

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



Approved by Saratoga Union School District Board of Trustees July 26, 2017

# 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
  - o Saratoga Public Library, 13650 Saratoga Ave.; Saratoga
  - o Starbucks, 18764 Cox Ave., Saratoga
  - o Starbucks, 14410 Big Basin Way, Saratoga
  - o Starbucks, 12960 Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road, Saratoga
  - o 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 tum 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.)

### 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 la

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:
  - o Saratoga Public Library, 13650 Saratoga Ave.; Saratoga
  - o Starbucks, 18764 Cox Ave., Saratoga
  - o Starbucks, 14410 Big Basin Way, Saratoga
  - O Starbucks, 12960 Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road, Saratoga
  - o 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 tum 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

# **EXHIBIT** A



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# Saratoga Union School District

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**COUCATIONAL SERVICES** 

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SCHOOL DISTRICT SARATOGA UNION















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# District News

Parcel Tax Exemption Forms
Optional exemptions from the Saratoga Union School District parcel tax are now available. Read Full Story »

2017-2018 English Language Arts (Reading & Writing) at Redwood Middle School

Parent Information Meeting
Attention current 5th, 5th & 7th Grade Parents/Guardians! Come learn about English Language Arts (Reading & Writing)
materials adoption at Redwood for All 6th-8th Grade Students for next school year (2017-18) on March 27th or March 29th
at the Redwood Library Read Full Story s

# Callfornia School Dashboard

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California is field testing a new website designed to help communities across the state access important information about districts and schools. Read Full Story  $_{\scriptscriptstyle R}$ 

AVX

New Student Conditional Registration Period

Assessment ELA & Math (6th-6th Grade) through 4 14 17 Alemate

Sinarter Balanced Assessment & CA

# Upcoming Events

SO MIN CHANGS

54

Spring Break Begins (through 4.7)

Home Departments Business Services P Parcel Tax

# Parcel Tax Exemption Forms

Optional exemptions from the Saratoga Union School District parcel tax are available. Exemption forms may be picked up at the <u>SUSD Business Office located at 20460 Forrest Hills Drive</u> 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 \$68 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 SUSD'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)
- Maysam 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

  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:	And the second s				
I wish to claim the Senior Citizen District - \$68 per year (check bo	n Exemption from the parcel tax Meax at left).	asure B - Saratoga Union School			
	nion School District and decline to cla	aim the Senior Citizen Parcel			
Tax Exemption (check box at left		THE PLANT OF THE PROPERTY OF T			
If you are claiming the exemption, p	lease attach copies of the documen	ts listed at the bottom of this page.			
I certify that the property for which I as and that the information above is true a		otion is my principal place of residence			
Owner's Signature	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Date			
Co-Owner's Signature	ALPHANIA ALIAN AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND A	Date			
Age Verification (ONE REQUIRED)	Property Ownership Proof (REQUIRED)	Proof of Residency (ONE REQUIRED)			
Driver's License / DMV Identification Card Birth Certificate Passport	Property Tax Bill	Utility Bill Social Security Check			
Medicare Card	District Approved & Verified	Date			
	The state of the s				

# SARATOGA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT PARCEL TAX

# Senior Citizen Exemption Form <u>Instructions</u>

- 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 <u>principal place of residence only</u>, and applies to <u>one parcel</u> 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 <u>parcels with land value</u>. 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-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

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 P	roperty Tax bill):	
Property Owner's Name(s):		
Property Address:		
Mailing Address: (if different):		
Phone Number:		
	ned to be totally disabled by Social	ecurity
I certify that I live at the above ac	ddress and the above information is ac	ccurate.
Signature of Applicant or Designee		Date
Sa	ong with necessary documentation a aratoga Union School District Office Attention: Business Office Forrest Hills Drive, Saratoga CA 950	•
OFFICE USE ONLY	Approved [	Disapproved
Residence Verification  Driver's License  Utility Bill Social Security Check Tax Bill	SSI Verification Benefits Verificati	on Letter
Verified by:	Date	

