me the idea that our motor sports history can help us plan our future and give us an identity that we desperately need. While we continue to cherish our Citrus history, that aspect does not make us unique. Many cities in Southern California claim the same thing. However, one part of our that does set us apart is our automotive history. No one else has a historic road race track that is still in use like we do. If we capitalize on the one time in our history when we were the center of the world - our Road Race Era - we can make a name for ourselves. If rightly promoted, this could become our signature event that would again "put us on the map." It would give us a theme around which we can rebuild our downtown. What the Mission Inn is to Riverside, the Corona Race Event could be Corona.
- 3) I grew up in the City of Orange. I remember riding my bike through parts of Old Town Orange and pedaling fast through streets that were

blighted. Now Old Town is one of the most quaint and charming areas in Orange County. I would love to see our Circle go through a similar transformation. I can envision quaint cafes and restaurants, antique shops, open areas and venues for work and leisure. The presence of students from Chapman University went a long way to help change Old Town Orange. Now that the old City Hall will again have students (studying Art and Music) we have good starting point. Parents will drop off children then look for places to grab a bite to eat, have coffee, etc. Enhanced police presence in that vicinity will give the area a more secure feel to it. This area needs to be managed well to capitalize on this momentum.

4) There are many examples in California of transforming blighted areas to a quaint, charming, sought after historic neighborhoods. It is a combination of building restoration, providing work/leisure/education venues and restoring the perception of security and safety. I believe if our City could really get ahold of a theme from our past then our history would be appreciated once again and a sense of pride restored. For our downtown I would pursue mixed used zoning and promoting historical facades for our existing buildings. I would seek to enhance the ease and safety of parking and walking in the area. I would endeavor to give incentives to cafes and restaurants willing to locate there. Preserving old homes is a personal passion of mine. I have restored several old homes in Orange. Old homes exude a charm that new construction cannot replicate. I would do all I can to promote and protect our amazing history.

Responses from DAVE HUSTED

1) I believe that the historic architectural guidelines should be utilized solely as a "guide" to encourage our specific historical design. Buildings in this area that do not comply with the proposed guidelines should be evaluated on its own individuality. The unique identity that CHPS is striving to achieve should take into account the current building codes, the structure's functional ability, and the intent of the business.

To regulate that all buildings must comply to a specific design could possibly create an unfriendly environment to potential businesses, developers and investors. I feel that we should be open to all options.

My vision is to remember Corona's Historical Past while encouraging our present and welcoming our future. This would allow for strong economic growth.

2) Corona-Crown My vision for Corona is to be known as "the Crown Jewel" of the Inland Empire; the gateway to the future. To honor our past I would encourage various renditions of Corona's past to include but not limited to the Corona Road Race, citrus industry and agriculture and historical culture. This could include mural paintings on the main street bridge and incorporating citrus trees along The Grand Circle. Assisting our historic home owners and providing guidelines and resources to preserve their property will enable all current and future generations to enjoy Corona's beautiful historical history.

3) Buildings that don't meet code regulations unfortunately need to be removed or renovated to meet building code requirements. Land and building owners need to be willing and able to fiscally meet these codes. This would be my first step.

Once the Downtown area has met code and safety regulations, this would entice potential new business investment and development including fun family entertainment and dining, variety shopping, hosting community farmers markets and showcasing Corona's artistic and creative talents.

I foresee the revitalized Downtown Corona as destination location for family adventures. I would utilize the metro link train stop at Main and provide a free shuttle service to downtown Corona.

4) I would support a volunteer focus group that would provide resources to historic homeowners. These resources would provide but not limited to; historic grant information for upkeep and maintenance and era yard and garden design theme references.

Scheduling targeted neighborhood areas clean ups that would include citizen driven leadership and involvement and supported by Corona's DWP resources. By engaging Corona citizens with the focus of preserving their historic neighborhoods, this would allow for the community to come together to improve not only one historic home but an entire historic community that together would "Cherish our Past, To plan our Future"

Responses from EUGENE MONTANEZ

1) I helped design the guidelines, in conjunction with CHPS, and would like to have all remodels and new construction follow the designs as close as possible. Ideally I would love to see a replica of what we had downtown rebuilt, but that unfortunately is not likely to happen. But we do need to have some guidelines for buildings to be built in the downtown core, and the CHPS ones are a great foundation. There also has to be some flexibility for property owners to comply with the design standards, while at the same time express their personal "touches" to their new property, since they are investing in the community as well. If we remember the original downtown commercial buildings, they were all unique in design, even though some were built within a few years of each other. To date we have been fortunate that a number of prospective building owners have worked well with CHPS, as most have purchased their properties knowing there is a historical expectation.

