



Community
Los Altos Scout Troop 4103 celebrates new Eagle Scouts
Page 13



Your Home
Cluttered pantry got you down? Here are some decluttering tips
Page 24



Business & Real Estate
Pure Barre hosts classes integrating Pilates, yoga
Page 26

Los Altos Town Crier

Community news for Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View since 1947

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WEDNESDAY • January 28, 2026



Locals protest feds in Mtn. View



GIUSEPPE RICAPITO/TOWN CRIER

Hundreds of protesters gathered in Mountain View at the intersection of Castro Street and El Camino Real Friday to protest recent uses of force by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers in Minnesota and across the country, as well as the Trump administration for encouraging and expanding the force. Signs included phrases like “Ice melts,” and “I prefer crushed ICE.” For more, read the story on page 4.

‘Walkout’ protesters gather in Mountain View



GIUSEPPE RICAPITO/TOWN CRIER

Protesters take to the streets Jan. 20 against President Donald Trump.

By Giuseppe Ricapito
Staff writer/giusepper@latc.com

More than 60 protesters convened Tuesday in Mountain View for a wide-ranging denunciation of President Donald Trump’s policies on the one-year anniversary of his inauguration.

“I think most of us here are not in accordance or agreement with the White House right now. We’re sick of it. I’m here to practice my right of free speech,” said Mountain View resident Alejandro Burger.

Burger said he hoped to reach members of the community who felt marginalized by a cavalcade of offenses during Trump’s first term: The Epstein List, Greenland, Venezuela, ICE raids, he said.

The message he hoped to send with his presence at the protest was, “We are with you,” he said.

The nationwide protest was dubbed the “Free America Walkout,” with members of the Mountain View iteration gathering from 2-5 p.m. at all four corners of West El Camino Real and Castro Street. One protester unfurled an American flag and most carried picket signs. Some of the slogans read “We The People,” “No Kings” and “Stop ICE.”

“I came out because we slipped into a fascist regime that is systematically destroying our country, destroying democracy and ultimately destroying our work,” said Sally Abel, a Los Altos resident. “But I also came out to support our community and for our community to know there is support.”

Each traffic signal brought a new procession of vehicles honking in choruses of

See WALKOUT, Page 7

ALSO INSIDE – JANUARY 28, 2026

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Business & Real Estate .. 26 | Living Well 21 | Sports..... 18 |
| Comment 8 | Obituaries 35 | Stepping Out..... 14 |
| Community..... 9 | Public Notices 34 | Your Home 24 |
| Datebook..... 34 | Schools 16 | |



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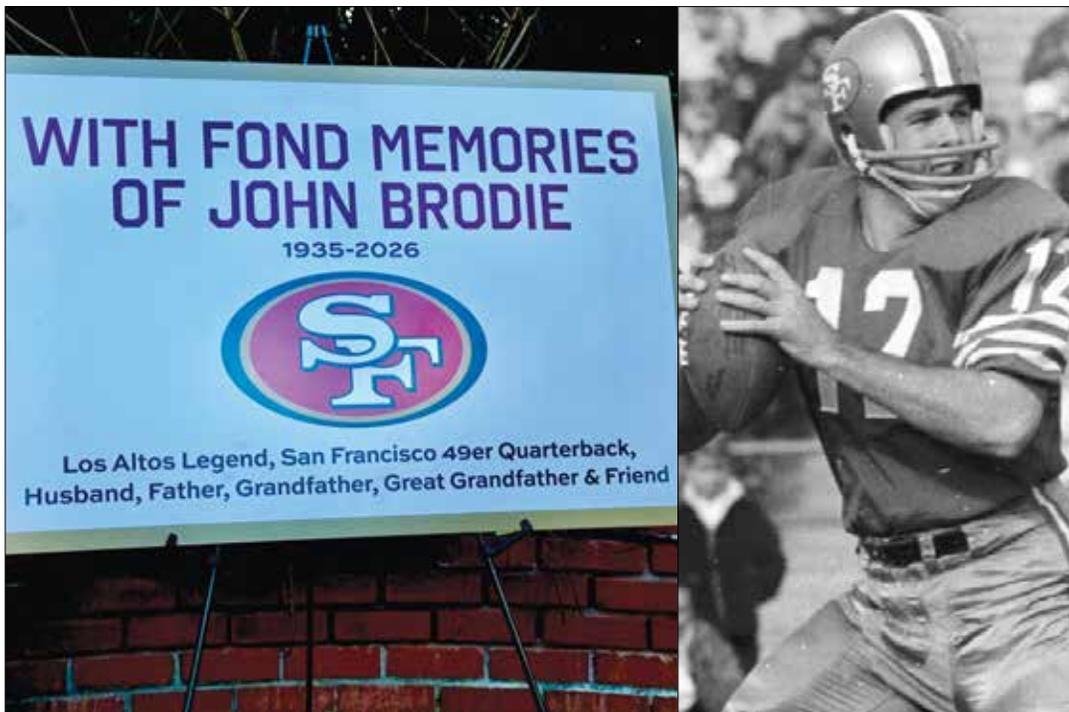
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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Around Town

49ers legend John Brodie honored



LEFT: SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER, RIGHT: FRANK RIPPON/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
 John Brodie, a 49er legend who lived and raised his family in Los Altos, passed away Friday. He was 90 years old. Brodie was drafted by the 49ers in 1957 and spent his entire 17-year NFL career as their quarterback. He's photographed ready to throw the ball in 1966, above right. The Los Altos Town Crier offers condolences to his wife, Sue, and the entire Brodie family.



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News

MV residents hold solidarity protest

By Giuseppe Ricapito
Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

More than 200 zealous and vocal protestors packed the intersection of El Camino Real and Castro Street in Mountain View Friday afternoon to show “solidarity with Minnesota” – a state rocked by two shooting deaths of U.S. citizens by federal agents this month.

The “ICE Out for Good: Solidarity with Minnesota” protest was billed to oppose U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the militarized federal agency that has been the face of President Donald Trump’s blitzkrieg on the state.

Picket signs swore out slogans like “Resist,” “ICE is Domestic Terrorism” and “Waging War on America in America.” And the crowd was decidedly more audible than the Tuesday, Jan. 20 demonstration at the same location. Three times as many people were there and this time they all chanted in unison – “Say Her Name! Say Her Name! Say Her Name!” – the clarion call for Renee Good, an American citizen fatally shot by a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent in Minneapolis on Jan. 7.

“People see what’s happening in Minnesota,” said Lenny Siegel, former mayor of Mountain View. “People are showing up here in solidarity.”

On Saturday, Alex Pretti, an American citizen, was shot and killed by an agent of the U.S. Border Patrol, which, like ICE is a federal agency under the Department of Homeland Security.

**Have a comment?
Reach out**

If you have an idea for the News section or would like to comment on its content, email section editor Christina Casillas at christinac@latc.com.

Los Altos Hills to remove ALPR cameras

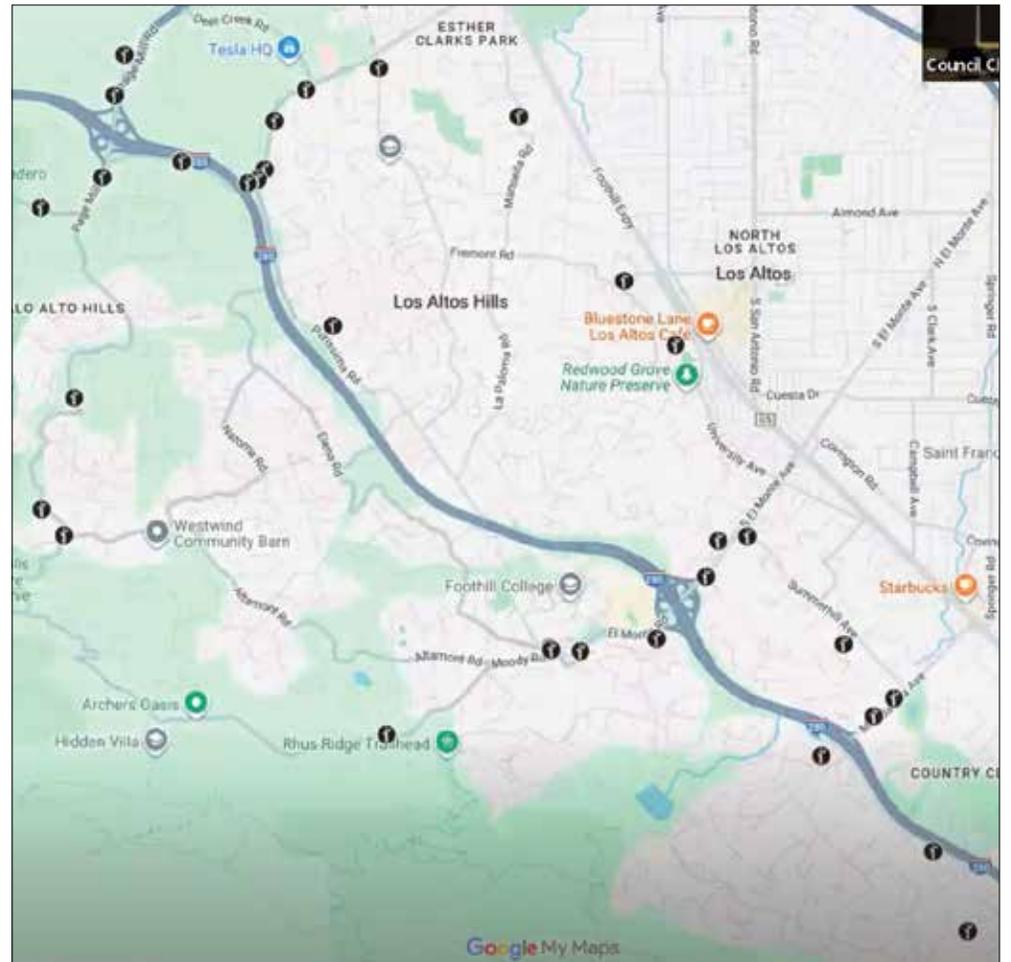
By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

Los Altos Hills has decided to remove its Flock Safety automated license plate reader cameras around town, citing concerns about data privacy, cost considerations and overall effectiveness.

The City Council at its Jan. 15 meeting voted to direct city staff to begin the process of ending its contract with Flock Safety immediately for its 31 cameras around town.

The council removed the cameras due to concerns about Flock’s data privacy practices. These concerns related to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) having indirect access to automated license plate reader cameras (ALPR) data through Flock network searches conducted by state and local police agencies, despite there being no direct contract between ICE and Flock, according to a city staff report. Flock maintains that local agencies have control over data and access. Los Altos Hills joins a growing movement of cities removing Flock cameras. The city of Santa Cruz is one of several cities, including Austin, Eugene and Denver, to pause or reevaluate Flock usage recently. Los Altos Hills’ contract with Flock began in 2021, and the current contract runs through June 30.

Los Altos Hills Mayor Rajiv Bhateja noted he pushed to get ALPR cameras into town to address skyrocketing burglaries at the time, but after several years of the ALPR program, he felt there were many limitations. Bhateja said he didn’t think the burglary rates had gone down because of Flock, instead giving more credit to private security. He also noted there were plenty of ways to get around Flock cameras, like stolen or fake license plates, and felt money spent on Flock could go to other aspects of public safety. He also remained worried that data would not be protected, given the current political climate.



SCREENSHOT FROM LOS ALTOS HILLS JAN. 15 COUNCIL MEETING

Los Altos Hills will not renew its automated license plate reader contract with Flock after it expires in June. It currently has 31 cameras, as seen in the map above.

“I would come down to the side of acknowledging that we tried this experiment, and it didn’t work out the way we hoped,” Bhateja said. “I would rather take that money and deploy it to private security.”

The rest of the council agreed, with Councilmember Linda Swan voting to opt out of the contract over privacy concerns about information sharing. Councilmember Kavita Tankha felt the Flock cameras didn’t prevent any crime, noting that people committing burglary were using stolen cars and license plates, which made it harder to trace, even with video surveillance. She believes private security was the biggest difference in bringing

down burglary rates in the last two years. Burglaries have gone from 60 in 2023 to 20 in 2024 and 16 in 2025, according to city staff.

“I think what’s happening is we are spending far too many dollars on the ALPR system combined with the amount we are paying the sheriff to monitor them, and I think those tax dollars could be used towards the additional officers that we need or having private security,” Tankha said.

Costs for the public safety contract with the Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office are expected to rise in the coming years, a

See ALPRS, Page 6

MV warming fire results in arrest and red-tagged building

By Giuseppe Ricapito
Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

A vacant building in Mountain View is set for demolition after trespassers were found to be burning logs and diverting power inside last week.

According to a Mountain View Fire Department press re-

lease, individuals were inside a vacant building at 1599 and 1601 North Shoreline Blvd., burning a Duraflame log before 9 a.m. on Jan. 15. The police responded to the scene and requested the fire department respond to extinguish the log, which was burning on a cooking sheet on the cement floor.

After fire crews extinguished the fire with

a water hose, city officials were called to the scene to review extension cords and propane tanks found at the scene. The building was subsequently declared unsafe and uninhabitable by city building officials.

Officials found unauthorized connections to an AT&T utility box on the scene and a facilities manager was called

to the scene to resolve the electricity hazard, the release said.

A permit application for the demolition of the property was approved by the fire marshal on Jan. 16. City officials anticipated issuing the permit by Wednesday.

Mountain View resident John Thompson, 58, was arrested at the scene and booked at

the Santa Clara County Jail on suspicion of obstructing a peace officer, illegally diverting utility services and possession of drug paraphernalia.

A 16-year-old girl was transported to San Mateo County Juvenile Hall for a probation violation.

