



Staff Recommendations



Submitted by: Cathy Hass Nominated: Kathy Kulper Address: 132 Central Ave

Description of work: KATHY KULPER (aka:KK) is the president for the Steinbeck House. She has held this position for the last 3 1/2 years during that timeframe. She has helped turn the bottom line at the Steinbeck House around. It is team work at the Steinbeck House. They are nonprofit around mostly by volunteers. The Steinbeck House celebrated 50 years of being a restaurant this past 2024. There are over 80 volunteers That help keep the house up and running!



Submitted by: Cat Harper
Nominated: Lisa Josephs
Address: 1 main Street Salinas

Description of work: Lisa Josephs,
Archivist-Curator, has done an amazing
job, preserving and protecting not just
the works and legacy of John Steinbeck
but also of Salinas and the County.



Submitted by: Colleen Bailey
Nominated: Salinas City
Heritage Center
Address: 1 Station Place,
Salinas

Description of work: The exhibit, Postcards, Passengers, and Produce, tells the story of how the 5th largest economy in the world and the most populous state in the nation was developed in only 173 years. The Southern Pacific Company not only provided transportation but was also an integrated marketing company that served as an economic engine for the development of California. Visitors to the California Wecome Center will view postcards that the Southern Pacific Railroad used to attract farmers and others to California, discover historically significant artifacts, learn about the evolution of crops, and the family-owned businesses that have now become global leaders.



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SUBSC

Speaker Robert Rivas pays a visit to the California Welcome Center to learn about a new vision of tourism in the Salinas Valley.

Pam Marino Oct 26, 2023 🗫 0 🗏 3 min to read



Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas (center) was part of a tour led by Craig Kaufman (right), founder and executive director of the Salinas Valley Visitors and Tourism Bureau, at the California Welcome Center in Salinas. Former congressmember Sam Farr (left) is a member of the bureau's board of directors. Photo by Pam Marino.

Pam Marino

Submitted by: Cyrina Hinojos Nominated: Larry Smith Address: 20 Station Pl

Description of work: Larry Smith has been the backbone of the First Mayor's House for over 20 years as the de facto groundskeeper, handyman, Saturday open house docent, board member, exhibit creator, and liaison with the Monterey County Historical Society. He led a tour of the First Mayor's House for my family and I on a weekend last year, and he was so knowledgeable about the history of the Salinas and the structures being preserved at 20 Station Pl. He mentioned that he played a large role in staging the structures for public tours and viewing. His efforts in historical preservation in our city of Salinas is incredible and worthy of recognition.



Submitted by: Denise Estrada Nominated: Ruth Andresen-Posthumously Address: Entire Monterey County, Primarily Salinas

Description of work: Ruth worked tirelessly to preserve our stories and historic resources. Education and civic engagement were her passions. Ruth served on the department of education, Historic Resources board, costal commission, first mayor's houseboard, womens club and many more community organizations for her long life time. Ruth gave more toward Historic Preservation than anyone before or likely after her passing.

RUTH ANDRESEN

Ruth was born in Oklahoma in 1920. She was raised to speak her indigenous Choc was language. She was forcibly enrolled in a boarding school for Native Americans, before a wealthy uncle, a Chocktaw elder geologist who'd discovered oilfields in Oklahoma rescued her and raised her. He influenced her to pursue an education and seek a successful life.

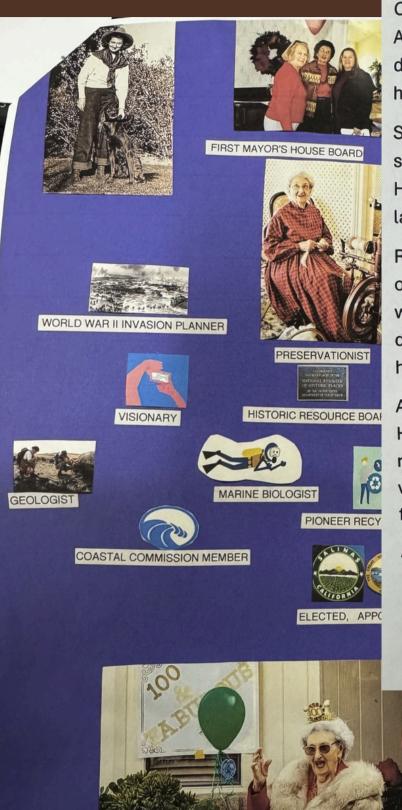
She enrolled as a geology student at Stanford University. During her studies, she met her future husband, Norman P. Andresen at a laboratory at the Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove. In later life, she was credited with landmark discoveries in Marine Geology.

