

### A Message From Our President Wes Speake

Dear Members,

May is National Preservation Month! Usually, both May and June are very busy months, however, with COVID-19 restrictions still in place, our traditional events are being muted slightly.

In the last Newsletter, I wrote about the 11th Street streetlights. I am proud to say they are now COMPLETE and functioning beautifully. The residents of that neighborhood are thrilled, and I can say that I am, as well!

Because of the uncertainty regarding COVID, our membership and Home Tour docents being slightly older and homeowners being leery of having the public passing through their homes, we regret our need to cancel the 2022 Vintage Home Tour. However, we will explore an alternative date later in the year.

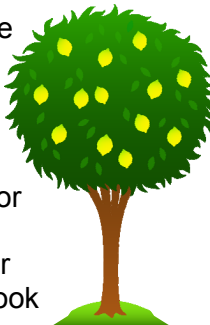
In a step toward normalcy, June will start off with Heritage Park’s 21st annual Antiques and Collectibles Faire on June 4th. CHPS will again host our historic lemonade stand with Corona lemons, squeezed by yours truly (with the aid of a juicer).

The 39th Anniversary of the founding of the Corona Historic Preservation Society follows on May 14, recalling when 35 concerned and interested citizens met on that date in 1983 at the Corona Public Library to form this new preservation group. Attendees of that meeting became Charter Members of CHPS.

To provide freshly squeezed lemon juice for our free lemonade offered at the CHPS Lemonade Stand, we will need fresh Corona lemons. We typically utilize 10-15 gallons of fresh lemon juice for this event. If you have a lemon tree or lemons you wish to donate, please contact me at CHPSInfo@yahoo.com or message me through the CHPS Facebook Group and I’ll come and pick them.



The image above shows one of the 15 restored original light poles found on West 11th Street. Note the round globe that characterized the first residential street lights installed in Corona. A complete history of these lights can be found on page 5 of the March-April 2022 CHPS Newsletter.



Speaking of Streetlights - I wanted to share a Letter to

the Editor, from April 12, 1924, regarding an idea making sure the streetlights were safe and could battle the odor from the By Product plant that Mr. Corkhill had criticized in a racist letter to the editor five days earlier suggesting the smell be canned as well. Mr. Corkhill was the head of the Library Board but was running for the office of Mayor. He was not elected.

*“Being a Public Spirited Citizen and having been aroused by the criticism by Mr. Corkhill in a recent issue, I beg to submit the enclosed for your consideration. You are being in the race for Mayor, it would be a fine opportunity for you to get in and do something which would be a boost for the city as well as insure your election. I suggest along the line of a clipping from a recent issue of the ‘Times’ that when new streetlights are installed that cages be put on each pole and a pole-cat\* be given residence therein and create a position with the title of*

*‘Official Polecat Vexer’, whose duty will be to see that a generous odor is forthcoming at such times as the By Products\*\* odor will be obliterated and a much more pleasing odor inaugurated and the city saved from harm of the same. A pole cat farm could be carried on in connection with the hides sold to defray the expense incurred.*

Very Truly Yours,

A PUBLIC SPIRITED CITIZEN“

\*A polecat is a skunk

\*\*By Products refers to the Exchange Lemon By-Products Company located near the Corona Santa Fe Railroad Depot whose manufacturing process must have generated noxious odors, before the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) began regulating such emissions.

Best wishes for a happy and fulfilling summer 2022,

WES



# Planning Commission Favors Preservation By Richard Winn

At a Planning Commission hearing on March 7, 2022 Planning Commission members were persuaded to deny a homeowner application to remove an historic home built in 1908 from Corona's Historic Resources Inventory.

The Staff report concluded that the "structure has been modified and no longer satisfies the listing criteria stated in CMC Section 17.63.090(B)," and recommended the Planning Commission delist the property.

CHPS did research on this home and submitted a letter in opposition to the recommendation. A next-door neighbor also submitted a letter in opposition to the owner application for removal. These letters were a part of the staff report.

CHPS research and citizen comments showed that the owner's letter had included inaccurate statements, the accuracy of which staff did not possess prior to writing the staff report. This discrepancy in addition to in-person visits by Commission members to the property itself appears to have led them to decide against the staff recommendation.