The third person left at the request of an officer.

Los Altos roadwork disrupts access and sales for some local businesses

By Julia Baum
Staff Writer/juliab@latc.com

Water main replacements and fire hydrant installations across downtown Los Altos created challenges for some local businesses, particularly along San Antonio Road, where lane closures and construction signage affected customer access for weeks at a time.

While city officials and California Water Service say the infrastructure upgrades were planned to minimize disruption, several business owners said the construction made it harder for customers to reach their storefronts and, in some cases, led to noticeable drops in business.

Traffic congestion and reduced access were the biggest issues for DeMartini Orchard on San Antonio Road. Owner Craig Kozy said closures during construction frustrated drivers and made it difficult for customers to enter and exit.

“It affected our entrance to our store, making it hard for people to get in and hard for people to get out,” he said.

Kozy also said nearby construction signage discouraged customers from stopping. “They set up the sign right in front of us, so you see a big orange sign saying there’s road construction, and then they read the sign and don’t even look at us going by,” he said.

Kozy estimated the impact was significant.

“It affected us at least 15% on the days they were working out there, and that went on for a couple of months,” he said. “Every day when they were out there, business was down.”

He said his store was uniquely affected by its location. “We are pretty much the only business that is totally on San Antonio. We’re the only ones. This is the only way to get to us.”

Other business owners said the effects were harder to quantify. David Ogilvie, co-owner of Village Pantry on Second Street, said parking disruptions and construction noise deterred some customers and contributed to a decline



MAX ASMAR/EDITORIAL INTERN

DeMartini Orchard, above, was impacted by road work that was done over the last few months in downtown Los Altos, including work along San Antonio Road, right. It is just one of the multiple establishments in the city that was negatively affected by a slew of construction projects that started in the summer months.



in business.

“Because parking is now an issue, a lot of our customers just don’t deal with it and don’t come, so we have seen a drop in business,” Ogilvie said.

Julie Ogilvie, co-owner of the Village Pantry, estimated the restaurant is earning roughly \$200 less per day than average. “We do have really good food,” she said. “But since we have no parking, it doesn’t help us.”

She said parking constraints have also created logistical challenges, including delays with food deliveries and the need to temporarily store groceries off-site.

Business owners also criticized communication about the scope and duration of the project. David Ogilvie said notices were provided but lacked detail.

“They dig a hole, they do something, they cover it up, then a couple of weeks later they’re back again,” he said. “Because we don’t know when they’re going to be done.”

Kozy said he received little advance information.

“We were not informed about it from the city ... no idea of the scope or the duration of it,” he said. “They just send out a general letter; they don’t go walk the street, talk to the business people or anything. The communication from the city about it was not very good.”

City officials said Los Altos has standard notification requirements for permitted construction and has used signage and regular updates to inform the community. A California Water Service (Cal Water) representative said it coordinated closely with the city, adjusted construction timing to avoid major events and recognizes that the project caused “temporary inconveniences.”

Cal Water said excavation work continues along San Antonio and Edith avenues, with concrete restoration underway on Plaza Central and Plaza North. Weather permitting, concrete work is scheduled for completion by March, followed by paving shortly after, with the entire project expected to be finished by April.

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HOWARD BISCHOFF/TOWN CRIER

Heritage Bank, including the Los Altos location, will soon join Citizens Business Bank.

Heritage Bank of Commerce set to merge in Q2 with Citizens Business Bank

By Christina Casillas
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Heritage Bank of Commerce and Citizens Business Bank are set to merge, operating under Citizens Bank, in an all-stock agreement valued at \$811 million, according to a December press release from the banks.

The boards of directors of both companies approved the merger unanimously. The transaction is expected to close in Q2 of 2026, pending stakeholder and regulatory approvals.

The merger will establish Citizens Bank as a top-performing bank with \$22 billion in assets. The bank will have 75 offices and branches, including the Los Altos Heritage Bank location, 419 South San Antonio Road. Founded in 1994 in San Jose, Heritage Bank serves the Bay Area and is ranked 25 on the S&P's top 50 community banks.

Citizens Business Bank, founded in 1828 as High Street Bank, was established in Providence, Rhode Island.

Heritage Commerce Bank (HTBK) shareholders will get 0.6500 shares of Citizens Business Bank (CVBF) common stock for each HTBK share, according to the release. Upon closing, CVBF and HTBK shareholders 77% and 23% of the company, respectively.

The transaction will add to Citizens Bank's earnings per share (EPS), accretion projected to reach 13.2% by 2027, according to the press release.

"This will be the most strategic and the largest acquisition by assets in our history. It brings together two premier, relationship-focused business banks and provides Citizens with an important opportunity to expand into the Bay Area, a key strategic objective," David Brager, President and CEO of Citizens, was quoted in the release. "This merger will provide us with comprehensive geographic coverage of all the major business banking markets in California, while ensuring the preservation of the local focus, stability, and deep trust inherent in our relationship banking model."

Despite the merger, Clay Jones, Heritage Bank president and CEO, will be president of the combined organization. Brager will stay CEO of Citizens Bank.

"I could not be prouder of the Heritage team and what we have achieved together. This is an exciting opportunity to take the next step in our journey, alongside a like-minded partner in Citizens, and is a testament to the proven value and enduring potential of our relationship-focused approach ...," Jones was quoted in the release. "This combination enables our shareholders to participate in the future upside of California's premier commercial bank, expands the depth and breadth of our offerings, and creates growth opportunities for our employees. As part of Citizens' larger and diversified platform, together we will continue to champion local businesses and deliver the highest standards of personalized customer care here in."

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Los Altos Town Crier

ALL ARE WELCOME

ALPRS From Page 4

financial consideration to balance for public safety spending. The current cost for the ALPR cameras is \$93,000 a year. The council also directed staff to explore the possibility of being refunded a portion of the contract by Flock. Under the terms, Los Altos Hills pays the annual subscription up front. Cameras are expected to stop operating this month, with Flock working to



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLOCK SECURITY
Flock Security will soon begin to remove the ALPR cameras in Los Altos Hills.

remove the cameras and poles throughout town.

WALKOUT

From Page 1

support. Abel noted that over the last hour since the start of the protest, there had been only one detractor who yelled swear words as they drove by.

Mountain View has become a focal point for protesting on the Peninsula. On Jan. 18, 2025, two days before Trump's inauguration, hundreds gathered in Gateway Park for a protest. On April 5, protesters gathered again for the "Hands Off!" protest which professed, "We must stop Trump and Musk's illegal billionaire power grab."

Even on Tuesday there were protest sites all throughout the Bay Area, the state and the country. More than 100 people RSVP'd to a protest at the Palantir Technologies office in Palo Alto (Peter Thiel, one of the company's founders, has emerged as a staunch ally of President Trump). A protest at San Jose City Hall also garnered nearly 600 RSVPs and protest sites included San Francisco, Alameda and Oakland.

Though less than 100 strong, the protest in Mountain View was



GIUSEPPE RICAPITO/TOWN CRIER

Karen Clark, a Saratoga resident, took to the streets of downtown Mountain View last week. Her shirt includes a quote from the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

repeatedly joined by crowds of students crossing the street as they ended the school day.

Karen Clark, a Saratoga resident, said she had protested elsewhere on the Peninsula in the last year, but said she was impressed by her first time joining in Mountain View on Tuesday.

"I felt like I had to do something. I had to make my voice heard," Clark said.

Shoreline American Bistro closes for renovations



MAX ASMAR/EDITORIAL INTERN

Shoreline American Bistro is bustling in August 2025. It is closed in 2026 for renovations.

Town Crier Report

The American Bistro at Shoreline Lake will be closed for renovations through the rest of 2026. The upgrades include a kitchen and serving area expansion and the addition of new, accessible restrooms.

During the duration of the renovation, the outdoor Bistro patio will be fenced off and unavailable. The adjacent picnic area will remain open as a venue rental space for corporate and special events bookings.

The Sailing Lake Boathouse will re-

main open during construction and will continue to accept event reservations. The facility and restrooms at the boathouse are set to be upgraded as part of the project.

The Shoreline Lake Boathouse and American Bistro were established in 2000 in a leasing partnership between Silicon Shores Corporation and the city. Bistro provides indoor and patio seating, picnic lawns and a seasonal menu. It is often used as the site of functions, group gatherings and events.

It is located at 3160 North Shoreline Blvd. in Mountain View.

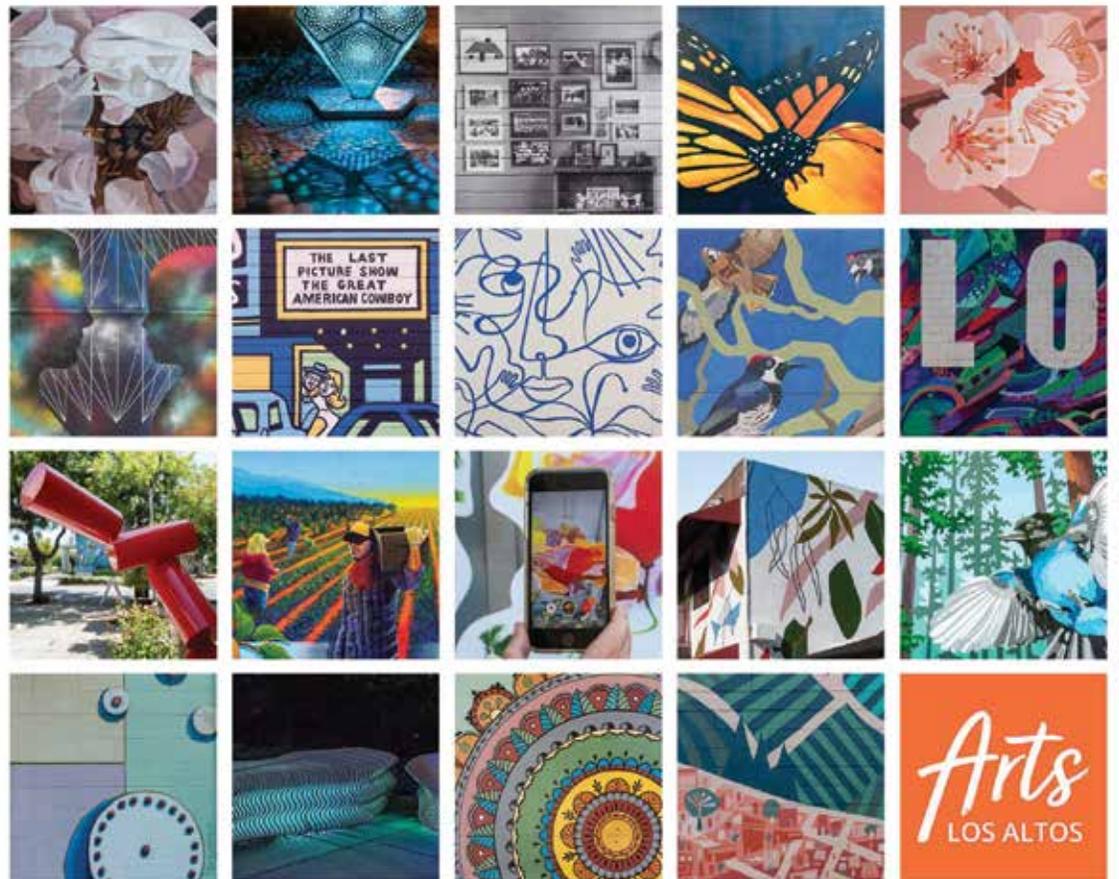
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Unlucky 13: AKA, parking paradise

By Andy Dolich

With a return to everyday life after the holiday season, Los Altos and visitors are navigating crowded and under-repair streets searching for that lucky parking space which might turn their exhausting five-minute walk into a magical 45-second stroll to their destination.

Main Street between Second and Third streets is a parallel universe, at least in terms of parking spaces all on an angle. There are a lucky (or unlucky) 13 spaces on either side of this primo parking paradise.

How many times have you seen potential parkers waiting for an auto to back out and open up a free space? These “I could-care-less” blockers have no idea how long this competitive space opening may take.

Other Voices

Even when the driver enters their car and their lights come on, they could:

- Initiate a 30-minute Zoom conference call with their HQ in London
- Watch funny videos
- Check their emails
- Wait for their family to return to their gas or electricity guzzlers
- Return nine calls
- Watch their kids’ Tae Kwon Do class

Can we agree that more than a 45-second wait deserves an internal flurry of four letter words along with a huge horn honk? If they could just drive around the block to the parking lot with spaces, perhaps we can be better people.

Letters to the Editor

The Town Crier welcomes letters to the editor on current events pertinent to Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View. Email letters to christinac@latc.com. Letters should be no more than 200 words. Include a phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

Editorial

2026: A pivotal election year for our local communities

This year will be an important election year for our local communities. Several key offices will appear on the ballot, and for the MVLA Union High School District and the city of Los Altos, this year’s election marks a historical transition.

For the first time, both will conduct district-based elections. In Los Altos, voters in Districts 2 and 4 will elect representatives to the City Council under this new system. In the MVLA Union High School District, trustees for areas 1, 2 and 3 will be chosen.

District elections are intended to ensure that governance more directly represents the unique perspectives, priorities and needs of their neighborhoods, while still governing in the best interest of the entire community. As we move through this election-style transition, community participation – both as informed voters and as potential candidates – will be important.

- We encourage you to:
- Learn how district-based elections work and which district you live in
 - Understand the role and responsibilities of the office up for election
 - Support candidates who demonstrate a commitment to their district and to the community as a whole

Other elections

In Mountain View, three of the seven at-large seats on the City Council will be open. Incumbents Alison Hicks, Ellen Kamei and Lucas Ramirez will term out. Two at-large Los Altos Hills City Council seats will be up for election in November. Seats currently filled by Councilmembers Kavita Tankha and George Tyson, who term out, will appear on the ballot.

