Built in 1940, Gilroy's Wheeler Auditorium is named for prominent resident and philanthropist, Lin W. Wheeler. Wheeler came to Gilroy in 1910 from New York state. He owned the very successful Wheeler Seed Company, which served the rapidly expanding agricultural businesses in the Santa Clara Valley.

Wheeler's philanthropic activities in Gilroy include the old Elks Lodge Building, the Wheeler Hospital and the city's Gymkhana Grounds, as well as the Wheeler Auditorium.

Wheeler Auditorium is much used for civic events and entertainments. The western side of the building houses city business affairs.

Lin W. Wheeler was an outstanding resident of Gilroy. He was active in many civic activities as well as being recognized for his large gifts to the city. The Wheeler Auditorium is a significant memorial.