August 1, 2017

Honorable Patricia M. Lucas
Presiding Judge
Santa Clara County Superior Court
191 North First Street
San Jose, CA. 95113

Enclosed please find the Saratoga Union School District’s response to the Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury report entitled “Show Me the Money: School Parcel Tax Exemptions for Seniors and Homeowners with Disabilities.”

This enclosure was approved by the Saratoga Union School District Board of Trustees on July 26, 2017.

Regards,

Nancy Johnson, Superintendent
Saratoga Union School District
Response to Findings

Finding 1
It can be difficult for taxpayers to find information about exemptions to parcel tax assessments for which they may be eligible and about the required processes to apply for and renew exemptions. As detailed Appendix A, there is a wide variation from school district to school district in the percentage of homeowners receiving parcel tax exemptions.

Response to Finding 1
The District disagrees in part with this Finding. Without the benefit of Appendix A, the District is unable to comment on the percentage of homeowners receiving the exemptions in the school districts in the county.

The District makes the following significant efforts to notify taxpayers of the exemption:

- The District places a link on the homepage of its website to the parcel tax exemption forms and directions. (https://www.saratogausd.org/) (See, Exhibit A.)
- The District also posts information regarding the availability of the exemption at the following locations
  - Saratoga Public Library, 13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga
  - Starbucks, 18764 Cox Ave., Saratoga
  - Starbucks, 14410 Big Basin Way, Saratoga
  - Starbucks, 12960 Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road, Saratoga
  - The Saratoga Senior Center, 19655 Allendale Ave., Saratoga (See, Exhibit B.)
- In addition, the District publishes notice of the exemptions in the Saratoga News (See, Exhibit C.)
Finding 2
The school districts in the recommendation do not make it clear as to whether SSI and/or SSDI recipients are offered exemptions.

Response to Finding 2
The District partially disagrees with this Finding. The District does not have access to the identity or practices of the other school districts in the "recommendation" referenced in the Finding, and therefore cannot comment specifically as to whether the District was included. The District attaches its parcel tax exemption forms, and accompanying instructions, to demonstrate that SSI/SSDI recipients are offered exemptions. (Exhibit A.)

Finding 3
Requiring seniors and individuals with disabilities to apply in person make it difficult for some to apply for parcel tax exemptions. While some individuals prefer to apply in person, others may find it difficult to do so.

Response to Finding 3
The District partially disagrees with this Finding. The District does not have access to the findings with respect to the practice of other school districts. The District agrees that seniors and individuals with disabilities should be provided multiple options to access the parcel tax exemption forms and instructions, and to submit them. The District does not require applicants to obtain the forms or apply in person. The forms can be downloaded from the District's website, or any individual can call the District Office to ask that the forms and instructions be sent to him/her. Individuals can return the forms to the District by U.S. Mail, facsimile, electronic mail, or in person.

Finding 4
Some school districts have exemption application forms available year round while others make them available for only a short period of time prior to the application deadline.

Response to Finding 4
The District partially disagrees with this finding. Without the information referenced in the findings, the District is unable to comment on the practice of other school districts. The District's exemption forms and instructions are available on its website year-round. The District mails its exemption forms in March of each year and collects them through June 30. This schedule is necessary to allow the District time to compile and send the exemption information to the County of Santa Clara Controller-Treasurer Department, which in turn processes the information and returns it to the District for certification. This process needs to be completed in time for taxpayer billing prior to the December collection of property taxes. (Exhibit D.)

Finding 5
Due Dates for applications or renewals vary from school district to school district.
Response to Finding 5
The District partially disagrees with this finding. Without the other information referenced in the findings, the District is unable to comment on the deadlines used by other school districts. See Response to Finding 4 for more information.

Finding 6
Most school districts in Santa Clara County require annual renewal of parcel tax exemptions as a fiduciary responsibility to all taxpayers. Procedures for managing renewals vary, with most making it easier for exemption holders by sending annual renewal forms by mail to verify continued eligibility.

Response to Finding 6
The District partially disagrees with this finding. The District is unable to comment on the deadlines used by other school districts. The District does send renewal information annually to exemption holders pursuant to the timeline set forth in the Response to Finding 4, which allows the District to determine whether a parcel is still eligible for the exemption.

Finding 9
How people find out about parcel tax exemptions, application procedures and due dates varies widely among Santa Clara County school districts content and quality. The Santa Clara County Office of Education provides training at the request of school district administrators, but does not currently offer training about parcel taxes. The Santa Clara County Office of Education could offer a valuable community service by bringing together school districts business officers to learn about the administration of parcel tax exemptions and to develop standard processes, procedures and due dates.

Response to Finding 9
The District partially disagrees with this finding. The District is unable to comment on the processes and deadlines used by other school districts without having been provided the Grand Jury's findings. The District does note that County of Santa Clara conducts Special Assessment Workshops for municipalities and school districts within the County. (See, Exhibit E.) The District is unable to comment on whether or not the local county office of education has the capacity to offer such trainings.

Response to Recommendations:

Recommendation 1a
The governing boards of the school districts listed below should include information about parcel tax exemptions and application procedures via public outreach to communicate with those who do not have access to or are uncomfortable using the Internet. Examples of outreach include newsletters from the school district to residents, newspaper articles or ads, and postings at libraries and senior centers. There should be at least one such communication annually timed near the sending of property tax bills.
Response to Recommendation 1a
The recommendation has been implemented.
- The District posts information regarding the availability of the exemption at the following locations:
  - Saratoga Public Library, 13650 Saratoga Ave.; Saratoga
  - Starbucks, 18764 Cox Ave., Saratoga
  - Starbucks, 14410 Big Basin Way, Saratoga
  - Starbucks, 12960 Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road, Saratoga
  - The Saratoga Senior Center, 19655 Allendale Ave., Saratoga (See, Exhibit B.)
- The District publishes notice of the exemptions in the Saratoga News (See, Exhibit C.)
- The District mails an exemption renewal reminder in mid-March annually.