Ruth's studies led her to become a marine biologist. When World War II broke out, Ruth worked for the military to help strategize invasion planning. After the war, she became an organizer to bring an environmental movement to Salinas during a time of rapid growth in the 1950s and 60s. During this time, she and her husband were influential in establishing Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital.

As part of her environmental work, she led a major effort against a proposal by Humble Oil to build a refinery in Moss Landing. By blocking the planned refinery, this prevented the destruction of Elkhorn Slough. She lectured on wind and ocean currents to build support for environmental activism that she felt was needed to counter the power of business and industry.

As one of her many duties, she served for 48 years on the Board of the Monterey County Office of Education. As a member of CA Coastal Commission, she was instrumental in maintaining public access to California beaches. She also served on the City of Salinas Historic Resource Board up until her death in 2022.

AND SO MUCH MORE



Submitted by: Deborah Silguero Nominated: Denise Estrada Address: 21 Station Place

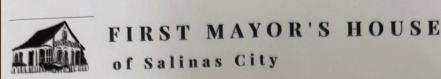
Description of work: First Mayor's House of Salinas. Denise Estrada, board member. She has worked to keep the history of Salinas alive through its new heritage park project, which includes the FMH, the Railroad museum, the train Depot, the Friends of the Library building, and the visitor center.



Submitted by: Denise Estrada Nominated: First Mayor's House Address: 21 Station Place

Description of work: The 1868 home of the first mayor, Isaac Juilan Harvey, is the oldest residential Victorian home surviving in Salinas today. Since 1999 the city of Salinas and the Board of Directors, have worked to perserve this historic asset while providing a local history museum and education center for students and visitors.

OUR **PROGRAMS**



OUR HISTORY

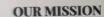
PROGRAMS

BOARD INFORMATION

EVENTS

ABOUT US

The First Mayor's House, also known as the Harvey-Baker House, was one of the first buildings constructed in the new town of Salinas City. The House was home to the Harvey-Baker family for over 100 years before being restored to the 1870s era and established as a non-profit corporation. Today it is the oldest building in Salinas, serving as a history, art and cultural center for the community.



The First Mayor's House, the front porch of Salinas, provides educational and cultural programs that showcase our history and the paths that have led us to the present (Adopted June 2020).



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CONTACT and DONATION INFO

First Saturday Open House: 10am - 3pm, 2022

20 Station Place (off West Market Street) to the right of the

MAILING ADDRESS:

820 Park Row #715, Salinas, CA 93901

PHONE & EMAIL:

(831) 214-8661 | firstmayorshouse@gmail.com

Market: FIELD TRIPS: go to our EVENTS page

Donate on Paypal

Follow us!

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The First Mayor's House is actively seeking volunteer docents, ages 18 years old and up, to assist educators in guiding student tour groups through interactive

Click here for more information.

THE EDUCATION CENTER

The Education Center was recently remodeled to provide a multi-use gallery space. From local art exhibits, to wedding receptions, and interactive showcases to honor the immigrants who built Salinas, The Education Center is a community

We are open for drop in visitors the first Friday and Saturday of each month.

STUDENT FIELD TRIPS

Over 1000 students visit us each year to learn about life in the 1870s (third grade) and about the westward movement (5th grade).

In addition to school groups, we serve Boy and Girl Scouts, after school programs, and homeschool students. Third graders tour the House, handle tools, pump medicinal herbs. Fifth graders experience life on a wagon train as they participate in a simulation game that teaches math, creative thinking and problem solving.

CSU-Monterey Bay service learners join local retired community members to form a strong docent pool.

For information go to the events page.

TEACHER INSTITUTES

Many Salinas teachers come from outside the area, so we offer training to provide movement. Lesson ideas, resources, print and digital materials are provided to

PRIVATE TOURS

Beginning in September, we will again offer private tours for your group. Email us at firstmayorshouse@gmail.com for more information.