# SARATOGA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME FOR A DISABILITY INFORMATION SHEET 2017-18

### 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 at copy of your most recent property to	
✓ If more than one contiguous parcel, write parcel nu	mber on additional page and attach.
Phone Number:	
I wish to claim the Contiguous Property Exemption so that for purposes of the levy of the education parcel tax.	t the contiguous parcels will be treated as a single "parcel"
Measure B – Saratoga Union School District - \$68 per ye	ear.
I certify that the properties for which I am claiming the Cofor owner-occupied single-family purposes, and held under true and correct.	ontiguous Parcel Exemption are contiguous, used solely ridentical ownership, and that the information above is
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 <u>parcels with land value</u>. 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-XXXX) 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#.

# EXHIBIT B



# **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 <u>www.saratogauusd.org</u> or contact the SUSD at 408-867-3424, ext. 209.

# **EXHIBIT C**

# 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 engible to receive an exemption from the annual parcel tax of \$68 per year.

Forms are available at the district office, 20460 Forrest Hills Drive, or online at www. sarategaisd org/parceltax. 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 40 \$ 867 3124, ext, 200

# Great Race turns 40

The 40th annual Great ्रहिर्देश रिर्णा Saratoga to Los Gatos starts at 9 a.m. April 30, with L200 runners, walkers and parents 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 280 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos.

# NEWS

# Author's Day, bookmobil

# Stops at Daves Avenue school

By Judy Peterson

The Santa Clara County Library District has a new bookmobile serving 45 locations across the county every two weeks, and it's wheelchair acressible. The bookmobile visits rural areas, senior facilities, businesses and schools, including Daves Avenue Elementary, where students can get books the school often doesn't stock in its

We also have darshases that chiki en and feachers can use for research," bookmobile librarian Amytha 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 Lean't find other places. I like Sammy Keyes books."

Sammy Keyes is a fictional amateur sleuth whose character was created by Pismo Beach children's author Wendelm Ven Dramen. She spoke to students March 23 during the annual Daves Avenue "Author's Day" event.

Robbi and Liz both said they en-



Popular children's author and illustrator Jim E Daves Avenue Elementary students during the Day is designed to spark children's interesting

"I did not want to be an author I and yet I have 33 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."

That may sound a bit heavy for elementary kids, but Van Draanen's delivery is key to her presentation: She makes scrupchy 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 Dramen's presentation laughed and applauded when she talked about "bad guy" characters.

"On paper you can do whatever joyed her funny and energetic talk. I you want. You can torture 'ent or I senter at Daves A

pull'em limb from l

Van Draanen's epic story of goor 627 pages long and she joked.

It was rejected as were several oth

"When I got re lishers for 10 year pumping," Van Di kept putting hope just had the feeling would read and lik

Someone finally Today Van Dra: an Edgar Alam F Best Unidren's h California Young I

Illustrator and a Marche, who lives was also an Auti

# Pacific Kitchen opens in Village

Pacific Kitchen and Bath Co. has talked up residence in the former Agree Boutague location in The Saratega Village. Details of its opening were not larging to the sature.

# Nominatea local hero

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the Single Hero or Service to
resident Santa Clara County.
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more transcriptions
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Consider History Museum
in Mouncain View, visit
rederossers/SVHexces/Or7
for more details on each of Safety Hero. International

for more details on each of the 2017 Heroes Award categories, as well as the online nomination form. The website also includes information on how to burehase tickets and how to become a sponsor.

# 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.

Briefs, page 6

# NEWS

# Pormer mayor and public antistale

Legacy of community sérvice

By Brandy Micele

etired justice Jerome "derry", Albert "Spitte sa former "Saratoga smæyor

Lylormer Saratoga mayole died peacefully calline Saratogs holde on May 9.