Recommendation 1b
The governing boards of the school districts listed below should have a link on the home page of their websites to direct users to information about the parcel tax, available exemptions, and instructions and required forms to apply for an exemption. The link should include the words "parcel tax."

Response to Recommendation 1b
The recommendation has been implemented.
- The District places a link on the homepage of its website to the parcel tax exemption forms and directions. (https://www.saratogausd.org/) (See, Exhibit A.) The link is entitled “Parcel Tax Exemption Forms.”
- There is an additional route to information about parcel tax exemption forms housed under Quick Links: “Parcel Tax”

Recommendation 2
The governing boards of the Santa Clara County school districts listed below should review and revise as necessary all forms required to apply for or renew parcel tax exemptions for clarity and accuracy.

Response to Recommendation 2
The recommendation has been implemented. The District attaches its parcel tax exemption forms, and accompanying instructions, to demonstrate that seniors and SSI/SSDI recipients are offered exemptions. (Exhibit A.)

Recommendation 3b
The governing boards of the Santa Clara County school districts listed below should develop an online process for the submittal of parcel tax exemption and renewal applications.

Response to Recommendation 3b
The recommendation will not be implemented. While an online process for submittal of exemption applications may be convenient, online security concerns and the cost associated with developing such a system suggests it may not be reasonable to implement at this time.

**Recommendation 4**
The governing boards of the Santa Clara County school districts listed below should make exemption application forms for parcel taxes prominently available on their websites and in their offices year round.

**Response to Recommendation 4**
The recommendation has been implemented. The District’s exemption forms and instructions are available on its website year-round. The District mails its exemption forms in March of each year and collects them through June 30. This schedule is necessary to allow the District time to compile and send the exemption information to the County of Santa Clara Controller-Treasurer Department, which in turn processes the information and returns it to the District for certification. This process needs to be completed in time for tax-payer billing prior to the December collection of property taxes. (Exhibit D.)

**Recommendation 5**
The governing boards of the Santa Clara County school districts listed below should agree on a standard date when applications for exemptions and renewals are due.

**Response to Recommendation 5**
The recommendation requires further analysis. We will cooperate with Santa Clara County school districts if and when they implement a single standard due date. See the response to Recommendation 4 for rationale. Taxpayers in the District seeking an exemption are only subject to a single deadline at this time.

**Recommendation 6**
The governing boards of the Santa Clara County school districts listed below that require renewal of parcel tax exemptions should initiate the renewal process by mailing an exemption renewal form and accepting renewal documentation by return mail.

**Response to Recommendation 6**
The recommendation has been implemented. We send a renewal reminder letter/form (Exhibit F) in mid-March.
**Recommendation 9b**
The governing boards of the Santa Clara County school districts listed below should request assistance from the Santa Clara County Office of Education to standardize processes for informing taxpayers about parcel tax exceptions, administering application and renewal procedures, and setting due dates.

**Response to Recommendation 9b**
The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District is open to any assistance from the Santa Clara County Office of Education regarding parcel tax exemptions, administering application and renewal procedures, and setting due dates. The District will participate in a parcel tax exemption information training on August 24, 2017.

Cynthia Miller, President  
Saratoga Union School District Board of Trustees

Nancy Johnson, Superintendent  
Saratoga Union School District
Upcoming Events

PTA Meeting

Facet Tax Exemption Forms

District News

Saratoga Union School District
Parcel Tax Exemption Forms

Optional exemptions from the Saratoga Union School District parcel tax are available. Exemption forms may be picked up at the SUUSD Business Office located at 20460 Forrest Hills Drive in Saratoga, or you may download them below:

- Senior Citizen Exemption forms (pdf)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for a Disability Exemption form (pdf)
- Contiguous Property Exemption form (pdf)

Questions about Exemption Forms? Please contact the Business Office (408) 867-3424, x209#

Saratoga Union School District Core Academic Programs Parcel Tax Measure B

On May 8, 2012, voters approved the Measure B Parcel Tax assessment of $83 per parcel per year. The tax expires after 8 years. The tax is assessed against each parcel of taxable land in the school district. A parcel is defined as any parcel of land which lies wholly or partially within the boundaries of Saratoga Union School District, and receives a separate tax bill for property taxes from the Santa Clara County Assessor/Tax Collector’s Office.

The Parcel Tax proceeds help ensure reliable funding that cannot be taken away from the state. Parcel tax funds will:

- Protect outstanding core academic programs in reading, writing, math and science
- Retain highly qualified teachers
- Support hand-on science classes for all grades
- Help protect the number of instructional days in a school year
- Provide classroom books and instructional materials, including classroom technology

No proceeds are used for administrative salaries and benefits. Exemptions are available for senior citizens and recipients of SSI for a disability.

The students and staff of Saratoga Union School District greatly appreciate the support of the community and voters.

Parcel Tax Oversight Committee

The Oversight Committee will hold its first meeting on Friday, January 13, 2017 at 9 a.m. in the District Office Large Conference Room, 20460 Forrest Hills Drive, Saratoga, CA. 95070. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

One of SUUSD’s commitments is to maintain accountability and transparency with all expenditures of Measure B dollars. A key component of that commitment is maintaining an independent Oversight Committee that is to annually review the District’s compliance with the terms of Measure B. The committee is designed to include parents/guardians as well as Saratoga community members.

The Saratoga Union School District Board of Trustees thanks Saratoga community members who are willing to serve on the Measure B Parcel Tax Oversight Committee. Current Committee members are:

- Amika Antoniades-Rao (new)
• Rita Cao (new)
• Jill Hunter (returning)
• Sandeep Jain (new)
• Ming Lei (returning)
• Jeff Pangborn (new)
• Mayaam Sadeghi (returning)

For more information about service on this committee, please see the Board Bylaw.