Submitted by: Jean Vengua Nominated: Asian Culture Experience of Salinas Address: 37 Soledad

Description of work: Mission of Asian Cultural Experience of Salinas is to preserve and promote the multicultural history of Salinas Chinatown. We provide outreach to the community about the history of Chinatown. Our archival collection of Asian history and culture will be located at the Republic Cafe upon its restoration. We advocate for the completion of the Republic Cafe. Conduct Historic Chinatown Tours at the Asian Festival and group requests.

Article
after the
fire at the
Republic
Café

Photos for pilot museums at Moongate Plaza

NEWS

Chinatown Rising

With two property acquisitions, Salinas starts the engine to revitalize Chinatown neighborhood.

By Celia Jiménez

place many know for abandoned buildings and as home to a large unhoused population, with tents lining the sidewalks. It's also the heart of Chinatown, once a bustling neighborhood that now only exists in photographs and in the memories of people who grew up there.

oledad Street in Salinas is a

Salinas plans to bring Chinatown back to life, and the gears are in motion. On Dec. 13, Salinas City Council approved the purchase of two historic buildings in Chinatown: the former Republic Café and Lotus Inn at 37 Soledad St., and 34 Soledad St. formerly the Chin family home and later La Puerta Negra Bar and Arres Pool Hall—for a combined \$430,625.

"We did not go out to the property owners seeking to purchase—the opportunity came to us," says Lisa Brinton, assistant director of the Salinas Community Development Department. Thomas Spencer, representing different trusts with multiple

owners, approached the city with an offer: \$200,000 for the Republic Café and \$230,625 for the pool hall.

The Republic Café from 1941 was renovated in 2010 with the intention to house the nonprofit Asian Cultural Experience for a cultural center and museum, a project that has been in the works for over a decade and most recently stalled due to a fire in October. (The other building has been uninhabitable since a fire in 2010.)

"We didn't want these properties to get any worse."

The purchase agreement comes with a condition that if the Republic Café is code-complaint within 10 years, the bottom floor would be leased to ACE for \$1 a year for 50 years, enabling the nonprofit to fulfill its dream. "The fire probably reduced the value for the property owner, but it didn't change our intent," says ACE



The old Republic Café was renovated with the intent to host nonprofit ACE's cultural center, but a fire in October delayed that vision yet again.

member Larry Hirahara. (Currently, ACE leases the property from the Ahtye General Partnership; that lease is set to expire in November 2025.)

"We didn't want these properties to get any worse," says City Manager Steve Carrigan, adding the city wants to "bring them back to life and then lease them back to ACE."

In 2019, Salinas approved its latest Chinatown Revitalization Plan to restore the neighborhood and maintain its cultural and historical identity (there were two previous plans in 2007 and 2010). It includes the Filipino Community Hall, Confucius Church and the Buddhist Temple.

Brinton says the vision is "a thriving, affordable, safe, healthy community that will really demonstrate its rich cultural history and serve as a center for the arts and a destination for the region."

In 2018, nonprofit developer

MidPen built Moon Gate Plaza with 90 apartments for low- and very low-income residents. The project also has sculptured gates designed by artist Nada Abdelshahid, and a largescale mural titled "Convergence of Butterflies" by JC Gonzales.

The city is planning to purchase up to 10 properties. Once escrow closes on the Republic and Chin family buildings, the city will own five properties on Soledad Street. Some costly projects, such as asbestos remediation, will be easier if more are in progress at once, Brinton says: "Development would be infeasible without some sort of city support."

Over the past 18 months, the city has done several sweeps removing tents and trash, addressed a rat infestation on Soledad Street, and replaced a sewer line on Lake Street. Carrigan hopes in a couple of years the changes in Chinatown will attract investors.



Submitted by: Eloise Shim Nominated: Tom and Gail

Spencer

Address: 333 Boronda Rd

<u>Description of work:</u> Monterey Historical Society library at Boronda Rd. Tom and Gail practically remodeled the small archival library single-handedly from wallpapering, wood trim, stained glass window creation, to upholstering antique furniture and much more, mainly on a volunteer basis. That remarkable historic preservation has put the Historic Society on the map, as a viable, renowned historic destination because of their meticulous and detailed unhurried attention, work and skill.