South served on the Saratogs toga Cuty sounch before stanting a Cuty about hefore stanting a Cuty about hefore stanting a Cuty and surger as a state appellate, cours judge. After centement sunth Edition of successful acadive calcest At his death he was serving as the lead sculptor for the wallys and Betty Peck Branze Project.

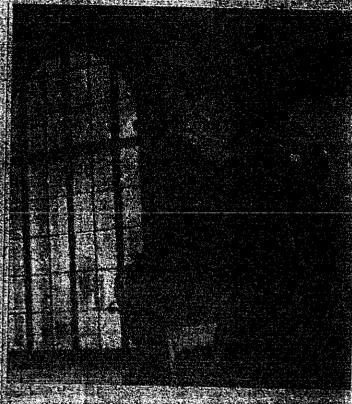
Ti hink was attracted people to Jerry was that when he spoke to you be supplyed in the person he was needed to the person he was needed to the saratog person he was talking to the serving and the serving person he was talking to the serving person he was talking to the serving and the serving person he was talking to the serving person he serving per

person he was talking to There

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 associate justice to the 1st Dis-



was something about how being plearly Sinish former inavor of Stratogram of connected with people share was taway. Smith is hit to a decrease of the community at the Villa Montalvo Art Sceneral Decker and Smith were married in April after a necases long transfer. He served on the practice of the served on the practice.

that Court of Appeals in San Francisco: He served on the bench until his retirement in

After retiring, Smith developed his skills as a sculptor at the San Jose State University foundry. His public artwork in-cludes a bust of architect Julia Morgan at the Saratoga Foothill Club, life-size sculptures of Father Bellarmine and St. Ignatius of Loyola at Bellarmine College Prep and bronzes honoring La-tino day workers entitled "Los Jornaleros."

Smith's last art piece was the Pēek bronzes.

According to the project coordinators, Smith flinshed the heads and hands some time ago. Anthony Teixeira, Smith's sculpture partner, will continue

Jerry, page 6



Anthony Teixeira, Jerry Sm pictured administering a cas to be the body of Willys Pecl final product will be installed

# Silicon Valley Open Studios Saturday, May 20th & Sunday, May 212-11 am to 5 pm Mark Your Calendar!

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# Briefs

Continued from page 5

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

Visit saratogausd.org or contact the Saratoga Union Sendol District at 408 55 7,3424, ext.

# entilis bleas il robberv

Pear people have pleased sulty to the Neverther Albarob-Very Espetiskens Fine Verthers 30 Santa Com Ave in Los Ga ess bringing the case to a close pelios Galos Monie Serano Police Department news release said.

Three suspects faced a variety of charges, including robbery, false imprisonment and assault with a deadly weapon; Fadi Najjar wili be sentenced to lā vēars in prison. Sean McGivern will receive a 10-year prison sentence and Yvonne Rowland's sentence is still to be determined.

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



# Scouting it out

Saratogens Janet Shaw, middle, the assistant scouts Boy Scouts of Troop 508, Comor McNally and Taylo visitors their fob-making skuls at the Scout-O-Rama Saturday. Other participants from Saratoga include: and Boy Scout Troop 535.

# Jerry

Continued from page 5

installing the bronzes to ensure the project aligns closely with Smith's vision.

Smith died after complications from prostate cancer. He was 80 years old.

The Peck bronze is expected to be installed in Blaney Plaza in August. To may be made to the Anne

follow the project's progress, visit gofundme.com/ willysbettypeck.

A memorial for Smith was held Thursday, In lieu of flowers, contributions

# EXHIBIT D

# **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

	TO BE COMPLETED BY DISTRICT						
Number [3 digit code]	Name	CLASS [1]	Statutory / Legal Authority [2]	Judiciary Foreclosable [Yes or NO]	I Vario	Total Parcel Count	Total Assessment Amount
724	SUSD PARCEL TAX	Benefit	Res.401.6/12	No	No ,	7,130	\$484,840.00

- (1) CLASS: BOND (subject to accelerated judiciary foreclosable) on BENEFIT (i.e. Landscaping, Delinquent Utilities, Parcel tax)
- (2) STATUTORY AUTHORITY under which the district is formed. Example: Mello-Ross, 1915 Bond Act, etc.
- (3) IUDICIARY FORCLOSEABLE 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 band coverages.
- (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.