The hearing consisted of the staff planner presenting the staff report, following which commissioners asked Planner Eva Choi questions for clarification purposes. Commissioners indicated a desire to ask the owner questions, but the owner was not present.

The hearing was then opened for comment. CHPS Director Kelly Vela (who lives in an historic Victorian home built in 1890) spoke eloquently and personally about what it means to live in an historic home and that owners are expected to be good stewards of historic properties.

Nick Salle spoke as a next-door neighbor who watched the owner make numerous changes and concluded that this home used to contribute to the charming ambiance of the historic district neighborhood and now does not contribute in any positive way.

Shaylene Cortez pointed out that the investors took the position of "It is easier to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission." They made illegal modifications and then claimed that because of those modifications, the house no longer qualified for the heritage list. These actions should not be rewarded by allowing them to have the house removed from the heritage list. By doing so,

we are setting a dangerous precedent. The fact that they are claiming ignorance is an insult. Any good investor, and their real estate agent, would have easily been able to discover the historic significance of this home.



Image of the home in 2015 when owner purchased the home

CHPS Director Chris McCoy, who also lives in an historic home, set forth two reasons for denying the Staff recommendation: Allowing delisting will set a precedent developers will use to legally destroy historic homes with historic district and downtown infill construction and "renovation" requests moving forward, and the owner's letter to the commission appeared deliberately deceitful.

CHPS Treasurer Rich Winn began by reminding Commissioners of the non-discretionary guidelines and direction for all public actions given by our city

motto: TO CHERISH OUR PAST, TO PLAN OUR FUTURE.

He pointed out that the changes the owner has made are physical but mainly cosmetic and that the house still has "good bones" and could be refreshed with proper materials and craftsmanship. He firmly wrapped up with, "This application lacks sufficient merit and does not convincingly provide any compelling reason to grant the owner a "Get out of Jail FREE" card.



Image of the home in 2021 when the city became aware of unpermitted modifications.

Corona resident Joe Morgan concluded with remarks indicating that the information presented by local concerned citizens had persuaded him to recommend that the Commission deny the staff recommendation.

Commissioners then shared their comments. Chairman Siqueland referenced the notebook provided to Planning Commissioners by CHPS to assist in evaluating historic property applications. Commissioner Alexander had done significant research

and read from the Historic Resources section of the Municipal Code that a person who damages, degrades or destroys a historic resource is guilty of a misdemeanor violation. I can't recall the last time I heard something like that in one of our public meetings. It appears to have made an impression. The Hearing was then closed and Commission members after brief discussion, polled 5 to nothing against the staff recommendation.

On April 11 the City's Planning and Housing Commission approved the resolution of denial of the application on another 5-0 vote.

WOW!



## 2022 Antiques & Collectibles Faire



The annual Corona Antiques and Collectibles Faire at Corona Heritage Park (located at 510 West Foothill Parkway) features everything from antiques to original pieces of art and plants for sale. In its twenty-second year, the Faire is a popular venue for collectors as well as those seeking something unique. Food and drinks will also be available - HINT: icy cold lemonade from our CHPS stand.

Held at Corona Heritage Park, the Faire is a great opportunity to explore this hidden gem nestled in the city. For more information on the Park or the Antiques and Collectibles Faire, visit their website at [coronaheritage.org](http://coronaheritage.org) or call (951) 898-0687. What undiscovered treasures will you discover at this year's Faire? **Reminder: be sure to visit both CHPS booths while strolling through the venue.**

## To Visit & Tour the Desi Arnaz House

You are invited to meet us here for a tour of...  
The Desi Arnaz Ranch House

**WHEN:** Saturday June 11, 2022

**TIME:** 10:00 A.M.

### WHERE:

Across the Santa Ana River in Eastvale, west of Hamner Avenue,  
south of Citrus Street and off Granja Vista Del Rio at 13215 Altfillisch Court

## Lemonade Stand Under Construction/Refurbishment

After 20 plus years our historic Lemonade Stand is Being refurbished by rebuilding and strengthening the structure and repainting. Fred Parr and Rich Winn are working on this. Pease come out to the Antiques and Collectibles Faire and see what has been done.