Submitted by: Kathy Kulper Nominated: Steinbeck House Address: 132 Central Ave

Description of work: We are the nonprofit that provides an educational and historical opportunity for guests far and wide. To learn more about the Nobel prize winning Author John Steinbeck.



Submitted by: Thomas Bedoya Nominated: Salinas Valley Guild Address: 132 Central Ave

Description of work: The Salinas Valley Guild is a group of volunteers who operate the Steinbeck House Restaurant. They maintain and preserve this local treasure through donations and tips they receive. They support our youth by having a Jr Volunteer program that provides youth on the job work experience while helping them earn their community service hours. They offer tours and support local groups.





Submitted by: Michael Mazgai Nominated: Ken Slama

Address: 301

Description of work:

Restoration of the Salinas National Bank Building (1930) & conversion to housing & new commercial usage.





1941 2007

Submitted by: SalvadorF. Munoz Nominated: 300 Main Street Building

Address: 300 Main Street

Description of work:

Adaptive reuse and historical restoration of the original mercantile building at 300 Main St., Salinas, CA 93901, transforming it into a mixed-use commercial and residential space. Project by Alex Reynoso, AIA, ISA Architects, 254 Main St., Salinas, CA 93901.



Submitted by: Alex Reynoso Nominated: 300 Main Street Building

Address: 300 Main Street

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Adaptive reuse and historical restoration of the original mercantile building at 300 Main St., Salinas, CA 93901, transforming it into a mixed-use commercial and residential space. Project by Alex Reynoso, AIA, ISA Architects, 254 Main St., Salinas, CA 93901.



Submitted by: Michael Mazgai Nominated: Mark Edwin Norris Address: 110 Oak/ 821 Pajaro

Description of work:

Mark designed a residence (110 Oak) to complement an existing 1930s Spanish Colonial Revival residence located @ 821 Pajaro. It respects & contributes to this potential historic district.