Authorized Signature Rosanna Jeng	9
Title CBD Maring Address 20460 Fornest I	Hills Drive
Des 8/7/2015 Saratoga, CA 9	5070
Des 8/7/2015 Saratoga, CA 9  Direct Consect Name Kimme McNaity Telephone 408-867-3424 x	207
(/ E-and rieng@saratoga	m(xc) (xc) (xc) (xc) (xc) (xc) (xc) (xc)
Foblic Contact Phone and Econi address (for public direct contact)  Telephone 408-857-3482	4 X207 Yen Brandogayur.or
CONSULTANT NAME: Carof J Hunt	v ()
Contact Person Rosanna Jang Address 20660 Forrest I	Hills Drive
Saletora CA 5	95070
Telephone 408-867-3424 x207 Page rjeng@saratoga	usd.org
For Controller-Treasurer Department Use Received Data Processed Rejection  Data File  Authorization documents	Received Reprocessed Completion

# 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

Number	ľ		Phototom / Toron	Judiciary	D	Tr. 1.1.1
[3 digit code]	Name	CLASS [1]	Statutory / Legal Authority [2]	Foreclosable [Yes or NO] [3]	Proration [Yes or NO] [4]	Total Assessment Amount
724	SUSD Parcel Tax	Benefit	Res. 401.6/12	No	No	484,092.00
	PARCEL COUNT				Resubmission	
		RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	OTHER.	TOTAL	
		6,578	87	454	7,119	

Saratoga Union School District Parcel Tax approved by the voters 5/8/2012

- (1) CLASS: BOND (subject to accelerated judiciary 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 FORCLOSEABLE 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		by Rosanna Jeng 28 10:04:14-97°00'	Name	Rosanna Jeng		
Title	CBO	_	Mailing Address	20460 Forrest h	tills Dr	
Date	07/28/2016			Saratoga, CA	95070	
Direct Contact Name	Kimmie McNulty	-	Telephone	(408) 867-3424	Extension	207
		, a	E-mail	rjeng@saratoga	usd.org	
Public Contact	Phone and Email address (fo	r public direct	Telephone	(408) 867-3424	Extension	209
	contact)		Email			
CONSULTANT NAM	1E: Hunt Consulting, LLC					
Contact Person	Carol J Hunt		Address	5181 Zander D	ſ	
		_		Bellingham, WA	98226	
Telephone	360-398-0160	•	Email	seahunts@ms/	n.com	
	rer Department Use Data File Back-up Documents	Received Date	Processed	Rejection	Received	Reprocessed
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# **EXHIBIT E**