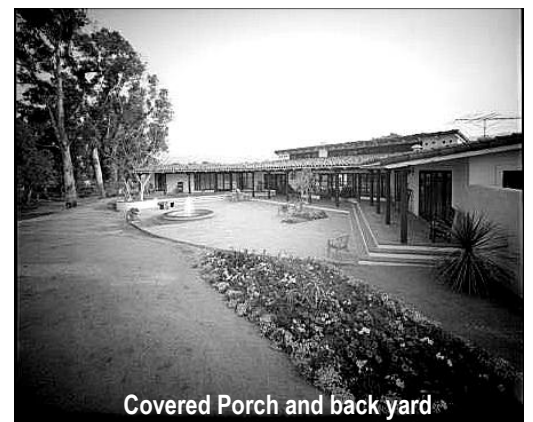
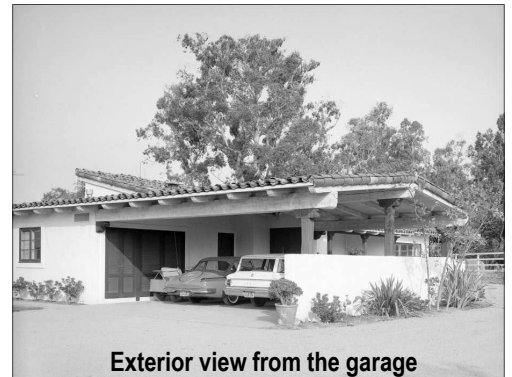
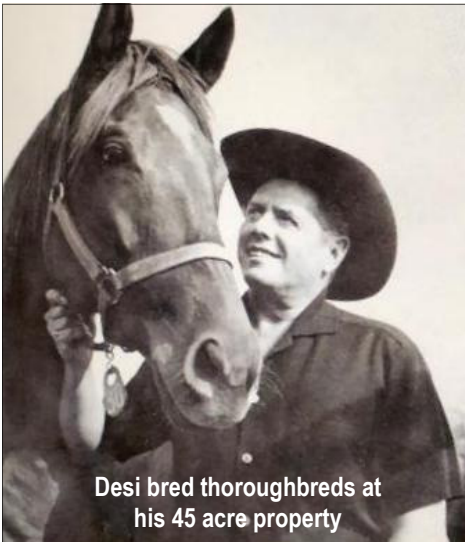




# 2nd Quarter Meeting: Visit to Desi Arnaz House

In preparation for CHPS Second Quarterly Meeting of 2022 which is to be held on **Saturday, June 11, 1022 at 10:00 AM**, the images below are provided. These photos were taken in 1961 and will give you some ideas about what it looked like then. Desi owned the ranch from 1960 to 1970 when it was located at 1158 West Rincon (West of Lincoln Avenue) until the Cheese factory was built. The new owner was preservation minded and relocated the home to Eastvale.

The March-April CHPS Newsletter has an article on what it looks like now.



# May Is Historic Preservation Month

It is a shame that CHPS could not assemble a large enough group of homes to provide our own Vintage Home Tour this year.

It is a rare opportunity for LOVERS OF OLD HOUSES to be able to visit older homes in our area and learn of each structure's illustrious past.

Many of our sister organizations throughout the nation hold such tours during the month of May, and for good reason. May is designated as the month to pay particular attention to historic preservation. The weather is usually delightful as it is conducive to strolling outside in more comfortable temperatures with a decreased chance of precipitation.

Our nearby sister organization Old Riverside Foundation (ORF) has invited our members to view their 2022 themed Vintage home Tour "A Midcentury Moment" showcasing Riverside homes built in the Mid-Century Modern style. This tour was originally scheduled for presentation in 2020, but then COVID-19 came along and changed a lot of plans.

We encourage you to attend the ORF tour on Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Presale Tickets are available at locations listed at the right for \$20. Tickets are also available on the day of the event for \$25. Check the ORF website <OLDRIVERSIDE.ORG> for additional ticket options.