Annual Reports:

• Annual Report of the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee 2015-2016 - approved by Board on March 9, 2017
• Annual Report of the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee 2014-2015 - approved by Board on April 12, 2016
• Annual Report of the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee 2013-2014 - approved by Board on April 28, 2015
• Annual Report of the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee 2012-2013 - approved by Board on November 12, 2013

• Parcel Tax Oversight Committee Bylaws
• Minutes from January 13, 2017 Committee Meeting
• Minutes from February 17, 2017 Committee Meeting
• Agenda for June 4, 2013 Parcel Tax Committee Meeting
• Approved Minutes from June 4, 2013 Parcel Tax Committee Meeting
• Agenda for August 27, 2013 Parcel Tax Committee Meeting
  • General Budget and Accounting Calendar
  • Timeline
  • Summary of Revenue and Expenditures
Senior Citizen Parcel Tax Exemption Application
For Fiscal Year 2017-18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018)

APPLICATION DUE ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2017
Mail, fax or bring the signed, completed application to:
Saratoga Union School District
Attn: Business Office
20460 Forrest Hills Drive, Saratoga CA 95070
Fax: 408-867-0777

Instructions are on back of this form.
Please Print

Owner’s Name: ___________________________ Date of Birth: ___________________________

Co-Owner’s Name: ___________________________ Date of Birth: ___________________________

Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN, see Property Tax bill): ______________________________________

Property Address: _________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: (if different): _______________________________________________________

Phone Number: _________________________________________________________________

☐ I wish to claim the Senior Citizen Exemption from the parcel tax Measure B - Saratoga Union School District - $68 per year (check box at left).

OR

☐ I wish to support the Saratoga Union School District and decline to claim the Senior Citizen Parcel Tax Exemption (check box at left).

If you are claiming the exemption, please attach copies of the documents listed at the bottom of this page.

I certify that the property for which I am claiming the Senior Citizen Exemption is my principal place of residence and that the information above is true and correct.

______________________________ __________________________
Owner’s Signature Date

______________________________ __________________________
Co-Owner’s Signature Date

Age Verification (ONE REQUIRED)
☐ Driver's License /
☐ DMV Identification Card
☐ Birth Certificate
☐ Passport
☐ Medicare Card

Property Ownership Proof (REQUIRED)
☐ Property Tax Bill

Proof of Residency (ONE REQUIRED)
☐ Utility Bill
☐ Social Security Check

District Approved & Verified Date

20460 Forrest Hills Dr., Saratoga, California 95070 • (408) 867-3424 • (408) 867-2312 fax • www.saratogausd.org
SARATOGA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARCEL TAX
Senior Citizen Exemption Form

Instructions

1. This parcel tax exemption is for property owners who are over 65 years of age or older on July 1, 2017.

2. This parcel tax exemption is for your principal place of residence only, and applies to one parcel only.

3. The Measure B parcel tax requires a yearly application by June 30 of each year to claim an exemption for the term of the tax that begins the following July 1.

4. The parcel tax applies to parcels with land value. If your parcel is taxed for improvement value only (as in some mobile home parks), the parcel tax will not be assessed on your parcel, and you do not need to fill out this application.

5. To find your Parcel Number, look for the 8 digit number (XXX-XX-XXX) on your property tax bill, or call the County Assessor at 408-299-5500.

6. The application form and supporting proofs of residency, age and ownership must be received no later than June 30, 2017. Please mail or bring the signed completed application to:

Saratoga Union School District
Attn: Business Office
20460 Forrest Hills Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070
Or fax to: 408-867-0777

7. If you have questions, please contact the Saratoga Union School District Business Office at (408) 867-3424, extension: 209#
SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME EXEMPTION APPLICATION FORM
REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE PARCEL TAX OWNER/OCCUPANTS RECEIVING SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME FOR A DISABILITY

Saratoga Union School District

Fiscal Year 2017-18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018)

Instructions are on back of this form.

Please Print

Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN# on Property Tax bill):

Property Owner’s Name(s):

Property Address:

Mailing Address: (if different):

Phone Number:

☐ I certify that I have been determined to be totally disabled by Social Security Administration and receive Supplemental Security Income as a result.

☐ I certify that I live at the above address and the above information is accurate.

Signature of Applicant or Designee ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Mail or bring this application, along with necessary documentation no later than June 30, 2017 to:
Saratoga Union School District Office
Attention: Business Office
20460 Forrest Hills Drive, Saratoga CA 95070

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OFFICE USE ONLY

Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐

Residence Verification
☐ Driver’s License
☐ Utility Bill
☐ Social Security Check
☐ Tax Bill

SSI Verification
☐ Benefits Verification Letter

Verified by: ____________________________ Date ____________________________
1. What is the parcel tax?
Each parcel owner within the Saratoga Union School District is taxed $68 per parcel a year. This special tax money is used directly by the district to provide support to educational services throughout the District.

2. What exemptions are available?
The following exemptions will be granted upon application annually:
   - Senior citizen exemption
   - Contiguous parcel exemption
   - Supplemental Security Income for a disability exemption

3. How do I qualify for the Supplemental Security Income exemption?
You qualify for an exemption if you are receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, and you are the owner of a parcel within the Saratoga Union School District, and that parcel is your principal residence. You must own and live in your home as of July 1 of the year the tax is due.

4. How do I apply for an exemption?
   - Complete an application form. Your Assessor's Parcel Number (APN#) can be found on your annual Tax Bill, the Notification of Assessment card, or by calling the Santa Clara County Assessor's Office, Public Services Division at (408)299-5500.
   - Provide a Benefits Verification Letter issued by the Social Security Administration receiving Supplemental Income for a disability.
   - Provide one of the following as verification of residency:
     - Driver's License
     - Utility Bill
     - Social Security Check
     - Tax Bill

The completed application form must be received no later than June 30, 2017. You may mail or bring the completed application form, a Benefits Verification Letter, and proof of residency to:

Saratoga Union School District
Attention: Business Office
20460 Forrest Hills Drive
Saratoga, CA 95070

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (408) 867-3424, extension 209#
Saratoga Union School District
Contiguous Parcel Tax Exemption Application

For Fiscal Year 2017-18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018)

APPLICATION DUE ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2017
Mail, fax or bring the signed, completed application to:
Saratoga Union School District
Attn: Business Office
20460 Forrest Hills Drive, Saratoga CA 95070
Fax: 408-867-0777

Instructions are on back of this form.