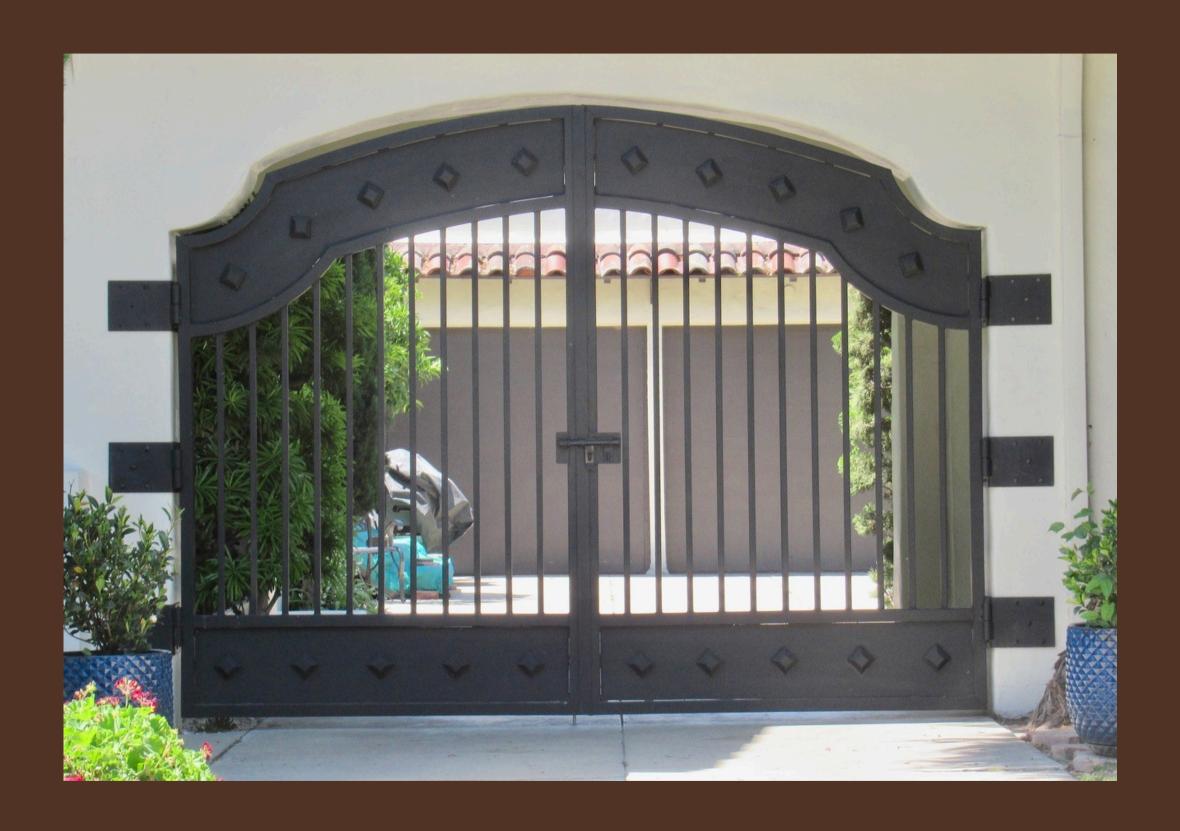


Submitted by: Michael Mazgai Nominated: Eric Michael Wynkoop

Address: 14 Los Laureles Avenue

Description of work: A gate was added to this residence's driveway. It's beautifully designed & to the casual observer appears as if it's original to this Spanish Colonial Revival home which was included in the 1989 survey (Henry Jorgensen House).

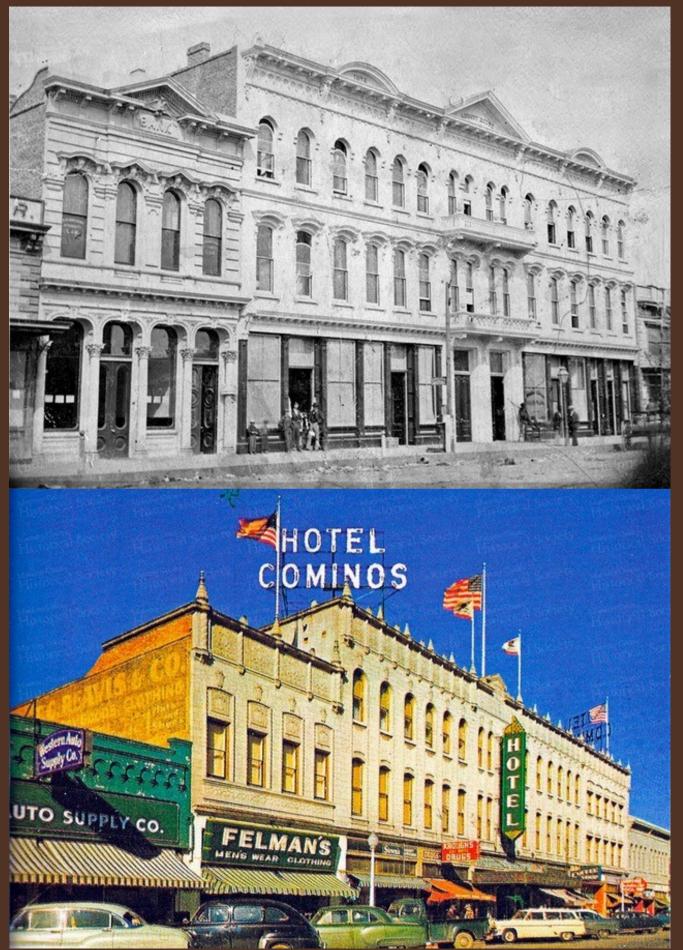






Submitted by: Michael Mazgai Nominated: Bruce Taylor Address: 150 Main Street

Description of work: The Taylor Building carefully paid tribute to the former occupants of this block (Abbott House/Cominos Hotel). It respects its historic neighborhood & fits the site beautifully. It contributes greatly to Old Town's revitalization.



1873 Abbot House

1950 Hotel Camino



1989 HotelCominosdemolition

Cominos: Demolition begins

Continued from Page 1B

"Their priority is to have a clear lot so the downtown folks will quit pushing on them," Breschini said.

It will take at least a week to tear down the Cominos, Appel said. The basement will be filled with dirt and the site will be a bare field.

"I think it was long overdue," he said. "I was the last person to set foot in the Cominos. I checked it out this morning to make sure no drunks were inside."

The Rex Pool Hall and Franklin Hotel building across Main Street also must have asbestos removed before it comes down, he said.