What it takes to serve

Serving on a city council or school board is a meaningful way to contribute to your community. Effective members are

knowledgeable, communicative and collaborative. They listen carefully to residents, work constructively with staff and fellow members, and focus on delivering core services in the best interest of their constituents and the community as a whole.

Strong leaders understand budgets, make ethical and accountable decisions, and treat all members of the community with respect – even in moments of disagreement. They approach differing viewpoints thoughtfully and handle conflict with professionalism and maturity. As our communities prepare for the 2026 elections, now is the time to reflect on civic engagement and leadership.

While November may seem a way off, it will be here before we know it. There is one question worth pondering: Would you be willing to run for council or school board trustee – or will you support someone who will serve with integrity and care?

Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

Ford Country Day School students pose in their costumes for a school play in this undated photo. The school was located on the historic Morgan Estate from 1955 until 1988 according to the Los Altos Hills Historical Society. Do you recognize anyone?



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Community

Los Altos Library celebrates Year of the Horse with author event

By Skye Dean
Town Crier Editorial Intern

To celebrate the Year of the Horse, author Oliver Chin will return to the Los Altos Library Feb. 9 for a story time event featuring his children's zodiac book series.

"The Year of the Horse" is the eighth installment of Chin's series "Tales from the Chinese Zodiac." Originally published in 2014, Chin recently released a bilingual edition that includes simplified Chinese translations.

The picture book follows a foal and a boy as they deliver a painting to their city's governor, emphasizing the characteristics of people born in the Year of the Horse in the process.

Each book in the collection is about an animal featured in the Chinese folktale "The Great Race." The adaptation of the fable was the first of its kind in English, Chin noted.

"We didn't want to tell or retell a common fairy tale or something which has had a number of different versions like 'Old MacDonald's Farm,'"



Author Oliver Chin will be at the Los Altos Library Feb. 9 for a story time event on his children's zodiac book series.

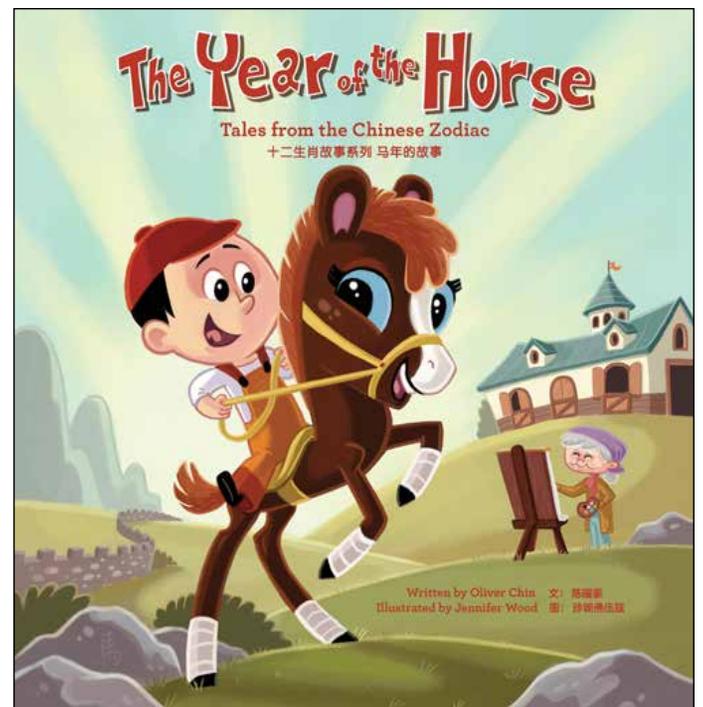
said Chin, founder of Immedi-um, a company that publishes children's books. "... But we wanted to see, as far as Asian Americans went, what would be a good topic which would allow us the freedom to kind of put our own stamp on it."

When writing the series, Chin said he created turbulent

storylines to force each character to learn about themselves during their adventure. It's for this reason the books only list zodiac personality traits at the very end.

Chin hopes seeing the animals overcome challenges will

See AUTHOR, Page 12



COURTESY OF OLIVER CHIN

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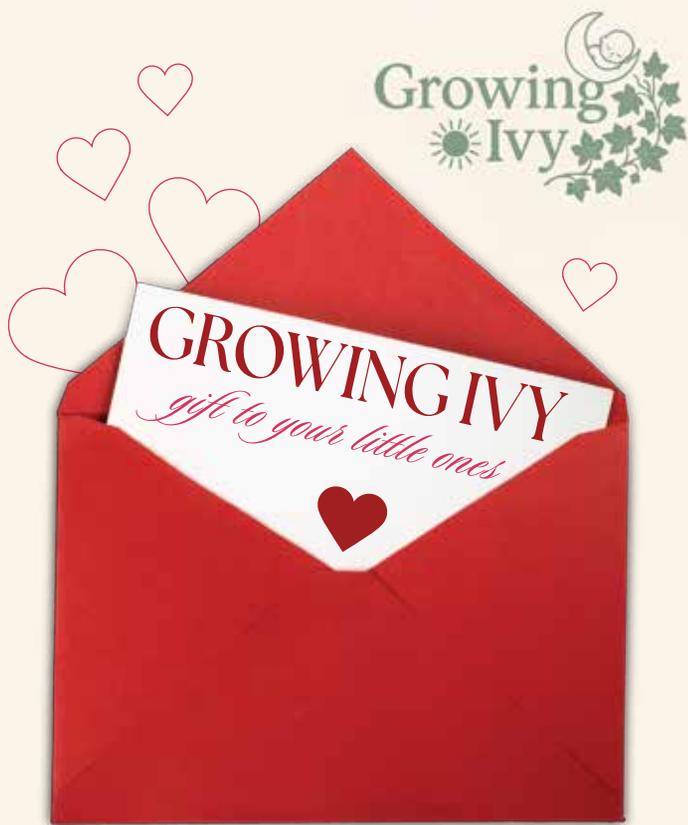
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Community

Gallery 9 continues its support for Los Altos Art Docents



COURTESY OF GALLERY 9

Gallery 9, represented by Cecilia Mases, Joyce Savre and Andy Browne (not pictured), participated in a community student art showcase hosted by the Los Altos School District Nov. 19, highlighting the continuing cooperation between the art gallery and the Los Altos Art Docents.

Town Crier Report

Gallery 9 gives back to the community by donating a portion of its December proceeds to Los Altos Art Docents. The members of the cooperative art gallery say they are grateful for this opportunity to support the future of local art.

Los Altos Art Docents is a volunteer art program in the Los Altos School District that aims

to foster a love for art among elementary school children by exposing them to a wide range of artistic styles and techniques.

Gallery 9 has been collaborating with the local Art Docents in many ways over the years, most notably with the annual children's art exhibit in the gallery, but also by participating in school events. This is the second time Gallery 9 has donated to Los Altos Art Docents in celebration of the future of art.

AUTHOR

From Page 9

inspire his readers.

"Sometimes kids are taken for granted or underestimated and in our stories, we want kids to know that they're totally capable of a lot of different things, regardless of what the status quo says, whether that's their parents or strangers. That, to change the world, sometimes, they need to think out of the box," Chin said.

Chin's company is known for publishing "The Octonauts" series, created by Vicki Wong and Michael Murphy, which later became a popular TV show.

Chin, who has authored nearly two dozen books, last appeared at the Los Altos Library two years ago to read his "The Year of the Dragon" book.

Alison Lee, interim children's librarian, said the zodiac story times align with the Los Altos Library's celebration of Lunar New Year.

"We like to do a lot of cultural things, so Chinese or Lunar New Year is a really big celebration around here," Lee said.

"The Year of the Horse" and all other books from Chin's series are available for checkout at the Los Altos Library.

The story time will begin with an overview of the 12 zodiac animals before Chin's

reading of "The Year of the Horse."

"For every animal, there's a kind of different hook to it, but we want to bring them off the page and really make the reader, the child, identify with that character and say, that character could be me," Chin said.

Chin will also teach attendees how to draw a horse before finishing the story time with a Q&A.

The free story time, suitable for preschool through eighth graders, is set for 4 p.m. The Los Altos Library is located at 13 S. San Antonio Road.

For more information on the event, visit tinyurl.com/yearofthehorsestory.

Community

Los Altos' Troop 4103 celebrates four new Eagle Scouts

By Kirsten Mello

Scouts BSA Girls' Troop 4103 in Los Altos ended 2025 by recognizing four members for earning the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement attainable in the Scouts BSA program. Nationally, only about 5% of Scouts achieve the top rank.

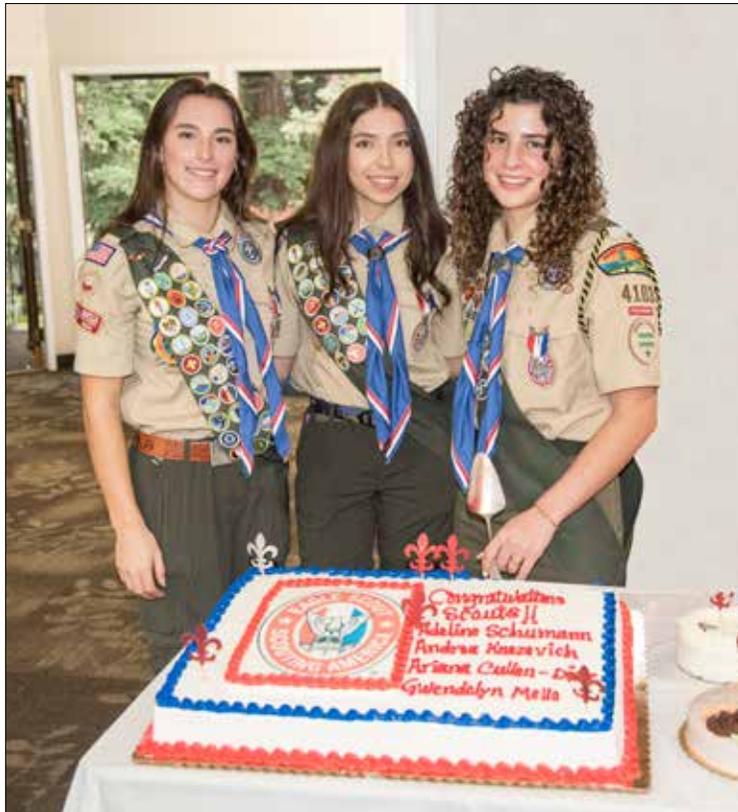
The BSA Scouts program, part of Scouting America, has welcomed girls since 2019. St. Simon's troop is proud to now count 10 female Eagles among their ranks.

As part of earning the Eagle rank, Eagle Scouts plan a large-scale service project for their communities and lead Scouts, friends and family in executing it. The latest Troop 4103 Eagle Scouts and their projects:

Andrea Knezevich: Andrea's Eagle Project involved building and donating napping boxes to provide safe, warm resting spaces for rescued cats. These boxes support Community Cat Rescue by improving the comfort and well-being of cats as they await adoption.

Ariana Cullen-Diaz: Ariana created handmade fidget quilts designed to provide sensory comfort and engagement for individuals experiencing memory loss. Her project benefits Villa Toscana Memory Care by offering residents calming, therapeutic tools that promote focus and emotional well-being.

Maddy Schumann: Maddy's Eagle Project was the construction of a sandbox to enhance outdoor play and community gatherings. This project benefits Los Altos Lutheran Church by creating a



COURTESY OF MARINA KNEZEVICH

Troop 4103 recently honored its four new Eagle Scouts. From left, Gwen Mello, Maddy Schumann and Ariana Cullen-Diaz. Not pictured: Andrea Knezevich.

welcoming, hands-on space for children and families to enjoy together.

Gwen Mello: Gwendolyn designed and built a Little Free Library and picnic table to encourage reading, learning and community connection. Her project benefits Deer Hollow Farm by creating an inviting space for visitors to relax, read and engage with the farm environment.

Andrea, Ariana, Maddy and Gwen each served in various leadership positions in Troop 4103. Their scouting journey so far includes many other service projects in addition to their Eagle efforts: car camping and backpacking treks

near and far; high adventures such as dog-sledding and canoeing in Minnesota; sailing around St. Thomas; range and target sports in West Virginia; and hiking and horseback riding throughout the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

BSA Scouts Troop 4103 is open to girls aged 11-17 from St. Simon and surrounding schools. About 35 scouts meet on Monday evenings at St. Simon, 1860 Grant Road, Los Altos.

For more information on Troop 4103, visit troopwebhost.org/Troop4103LosAltos. For other BSA scouting options near you, visit beascout.scouting.org.

Community Brief

A Mountain View art exhibit on quiet observation runs through Jan. 31.

In a world increasingly shaped by chaos and overstimulation, a three-person exhibition from Bay Area artists Ria Sharma, Meghna Sharma and Saranya Chandrasekaran offers a visual exploration of quiet moments, pauses and the negative spaces. "Svara of Silence" (Svara means musical note) explores themes of expressing self-reflection through forms, gestures and textures. Amidst volatile times, uncertainties and chaos, viewers are invited to interpret the power of inner silence through three individual styles

of cubism, abstraction and realism. The trio is exhibiting paintings, collages and mixed media works.

Chandrasekaran works primarily with layered paper collage, symbolic forms and shape-based abstraction. Ria Sharma merges fiber with disciplined geometric forms. Meghna Sharma's paintings explore the emotional resonance found in the ordinary.

The exhibit is on display through Jan. 31 at Mohr Gallery at CSMA Mountain View from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with an artist talk Jan. 30 from 11 a.m. to noon.