Please Print

Owner’s Name:

Co-Owner’s Name:

Parcel Number (See Property Tax bill):

Property Address:

Mailing Address: (if different)

Contiguous Parcel Number (See Property Tax bill):

Property Address:

Please attach copy of your most recent property tax bill and your plot map.

☑ If more than one contiguous parcel, write parcel number on additional page and attach.

Phone Number:

I wish to claim the Contiguous Property Exemption so that the contiguous parcels will be treated as a single “parcel” for purposes of the levy of the education parcel tax.

☐ Measure B – Saratoga Union School District - $68 per year.

I certify that the properties for which I am claiming the Contiguous Parcel Exemption are contiguous, used solely for owner-occupied single-family purposes, and held under identical ownership, and that the information above is true and correct.

Owner’s Signature  Date

Co-Owner’s Signature  Date
SARATOGA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARCEL TAX
Contiguous Parcel Exemption Form

Instructions

1. This parcel tax exemption is for property owners who own parcels that are contiguous, used solely for owner occupied, single-family residential purposes, and held under identical ownership.

2. This parcel tax exemption allows for such parcels to be treated as a single “parcel” for purposes of the levy of the education parcel tax.

3. The Measure B parcel tax requires a yearly application by June 30 of each year to claim an exemption for the term of the tax that begins the following July 1st.

4. The parcel tax applies to parcels with land value. If your parcel is taxed for improvement value only (as in some mobile home parks), the parcel tax will not be assessed on your parcel, and you do not need to fill out this application.

5. To find your Parcel Number, look for the 8 digit number (XXX-XX-XXX) on your property tax bill, or call the County Assessor at 408-299-5500.

6. The completed application must be received no later than June 30, 2017. A complete application consists of the application form (filled in and signed), a copy of your most recent property tax bill and your plot map. If more than one contiguous parcel, write parcel number(s) on additional page and attach.

Send or drop off your application to:
Saratoga Union School District
Attn: Business Office
20460 Forrest Hills Drive, Saratoga CA 95070

Or fax to: 408-867-0777, Attention: Business Office

7. If you have questions, please contact the Saratoga Union School District Business Office at (408) 867-3424, extension 209#.
SUSD Parcel Tax Exemption

The Saratoga Union School District parcel tax exemption for the 2017-18 fiscal year is available for district residents who meet certain requirements. The deadline for the exemption is June 30, 2017.

To be eligible for an exemption from the $68 parcel tax, homeowners must meet at least one of these requirements: be 65 years of age on or before June 30, 2017, receive supplemental security income for a disability or own a contiguous property.

Visit www.saratogausd.org or contact the SUSD at 408-867-3424, ext. 209.
**SUSD parcel tax exemption**

Seniors who will be at least 65 years or older on June 30, homeowners receiving supplemental security income for a disability and contiguous parcel owners who reside within the Saratoga Union School District are eligible to receive an exemption from the annual parcel tax of $68 per year.

Forms are available at the district office, 30460 Forrest Hills Drive, or online at www.saratogusd.org/parcaltax. Individuals who applied last year are not required to apply again. Completed forms and residency documents are due by June 30. For more information, call the SUSD business office at 408-379-5124 Ext. 320.

**Great Race turns 40**

The 40th annual Great Race from Saratoga to Los Gatos starts at 9 a.m. April 30, with 1,200 runners, walkers and seniors with strollers expected to make the approximately 4-mile trek down Highway 9.

The race, sponsored by the Los Gatos Rotary Club, starts on Big Basin Way in Saratoga and wraps up on North Santa Cruz Avenue in Los Gatos.

The cost is $45, or $35 for children under 12. Register at losgatosrotary.org.

**SAT, ACT study guides sought**

Los Gatos High School student Isabella Parker is collecting SAT and ACT study texts that will be donated to a girls’ school in Rwanda.

Isabella and other students are teaming up on the collection effort for a social entrepreneurship class.

Books can be dropped in the front porch bin at 230 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos.

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**NEWS**

**Author’s Day, bookmobile**

**Stops at Daves Avenue school**

By Judy Paterson

The Santa Clara County Library District has a new bookmobile, serving 45 locations across the county every two weeks, and it’s wheelchair accessible. The bookmobile visits rural areas, senior centers, businesses and schools, including Daves Avenue Elementary School. It’s been there three times this fall.

"We also have books for children and teachers can use for research," bookmobile librarian Anythia Willard said. "We have a little bit of everything on board — books, movies, video games, music — and we have a cart that changes out. If we go to a facility that has a lot of Russian speakers, we’ll stock those. When we go to the south county, we stock Spanish books, and for Daves Avenue we stock kids' books."

Last week, kids were running in and out of the bookmobile during lunchtime, but once inside they were whisper quiet as they looked over the offerings.

"I like that it has all the books I’m looking for, and I like the Warriors series about cats," fourth-grader Liz Bobzin said. "It’s nice to be able to get a book and finish it."

Checkouts are for two weeks.

Fourth-grader Robbi Ross said, "I like that it has a lot of books that I know and also books I can’t find anywhere else. I like Sammy Keyes."

Sammy Keyes is a fictional amateur sleuth whose character was created by Beverly Beach children’s author Wendy Van Draanen. She spoke to students March 23 during the annual Daves Avenue "Author’s Day" event.

Robbi and Liz both said they enjoyed her funny and energetic talk.

"I did not want to be an author and yet I have 23 books," Van Draanen said. "I started writing because I was ticked off at life. My dad’s business was blown up and he died, so I became an author because I needed serious, serious therapy."

Thai may sound a bit heavy for elementary kids, but Van Draanen’s delivery is key to her presentation. She makes scruffy faces and speaks funny to entertain the kids as she drives the point home that "if you never give up, you’re bound to succeed."

Fifth-graders who attended Van Draanen’s presentation laughed and applauded when she talked about “bad guys” characters.

"On paper you can do whatever you want. You can torture 'em or pull 'em limb from limb," Van Draanen’s “epic story of 627 pages long and she joked.

It was rejected as several others.