The Tropicana, Lacey Auto Parts, Salinas Rooms and M.F. buildings were ready for the wrecking crews, he said.

Assistant City Development Director Paul Ogden said an archeological survey will be made of the Cominos site. The land is part of the site for the proposed Steinbeck Plaza redevelopment project.

It will take several months to renegotiate development agreements and to update environmental studies for the project, in which San Luis Obispo developer John

King plans a multi-screen theater and office building, he said.

"It will be six to nine months at least before there's any new building," Ogden said.

Ogden said he had mixed emotions about the Cominos' final demise.

"It's a historic building. You always hate to lose a resource like that," he said. "But I think there's many people who are glad to see it down because they see it as an impediment to development in the 100 block."

Judy Blomquist, owner of Chendo's restaurant a few door down from the Cominos, happily watched preparations for the razing.

"I think it's wonderful," she said. "We've been waiting 31/2 years for it too happen. It can't help but clean up the area."

"It's overdue," said Rosemarie Rogers, owner of the Brass Rail Bar'N Grill, 171 Main St., "Unfortunately, it's taken an earthquake to bring it down . . . It should have been saved when there was more to save."

LOCAL

Death watch for Cominos



Judge clears path for razing of damaged building

By Larry Parsons

A thick cloud of white dus churned above the faded front wal of the Tropicana building at Mar-ket and Main streets. numbers "1894" - the year th two-story building was built -stood out in weathered green plas

to with a 20-foot-long arrow tipped battering ram was busy reducing the building to piles of bricks and jagged boards. But few people watched as the Tropicana, one of six downtown Saliros buildings slated for deno-

Salinas buildings slated for demo-lition after Tuesday's carthquake.

Most of the spectators Friday lined up along Salinas Street and watched crews prepare to start taking down the Cominos Hotel.

"It should have been saved But the earthquake it would have been redesigned (too withstand) i here. It's too late."

Workers in asbestos prote suits scurried around an 80-foot crane, truck trailers lined with plastic sheets and a water truck assembled in the vacant lot on the northwest side of the 115-year-ole

Already part of the second- and third-story wall was peeled away, baring the upstairs rooms with their bright blue and yellow walls.



ndent Cy Ap- lowed inside," said Doug Thomp-

McMahon, the asbestos removal

2007 Vacant lot



2024 Taylor Building Submitted by: Giancarlo Torres
Nominated: Justin Rosillo
Address: 1131 Fremont Blvd

Description of work: I would like to nominate Justin as a community advocate for Monterey County. Justin has been an incredible support to me and countless others in our community. His dedication to helping individuals, his approachability, and his commitment to making a positive difference have truly stood out.

Personally, Justin has gone above and beyond in assisting me with specific instance of his help, e.g., navigating a challenging situation, providing resources, offering guidance. His efforts have not only made my life easier but have also contributed to the overall well-being of the community. Justin's advocacy skills and his genuine care for others make him an ideal candidate to represent and support the needs of Monterey County residents. I wholeheartedly support his nomination as a community advocate and believe he would continue to be a valuable asset to the county.

Submitted by: Noemi Gregorio Nominated: Agriculture Labor Relations Board Address: 342 Pajaro Street

Description of work: State agency established in 1965 through the historic efforts of thousands of farmworkers fight for higher wages and better working conditions.



Submitted by: Mark Kooiman Nominated: Salinas Rotary Club, Salinas Rotary Arch Address: 222 Maint St

Description of work: The Salinas Rotary Arch was completed April 16, 2021. The Salinas Rotary Club (The Downtown Club) spent 7 years fundraising and working with the city of Salinas to design, build, and install a lasting structure that can be enjoyed for many years to come. The project was completed in 2021 after the club had spent approximately \$300,000.

The Salinas Rotary Arch has become a central focal point of Main St. The club continues to work with the city to maintain the appearance of the Arch so that it remains a point of pride for anyone that sees it. The Salinas Rotary Club is one of the most enduring civic service organizations in the County, having been originated in 1922 by Homer T

Hayward.



- The Historic Resources Board will identify the nominees receiving the Certificate of Appreciation Award.
- Recipients will be contacted to inform them of their award and to distribute the certificates.
- Awarded recipients will be presented to the city council on May 13.