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Stepping Out

PA Players' 'Code' closes this weekend



PHOTO BY SCOTT LASKY

From left, Alli Gamlen (Sophie Neveu), Brandon Milligan (Silas) and Christian Vaughn-Munck (Robert Langdon) star in "The Da Vince Code," playing at Lucie Stern Theatre through Sunday.

By Lara Leon

Town Crier Editorial Intern

Palo Alto Players' production of "The Da Vinci Code," which runs through Sunday (Feb. 1) at Lucie Stern Theatre, is a fast-paced action thriller that blends murder mystery with questions of history, faith and interpretation, according to cast members.

Directed by Jennifer Copaken, the play is based on Dan Brown's best-selling novel, adapted for the stage by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel. The story follows Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon as he becomes entangled in a murder investigation at the Louvre Museum that quickly expands into an international conspiracy involving hidden symbols, secret societies and centuries-old religious debates.

"First and foremost, it's a murder mystery," said Christian Vaughn-Munck, who plays Langdon. "But that mystery rapidly expands into this international caper involving hidden symbols and long-buried secrets."

As Langdon deciphers cryptic messages left behind by the victim, he moves through famous landmarks and works of art during his attempt to uncover the truth – all while evading authorities who begin to suspect him of

the crime.

"Robert believes he's there to help," Vaughn-Munck said. "And then he realizes he's actually the one being pursued."

Along the way, Langdon teams up with Sophie Neveu, a cryptologist grappling with the murder of her grandfather and revelations about her own past.

"From the moment Sophie walks onstage, she's dealing with tremendous loss," said Allison Gamlen, who plays Sophie. "She's solving problems, but she's also processing grief and fear at the same time."

Gamlen described Sophie as a complex character whose strength lies in both logic and emotional depth, serving as both an emotional anchor and an intellectual equal to Langdon throughout the story.

"I would love for audiences to see her the way we can also see Eve and the way we can also see Mary Magdalene – as a whole woman who is capable of many things, not just as an individual with one skill," Gamlen said.

For Gamlen, Sophie's role also challenges traditional narratives about whose stories are centered in history.

"So much of history is from the male perspective, and so much of the history we get is from the white male perspec-

ive," she said. "I think it resonates with viewers to have a different hero – or heroine – in the story."

Beyond its suspense, Vaughn-Munck said the play explores broader questions about truth and belief, particularly the tension between science and religion.

"One of the ideas the play really engages with is how people make sense of the world," he said. "It's not about choosing one belief system over another – it's about questioning how those narratives are formed."

The actor added that the show also emphasizes visual storytelling to maintain its fast pace, incorporating movement, projections and an original score to bring symbolic imagery to life onstage.

"There are moments where the symbols become physical," Vaughn-Munck said. "It gives the audience something dynamic to engage with, rather than just watching the story unfold."

"The Da Vinci Code," which opened Jan. 16, has three performances remaining: 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1301 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$35-\$60.

For tickets and more information, visit paplayers.org.

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Schools

LASD Trustee Vladimir Ivanovic announces resignation

By Julia Baum

Staff Writer/juliab@latc.com

Los Altos School District Board Trustee Vladimir Ivanovic announced his resignation last week, citing fundamental disagreement with the district's decision to build a new Bullis Charter School campus on the so-called "10th site," an 11.7-acre property purchased for \$155 million near the San Antonio Shopping Center in Mountain View. Ivanovic's resignation will take effect March 11.

After serving on the board for 11 years, Ivanovic said in a one-page resignation letter that he cannot support what he called a plan that "privileges BCS over LASD," imposes a significant long-term tax burden and jeopardizes future facilities bonds.

In his letter, Ivanovic outlined three primary concerns: that BCS would receive new facilities before any LASD elementary campus, that the total cost of the plan is exces-

sive, and that bonds required for future LASD construction are at risk of failing. He noted that under the current implementation schedule, modernization of LASD campuses would not be completed until the 2032-2033 academic year, while construction of the Bullis campus on the 10th site would be completed as early as July 2028.

According to Ivanovic, the district's Facilities Master Plan, adopted in 2024 and amended in 2025, allocates \$2.1 billion over the next 30 years for land acquisition, construction and modernization when principal and interest are included. Of that total, Ivanovic estimates that approximately \$500 million would be spent to purchase the 10th site and build a Bullis campus, with roughly half of that amount paid in interest.

Ivanovic said that while LASD has sufficient existing bond capacity to build the Bullis campus and modernize

current schools, any new construction for LASD campuses would require additional bonds.

"Unfortunately, the track record of taxpayers approving facilities bonds for LASD is poor," Ivanovic said. "The last bond measure passed with just a 1.2% margin, so it is doubtful that bonds for new construction would pass. LASD campuses would not get the upgrades they need."

He said the decision risks leaving district schools without needed upgrades while Bullis receives new facilities first.

Los Altos voters narrowly approved a \$350 million bond measure in 2024 with 56.2% of the vote, authorizing the purchase of the San Antonio site and construction of a new Bullis campus.

Beyond the financial implications, the decision to place Bullis on the 10th site has been

See IVANOVIC, Page 17



FROM THE LOS ALTOS SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITE

Los Altos School District Board Trustee Vladimir Ivanovic recently announced his resignation, citing the district's decision to build a new Bullis Charter School campus near the San Antonio Shopping Center. The resignation will take effect March 11.

District solar program saves \$1.1 million, offsets rising electricity costs

By Julia Baum

Staff Writer/juliab@latc.com

Los Altos School District's solar power program has saved more than \$1 million in electricity costs since 2018, even as overall energy use across district sites continue to rise. The update was delivered at a Jan. 12 school board meeting by Nick Donofrio from TerraVerde Energy, who outlined the system's performance, financial impact and maintenance amid rising utility rates and electricity demand.

Donofrio said that the district paid a total of \$709,000 for power purchases, premium payments and asset management services.

Using a program that generates mock energy bills, Donofrio said the company determined "that bill would have been \$1.8 million if you didn't have solar, so that's how we arrived at the \$709,000 example."

Beyond cost savings, board members focused on whether the solar systems are continuing to perform as expected as electricity demand across campuses increases. The presentation also broke down system-wide production levels and compared them with both historical performance and recent changes in usage.

The district's solar arrays produced about 94% of expected energy, according to Donofrio, helping offset 36% of the 14% overall increase in electricity usage across school sites.

"How is that doing over time? Is that basically consistent with what we've seen in the past?" Trustee Bryan Johnson asked.

"Quite consistent with what we've seen in the past," Donofrio replied. "All of the systems at this district are performing quite well, actually, especially considering that you have a PPA provider."

The systems operate under a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Forefront Power that began in 2018 and costs roughly \$340,000 annually. Under the agreement, the PPA provider is responsible for maintenance and repairs, giving the company a financial incentive to ensure the systems operate efficiently.

"By having the power purchasing agreement there, they have an incentive to make sure it's operating," Donofrio said. "And as technology changes, some of these inverters go out. They will come out on their dime, do all the maintenance ... so they're operating more efficiently."

Most sites performed consistently, though Egan Junior High experienced an



HURI/ADOBE STOCK

Los Altos School District's solar power program has saved more than \$1 million in electricity costs since 2018, according to the district.

inverter outage that temporarily reduced output. Covington Elementary School saw the largest increase in electricity usage, likely due to electric vehicle chargers on campus.

"It seems like Covington Elementary School, which is where we are right now, appears to have the greatest increase in

usage. And I would imagine it's because of all of those EV chargers you guys have out here," Donofrio said.

Board members also sought clarification on the PPA's obligations, which Donofrio said include repairs and routine maintenance.

No public comment was offered.

Schools

IVANOVIC

From Page 16

controversial. In October 2025, Bullis Charter School officials stated publicly that they had no intention of relocating, saying the school intended to remain at Egan and Blach junior high schools. At an Oct. 13 meeting, LASD trustees voted 4-1 to begin the process of allocating the site to Bullis, with Ivanovic casting the sole dissenting vote.

When asked at the Jan. 12 board meeting whether he would reconsider his resignation, Ivanovic responded, "Unfortunately, the answer is I can't. It's irrevocable."

In an email to the Town Crier, LASD Superintendent Sandra McGonagle said she was "very thankful for Vladimir's many years of



RENDERING FROM LOS ALTOS SCHOOL DISTRICT

A rendering of Los Altos School District's 10th school site.

dedicated service to LASD."

According to McGonagle, the board will be presented at its Jan. 26 meeting with the option of either a special election or a provisional appointment and will make a decision following an overview.



MEGAN V. WINSLOW/TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

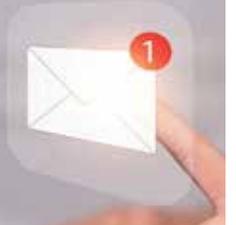
Bullis Charter School's north campus, on Portola Avenue in Los Altos.

Have a comment or idea? Reach out

If you have an idea for Schools or would like to comment on its content, email Julia Baum at juliab@latc.com.

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Sports

Los Gatos takes down Los Altos in league showdown

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

A showdown between the top two teams in the SCVAL De Anza Division saw visiting Los Gatos give Los Altos a wake-up call in a 46-35 win Wednesday night.

The Wildcats jumped out to a 27-13 lead by halftime and stopped a second-half comeback to end a seven-game winning streak by the Eagles and knock them out of first place. Los Altos head coach Brittany Taylor said the team needed to continue building elite championship habits to compete with perennial league contenders like Los Gatos, which has won the last three SCVAL De Anza Division titles.

"I think this was a good aha moment for them to wake up a little bit and see every team is trying to get you," Taylor said. "Every team is trying to beat you. You've got to regroup

and refocus. I think this was a good team to get that little punch that we needed to really reset."

While Los Altos (15-3) entered the night undefeated in league play at 4-0 with Los Gatos (12-5) just behind at 3-1, Los Gatos came out strong and had an 11-7 lead at the end of the first quarter, followed by a 16-6 run in the second quarter thanks to good defense that got into the Los Altos passing lanes to force turnovers.

"If we're going to go for a steal, it's OK to miss it, as long as you go really hard for it," Los Gatos head coach Sara Quilici Giles said. "I feel like we were taking really good chances and trusting what we had behind us."

Fortunes changed in the third quarter thanks to an 11-3 run by Los Altos, driven by the Eagles' increased defensive intensity and the Wildcats' fouls.

See BASKETBALL, Page 19



MAX ASMAR/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Los Altos lost 46-35 Jan. 21 against Los Gatos to give Los Altos its first loss in SCVAL De Anza league play. Both teams are now 5-1 in league play.

Los Altos High wrestling going strong heading into stretch run

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

Los Altos wrestling is riding high thanks to a strong start to the season (5-1) as it prepares for a high-stakes league matchup with Monta Vista tomorrow.

Thanks to a larger roster and another year of continuity under second-year coach Tyler Calderon, the season has included some dominant performances against Homestead and King's Academy, along with a couple of close victories against Santa Clara and Cupertino coming down to less than six points.

Standouts like Marcos Gatica-Hernandez, who wrestles at 215 pounds, recently took second place at the Jim Root Memorial tournament as he looks to return to the Central Coast Section Masters playoffs. Linnea Amren has also had a successful year after she took first place at the Lady Comet Classic and fifth at the Kusumoto Classic, with the team finishing fifth overall at the Lady Comet Classic. Freshman standout Leoni-

das Marinopoulos took second at the Nick Buzolich Classic and fourth at the Jim Root Memorial tournament. Marinopoulos was a dominant middle school wrestler and has come in ready to work and improve, Calderon said. Senior Jason Seller is wrestling at 138 pounds and took second at the Nick Buzolich Classic as he looks to make CCS playoffs after missing out last year.

"He's improved tremendously from last year to this year," Calderon said of Seller.

The team went 4-3 last season and finished third in the SCVAL El Camino Division, but has made strides this year thanks to a rededicated focus within the program on attendance and consistency, and the increased number of wrestlers across more weight classes allows the team to avoid forfeiting points.

"We're definitely having a better season in terms of record," Calderon said. "The focus this year in the room has been really good compared to last. We had a great incoming freshman class who are hungry and ready



MAX ASMAR/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

The Los Altos High wrestling team is off to a 5-1 start to the season and is fighting for a league title in the SCVAL El Camino Division.

to work. There are a lot of improvements."

Tomorrow's meet against Monta Vista is at Los Altos at 5:30 p.m., and a win against Monta Vista would keep Los Altos in the hunt for a SCVAL El

Camino league title. If Los Altos won, it would be in a three-way tie for first going into the league finals, with Los Altos needing to have a strong performance in the league final to earn enough team points for a title.

Sports

BASKETBALL

From Page 18

“We were able to get some stops,” Taylor said. “We ramped up a little bit. We got to the free-throw line and took advantage of being in the bonus. That helped us get a run going, seeing the ball go in and holding them to only one basket in the third slowed them down. We just need to capitalize a little bit more in those moments.”

Los Altos scored nine of its 11 points in the third quarter from free throws and was behind 30-24 entering the fourth. Both teams traded buckets throughout the quarter, with an and-1 bucket from Los Altos point guard Taylor Ware and a three-pointer from Chloe Caldwell bringing it to within six twice late in the fourth. However, Los Gatos responded both times with three-pointers from Lola Cuevas and Jenna Webb to increase the lead back to

nine points and put the game out of reach.

“I think we need to clean up some things offensively, getting cleaner looks in their zone, just capitalizing on our stops,” Taylor said. “We ramp up, we’ve got to be able to sustain that a little bit more. Just adjusting a little bit better.”

Quilici Giles noted that Los Gatos’ fouls in the third quarter allowed Los Altos to set up its defense and press, giving the Eagles the advantage.