"When I got rejection letters for 10 years, pumping," Van Draanen kept putting hope just had the feeling would read and like.

Someone finally Today, Van Draanen’s editor Allen F. Best Children’s Illustrated and Marche, who lived was diagnosed with cancer at Daves Avenue school.

MARCH 31, 2017.
Former mayor and public artist Jerry Smith

Legacy of community service

By Brandy Meisel

Retired Justice Jerome "Jerry" Smith, former Saratoga mayor and peace activist, passed away on May 5.

Smith served on the Saratoga Council before being appointed to the Superior Court of California and, after retirement, Smith maintained his interest in community service.

Following his death, he was named a posthumous Sculptor for the World Peace Council of Tokyo.

"He cared about people and their access to opportunities to equalize and advance," said one of his many community members. "His dedication to his community was the backbone of every action he took for more than three decades.

Decker Ard-Smith was married to Smith in April after a decade-long relationship.

Smith was a member of the Saratoga City Council from 1968 to 1974, serving as mayor from 1972 to 1974. In 1974, and again in 1978, he was elected to represent the 12th Senate district in the California Legislature.

Among the most noticeable laws he worked on were the California Coastal Act that preserves the California coastline, the Victims of Crime Act that provides assistance to victims of violent crime, and the California Conservation Corps Act that provides training and work opportunities for young people with an emphasis on conserving and enhancing natural resources.

In 1979, Smith resigned from the Senate and was appointed to the 1st District's Board of Supervisors, where he served for six years.

"Smith's last art piece was the Peck bronzes," Decker Ard-Smith said. "According to the project co-ordinator, Smith finished the heads and hands some time ago. Anthony Teixeira, Smith's sculpture partner, will continue the project.

Anthony Teixeira, Jerry Smith's sculptor partner for the last two years, is committed to finishing the Peck bronzes as planned."

The Saratoga Union School District parcel tax exemption for the 2017-18 fiscal year is available for district residents who meet certain requirements. The deadline for the exemption is June 30.

Briefs, page 6

MAY 19, 2017 SILICON VALLEY

185
Silicon Valley Open Studios
Saturday, May 20 & Sunday,
May 21, 11 am to 5 pm
Mark Your Calendar!
Call artists to open their studios to the public. The irst
weekends of May. Meet local artists and get an up-
close and personal look at how they create their art.
A wonderful way to spend the day!
Artists' logos are available at most local.
art community centers. Go to www.svos.org
for more information and the locations.
The Silicon Valley Open Studios is OPEN to the PUB.

SEARCHING FOR
LIONS
JOIN US
Give back to our community.
- Collecting eyeglasses
- Sight-saving programs
- Money for eyeglasses

Saturday
May 20 + 10 - noon
Coffee & Conversation
President Hugh Hexam
20367 Glen Brae Dr
Information: Hugh
408-867-4395
loufin@aol.com • hinhang@yahoo.com

News

Briefs
Continued from page 5
To be eligible for an
exemption from the $58
parcel tax, homeowners
must meet at least one
of the following
requirements: be 65 years
of age or on before
June 30, 2017, receive
supplemental security
income for a disability,
or own a continuous
property.
Visit saratogaparad.org
or contact the Saratoga
Union School District
at 408-567-2333, ext.
299.

Vanity plea
in robbery
On June 16, people have
pleaded guilty to the
charges of ras Pas
Mendoza, 22, Santa
Valley Ave, in Los Gatos:
the case.
Davyd Griles, Los Gatos
Monterey Police
Department news re-
leas.

Three suspects faced a
variety of charges, includ-
ing robbery, false impre-
ment and assault with
a deadly weapon; Paul
Najjar will be sentenced
to 15 years in prison, Sean
McGivern will receive a
10-year prison sentence
and Tamera Rowland’s
sentence is still to be
determined.

The fourth defend-
ant, Jamie Browning,
entered his guilty plea
to one count of robbery
last November.

Scouting it out
Saratogans Janet Shaw, middle, the assistant scout
Boy Scouts of Troop 508, Connor McNally and Taylor
visitors their job-making skills at the Scout-O-Rama
Saturday. Other participants from Saratoga include
and Boy Scout Troop 535.

Jerry
Continued from page 5
installing the bronze to
ensure the project aligns
closely with Smith’s vision.
Smith died after compli-
cations from prostate can-
cer. He was 80 years old.
The Peck bronze is ex-
pected to be installed in
Blaney Plaza in August. To
follow the project’s pro-
gress, visit golundine.com/
willysbyettepeck.
A memorial for Smith
was held Thursday in lieu
of flowers, contributions
may be made to the Anne
EXHIBIT D

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COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
CONTROLLER-TREASURER DEPARTMENT  
TAX ROLL CONTROL - COST MANAGEMENT - PROPERTY TAX DIVISION  
SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT FORM FOR ENROLLMENT OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-16 SECURED TAX ROLL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>724</td>
<td>USD Parcel Tax</td>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Res.401.8/12</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7,130</td>
<td>$484,840.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) - CLASS: BOND (subject to accelerated judicial foreclosable) or BENEFIT (i.e. Landscaping, Deficient Utilities, Parcel tax)
(2) - STATUTORY AUTHORITY under which the district is formed. Example: Mello-Ross, 1915 Bond Act, etc.
(3) - JUDICIAL FORCIBLE - Resolution stipulating that the district will pursue the removal of the delinquent assessment amount from the delinquent tax bill in accordance with the district assessment's bond covenants.
(4) - PRORATION N = 100% Secured, Y = Prorate between current owner [Secured] and Prior Owner [Unsecured]

DISTRICT AGREEMENT:

This is to certify the agency's special assessment amount to be applied on each parcel of real property is correct and valid. I have read and understand the Fiscal Year 2015-16 special assessment instruction letter explaining the terms and conditions, requirements, and the County 1% (of the special assessment amount) costs for the agency's special assessment enrollment on the County Annual Secured tax roll, and agree to those terms and conditions therein for all special assessments submitted.