2) Since I have lived in Corona since 1964, and remember viewing movies at the old Corona theatre and going to some of the stores downtown with my family, Cherishing Our Past means a bit more for me than people who have moved to Corona since 1970. That is one of the reasons Paula, my wife, and I have regularly published a historical calendar free of charge for the community. We publish the calendar, with a mix of pre-1900 to somewhat current date photos so residents can see what was in Corona as well as what current buildings and streets looked like. It is critical that our residents and especially our youth know the heritage we have in this community, a heritage that makes Corona and it's neighborhoods unique. You can also see how I have actively worked with residents and CHPS to implement the design guidelines for new buildings, as well as my votes to support redevelopment of our downtown core into a vibrant commercial hub again.

My goal has always been to replicate the look and feel of the historic downtown, at the same time including more modern features for residents

and visitors to enjoy. Planning the future, with Corona's heritage in the forefront has always been a top priority for me.

3) I have mentioned some of my views in the previous responses, but a full renewal of the downtown is not likely to happen as fast as we would all like. Here are some action items I am currently working on:

1-To immediately provide financial assistance to businesses to paint and improve signage along Sixth Street and Main Street.

2-Find a responsible developer capable of purchasing the Mall previously owned by the redevelopment agency, that can work with the existing property owners that are also a part of the Mall area.

3-Create a master plan for the redevelopment of the "new" downtown to include characteristics of a historic downtown area, to include a city square or small park area for events and gatherings with ample parking so visitors are able to easily enjoy the area.

4-Design the architecture of the master plan to conform to the historic guidelines, but giving the property owner the freedom to create a successful project.

5-Continue working with property owners to improve the downtown core immediately, to improve the appearance of the downtown area.

6-Remove signage that clutters the area which presents downtown as one big swap meet!

4) 1-Corona has a very effective Code Enforcement department which can work with neighbors to improve the appearance of their neighborhoods.

2-CHPS has been very effective in working with homeowners to help them retain the historic nature of their homes, as well as take advantage of government programs. This assistance is welcome since the city can not and should not be the only one responsible for making Corona a great community.

3-I have advocated removal of the "feather flag" signage downtown, but these ugly signs were supported by others in the community. Again, everyone is responsible for making Corona a better place, encourage the planning commission to support removing these eyesores!

4-Property values are rising again, this will help energize the central core of Corona, new property owners will bring new energy as homes change ownership.

5-It is the job of the entire community to help revive areas by encouraging, not penalizing residents, by teaching our youth the history of Corona. As our young people buy homes, encourage them to improve the community. We, as a community, are doing a great job, we should be very proud of Corona I know I am.

Responses from STEVE RUTH

1) Both my wife and I dedicated our life and careers to serving our country. When living or travelling overseas and domestically we always researched the country or town's history. Most places honor their history, and I believe Corona should do the same. Cities and towns with a rich history are usually vibrant communities with proud residents and interested visitors. The places where local history has not been honored are places where most people do not wish to visit or live.

I believe all projects should adhere to the Historic Architectural Design Guidelines when feasible. Deviations from the guidelines should be discussed and the decisions made should be based on what is best for our City. A yes or no answer cannot (and should not) be provided as an answer to this question because each project needs to stand on its own merits. All decisions must be made for the benefit of the People and Businesses of Corona. As your next City Councilmember I will do what makes "sense." Corona needs Councilmember's that will look at a situation and make a decision as to what's best without having a preconceived Yes or No answer to a particular question.

2) There needs to be a partnership with developers, historic societies, and the City to insure that Corona history is preserved and our future progresses. As a Planning and Housing Commissioner I have cast my vote to insure new development reflects the City's history, when warranted. As a future City Councilmember I will continue to help preserve the City's history along with promoting Hispanic, Italian and Native American history, which I believe is currently lacking. We need to educate and inform our residents along with honoring those who played a critical part in shaping Corona.

