

# Fillmore, Calif.

## Hello again, everybody!

This month we travel to Fillmore, a small valley town in northern Ventura County just below the San Cayetano Mountain peak in the Los Padres National Forest. Fillmore is in the Santa Clara River Valley. Let's begin.

Fillmore is about 3.4 square miles and has lots of great history. The city has the classic small-town feel. We saw many attractions, including one movie theater, a historic train depot (Fillmore and Western Railway), and a nearby fish hatchery, just to name a few. There are also lots of unique shops, and a local winery, and it's also home to Elkins Ranch Golf Course. Because of its preserved downtown, Fillmore is a popular filming location for television and movies. An episode of *CSI* entitled *Leaving Las Vegas* prominently featured old-town Fillmore as the fictional town called Larkston, Nev. Parts of the television series *Jericho* and *Big Love* were also filmed there. It is a lovely town.

Fillmore is known for its trains and sometimes is called the home of the movie trains. The Railroad Historical Society was established in 1993 to assist in the preservation and restoration of the railroad corridor between Montalvo and Saugus. The railroad corridor is commonly referred to as Southern Pacific's Santa Paula Branch.

If you would like to ride one of the trains, be there the first Sunday of every month from April through September for the "Weekend Scenic Excursion." Fillmore will transport you back in time on board 1930s-vintage passenger or dining cars as the train travels through century old citrus and avocado groves in the beautiful Heritage Valley.

Fillmore also has a historical museum at 350 Main St. There is much to see, and Sue (our personal tour guide) was very helpful. We had a wonderful tour. The museum was established in 1970. The display rooms depict how life was in 1800s. As we walked through the museum and most of the surrounding buildings, I felt really calm and happy to get this opportunity.

The Hinckley House, a 1905 Craftsman-style home, was designed and built for Fillmore's first dentist, Ira Hinckley, and his family. Along with the museum, the railroad depot from 1887 was also restored in 2007. Much of Fillmore is restored; the entire city is a hidden gem. My hope is that a small story like this will encourage more



Welcome to Fillmore! With Club CEO John Hawkins.

people to visit, take a walk and enjoy all there is to see.

In 1919, Rancho Sespe Bunkhouse was originally used as a dormitory by farm laborers on the Rancho Sespe Mexican land grant ranch. The original Barnsdale post office is also available and was used to collect, sort, and dispense mail in the late 1800s.

I really enjoyed myself in this little historic town. Fillmore has been through a lot and is still striving to keep all its history available for all to see (despite fires, floods, and earthquakes). So stop by and take a tour; we did, and wow! That was enjoyable.

Going out on these *Be Alive!* adventures is always a blast, usually to the past. Just getting out and traveling to new places is always fun, although it's lots of work. So

please take a day and go visit Fillmore; it's a great place to visit.

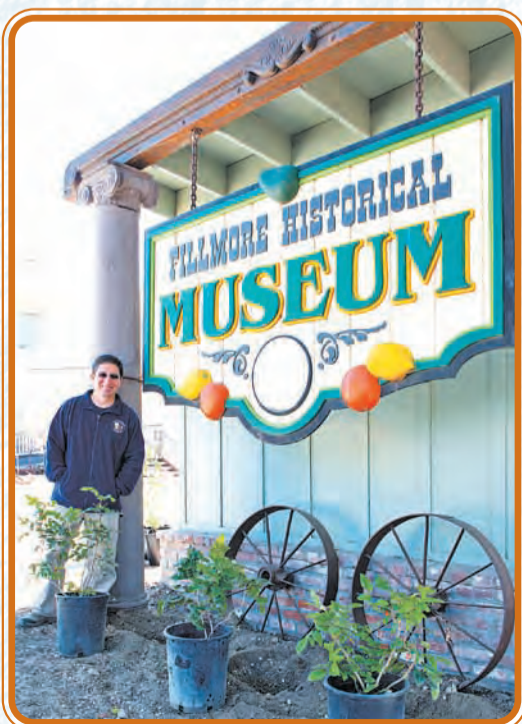
*I want to thank Summy Lam, the Club's Director of Marketing, for taking the photos and shooting some video along the way. Thank you, Summy. And thanks also go to Sue Cuttriss for the tour.*

Please send me your photos to [agomez@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:agomez@cityemployeesclub.com)

**As always,  
Be Alive!,  
Angel**

## At the Museum

350 Main St. • Fillmore, California



The Fillmore Historical Museum.



An antique telephone switchboard.



A Fillmore Great Race vehicle.



Me and Sue Cuttriss in front of a functioning 1890s Regina Corona music box disk changer. This music box really works!



An antique game.



A Fillmore & Western train.