AGENCY NAME: Saratoga Union School District

Authorized Signature: [Signature]
Title: CSO
Date: 8/7/2015

Direct Contact Name: Kimberly McNulty

PUBLIC CONTACT PHONE AND EMAIL ADDRESS (FOR PUBLIC DIRECT CONTACT)

CONSULTANT NAME: Carol J. Hunt
Contact Person: Rosanna Jeng
Telephone: 408-867-3424 x207

AGENCY NAME: Saratoga Union School District

Name: Rosanna Jeng
Mailing Address: 20460 Forrest Hills Drive
Saratoga, CA 95070

Telephone: 408-867-3424 x207
E-mail: jeng@saratogausd.org

CONSULTANT NAME: Carol J. Hunt
Contact Person: Rosanna Jeng
Address: 20460 Forrest Hills Drive
Saratoga, CA 95070

Telephone: 408-867-3424 x207
E-mail: jeng@saratogausd.org

For Controller-Treasurer Department Use: 
Data File Authorization documents
**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**  
**CONTROLLER-TREASURER DEPARTMENT**  
**TAX ROLL CONTROL - COST MANAGEMENT - PROPERTY TAX DIVISION**

**SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT FORM FOR ENROLLMENT OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT ON THE 2016-17 SECURED PROPERTY TAX ROLL**

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>724</td>
<td>SUSD Parcel Tax</td>
<td>Benefit</td>
<td>Res. 401.6/12</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>484,062.00</td>
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**PARCEL COUNT**  
Resubmission

<table>
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<th>RESIDENTIAL</th>
<th>COMMERCIAL</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>8,578</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>7,119</td>
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District's Description:  
Saratoga Union School District Parcel Tax approved by the voters 6/6/2012

1. CLASS: BOND (subject to accelerated, jurisdiction foreclosable) or BENEFIT (i.e. Landscaping, Delinquent Utilities, Parcel tax)
2. STATUTORY AUTHORITY under which the district is formed. Example: Mello-Roos, 1915 Bond Act, etc.
3. JUDICIARY FORECLOSEABLE - Resolution stipulating that the district will pursue the removal of the delinquent assessment amount from the delinquent tax bill in accordance to the district assessment's bond covenants.
4. PRORATION N = 100% Secured, Y = Prorate between current owner [Secured] and Prior Owner [Unsecured]

**AGENCY'S AGREEMENT:**  
This is to certify the agency’s special assessment amount to be applied on each parcel of real property is correct and valid. I have read and understand the Fiscal Year 2016-17 special assessment instruction letter explaining the terms and conditions, requirements, and the County 1% (of the special assessment amount) costs for the agency's special assessment enrollment on the County Annual Secured tax roll, and agree to those terms and conditions therein for all special assessments submitted.

**AGENCY NAME:** Saratoga Union School District  
**Authorized Signature:** Rosanna Jeng  
**Title:** CFO  
**Date:** 07/28/2016

**Public Contact Phone and Email Address**  
**Name:** Rosanna Jeng  
**Mailing Address:** 20450 Forrest Hills Dr  
**City:** Saratoga  
**State:** CA  
**Zip Code:** 95070  
**Phone:** (408) 867-3424  
**Extension:** 207  
**E-mail:** njeng@saratogausd.org

**Consultant Name:** Hunt Consulting, LLC  
**Contact Person:** Carol J Hunt  
**Address:** 5181 Zander Dr  
**City:** Bellingham, WA  
**Zip Code:** 98225  
**Telephone:** 360-388-0160  
**Email:** seahunts@msn.com

**For Controller-Treasurer Department Use:**  
<table>
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<th>Received Date</th>
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<th>Rejection</th>
<th>Received</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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Agenda for the July 15th Workshop

1. The new AB2109 compliance that would affect the annual reporting requirement to the State Controller Office. [County, Cities, Special Districts]

2. If you have not RSVP for the workshop, please let me know ASAP. We have added 10 more spots for the workshop.
Santa Clara County
Special Assessments Workshop
JULY 15, 2015
12:45 – 3:00 pm
Location: SCC Auditorium
1555 Berger Dr.
San Jose, CA 95110

Agenda

12:45 – 1:00 pm  Sign in
1:00 – 1:10 pm   Welcome
1:10 – 2:00 pm   New legislation AB 2109: Parcel Tax Reporting
                 Compliance. Presenter: State Controller Office
2:00 – 2:20 pm   Prop 218 Compliance
2:20 – 3:00 pm   Santa Clara County’s annual submission requirements
                 and instructions
3:00 pm          Adjourn.
Special Assessments - 2016-17 Enrollment

La Kim-Anh <kim-anh.ta1@friscogov.org>

Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 5:05 PM
To: Abby Yung <ayung@marthomas.com>, "Valbuena, Alewina" <AlixValbuena@rd.scougov.org>, Alex Andrade