“We were having a really hard time defending without fouling,” Quilici Giles said.

Los Altos rebounded Friday with a 49-28 win against Gunn, while Los Gatos beat Monta Vista 57-52.

Los Gatos and Los Altos are now 5-1 in league play heading into the last two weeks of the regular season, with Los Gatos hosting Los Altos Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.



MAX ASMAR/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Los Altos and Los Gatos have the same league record as both enter the final few weeks of the regular season. The two will play each other in Los Gatos Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

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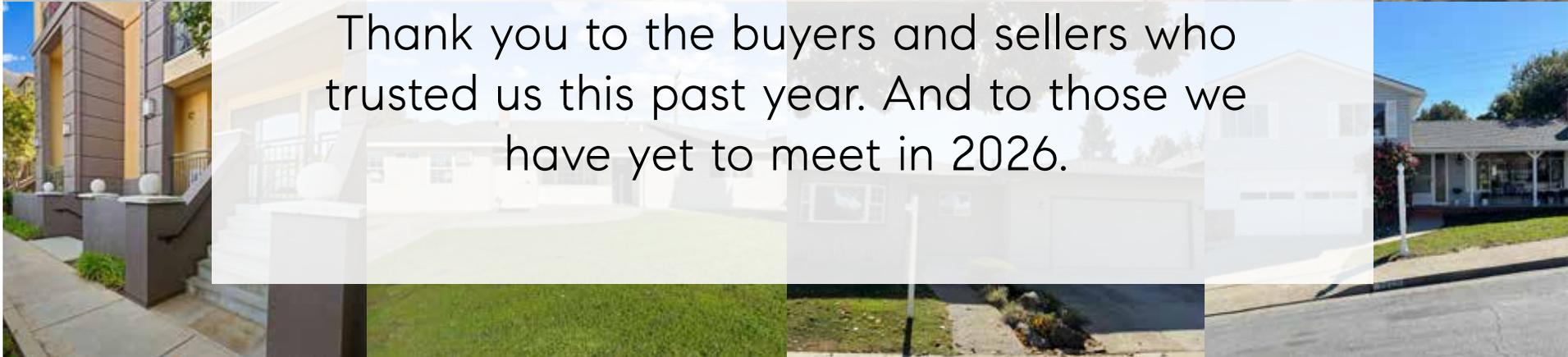
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Tax time is here again – free help is available in Los Altos and Mtn. View

Town Crier Report

It's that time of year again; fortunately, free tax preparation assistance is available in Los Altos and Mountain View.

In Los Altos, the Adult 50+ Program has scheduled a free tax return preparation service Monday mornings Feb. 2 through April 13. The Tax-Aide service, sponsored by the AARP Foundation, is the nation's largest volunteer tax assistance program and Los Altos has hosted a Tax-Aide site since 1997.

Trained, IRS-certified volunteers meet with clients, review their tax forms and records, then prepare and electronically file both federal and California tax returns.

There is no charge for Tax-Aide services. The program

focuses on clients with moderate incomes, with a special emphasis on those age 50 and over, but the service is available to every taxpayer who lives in California.

Tax-Aide also can file extensions with the IRS if a taxpayer does not have all needed tax documents before the tax filing deadline.

Clients should bring photo ID, Social Security card or statement, their 2024 tax return, all 2025 tax information and evidence of healthcare coverage if available. Clients should also bring checking account information for direct-deposit refunds or direct-debit of amount due.

This year Tax-Aide will be preparing tax returns at the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave. Appointments for tax services are required. To

make an appointment, call the Los Altos Adult 50+ Program at (650) 947-2797 or visit secure.rec1.com/CA/LosAltosRecreation/catalog.

In Mountain View, the free AARP Tax-Aide service is available at the Mountain View Public Library, 1st floor program room, 585 Franklin St., Feb. 3 through April 11. (Note: Tax assistance will not be available on Tuesday, March 31.) This service is open to households with a 2025 income of \$69,000 or less.

Clients should bring the following documents: Social Security card or ITIN letter for each person on tax return (required); photo ID for client and spouse, if applicable (required); W-2s from all jobs; all 1099s, 1098s and any other tax forms; Form 1095-A for those who had health insurance through Covered Cal-



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

AARP's free Tax-Aide service is setting up shop in Los Altos and Mountain View beginning in early February.

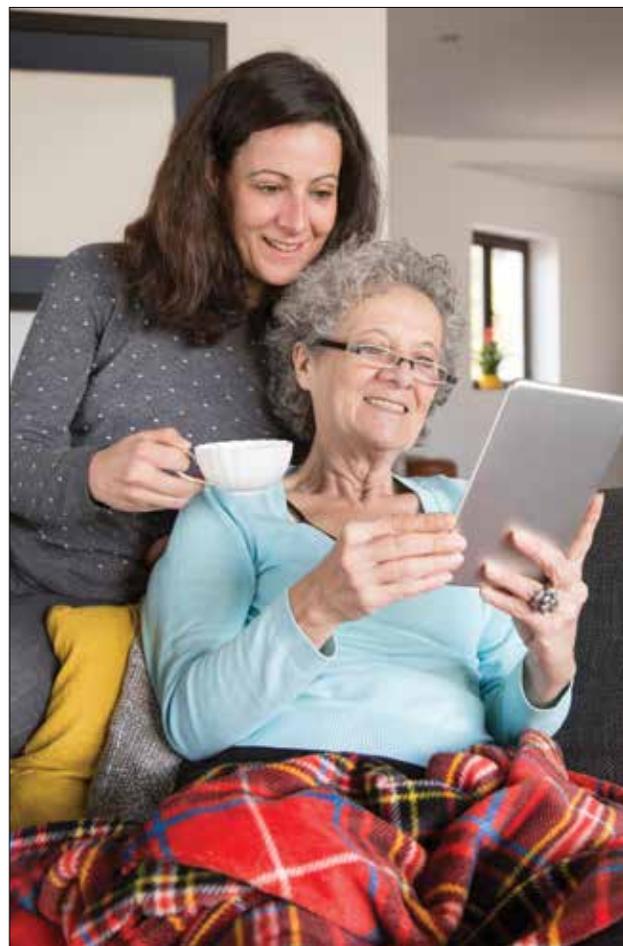
ifornia; records for any business or higher education expenses; savings or checking account and routing numbers for direct deposit; last year's tax return (optional).

Appointments are not required for the Mountain View Tax-Aide service. On Tuesdays, walk-ins are available from noon

to 3 p.m. or capacity. No new tax returns will be started after 3 p.m. On Saturdays, walk-ins are available from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. or capacity. No new tax returns will be started after 2 p.m.

For more information on the Mountain View service, call (650) 903-6330 or visit tinyurl.com/MtnViewTaxAide2026.

When love isn't enough: Recognizing when your aging parents need a caregiver



FREEPIK

Caregivers can provide companionship as well as safety.

By Duanni Hurd

As you may have read in my previous article, families often gather together for Christmas and the holidays. Adult children may fly in from faraway states, or even countries, to celebrate with loved ones. In our household, one set of elderly parents in their 80s bravely flew in to stay with us in Los Altos from Beijing, and in the other case a trip to Florida to visit 90-year-old Grandma for Christmas was a blessing.

In both cases, we really got to understand the current circumstances, which are often not clear over a WeChat or FaceTime call. And let's face it, our parents are also not always forthcoming with their health situation.

For many adult children, the realization that a parent may need caregiving sup-

port doesn't arrive with a single dramatic moment. Instead, it unfolds quietly – missed medications, ex-

Many try to compensate by checking in constantly, rushing over after work, or flying in after an incident.

Journey into Aging

pired food in the refrigerator, a fall that's minimized, or growing confusion over once-simple tasks. These signs can be easy to explain away, especially when a parent insists they're "fine." But beneath that reassurance may be a growing vulnerability that deserves serious attention.

Balancing concern for an aging parent with your work, family, travel and personal responsibilities can feel overwhelming. Adult children often carry a heavy emotional burden: guilt for not being present enough, worry of overstepping boundaries, and uncertainty about what the "right time" is to intervene.

These actions often disrupt their own lives and sacrifice their own well-being. Over time, this can strain not only the parent and child, but the relationship itself.

Hiring support is not a sign that you've failed your parent(s). On the contrary, it is one of the most compassionate decisions you can make. Professional caregivers are trained to notice changes in physical and cognitive health, ensure medications are taken correctly, reduce fall risks and provide consistent companionship. They also take care of grocery shopping, meal preparation, errands and appointments. Their presence offers structure,

safety and reassurance, the things that become increasingly important as aging progresses.

Caregiving support also allows adult children to step out of the role of constant monitor and back into the role of son or daughter to enjoy the relationship and bonding. Instead of focusing every visit on what's wrong or what needs fixing, children and parents can spend quality time together like sharing meals, conversations and memories without the constant undercurrent of worry. This shift can preserve dignity for your parents and protect the emotional connection.

Perhaps most importantly, recognizing the need for caregiving early can prevent crises. A single fall, medication error or medical emergency can dramatically change a senior's quality of life. Proactive support

See Caregiver, Page 22



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Author

Kim Gladfelter
MPT, OCS, FAAOMPT

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Living Well

CAREGIVER

From Page 21

helps seniors remain safe in their homes longer, maintain independence and enjoy a better overall quality of life.

If you've found yourself worrying more often, feeling stretched thin or noticing changes you can't ignore but feel helpless to

intervene, it may be time to explore caregiving options. Seeking help is not about giving control away – instead, it's about adding support, safety and peace of mind for everyone involved. When love alone isn't enough, compassionate and effective care can bridge the gap between concern and confidence, ensuring your parents are truly supported while

you regain balance in your own life.

Duanni Hurd is founder and CEO of Starlight Caregivers, a Los Altos-based home-care organization that serves Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. For more information, visit starlight-caregivers.com. Find her aging life care tips on Instagram @duanni-hurd.

February fun with Los Altos' Adult 50+ Program

Town Crier Report

The Los Altos Adult 50+ Program has a couple of fun events scheduled for February. Registration is required. Call (650) 947-2797 or visit the Los Altos Recreation registration website at secure.recl.com/CA/LosAltosRecreation/catalog.

• **Mini-trip to Campo di Bocce** in Los Gatos, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4. Join the Adult 50+ Program for a morning of bocce ball. Everyone is welcome, from seasoned players to absolute beginners. Light brunch bites and refreshments will be served during play and roundtrip

transportation is provided. Cost is \$65.

• **Chinese New Year luncheon**, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, Grant Park Community Center multipurpose room, 1575 Holt Ave., Los Altos. Enjoy delicious food, vibrant décor and celebrate the Year of the Horse with fellow adult 50+ community members.

Download a schedule of the program's regular classes and groups at losaltosca.gov/750/Public-Communications. Activities include sock monkey toy-making for Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, technology tutoring, line dancing, mah jongg, discussion and art groups and more.



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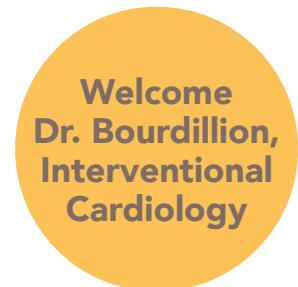
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Your Home

Pantry organization: Getting your non-perishables in order

By Lyn Rogers

No two pantries look alike. Whether it's a large walk-in closet with multiple shelves or a small cupboard in the kitchen with two shelves, the one thing they have in common is the need to be organized and functional.

If the pantry organization process isn't sustainable, it will quickly revert to a chaotic mess.

Being able to go into the pantry and immediately find what you need for a meal or a particular recipe reduces stress, saves time, and more importantly, saves money in the long run.

Many times, if you aren't able to see everything you have in there, you're liable to purchase it again by mistake. Then you run the risk of having a lot of expired food that needs to be tossed.

Depending on your schedule, you can start by clearing one shelf at a time, or you can completely empty the whole pantry. I recommend the first part, because for many people, the time it takes (especially if you have a walk-in) can be overwhelming if you're not used to it. First, clear a shelf onto your kitchen counter or table and thoroughly wipe down the shelf.

Conquering Clutter

Then check all of those food items for expiration, spoilage or whether you will ever eat them again.

Next, separate like with like. All baking items together, snacks in another area, and so on. Decide what category the shelf will be and replace only those items that correspond with that designation. You should have different zones in your pantry, no matter the size: dry goods, baking, canned goods, snacks, breakfast, oils and condiments and quick meals. Keep whichever category you use most often at or just below eye level.

If you have a large pantry, the upper shelf is for lighter-weight back stock and things like platters. The bottom shelf or floor is for heavy, rarely used appliances. A rolling cart is useful for bringing items to the kitchen that are heavier or if you need more assistance with mobility. A folding stepstool is essential for the upper shelves.

Tiered shelves, acrylic or natural fiber containers, and lazy Susans are the perfect solutions to keeping like with like and the categories/



VALERII HONCHARUK/ADOBE STOCK

When organizing the pantry, putting the most-used items at or just below eye level is effective.

zones separated. No need to buy matching products if you already own items that will do the job.

Smaller pantry cupboards are organized similarly, but appliances should live in a cupboard near the floor for safety reasons. Back stock foods should never be stored in the garage, unless they are

canned goods. Items such as nuts, condiments, whole wheat flour and cured meats spoil more quickly at room temperature and should be stored in the fridge.

Remember to check foods for expiration dates every six months and only store foods in the pantry, not cleaning products with food items. And the

overwhelm that comes with seeing "the messy middle" (when everything is all over the counter before being organized) is a common feeling for all of us. You can do this.

Los Altos Hills resident Lyn Rogers, a professional organizer, is owner and CEO of Lyn At Your Service (LynAtYourService.com).

