



## Morgan Hill Historical Society

**Media Advisory: July 13, 2020**

### **Morgan Hill Historical Society Appoints New Board President**

On June 22, 2020, the Morgan Hill Historical Society Board of Directors elected long-time member and volunteer, Roger Knopf, as President of the organization, effective July 1, 2020. Knopf stepped into the role of former President Kathy Sullivan who led the organization for six years. Kathy remains active on the Board as Chair of Marketing Communications and on other committees.

Roger and his family have lived in Morgan Hill since 1964. His wife Janie is also an Historical Society member, volunteer and former board member. The Knopf's were involved with prune farming until 1970, when they co-founded Knopf Construction and Roger became a general contractor for commercial and residential projects.

The 1970s also marked the beginning of Roger's long history of community service. He volunteered with Santa Clara County Landowners Association, and served on an Advisory Committee for channelization of Llagas Creek and various Santa Clara County Planning Department task forces tackling South Valley zoning issues. He has also served on the boards of Regional Medical Center and the former South Valley Hospital as well as Rotary Club of Morgan Hill and Leadership Morgan Hill.

Roger began volunteering with the Historical Society in the 1990s, including supervising the move and restoration of the Acton House at the [Villa Mira Monte](#) site, where it now serves as the [Morgan Hill Museum](#). In recognition of Morgan Hill's centennial anniversary in 2006, he co-chaired the [Centennial History Trail](#) project with former Morgan Hill Mayor Steve Tate, including the visioning, design and construction of the trail at Villa Mira Monte.

According to Kathy, "For the past six years, I've been honored to guide the Historical Society board and volunteers to accomplish our goals and garner member satisfaction while strengthening community partnerships. Roger's nonprofit leadership expertise, combined with his strong working knowledge and passion for the Historical Society, make him ideally-suited to lead our organization forward."

"The Morgan Hill Historical Society has benefitted from a clear focus on its mission under Kathy's capable leadership," Roger said. "We'll continue our stewardship and maintenance of the Villa Mira Monte property, which is recognized in the National Register of Historic Places and designated by the City of Morgan Hill as a History Park."

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Roger added, “We will also continue to preserve and share our local history through programs, events and the archives and exhibits at the Morgan Hill Museum. Our work to benefit the community would not be possible without the generous support of our all-volunteer board, volunteer committee members, and community partners.”

[Morgan Hill Historical Society](#) Board Officers include: Roger Knopf, President; Karl Bjarke, Vice President; Ron Kumar, Treasurer; and Linnie Lee, Secretary and Membership Chair. Other Board Members include: Kathy Sullivan, outgoing President and current Marcom Chair; Ellie Weston, Property Manager; Kat Chavez Napoli, History and Education Chair; and Margo Hinnenkamp, Volunteer Chair.

### About Morgan Hill Historical Society

The mission of the [Morgan Hill Historical Society](#) (MHHS) is to preserve and share the history of Morgan Hill, and its environs, to inspire a sense of community. MHHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, organization established and incorporated in 1971. The Historical Society owns, preserves, maintains and operates the historic 2.5-acre campus known as Villa Mira Monte, which includes the Hiram Morgan Hill House (circa 1884-6), the Morgan Hill Museum (formerly Acton House, circa 1911), and the Centennial History Trail and Gardens (2006). Villa Mira Monte is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and a Historical Resource and Park in the City of Morgan Hill.

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