Rosanna Jeng <rjeng@saratogausd.org>

# Agenda for the July 15 workshop

1 message

Le, Kim-Anh <Kim-Anh.Le@fin.sccgov.org> Fri, Jul 10, 2015 at 2:29 PM To: "alex.rojas@sanjosaca.gov" <alex.rojas@sanjoseca.gov>, Andrea Chalemangos <andrea@cityofmontesereno.org>, "andrea@taussig.com" <andrea@taussig.com>, Anessa Espinosa <anessa.espinosa@mhu.k12.ca.us>, Barbara Spoonhour <Spoonhour@wrcog.cog.ca.us>, "Billing (Nelly) Yang" <nyang@eesd.org>, "bmunoz@pausd.org" <bmunoz@pausd.org>, Brenda Ortega <br/>brenda.ortega@sesd.org>, Brian Loventhal <blowersthal@cityofmonlesereno.org>, "bstolorz@lasdschools.org" <bstolorz@lasdschools.org>, "c.vance@loma.k12.ca.us" <c.vance@loma.k12.ca.us",</p> Carol Hill <Chill@harris-assco.com>, Carol J Hunt <seahunts@msn.com>, "cgoldman@mvwsd.org" <cgoldman@mvwsd.org>, "CheriD@cuperlino.org" <CheriD@cupertino.org>, Chris Jew <cjew@ogsd.net>, Christina Turner <Christina.Turner@ci.gitroy.ca.us>, "Christine.Enderby" <Christine.Enderby@cilyofpaloalito.org>, Chuck Griffen <cgriffen@sccl.org>, "cmak@pausd.org" <cmak@pausd.org" <cmak@pausd.org>, "cnguyen@taussig.com" <cnguyen@taussig.com>, "coruiz@mvwsd.org" <coruiz@mvwsd.org>, Dan Deguara <DDeguara@eesd.org>, "Dat.nguyen@morganhill.ca.gov" <Dat.nguyen@morganhill.ca.gov>, "Carneron, Dawn" <Dawn.Cameron@rda.sccgov.org>, "debbie.chavez@sanjoseca.gov" <debbie.chavez@sanjoseca.gov>, "McBride, Demetra" <demetra.mcbride@ceo.sccgov.org>, Dennis Anderson <DAnderson@harris-assoc.com>, "diyon@moreland.org" <dlyon@moreland.org>, Donna Tanaka <dtanaka@santaclaraca.gov>, "donnas@taussig.com" <donnas@taussig.com>, Doug Floyd <doug@kgpf.net>, "dramonherrera@lgusd.k12.ca.us" <dramonherrera@lgusd.k12.ca.us>, "DToy@markthomas.com" <DToy@markthomas.com" Ed Espinoza <Ede@franciscoandassociates.com>, "Palacio, Ed" <ed.palacio@asr.sccgov.org>, "ed@abelite.com" <ed@abelite.com" <ed@abelite.com>, Emma Karlen <ekarlen@ci.milpitas.ca.gov>, "fbravo@ci.milpitas.ca.gov" <fbravo@ci.milpitas.ca.gov>, "FoxD@cambriansd.org" <FoxD@cambriansd.org>, "gacosta@westvalleysan.org" <gacosta@westvalleysan.org>, "Gaffaney, Stephen" <Stephen.Gaffaney@sanjoseca.gov>, Gary Ameling <GAmeling@santaclaraca.gov>, Greg Medici <dmedici@igsuhsd.org>, Han Nguyen <Han.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>, "iharvancik@saratoga.ca.us" <iharvancik@saratoga.ca.us>, Jackie Rose 
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Attached is the Agenda for the Special Assessment workshop on July 15, 2015. Please note of the following:

- 1. The new AB2109 compliance that would affects 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.