Quality of Life is extremely important. As your next City Councilmember I will promote and encourage honoring our city's history along with promoting and encouraging the Cultural and Performing Arts - I believe history and culture do go hand in hand. Corona has fantastic organizations such as the Corona Symphony Orchestra, Christian Arts Theatre, Kids Rock Free, Circle City Chorale, and yes, CHPS - to name just a few. These organizations are integral to the quality of life we have in Corona and must be maintained and grown. I encourage Corona's historic societies to partner with these organizations to help promote awareness of Corona's rich history.

3) This Nation's economic crisis has not been easy on Corona's residents and businesses. The Downtown area was hit especially hard and has not risen up as quickly as other parts of the City. I believe that renewal is coming. As your next City Councilmember I will help guide this renewal.

As a Planning and Housing Commissioner I voted Yes on the Harbor Freight and old El Tapatio shopping center renovations along with approving the new apartments on Main Street. I believe the renovation and improvement of these areas will attract more business and encourage them to invest more funds in the downtown area.

As your next City Councilmember I will make decisions that provide an easy path for businesses to renovate our Downtown - and help preserve our history. All decisions must be made for the benefit of the People and Businesses Of Corona. Again, as your next City Councilmember I will do what makes "sense." Corona needs Councilmember's that will look at a situation and make decisions as to what's best without having predetermined opinions or continuing the status quo. I need your vote on November 4th to help make this renewal happen.

4) While serving our country overseas my wife and I travelled to many places where living conditions were very poor and the people had no way

to improve them. I believe that when people have a chance to live in a nice and clean place their self esteem rises and they continue to maintain their homes. Corona is nowhere near what I've seen in other places - but our core can, and should, be improved.

The City and historic societies should work together to help homeowners maintain their historic properties by working with low income homeowners to help them find inexpensive ways to properly maintain and improve their properties - such as painting or repairing their home. These private homes are in our historic district and an organization such as CHPS can be a conduit through which these homes are decently maintained. Improvements on these properties will improve and enhance our historic district. The City and historic societies should work together to help homeowners maintain these historic properties.

Responses from KAREN SPIEGEL

1) On the surface I would say that there is no reason to exempt any buildings proposed for Corona's historic core from the Historic Architectural Design Guidelines. As many may know, I met with members of CHPS and went through the details of the Corona Regional Medical Center regarding their lack of inclusion of Historic Architectural Design in their current proposal of the CRMC expansion. I then met with Mr. Uffer, CEO and shared that I had difficulty supporting their project if there was no effort to work with CHPS' request.

2) We must remember not to get so busy planning our future, that we have forgotten our past. We need to preserve our heritage to enhance community pride and ensure that our rapidly growing city retains its "small town" friendliness.

My actions over the past few years are evident that I have already made a commitment towards historic preservation in Corona. I have personally taken stands even when I was the only one, financially contributed to the preservation and continue to be involved in this effort. I have worked very hard to ensure proper reuse of the old Old City Hall/Historic Civic Center, that we kept the Corona Depot from it's possible demise and that Heritage Park continued to offer the community some rich heritage.

The preservation of this irreplaceable heritage should be of interest to all so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, inspirational, economic benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Coronans. Each vanished landmark has a story of its life and demise, but that is all we have - a story. We have photos and a chapter in books, but very little living legacy to pass on to our children and future generations

3) Since the mid 1980's the City has initiated several efforts to revive the Downtown. On track with a plan prior to the peak of the recent recession, the City entered into an exclusive agreement with a developer and began acquiring the properties necessary to revitalize Sixth and Main Streets. The economy and environment changed overnight and then the Governor dissolved the Redevelopment Agency and "stole" those critical properties.

Last year I initiated a Citywide, community involved Strategic Plan to re-focus a cohesive direction. Successful downtowns do not just happen. No single idea, business, entertainment venue, land use modification, or event make it happen. It comes about as a result of a number of decisions and actions taken by public and private interests, as we work together to provide the changes and momentum necessary.

We need to bring back the vision of an attractive, unique identity, emphasizing "The Circle" as the gateway; maintain our small town, friendly atmosphere; be respectful of our heritage integrated with entertainment, professional office, transit, cultural uses, housing, shops, that are pedestrian-oriented and accessible to residents and visitors alike. We need to have a community that serves the businesses during the day and the residents at night.