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Indoor blooms: Easy flowering indoor plants

By Melinda Myers

Special to the Town Crier

Brighten your home's décor and elevate your mood by adding a few flowering plants to your indoor garden. You may be surprised to find a wide array of flowering plants that will bloom when they are grown indoors. Match the plant to the growing conditions and your maintenance style for ease of care and greatest success.

Add a long-blooming moth orchid (*Phalaenopsis*) to your collection. It thrives in most home environments, making it the easiest of all the orchids to grow. Position your orchid in a brightly lit location that's

free of hot or cold drafts. Water thoroughly with tepid water once a week. Leave the flower stalk intact and wait for a second smaller flush of flowers. Or prune it back to an inch above the foliage, provide proper care and watch for a fresh set of flowers in about a year. Or gift the non-flowering plant to a gardening friend. There's always one who's willing to wait for the next set of flowers. In the meantime, you can invest in a new variety for your home.

Treat yourself to an easy-care anthurium. You can now find white, red, pink, lavender and even yellow anthuriums for sale almost year-round. The colorful heart-shaped "flowers" are

modified leaves that hold their color for many weeks. Grow this low maintenance, very forgiving plant in bright, indirect light and water thoroughly whenever the soil begins to dry.

Include bromeliads, another long bloomer with unique tropical flowers. Those with pliable leaves are more tolerant of lower light, while the stiff-leaved bromeliads need bright light to thrive. Water the soil often enough to prevent the roots from drying. After weeks and even months of flowering, the plant eventually dies but forms offsets, known as pups, you can grow to maturity.

The tubular, red-burgundy flowers of lipstick plant (*Ae-*



COURTESY OF MELINDA MYERS

Bromeliads produce long-lasting blooms.

schynanthus radicans) reveal the inspiration for its common name. Grow this long-blooming, trailing plant in a warm location with bright, indirect light. Water thoroughly when the top inch of soil begins to dry. Move

See BLOOMS, Page 25

DIY painting trends continue into 2026

Statepoint

What are homeowners focusing on right now? Impactful, affordable upgrades. New research highlights that painting remains one of the most popular home improvement projects expected in 2026, driven by tighter budgets and a desire for lasting design.

The survey, from FrogTape brand painter's tape, found that nearly 60% of homeowners are planning interior paint projects in the year ahead, while more than one-third expect to refresh exterior surfaces.

"Painting remains a top priority for homeowners because it offers an affordable, high-impact way to transform interior spaces," said Melanie Canning, director of insights for FrogTape. "DIYers are embracing projects that are creative, yet practical, with timeless color palettes and AI-assisted design choices."

Based on the FrogTape research, here's what's ahead:

Affordable upgrades

Despite a tight financial environment, more than 45% of people at the time of the survey had undertaken a project in the past month, and the data indicates that this momentum is expected to continue. Nearly half of respondents agreed that tough economic conditions have influenced their 2026 DIY plans – but they still intend to complete projects, just on a tighter budget.

"When budgets tighten, homeowners become more in-

tentional with their time and money," Canning said. "Painting gives DIYers flexibility to work at their own pace, manage costs and see noticeable results."

Timeless over trendy

Homeowners are gravitating toward spaces that feel calm and timeless – 71% agreed that they prefer painting projects that are long-lasting and classic.

Despite being fun for the moment, trendy colors, patterns and styles can quickly lose appeal – 44% say they're motivated to repaint because their current space feels outdated. For a classic look, homeowners can opt for neutral walls and add accent colors through accessories like pillows, artwork and candles, which can easily be swapped for different seasons, moods or trends.

"Painting is a simple project in terms of skills, but it requires time and patience. DIYers want to feel like their work is going to pay off for years to come," Canning added.

Comfort-first colors

DIYers are saying goodbye to plain, colorless rooms and hello to warm, inviting spaces. According to nearly half (49%) of survey respondents, stark white rooms are their biggest design "ick." For many (45%), their 2026 design outlook is warm and natural, and they plan to lean into earthy tones like beige, taupe, clay, greens and blues. The ultimate goal for 47% of DIYers is to create

calm, relaxing spaces through color. Additionally, "comfortcore" is the most popular design style in 2026. Anyone can achieve "comfortcore" with soft textures and calm colors for a cozy ambiance.

Personal preferences aren't the only factor impacting the trend – 65% of respondents are planning their upcoming paint projects for entertaining guests, and 62% agree that their main goal is to make the space feel more inviting, making comfort a key priority.

Tech & tape

Making home update decisions can be difficult, but modern technologies can help. More than half of people reported using AI to assist with home improvement projects in some capacity, from previewing paint colors to assisting with design decisions and identifying paint trends.

However, even in the age of AI, traditional tools, like painter's tape, remain irreplaceable. Ninety percent of people have used or plan to use painter's tape on recent painting projects. The most common surfaces they tape include trim and baseboards (74%), doors and windows (65%), edges (58%) and walls (49%).

No matter the painting project, FrogTape Advanced Painter's Tape is valuable to have on hand. The ultra-premium painter's tape conforms around challenging curves and edges like trim, molding and light fixtures without tearing. Additionally, it contains exclu-



PHOTO COURTESY OF STATEPOINT

Ultra-premium painter's tape creates sharp lines around curves and edges.

sive PaintBlock Technology to seal tape edges and block paint bleed for super sharp paint lines.

For more inspiration and tips for your 2026 painting projects, visit FrogTape.com.

From cozy, comfort-first color palettes to practical room refreshes and AI-powered planning tools, this year, DIYers are making meaningful updates that feel both intentional and attainable.



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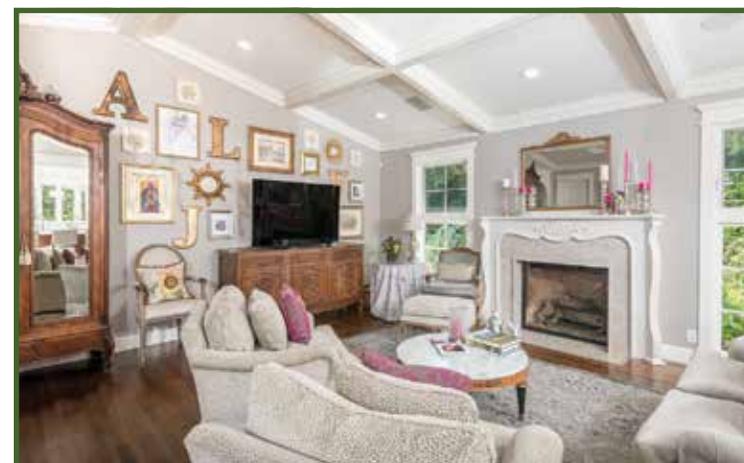
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- Award winning designs

BLOOMS

From Page 24

it to a slightly cooler location and allow the soil to dry a bit more between waterings during the winter.

Have fun by adding a hanging basket of goldfish (Nematanthus) to your collection. This easy-care plant produces long-lasting, orange-red flowers that resemble goldfish. Place it in bright, indirect light and water when the soil begins to dry.

Keep these and your other houseplants healthy and minimize pest problems by providing proper growing conditions and care. Fertilize actively growing plants with a flowering house-

plant fertilizer according to label directions. Boost the humidity by grouping plants together. As one plant loses moisture, transpires, its neighbors' benefit. Place pebbles in the saucer or tray to elevate the pot above any water that collects there. As the water evaporates, it increases the humidity around the plant and eliminates the need for you to empty excess water out of the saucer.

Check all your plants for insects each time you water. It is easier to manage small populations than larger infestations. Use yellow sticky traps to monitor and trap white flies, fungus gnat adults, thrips and other houseplant pests. Manage fun-

gus gnat larvae residing in the soil with organic Summit Mosquito Bits. It contains a naturally occurring soil bacteria, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), that's safe for people, plants and pets. Just follow the label directions for the most effective control.

Look for opportunities to include these and other flowering plants in your home. You'll enjoy the added color and beauty these plants provide.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books and hosts the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. For more information, visit MelindaMyers.com.

EXPLORE HCI

hammerschmidtinc.com

Business & Real Estate

Mountain View couple launches Pure Barre studio

By Keara Morrow
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Sophia Lin has gone from member to co-owner of a Pure Barre franchise. She and husband John Lin recently opened a Pure Barre fitness studio in Mountain View.

“I remember my girlfriends and I would go to different types of yoga and barre – we tried everything. Pure Barre is actually the one that worked.” Sophia said. “It was 50 minutes where I could be with my friends. And I really loved the exercise. It wasn’t high impact, so it was easier on my joints.”

The Lins launched their franchise Sept. 11 at the Mountain View Shopping Center on El Camino Real. There are 500-600 Pure Barre studios in the U.S., according to John. Founded in 2001, Pure Barre offers classes in barre, exercises with low-impact, high-intensity movements that incorporate pilates, yoga and ballet.

“My core muscles became much stronger just by doing the exercises (at Pure Barre) and my ability to do cardio increased with that,” Sophia said.

“I wouldn’t lose my breath as easily as I would before.”

John said the couple moved to the Bay Area from New York six years ago with backgrounds in investment banking and seeking projects to invest in. Confident in its workouts and community, Sophia recommended investing in a Pure Barre studio.

“Promoting women and helping to make them stronger is something that I am passionate about,” Sophia said. “The business model made sense and the workout and community are great. We agreed it was a good investment and knew we’re going to build something really cool together.”

John added, “It’s hard to make friends, hard to build a community. We asked, ‘How can we do that? And how can we invest our money?’ (Investing in Pure Barre) seemed to go hand in hand.”

Sophia said they are working to develop the business and share responsibilities as co-owners.

“(John) is good at the sales process and operations, such as finding the right location and powering through the pro-



PHOTO COURTESY OF PURE BARRE

Pure Barre in Mountain View offers classes that incorporate pilates, ballet and yoga.

cess of construction,” she said. “I manage the financial planning and make sure that we’re marching toward a healthy business.”

The Lins, who live in Mountain View, have plans to work with PTAs for fundraisers

and to hold pop-up classes in outdoor settings, such as parks.

“We hope to have an impact on the community and our members,” Sophia said. “I see it happening already. A lot of members bring friends to come

as well.”

Those interested in trying Pure Barre can sign up for a free class on its website.

Pure Barre is located at 125B E. El Camino Real.

For more information, visit purebarre.com.

What’s a Trump account, and is starting one for your child a good idea?

By Artie Green

Whether you’re a President Donald Trump supporter or critic, his modus operandi is probably obvious to everyone. He promotes big ideas – preferably with his name on them for posterity – but leaves it to others to figure out the details.

With that in mind, let’s evaluate the Trump Account, his new signature savings program for children, to see if and how utilizing one might make sense.

How do Trump Accounts (we’ll abbreviate the name to TA) work? They are very similar to Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) but with the following key differences:

- For any child born between 2025 and 2028, the federal government will contribute \$1,000 to a TA.
- Both the parent (who manages the account) and the child must have a social security number.
- The parent’s employer can contribute up to \$2,500 to the TA each year. It will not be treated as taxable income to the parent.
- Anyone else – relatives, strangers

Nest Egg Briefs

(e.g. Michael Dell), the children themselves – can also contribute to the TA. However, the contributions will not be tax-deductible. The maximum contribution limit from all sources is \$5,000 per year which will be increased for inflation in the future.

- The TA must limit investment choices to low-cost mutual funds or ETFs investing in S&P 500 or other U.S. indices. There is little detail yet on which investment choices will be provided and which financial firms will be authorized to act as plan custodians.

- No withdrawals are permitted until age 18, at which point the plan funds will presumably be rolled over into a traditional IRA. From that point on all IRA taxation rules will apply.

Does this new type of savings account fill a gap that other individual savings accounts (529, IRA, Roth) have been unable to address? Probably the single most important goal parents have for their young

children is a college education. Unfortunately, a TA is inferior to a 529 plan when it comes to saving for college. Contributions are treated the same for both types of accounts (non tax-deductible). But withdrawals from 529 accounts for education are both tax-free and penalty-free. TAs turn into IRA accounts at age 18, and withdrawals from IRAs are penalty-free but not tax-free when used for education. So it wouldn’t make sense to use a TA for that purpose.

What about saving for retirement? TAs do have two benefits that IRAs don’t. The first is a \$1,000 gift from the federal government. The second is the ability to make contributions to the account without requiring the child to have earned income. A disadvantage is the limit on investment choices, although after age 18 that problem disappears if the TA becomes an IRA.

When compared to a Roth account, though, TAs fall significantly short. In both cases the contributions are treated the same (not tax-deductible). But the growth in the Roth will be tax-free for the rest of the child’s life, unlike in the TA

which – whether kept or rolled over to an IRA – will be subject to income taxes on withdrawals at retirement.

What should a parent do with this new type of savings account? In my opinion you should set one up for every newborn child to get the free \$1,000. But the structure appears to be unnecessarily complex. Further contributions to it would seem to make sense only after you’ve contributed as much as you need to a 529 plan and before the child (or parent for the child) is able to contribute to a Roth once the child is old enough to earn money (e.g. from babysitting, lawn mowing or other legitimate jobs). I don’t see the value of having this additional savings vehicle with all its limitations. But as more details come to light, my viewpoint could change.

It probably would have been much cheaper for the government if Trump had simply proposed legislation to put the \$1,000 into a Roth account for each child. But then he wouldn’t have his name on it.

Los Altos resident Artie Green is founder of Cognizant Wealth Advisors. For more information, visit cognizantwealth.com

.....
JUST LISTED
.....