2022 VINTAGE HOME TOUR  
**"A MIDCENTURY MOMENT"**

TOUR SHOWCASE  
MIDCENTURY HOMES  
OF RIVERSIDE,  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
FOR THIS EVENT ONLY

SATURDAY MAY 14 2022  
10AM - 4PM  
TICKETS \$20 PRESALE,  
\$25 DAY OF EVENT

OLDRIVERSIDE.ORG



**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT**

MRS. TIGGYWINKLE'S 3675 MAIN STREET	MISSION GALLERIA 3700 MAIN STREET	A TO Z PRINTING 4330 VAN BUREN
MADE RIVERSIDE 6520 MAGNOLIA	FLOWER BOX 14340 ELSWORTH, MORENO VALLEY	COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT 1510 UNIVERSITY AVENUE



It was May 14, 1983 that the Corona Historic Preservation Group was officially established at a meeting held at the old Corona Public Library at 650 Main Street. Thirty-five persons attended. Meetings were held monthly thereafter. A year later, in May 1984, another meeting was held to combine the Corona Historical **Society** with the Corona Historic Preservation **Group**. CHPS is what resulted as the treasuries were also combined.

These were exciting times as our fledgling organization laid the groundwork by creating bylaws, electing leaders, and accomplishing requirements to incorporate and function as a nonprofit in California. **Hear, hear for our next year!**

# Membership Information

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

Individual Member	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>I'd like to volunteer!</b>
Family	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitality refreshments <input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter writing articles <input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$60.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vintage Home Tour
Patron	\$125.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	docent / volunteer <input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$600.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Directors <input type="checkbox"/>
Name(s) _____			
Address _____			
City _____ State _____ Zip _____			
Telephone _____ E-mail _____			
Gift from _____			

Membership Status: Renewal  New

**Please complete and mail to:**

**CHPS**

**P.O. Box 2904**

**Corona, CA 92878**



## We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Art & Jennifer Acosta  
 Jim & Patti Anderson  
 Richard & Carol Appel  
 George & Ruth Beloz  
 John & Cathy Cleghorn  
 Ed & Joy Dillon  
 Mike & Julie Downs  
 George Geary  
 Nita Grantham

Helen Hughes  
 Kent & Ginnette Lillibridge  
 George Martinez  
 J.D. & Sandy McBriety  
 Eugene & Paula Montanez -  
 Life Membership  
 Jim & Marsha Morrell  
 Dian German Mrozko  
 Tom & Paula Muñoz

Georgia Lambert Randall  
 Darlene Schelke  
 Michael Martinez Scott  
 Michael & Tamra Segert  
 Wes Speake  
 Gil & Kelly Vela  
 Harold & Mary Witten  
 Fran Tassin  
 Peggy Temple

## Home Preservation Grant Program

The CHPS Grant Committee along with the Board of Directors of the Corona Historic Preservation Society would love to assist local homeowners in making exterior 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 contact CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program Coordinator Rich Winn at [rwinn141@gmail.com](mailto:rwinn141@gmail.com)/714.328.0010. 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>](http://corona-history.org/grants.html)

***Please share this information with others!***





Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

## Board of Directors

President - Wes Speake  
Vice President - Eric Bergreen  
Secretary - Shaylene Cortez  
Treasurer - Richard Winn

### Directors

Paula Muñoz  
Amelia Nieves  
Kelly Vela  
Mary Winn

### Advisors

Marla Benson  
Ted Taylor



To contact us call  
**951.898.2044**

*Please leave a message*



## Our Mission Statement

The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is an active nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the PRESERVATION, PROTECTION and PERPETUATION of Corona's historic sites, buildings, neighborhoods and resources. We do this through education, community events, preservation projects and tireless advocacy for the benefit of present and future generations.

## Monthly Meetings

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

[\*As a precaution for the safety of Directors, Board meetings may be held via electronic means. Contact President Wes Speake if you wish to be included in an electronic meeting.]

**All members are invited to attend.**

The next meetings will be:

**Tuesday, May 24, at 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office**  
**Tuesday June 28 at 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office**



**Visit our website: [www.Corona-History.org](http://www.Corona-History.org)**



Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

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



*We hope to see you at the Faire!*