4) When we revitalize areas, it is more than just to clean up the homes. Homeowners are "scared off" with the cost of refurbishing, particularly to maintain the historic requirements. Although there has been Federal funding available as well as tax incentives, the dollars are less and more difficult to obtain. We need to work with these homeowners to find these funds. We no longer have local resources available since the demise of the Redevelopment Agency.

Although the City does resurface streets regularly, cleaning up parkways, vacant lots and open areas need to be addressed. By beautifying these areas, a sense of community pride would hopefully be spread. Much of this could be done through community volunteers with several "Corona Beautiful" projects.

We must also address the issue of absentee landlords. When they fail to ensure proper maintenance, the properties may appear to be abandoned homes and buildings causing significantly-lowered property values and blight is a drain on our community and an issue in communities throughout the U.S. and around the world. The challenge is tax policy seems, overall, to favor absentee ownership. However, we could research incentives and/or penalties to these property owners if they fail to maintain the properties.



Three of the above six candidates will be elected to serve a four-year term on Corona's City Council. Again, we appreciate them sharing their thoughtful responses pertaining to local historic preservation issues. It is of utmost importance that we Coronans exercise our right to vote.

"Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters." - Abraham Lincoln

Membership Information

**When joining or renewing your membership, please make your
tax deductible check payable to "CHPS"**

Individual Member \$20.00
Family \$30.00
Student \$10.00
Business \$50.00
Patron \$100.00
Life \$500.00

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I'd like to volunteer!

Hospitality refreshments
Newsletter writing articles
Vintage Home Tour
docent / volunteer
Board of Directors

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☐
☐
☐
☐

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Gift from _____



Membership Status: Renewal ☐ New ☐

Please complete form and mail to:

CHPS

**P.O. Box 2904
Corona, CA 92878**



We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

ALLEGRA Marketing • Print • Mail
Margaret Jameson
Rebecca Arend Knott
Cyndi Monroe
Jim Pauly
Randy & Suzanne Rawson

Marjorie Smerber
Donna Stark
Juergen & Gerlinde Stens
David & Lynette Tougas
John & Eileen Zickefoose

Our Home Preservation Grant Program

The CHPS Grant Committee along with the Board of Directors of the Corona Historic Preservation Society would like to assist local homeowners in making necessary improvements to their historic homes.

We will process any application within 60 days after submittal. Once a grant has been approved and reimbursement limits established, funds will be made available upon completion, inspection and onsite final approval.

Take this opportunity to do some fixing up and have part of the material cost covered by CHPS. Remember we are interested in helping people beautify their homes for others to see, so applications are primarily for curb appeal projects. If you have a place that you feel needs help, either your

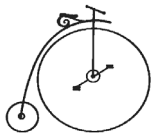


own or a neighbor's, please feel free to contact CHPS Home Preservation Grant-Program Chairman Tom Richins at trichins@dbacinc.com or 949.795.2288. We will assist you in any way possible to provide the information you need to complete the application process.

Grant applications are available at the Community Development Department at Corona City Hall at 400 South Vicentia, and at the Heritage Room of the Corona Public Library.

More information and grant applications may also be downloaded from our Website:
<<http://corona-history.org/grants.html>>

Please share this information with others!



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

Board of Directors

President - Tom Richins
Vice President - Mary Winn
Secretary - Doris Osko
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors

Christine Gary
Paula Muñoz
Tom Muñoz
Fred Parr

Advisors

Marla Benson
Janette Neumann
Ted Taylor

To contact us call
951.898.2044

*Please leave a brief
message*



Our Mission Statement

The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is a nonprofit tax-exempt organization dedicated to preservation and revitalization of Corona's historic buildings, neighborhoods and sites.

Through education, persuasion, legislation and organization, CHPS acts as an advocate for the preservation of Corona's historic resources.

Monthly Meetings

CHPS Board meetings are held each month to transact Society business, discuss issues affecting the Society and preservation of local historic resources.

All members are invited to attend.

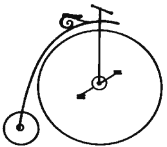
The next meetings will be:

Thursday, Sept 18, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office

Thursday, Oct 16, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office



Visit us at: www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

P.O. Box 2904
Corona, California 92878-2904



Prepare to vote on November 4th



Next Quarterly Meeting
October 11 See pg 2

City Council Candidates' Information Inside