"Alex.Andrade@mountainview.gov", "alex.rojas@sanjoseca.gov" <alex.rojas@sanjoseca.gov>, Amy Larsen <alarsen@scusd.net>, Andrew Chelengmes <andrea@alloyoffersonero.org>, "andrea@teussig.com" <andrea@teussig.com>, Anessa Espinoza <anessa.espinoza@fhih.k12.ca.us>, Anthony Eulo <anthony.eulo@morganhill.ca.gov>, "Bodduuru, Aruna" <aruna.bodduuru@rda.scougov.org>, "Galliano, Rene" <Rene.Galliano@rda.scougov.org>, Barbara Sproulhour <sproulhour@rwoxlog.scougov.org>, "Biling (Kevin) Yang" <kyang@oaasd.org>, "bmuozco@pausd.org" <bmouzco@pausd.org>, Brenda Ortega <brenda.ortega@esased.org>, Brian Loventhel <blventhel@alloyoffersonero.org>, "taylor.lassen@lauschools.org" <brian@lassen@lauschools.org>, "Cieres@loma.k12.ca.us" <bciaras@loma.k12.ca.us>, Carol Hill <Carol.Hill@vanarsd.org>, Carol J Hunt <seahunt@msn.com>, "Cheli@cupertino.org" <Cheli@cupertino.org>, Christine Turner Turner <Christina.Spyrup@cupertino.org>, "Christina Endrby" <Christina.Endrby@cityofpaloalto.org>, Chuck Griffin <cgriffin@sccol.org>, Cindy Judy <CJudy@sanjaci.org>, "CM@pausd.org" <cm@pausd.org>, "Crippen@teussig.com" <crippen@teussig.com>, "Crystal Crawford" <CrystalCrawford@esased.org>, Dan Deguara <Deguara@esased.org>, "Dat Nguyen@morganhill.ca.gov" <Dat Nguyen@morganhill.ca.gov>, "Cameron, Dawn" <Dawn.Cameron@rda.scougov.org>, "debbie.chavez@sanjoseca.gov" <debbie.chavez@sanjoseca.gov>, "McRide, Demetra" <demetra.mcbride@eoe.sccol.org>, Dennis Anderson <DAndersen@harris-assoc.com>, "Dyson@moreland.org" <djyson@moreland.org>, "donna@teussig.com" <donna@teussig.com>, Doug Floyd <douglas.kgp.net>, Ed Espinoza <Ed@franciscocensusassociates.com>, "Faulk, Ed" <ed@dallascounty.org>, "fg@eclipse.com" <ed@eclipse.com>, "gasco@westvalleysan.org" <gasco@westvalleysan.org>, "Galliano, Stephen" <stephen.galliano@sanjaci.org>, Gary Ameling <GAmeling@sanjaci.org>, Greg McElday <greg@cup.edu>, Han Nguyen <hn@sanjaci.org>, "hravanci@sanjaci.ca.us" <hravanci@sanjaci.ca.us>, Ivy To <ito@markthomas.com>, "Jackie Rose" <jrose@losaltoshills.ca.gov>, Jacqueline Guzman <Jacquelene@cupertino.org>, Janice Broussard <jbroussard@sjus.net>, Jason Azeoff <jazeoff@willdan.com>, Jason Van <jvan@cambrinsand.org>, "jbjordan@dolinkagroup.com" <jbjordan@dolinkagroup.com>, Jeanette Hyntens <Jeanette.Hyntens@sci.cc>, "jeanie_mccune@fshsd.org" <jeanie_mccune@fshsd.org>, Jeffrey Rhoads <jeffrey.rhoads@sanjaci.org>, "Jen Chen" <chenj@losaltoshills.ca.gov>, Jeremy Nishimura <nishimuraJeremy@cduek8.org>, Joe Francis <jof@franciscocensusassociates.com>, "John Chau" <john@hlasinceton.com>, "Jong Hong" <jonghong@milpitas.ca.gov>, Joseph Amore <JAmore@ub.edu>, Joseph Hernandez <joseph.hernandez@willdan.com>, "Julia Yu (Julia.Cuek8@cduek8.org)" <Julia.Yu@cduek8.org>, "Julie Wilson" <juliewilson@valleymagazine.com>, "Kakai Muzio" <kmuzio@cup.edu>, "Kelly Roberts" <Kelly.Roberts@rda.scougov.org>, "Kjell@moreland.org" <kjell@moreland.org>, "KShenefiel@ccompoompass.com" <KShenefiel@ccompoompass.com>, "Kurzer@losaltoshills.ca.gov" <kurzer@losaltoshills.ca.gov>, "kilgus@mvwisd.org" <kilgus@mvwisd.org>, "Kmok, Focelia" "rococela.kmok@rda.scougov.org", "Kurrat, Moe" <Moe.Kurrat@inecole.org>, "Kurkko, Laura" <Laura.Kuryk@cityofpaloalto.org>, "lakecanyoncanyon@yahoo.com" <lakecanyoncanyon@yahoo.com>, Larii Megan Lamken <megam.lamken@gmail.com>, Laura Phair <lpfang@gsd.org>, Lauren Monack <lmonack@openscapesauthority.org>, Leaha Liao <lliao@westvalleysan.org>, Lin Feng <lfeng@sanjaci.org>, Lina Prada <lprada@sanjaci.org>, Linda Latessa <lindalatessa@usac.org>, "Lisa Altman" <Lisamorgan@cupertino.org>, "ly@kgp.net" <ly@kgp.net>, "Marke Vilabroza" <mvalabroza@fmlcpropertytaxes.ca.gov>, "Mark Andre" <mfp@peakcensus.com>, "Mark Boren" <mbo@hilltopsdc.org>, "Mark, K" <markk@hlasilton.com>, "Mark, K" <markk@hlasilton.com>, "Mary Kinke" <mkine@sanjaci.org>, "mchinn@losaltoshills.ca.gov" <mchinn@losaltoshills.ca.gov>, "mcshall@losaltoshills.ca.gov", "Melina Nguyen" <mnguyen@gsd.org>, Melissa Durante <mdurante@pmcsd.org>, "mfregose@gUSD.k12.ca.us" <mfregose@gUSD.k12.ca.us>, "Mitam Adamiec" <mitam@goodwinconsultinggroup.com>, "Mitch Moseman" <mitch@teussig.com>, "Nam Agraz" <Nam.Agraz@mdsd.org>, "Narayen, Tanu" <Tanu.Ranar@cupertino.org>, "Nash Thumar" <nathumar@teussig.com>, Nell Ruffino <Nell.Ruffino@library.org>, "Gelope, Nora" <nora.george@arrrc.org>, "Pad Lin" <plin@losaltoshills.ca.gov>, "Pam Cleeve" <pam_cleeve@hlasilton.com>, "Pam, Rebillot" <rebillot@rda.scougov.org>, Patricia Prebus <patricia.prebus@cup.edu>, "Paterson, Eric" <eric.peterson@rd.scougov.org>, Phuong Le <ple@bvued.net>, Phuong Vu <pvu@westvalleysan.org>, Randall Kennedy <rkennedy@losaltoshills.ca.gov>, "rdhu@losaltoshills.ca.gov" <rdhu@losaltoshills.ca.gov>, "rcottig@cup.edu", "Richard C. Tanaka" <riccotanaka@markthomas.com>, Richard Wong <richardw@cupertino.org>, "Rita Sohail" <sohail@union.org>, Robert Schultz, "schultz@losaltoshills.ca.gov", "Robyn Zamors" <robyn.zamors@sanjaci.org>, Rosanna Jang <Rosanna.Jang@rda.scougov.org>, "rtwoshelman@csudh.edu", "sandra@lakehillssegal.com" <sandra@lakehillssegal.com>, Sandra Harrington <Sandra.Harrington@arcs.org>, "Sandy Guerera" <sandy.guerera@mdsd.org>, "seanmartinovic@gmail.com" <seanmartinovic@gmail.com>, "serdickson@ci.milpitas.org" <serdickson@ci.milpitas.org>, "sharpgo@cambrinsand.org" <sharpgot@cambrinsand.org>, Shawnna Freels <shawnna.freels@cup.edu>, "Shelley de la Rosa" <shelley_de_la_rossa@rda.scougov.org>, "Shirley Ho" <shirley_ho@markthomas.com>, "Silva Anderson" <sillas@franciscusandassociates.com>, "Stefanie Angelou" <angelou@losaltoshills.ca.gov>, "Stephanie Conroy" <scconroy@losaltoshills.ca.gov>, "Steven Backha" <stbackha@losaltoshills.ca.gov>, "Susan Miles" <susan.miles@cup.edu>, "Suzana Medina" <medina@willdan.com>, "Teddy Lee" <teddylee@mountainview.gov>, "Telena Perry" <tperry@esased.org>, "Terry Gill" <terrygill@gsd.org>, "TGill@mpdsd.org" <TGill@mpdsd.org>, Tiffany Chew <tiffany.chew@mountainview.gov>, Tim Kirby <tkirby@sunnyvale.ca.gov>, Tina Tseng <tseng@losaltoshills.ca.gov>, "Todd J. Burtot" <tburtot@losaltoshills.ca.gov>, "Tom Borden" <Tom.Borden@sanjaci.org>, "Tom Grey" <tgrey@gsd.k12.ca.us>, "Areta, Tony" <Tony.Areta@rda.scougov.org>, "Torie Smith" <tsmith@gsd.org>, "Tracy Huyten" <tracyhuyten@gsd.org>, "Trevor Sprouse" <tsprouse@hlasilton.com>, "Veronica Reyes" <veronics@board.net>, "Violette Renz" <renz@gsd.k12.ca.us>, "Victor@goodwinconsultinggroup.net" <victor@goodwinconsultinggroup.net>, "vboch@oaasd.org" <vboch@oaasd.org>, "wchang@musd.org" <wchang@musd.org>.