564 ORANGE AVE • LOS ALTOS



open house
SAT 1/31 ■ SUN 2/1
2-4PM



\$4,595,000

3 BEDS ■ 2 BATHS ■ 1,702 SQ FT ■ 10,500 SQ FT LOT

Set just steps from downtown Los Altos on an oversized west-facing lot, this newly updated home features a new kitchen and bathrooms, modern flooring, updated lighting and trim, a finished garage, newer roof, central HVAC, and refreshed landscaping.

Comfortable and move-in ready today, the property also offers exceptional long-term potential in one of Los Altos' most sought-after neighborhoods. Top schools include Gardner Bullis Elementary, Egan Junior High, and Los Altos High.

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This information was supplied by third party sources. Sales Associate believes this information is correct but has not verified this information and assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy. Buyer should verify accuracy and investigate to Buyer's own satisfaction.



JUST LISTED! OPEN SAT (1/31) & SUN (2/1) · 2-4PM

260 TRIANON WAY, LOS ALTOS

OFFERED AT \$4,798,000 · 4 BEDS · 3 BATHS · ±2,404 SQFT · ±11,070 SQFT LOT

Nestled on a peaceful cul-de-sac in North Los Altos. Moments from the Village and top rated Los Altos Schools. 260 Trianon Way is a beautiful single-story home offering 2,400+ sf of living space on over a 1/4 acre lot (11,070 sf). Featuring 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Designed for everyday living, it offers formal living and dining rooms, beautifully remodeled kitchen and inviting family room. Glass doors connect to the resort style backyard with a sparkling pool and multiple play areas. Enjoy the best of California living in one of Los Altos most sought after neighborhoods.

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260Trianon.com

Barbara Telesco Curley
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b.curley@ggsir.com
Lic. #01837664



OPEN SAT & SUN Jan 31 & Feb 1, 2:00 – 4:00pm



Kathy Bridgman's

**NEW LISTINGS
OF THE WEEK**

Beautifully Updated on a Rare Over One-Half Acre Level Lot 1470 Aura Way, Los Altos | Price upon request | 1470Aura.com

- 5 bedrooms and 3 baths on two levels plus lower-level recreation/fitness/playroom
- Updated designer kitchen and open family room
- Approximately 2,545 square feet (not verified by Compass)
- Two additional main level bedrooms and bath, two bedrooms and bath upstairs, plus flexible-use play or fitness room on lower level
- Lot size of approximately 22,000 square feet (not verified by Compass)
- Main-level primary suite with spa-like remodeled bath including sauna and heated floors
- Extra-wide frontage and fully level landscaped grounds near Loyola Corners
- Great location, one-half mile from Rancho Shopping Center, and 2.5 miles from the Village
- Freshly painted interiors and refinished hardwood floors
- Stroll to hiking trails at Rancho Open Space Preserve
- Formal living room with fireplace plus formal dining room
- Excellent Los Altos schools



OPEN SAT & SUN Jan 31 & Feb 1, 2:00 – 4:00pm



KATHY BRIDGMAN BROKER ASSOCIATE

Beautifully Appointed for Exceptional Indoor/Outdoor Living 520 E. Edith Avenue, Los Altos | Price upon request | 520EEdith.com

- Whole-home renovation and expansion plus just-completed fresh updates
- Solar power, EV charging with Tesla load balancing, synthetic lawn, high-efficiency ventilation, and reflective roof
- 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, and 2 half-baths on one level plus large lower-level recreation/media room
- Spacious living room, formal dining room, remodeled chef's kitchen, and large family room
- Approximately 4,038 square feet (not verified by Compass)
- Primary bedroom suite with designer en suite bath
- Approximately one-third acre (12,800 square feet; not verified by Compass)
- Expansive grounds with sauna and outdoor shower
- Just completed updates include: freshly painted inside and out, refinished hardwood floors, new carpet, new kitchen counter, some new lighting, and refreshed landscaping
- Drought-tolerant front yard and pickleball court
- One mile from the Village
- Excellent Los Altos schools



Per MLS reported number of sales for LA/LAH. 2025

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kathybridgman.com

COMPASS



11722 PUTTER WAY LOS ALTOS



STYLE AND SOLITUDE SURPRISINGLY CONVENIENT TO 280

Set at the end of a secluded, tree-lined cul-de-sac in the Country Club neighborhood, this welcoming home is surrounded by lush landscaping, with a graceful stone staircase leading to the front door. Sunlight fills the two-level layout, where hardwood floors, arched entryways, and crown molding add timeless appeal. The living room's fireplace creates a comfortable gathering spot, while the dining room opens to the back patio for effortless indoor/outdoor meals, and the chef-quality kitchen features premium appliances from brands like Thermador and GE Monogram. Three spacious bedrooms reside upstairs, including the primary suite with a jetted tub and shower. A large backyard patio and expansive front lawn offer plenty of space to enjoy the outdoors, and the home also includes air conditioning, a 2-car garage, and extended driveway parking. All just minutes from the Rancho Shopping Center, the Los Altos Golf and Country Club, nearby nature preserves, and top-rated schools Loyola Elementary, Blach Intermediate, and Mountain View High (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE

SAT & SUN 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

11722Putter.com

Listed at \$3,200,000

Notice to Buyers:

Although a good buyer's agent can add significant insight and value, you are not required to use one to purchase a DeLeon listing. If you would like to submit an offer to us directly, please contact the DeLeon Buyer's Team at **650.543.8528** and we will waive 100% of the buyer's-side commission.

Listed by Michael Repka and Alexander Lewicki of the DeLeon Team

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | Alexander Lewicki, DRE #02189814 | Call Us Today! 650.900.7000
DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224 | Equal Housing Opportunity



Congratulations!

Alexander Lewicki

SILVAR PRESIDENT-ELECT & DELEON DIRECTOR OF LISTINGS



The DeLeon Team is proud to congratulate Alexander Lewicki on being named the 2026 President-Elect of the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors.

With more than 4,000 members, SILVAR is the preeminent real estate organization in the Bay Area, overseeing the ethics of its Realtor members while championing the legal and property rights of homeowners across the state.

Alexander's legal background has contributed to his meteoric rise into leadership within organized real estate. In his professional role, Ken DeLeon and Michael Repka have selected Alexander to lead DeLeon Realty's listings in

Los Altos and Los Altos Hills. His singular focus, depth of market knowledge, and leadership within the industry make Alexander an invaluable resource to clients and colleagues alike.

SILVAR and its leadership team devote countless hours toward the excellence of the profession, to the benefit of both Realtors and the public at large. All of this work is on a volunteer basis, and much of it, unfortunately, goes without recognition. We would also like to congratulate outgoing President Tammie Peters, 2026 President Stacey Woods, Treasurer Jim Hamilton, and the rest of the SILVAR leadership team for their commitment to excellence.

Alexander Lewicki (DRE #02189814) 650.847.7407 | alexander@deleonrealty.com



4127 Old Adobe Road, Palo Alto

3 BEDROOMS | 4 BATHROOMS | 3,641± SF LIVING | 1 ACRE LOT

A rare architectural treasure perched atop a gently sloping acre near Gunn High – brown-shingle, Maybeck-inspired design. Three bedrooms, four baths, sunlit patios & wisteria arbors. Expansive owner's suite, two offices, classic oak & redwood interior, and spacious living room anchored by a massive brick hearth. Professionally landscaped garden and serene open space. One-car attached + three-car detached garage. Two horses allowed. Top PA schools and potential for future lot flexibility (buyer to verify).

OFFERED AT \$6,998,000

OPEN HOUSE ALL WEEKEND

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Broker Associate, CRS

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Susan Kramer

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14000 Jerries Drive, Saratoga
 Open Sat & Sun 1-4pm



www.14000Jerries.com

Ideally located in the highly coveted Golden Triangle area of Saratoga, this beautifully maintained single-story home includes the following features:

- 3 bedrooms
- 2 ½ bathrooms
- Approx 1,974 square feet of living space
- Approx 10,200 square foot lot
- Separate living and family rooms, each with a wood burning fireplace
- Gorgeous eat-in kitchen with new cabinetry and stainless steel appliances
- Private rear yard features a covered patio, sparkling pool, lawn area and mature fruit trees
- Award winning Saratoga Schools
- Other amenities include a spacious 2-car garage and a large laundry/utility room with a pantry attached to the kitchen.

Offered at \$3,298,000



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Public Notices

CHAPTERBARBERSHOP FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722791

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CHAPTERBARBERSHOP, 2019 Bright Willow Cir, San Jose, CA, 95131, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Hoang Chuong Huy Le, 2019 Bright Willow Cir, San Jose, CA 95131. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/25/2025. /S/ Hoang Chuong Huy Le / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/15/2026. (01-28-26,02-04,11,18-26)

015-T

SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT REPAIR FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722943

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT REPAIR, 949 Industrial Ave., Palo Alto, CA, 94303, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT REPAIR, 949 Industrial Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/18/1988. /S/ Kenneth Kennedy / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/21/2026. (01-28-26,02-04,11,18-26)

014-T

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

***** NOTICE TO BIDDERS *****

SEALED proposals will be received at the office of the City Clerk, Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, California 94022, until 2:00 p.m. on **Wednesday**, February 11, 2026 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Conference Room of said building, for construction in accordance with the project plans and specifications to which special reference is made, as follows:

Title: **FY 2025-26 PAVEMENT REHABILITATION AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Project Description: The work consists, in general, 2" A.C. overlay, 6" digouts, Type II microsurfacing, cracks seal, asphalt dike replacement, pavement markings replacement, utility adjustments, and all associated work.

The work is to be completed within **THIRTY (30)** working days. At the time this contract is awarded, the Contractor shall possess a Class A license.

A bid submitted by any Contractor who is not licensed to engage in business or act in the capacity of a contractor shall be considered non-

responsive and shall be rejected, except for those exceptions governed by Section 7028.15 of the Business and Professions Code.

The Town of Los Altos Hills hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability in consideration for an award.

Each bid must be accompanied by certified or cashier's check, or bidder's bond duly executed by a responsible corporate surety authorized to issue such bonds in the State of California, made payable to the Town of Los Altos Hills for an amount equal to at least ten (10) percent of the amount bid.

The successful bidder shall furnish a Labor and Materials Bond and a Faithful Performance Bond.

Pursuant to Section 1770 of the Labor Code, the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations has ascertained the general prevailing rate of per diem wages applicable to the work to be performed, which rates are filed in the office of the City Engineer, and copies of which are available to any interested parties on request.

The Contractor may elect to receive 100 percent of payments due under the contract from time to time, without retention of any portion of the payment by the Town, by depositing securities of equivalent value with the Town in accordance with the provisions of Sections 22300 of the Public Contract Code. All expenses of such substitute deposit shall be borne by the Contractor. Securities eligible for investment under the section shall include those listed in Section 16430 of the California Government Code or certificates of deposit of a bank or savings and loan association. The Contractor shall be the beneficial owner of any securities substituted for monies withheld and shall receive any interest thereon. Such securities, if deposited by the Contractor, shall be valued by the City's Administrative Director, whose decision on valuation of the securities shall be final.

Alternatively, upon the Contractor's request, the Town will make payment of retentions earned directly to the escrow agent. The Contractor may direct the investment of the payments into securities, and the Contractor shall receive the interest earned on the investments upon the same terms provided for securities deposited by the Contractor. Upon satisfactory completion of the contract, the Contractor shall receive from the escrow agent all securities, interest and payments received by the escrow agent from the Town, pursuant to the terms in Section 22300 of the public Contract code.

Bidders may purchase the project specifications with reduced plans and proposal forms by visiting or writing to:

**City Engineer's Office
Attention: John Chau**
Town Hall of Los Altos Hills
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, California 94022
(6 5 0) 9 4 1 - 7 2 2 2

For a non-refundable fee of \$50 per set if picked up; Any other form of delivery will be at a cost to include the cost per set plus the delivery carrier's cost. They may also be reviewed without charge at the Public Works Department website at <https://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/Bids.aspx>

/s/ Arika Birdsong-Miller, City Clerk
(01-28-26,02-04-26)

013-T

Rising Star Home Care Services, LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722272

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Rising Star Home Care Services, LLC, 4701 Patrick Henry Drive, Building 1, Santa Clara, CA, 95051, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Rising Star Home Care Services, LLC, 1401 21st St Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Esther Lomothey / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/22/2025. (01-28-26,02-04,11,18-26)

011-T

EBENEZER MEDIA PRODUCTIONS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722249

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: EBENEZER MEDIA PRODUCTIONS, 1289 Anvilwood Ave, Sunnyvale, CA, 94089, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a general partnership. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Miguel Quintero, 1059 Mango Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/01/2025. /S/ Miguel Quintero / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/22/2025. (01-21,28-26,02-04,11-26)

010-T

RANGAN LOGIC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722637

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: RANGAN LOGIC, 24801 Prospect Ave, Los Altos Hills, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Venkat Rangan, 24801 Prospect Ave, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/05/2026. /S/ Venkat Rangan / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/08/2026. (01-21,28-26,02-04,11-26)

009-T

DI WANG ZZY MANAGEMENT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722421

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: DI WANG ZZY MANAGEMENT, 390 Hacienda Ct, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County.

The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Di Wang, 390 Hacienda Ct, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/24/2025. /S/ Di Wang / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/29/2025. (01-14,21,28-26,02-04-26)

006-T

GL MANAGEMENT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722298

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: GL MANAGEMENT, 171 Main St, #558, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Lizhen Wu, 171 Main St, #558, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/01/2025. /S/ Lizhen Wu / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/23/2025. (01-07,14,21,28-26)

005-T

PULL & BREW EQUIPMENT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722303

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PULL & BREW EQUIPMENT, 4546 El Camino Real B10, #611, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): WALNUT HILL ENTERPRISES LLC, 4546 El Camino Real B10, #611, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Christopher Helmich / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/23/2025. (01-07,14,21,28-26)

002-T

\$40
is usually all it
costs to publish
your
Fictitious Business
Name in the
Los Altos Town
Crier

Email legals
at
legals@latc.com



Datebook

Datebook items are run on a space-available basis for entertainment, events, classes and groups run by non-profits in our circulation area (primarily Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View). The deadline is noon Tuesday for the next week's paper. Submit notices via email to christinac@latc.com and include a contact name, phone number and fee to participate (if applicable).