Rosanna Jeng <rjeng@saratogausd.org>

# Special Assessments - 2016-17 Enrollment

1 message

Le, Kim-Anh <Kim-Anh.Le@fin.sccgov.org> Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 5:05 PM To: Abby Yung <ayung@markthomas.cocm>, "Valbuena, Aldwin" <Aldwin.Valbuena@rda.scogov.org>, Alex Andrade <Alex.Andrade@mountainview.gov>, "alex.rojas@sanjoseca.gov" <alex.rojas@sanjoseca.gov>, Amy Larsen <aler.sen@scusd.net>, Andrea Chelemengos <andrea@cityofmontesereno.org>, "andrea@taussig.com" <andrea@taussig.com>, Anessa Espinosa <anessa.espinosa@mhu.k12.ca.us>, Anthony Eulo <anthony.eulo@morganhill.ca.gov>, "Bodduna, Aruna" <Aruna.Bodduna@rda.sccgov.org>, "Balance, Rene" <Rene.Balance@rda.sccgov.org>, Barbara Spoonhour <Spoonhour@wrcog.cog.ca.us>, "Biling (Nelly) Yang" <nyang@eesd.org>, "bmunoz@pausd.org" <bmunoz@pausd.org>, Brenda Ortega <bre>brenda.ortega@sesd.org>, Brian Loventhal <bre>bloventhal@cityofmontesereno.org>, "bstolorz@lasdschools.org" <bstolorz@lasdschools.org>, "c.vance@loma.k12.ca.us" <c.vance@loma.k12.ca.us>, Carol Hill <Carol.Hill@weareharris.com>, Carol J Hunt <seahunts@msn.com>, "CheriD@cupertino.org" <CheriD@cupertino.org>, Christina Tumer <Christina.Tumer@ci.gilroy.ca.us>, "Christine.Enderby" <Christine.Enderby@cityofpaloalto.org>, Chuck Griffen <cgriffen@sccl.org>, Cindy Juandy <CJuandy@santaclaraca.gov>, "cmak@pausd.org" <cmak@pausd.org>, "cnguyen@taussig.com" <cnguyen@taussig.com>, "Crystal crawford@" <crystat.crawford@ygrene.us>, Dan Deguara <DDeguara@eesd.org>, "Dat.nguyen@morganhiil.ca.gov" <Dat.nguyen@morganhiil.ca.gov>, "Cameron, Dawn" <Dawn.Cameron@rda.sccgov.org>, "debbie.chavez@sanjoseca.gov" <debbie.chavez@sanjoseca.gov>, "McBride, Demetra" <demetra.mcbride@ceo.sccgov.org>, Dennis Anderson <DAnderson@harris-assoc.com>, "diyon@moreland.org" <diyon@moreland.org" <diyon@moreland.org" <diyon@moreland.org</p> "donnas@taussig.com" <donnas@taussig.com>, Doug Floyd <doug@kgpf.net>, Ed Espinoza <Eda@franciscoandassociates.com>, "Palacio, Ed" <ed.palacio@asr.sccgov.org>, "ed@abelite.com" <ed@abelite.com>, "gacosta@westvalleysan.org" <gacosta@westvalleysan.org>, "Gaffaney, Stephen" <Stephen.Gaffaney@sanjoseca.gov>, Gary Ameling <GAmeling@santaclaraca.gov>, Greg Medici <dmedici@lgsuhsd.org>, Han Nguyen <Han.Nguyen@sanjoseca.gov>, "iharvancik@saratoga.ca.us" <iharvancik@saratoga.ca.us>, Ivy To <ito@markthomas.com>, Jackie Chen <)chen@campbellusd.org>, Jackie Rose <jrose@losgatosca.gov>, Jacqueline Guzman <JacquelineG@cupertino.org>, Janice Broussard <ibroussard@sunnyvale.ca.gov>, Jason Aznoff <jaznoff@willdan.com>, Jason Vann <VannJ@cambriansd.org>, "jbjorgan@dolinkagroup.com" ibjorgan@dolinkagroup.com>, Jeanette Hynson <jeanette.hynson@sci-cg.com>, "jeanie\_mccune@fuhsd.org" <jeanie\_mccune@fuhsd.org" <jeanie\_mccune@fuhsd.org>, Jeffrey Rhoads <Jeffrey.Rhoads@sanjoseca.gov>, Jen Chen <JChen@losaltoshills.ca.gov>, Jeremy Nishihara <nishihara jeremy@cusdk8.org>, Joe Francisco <joef@franciscoandassociates.com>, John Chau <jchau@losaltoshills.ca.gov>, Joun Hong <Jhong@ci.milpitas.ca.gov>, Joseph Atmore Atmore@valleywater.org>, Joseph Hernandez 
 Hernandez@willdan.com>, "Julia Yu (Yu\_Julia@cusdk8.org)" 
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Attached are the instructions and Forms partained to the 2016-17 Enrollment

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

If you have further questions, please contact us.

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# EXHIBIT F



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.

I certify that I am the property owner and that I reside at the property listed above.			
Signature:	Date:		
PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED F	ORM 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