Attached are the instructions and Forms pertinent to the 2016-17 Enrollment.

1. 2016-17 Annual Instructions and Requirements
2. Fillable PDF Forms [will not accept substituted or altered forms]

If you have further questions, please contact us.

3/30/2017 1:12 PM
March 14, 2017

Parcel #: 

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SENIOR EXEMPTION UNDER THE DISTRICT’S PARCEL TAX

Dear Property Owner:

On May 8, 2012, the Saratoga Union School District (grades K-8) was fortunate to have the voters of our district approve the 2012 Parcel Tax (Measure B). The revenue generated from this special assessment will have a significant and positive impact on students in our district.

Measure B permits the District to grant an exemption to the payment of the parcel tax of any owners of a parcel used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes who are 65 years or older. You were granted an exemption during 2016-17 from the $68 assessment on the basis of being 65 years old. You do not have to fill out new forms for 2017-18, but we do need to have you verify that you still own and live at the property listed above. Please return this form to the address listed below by May 31, 2017.

If you have any questions, please contact the Business Office at (408) 867-3424 x209.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I certify that I am the property owner and that I reside at the property listed above.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signature:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM TO:

Saratoga Union School District
Attention: Business Office
20460 Forrest Hills Drive
Saratoga, CA 95070
March 14, 2017

«Owner_First_Name» «Owner_Last_Name»
«Home»
«City», «State» «ZIP»

Residential Parcel #: «Residential_Parcel»          Contiguous Parcel #: «Contiguous_Parcel»

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CONTIGUOUS PARCEL EXEMPTION UNDER THE DISTRICT’S PARCEL TAX

Dear Property Owner:

On May 8, 2012, the Saratoga Union School District (grades K-8) was fortunate to have the voters of our district approve the 2012 Parcel Tax (Measure B). The revenue generated from this special assessment will have a significant and positive impact on students in our district.

Measure B permits the District to grant an exemption to the payment of the parcel tax to any owners of parcels that are contiguous, used solely for owner occupied, single family residential purposes, and held under identical ownership. You were granted an exemption during 2016-17 from the $68 assessment on this basis. You do not have to fill out new forms for 2017-18, but we do need to have you verify that you still own and live at the property listed above. Please return this form to the address listed below by May 31, 2017.

If you have any questions, please contact the Business Office at (408) 867-3424 x209.

I certify that I am the property owner and that I reside at the property listed above.

Signature: __________________________            Date: __________

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM TO:
Saratoga Union School District
Attention: Business Office
20460 Forrest Hills Drive
Saratoga, CA 95070
March 14, 2017

Parcel #:

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME EXEMPTION UNDER THE DISTRICT’S PARCEL TAX

Dear Property Owner:

On May 8, 2012, the Saratoga Union School District (grades K-8) was fortunate to have the voters of our district approve the 2012 Parcel Tax (Measure B). The revenue generated from this special assessment will have a significant and positive impact on students in our district.

Measure B permits the District to grant an exemption to the payment of the parcel tax of any owners of a parcel determined to be totally disabled by Social Security. You were granted an exemption during 2016-17 from the $68 assessment on the basis of being disabled. You do not have to fill out new forms for 2017-18, but we do need to have you verify that you still own and live at the property listed above. Please return this form to the address listed below by May 31, 2017.

If you have any questions, please contact the Business Office at (408) 867-3424 x209.

I certify that I am the property owner and that I reside at the property listed above.

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM TO:

Saratoga Union School District
Attention: Business Office
20460 Forrest Hills Drive
Saratoga, CA 95070