EVENTS

Los Altos Main Library. All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, unless otherwise indicated. **Monday Meditation & Mindfulness**, 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Los Altos Main Library, 7 p.m., Woodland Library, 1975 Grant Road. **Poetry Community Hour Open Mic**, 7 p.m., first Monday of every month. **Other events: Paintings Exhibit**, through Jan. 30. Eileen Logsdon Bugée's paintings in acrylic, watercolor and gouache will be on display at the Los Altos Library for the month of January. **Key/Zipper Felt Fob Craft**, 2 p.m. Jan. 31. Join local crafts artist Deidre at the Los Altos Library to create a cute key/zipper felt fob. All materials will be provided. Program is designed for adults and teens. No registration necessary. Information: scldd.org/events. **Silicon Valley Reads: Art With Drawn2Art**, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 3. Come join instructors from Drawn2Art studio for this fun Silicon Valley Reads-themed art program. This program is designed for adults and teens. **Mixed Media Valentines**, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 5. Join local artist Kristina Eng for a relaxed, creative worksop focused on watercolor and mixed media. Using simple shapes, bright colors and easy techniques, participants will create a handmade Valentine, galentine, or palentine to share or keep as a positive affirmation. Program is designed for adults and teens. All supplies will be provided. No registration necessary.

CLUBS/GROUPS

American Association of University Women - Silicon Valley Branch. Open to women (and men) with a college degree who are interested in equity for women and girls. Information: (650) 464-2830, siliconvalley-ca.aauw.net.

Los Altos Hills Club. Historic social club promoting friendship and social contacts among women with a Los Altos Hills mailing address. Activities include luncheons, book groups, bridge and card games. Information: (650) 948-5382, jensensylvia@hotmail.com.

Assistance League of Los Altos. Charitable organization benefiting youth of Santa Clara County. Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Located at Third and State streets. Information: (650) 941-2610, assistanceleague.org/losaltos.

Kiwanis Club of Los Altos. An international service organization. Meets at noon every Tuesday at the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave. Information: (650) 735-1552, losaltoskiwanis.org.

Peninsula Harmony Chorus. A cappella chorus centered in Los Altos. Performs some "doo-wop" numbers from the 50s and 60s, plus show tunes, ballads, pop, folk, world music and holiday music at year end. Rehearsals Monday evenings at 7:15 p.m. at the Los Altos Lutheran Church. Information: peninsulaharmony.org.

GreenTown Los Altos. Nonpartisan group of citizens helping the communities of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills become more sustainable. Information: greentownlosaltos.org.

Foothills Amateur Radio Society. Amateur radio club serving Los Altos and local area. Meets 7 p.m. the fourth Friday of the month. Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos. Information: fars.k6ya.org.

OBITUARY NOTICE

MIRIAM MUNRO



September 7, 1937 –
January 16, 2026

Miriam Matthews Munro was the third child of Miriam and Bill Matthews. When she was 18 months old the family moved from New York City to Washington D.C. Miriam was nicknamed “Mimsy” from the old English novel Peter Ibetson by Du Maurier: Peter met Mimsy, the ideal woman, only in his dreams. Later in life “Mimsy” became “Mims” which is how she was known to most.

Her family moved to Spring Valley, a suburb of Washington D.C. when Mims was 8 and she attended the local public school through 6th grade. At 13 Mims converted to Catholicism, after which she attended the Immaculata and Georgetown Visitation. Her faith remained an important part of her life until her passing.

Mims was very close with her mother who tragically died of intestinal cancer when Mims was 17. Mims had been her mother’s caregiver throughout her high school years such that her mother’s death was deeply impactful. After she graduated from Georgetown Visitation, she journeyed to California with her close friend Jane Buehler (later Yates), and the entire Buehler family. The Buehler’s became like a second family and ultimately her extended California family when she would later move there.

Mims attended Connecticut College for Women and received a BA in zoology, with a goal to work in cancer research after the disease had taken her mother. After college, she worked in a lab at Sloan Kettering in New York City for two years testing the effects of chemotherapy drugs on mice.

Taking a break from her work, Mims traveled for 7 months around the world visiting countries in Eastern Africa, the Middle East and Europe, thus igniting her passion for world travel. Upon her return to California, she took another cancer research position with University of

California San Francisco Medical Center. While in San Francisco, she met her future husband, Bruce Munro, a naval supply officer temporarily stationed in Oakland while his ship was being refurbished. The couple married and after finishing his naval commitment, Bruce attended Hastings School of Law while Mims’s work in research supported the family. Their first child, Ken, was born in 1963 and their second, Stephanie, in 1966, all before Bruce had finished law school. After graduation, the family moved to Los Altos and Mims has lived there ever since. Their third child, Kristy, was born in 1969, and Mims embraced being a mother of three while her husband practiced law in Palo Alto.

During those early family years, the couple enjoyed bridge, sailing, tennis and a full social life. But in 1983 the marriage ended. After that time, Mims returned to her early love for travel, and became a travel agent helping friends and clients put together amazing trips all while exploring the world for herself as part of her business. Staying true to her faith, Mims was also a highly involved volunteer with St. William Church as a eucharistic minister and for many years she coordinated the church’s participation in a rotating homeless shelter.

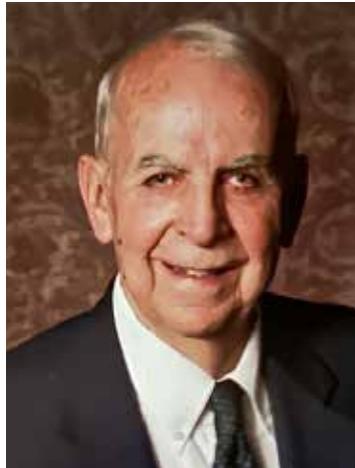
After retiring from the travel business, Mims enjoyed many pastimes including golf, gardening, flower arranging, and her weekly exercise classes. She cherished her community and close friendships. In the last chapter of her life, Mims was deeply involved in the lives of her 8 grandchildren, all of whom were being raised in the Bay Area. Her pride and joy, “Her Angels” as she called them, gave her a sense of purpose and an opportunity to open her heart like never before.

Mims is survived by her three children, Kenneth Bruce Munro, Stephanie Munro Ashworth and Kristine Munro Kamali; their spouses, Debbie Healy Munro, James Scott Ashworth, and Henry Kamali; her eight grandchildren, Margaret Eileen Munro, Kathleen Marie Munro, Sydney Munro Ashworth, Sophia Kristine Ashworth, Casey Helen Kamali, Paige Anne Kamali, Thomas James Ashworth and Brady Kenneth Kamali; and her grandson-in-law Andrew Karl Munro.

Funeral Mass for Mims will be held at St. William Church in Los Altos at 10:00am on January 30th, 2026



RICHARD Y MOSS II



October 6, 1936 –
November 26, 2025

Richard Yeager Moss II, “Dick” was born in Ft Wayne Indiana on October 6th, 1936 to Rhoda Elizabeth Toothill Moss and Richard Yeager Moss. He was a humble person, but his academics were hard to downplay having graduated as Valedictorian from his high school Western Reserve Academy in 1954. Having perfect grades and getting a near perfect score on his SAT’s took him to Princeton University in where he graduated in 1958 with a BS in Electrical Engineering, Dick went on to get a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University in which he graduated from a two-year program in just one year to save money.

During the summers in college Dick worked at the Goodyear Missile Lab in Akron Ohio, and then for Boeing aircraft in Seattle Washington. For a year between college and grad school 1958-1959, he worked for Sperry Gyroscope in NY designing transistorized circuits for surface to air defense missile guidance systems. Dick has always been a hard worker and upon graduating from Stanford on a Sunday in June, he started a new job on Monday at Hewlett Packard where he worked for the next 39 years. He had been so broke upon graduation, HP had to advance him his paycheck for living expenses! While at HP, Dick started a design team to work on digital voltmeters and transistors instead of vacuum tubes. By 1975 he had helped design 5 generations of new products and shifted them all to integrated circuits. Dick was the rare engineer that could not only design but lead people, and he managed a team of over 20 engineers who designed and tested the circuit boards for HP. This work became so important that they created a new area of the company called “Corporate Reliability” and asked him to lead this area. Starting in 1980 Dick created a 2-day seminar that he presented

to over 50,000 HP engineers on five continents, to increase the reliability in their product by 10X. He started an industry group called the electrostatic discharge and electrical over stress association with thousands of members in 1984 and he was the President and Chairman of this group leading seminars around the world. Dick has many patents for all the products he designed and he wrote several textbooks, The Handbook of Reliability Engineering and Management which is still in circulation today.

Dick wasn’t all about academics, growing up when he wasn’t inventing things he became an Eagle Scout and obtained Order of the Arrow, he was so proud of his grandson Nate who just achieved the third generation of Eagle Scouts in our family. During his time at Princeton he enjoyed being a member of the Cloisters Inn eating club, working at the campus radio station, and being a member of the crew and fencing teams. One of his favorite stories from 1960, Dick entered a Stanford Ski Club drawing and won tickets to the Olympics in Squaw Valley. After grad school, 1962 Dick and some friends formed their own ski club and rented a chalet at Squaw Valley where they charged \$5 a night to sleep in the loft. Dick gave a couple ladies a ride to Tahoe and long story short, in 1965 one of those ladies ended up becoming his wife of 61 years, Susan. They furthered their love of skiing by honeymooning in Aspen, and have taken ski trips to wonderful resorts throughout their lives.

In 1966 they adopted a puppy, Monte who became the need to buy the home they still have in Los Altos 60 years later! In 1970, Dick and Susan welcomed their only child Anja Christina Moss to their lives and they quickly introduced her to their love of skiing. Dick was a wonderful father, and very generous with his time. He was always up in the morning making his daughter fresh squeezed oj and eating cereal together before school, and home by 5:30 in the evenings to eat dinner together every night and help her with her homework. Dick also volunteered as a soccer referee for 9 years with AYSO becoming chief referee and chairman of the Los Altos region, allowing him to watch his daughter play soccer, and trying to be impartial at her games.

Skiing continued to be a big part of their lives and in 1981 they bought a ski cabin in Tahoe with Ian and Suzanne Band to enjoy the mountains year-round. Dick was an avid member of a hiking group with John Miller and hiked many mountains regaling us with exciting fish stories from his trips. For many years he would travel to Kodiak Alaska to fish with his friend

Lanny Connel, always bring back the most delicious salmon. After he retired from work, Dick developed a love of duck hunting and he joined a private club in Los Banos, owned by a dear friend John Goddard. The men hosted wonderful dinners and Dick and Lanny had their own mobile home and ATV at the club.

Another of Dick’s great interests has always been the love of wine, and he was a part of several tasting groups one of which is still around today after 55+years called the “Guzzlers”. He also used to lead a popular tasting group for new HP employees during his time there. Dick and Susan always had a great love of travel. They have taken many trips all over the world visiting countless countries beginning as opportunities with work and then just for fun including highlights such as Australia, the Galápagos Islands, and spectacular culinary trips to China, Vietnam, and Cambodia led by our own “Chef Chu”. Dick was always grateful and appreciative of the life he and Susan created together, he was always smiling and happy, the kind of person who talks to people in the elevator, tells dad jokes, and valued time well spent over material wealth.

It was November 26th 2025, the day before Thanksgiving and much of the extended family had gathered at the home in Los Altos where Dick and Susan Moss have raised their family and lived for over 61 years of marriage. Dick’s sister Claudia and her daughter Katie and her family were visiting from Connecticut as well as her son Ben and family from Orinda. Dick and Susan’s daughter Anja, their son in law Chris Hart, and grandsons Jake and Nate were also at the gathering. Just a few short weeks before, Dick also had visited with his brother John Moss, his wife Jackie, and their daughters Rhoda and Jennifer and their families out from Orinda and Australia. To top off the evening, Dick had a slice of pecan pie and a glass of vintage wine from his cellar and then peacefully passed away at the age of 89 surrounded by his family. For those who knew Dick, it was the ending he would have written for himself having lived a very fortunate life.



JUST LISTED
OPEN SAT & SUN
1:00 - 4:00PM

Fabulous Single-Level Home with Los Altos Schools

1933 Golden Way | Mountain View | \$3,898,000 | 1933GoldenWay.com



WELCOME TO THIS BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED SINGLE-LEVEL HOME nestled in the peaceful Blossom Valley neighborhood. This residence features a fabulous floor plan with a spacious sun-filled living room and a separate generously sized family room each with a wood-burning fireplace. The formal dining room, with its beautiful hardwood floors, provides the perfect setting for entertaining.

3-bedroom, 2-bath, single-level home with 2,112 +/- sf of living space

8,200 +/- sf lot with thoughtful landscaping

Updated with refinished hardwood floors, fresh interior paint, new carpets, and new light fixtures

Spacious sun-filled rooms with beautiful double-pane windows

Large family room with wood-burning fireplace, picture window, and sliding glass door to the rear yard

Partially covered patio area for entertaining, mature foliage, and charming orange trees

Sought-after Los Altos schools: Springer Elementary, Georgina P. Blach Intermediate, and Mountain View High (Buyer to verify enrollment)



JUDY & CINDY



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THE BOGARD-TANIGAMI TEAM

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