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# Los Altos Town Crier

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

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WEDNESDAY • April 2, 2025

## Protesters to Midpen: Let Girouards stay



SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

A protest formed outside of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) offices at 5050 West El Camino Real in Los Altos March 26 after Midpen officially filed for eviction of the Girouards from their family home at the foot of Rhus Ridge trail, according to Marianne Schroeder, who organized a petition to save the family home. Midpen officials previously told the Town Crier that "Midpen would like to resolve this amicably and is hopeful a fair, reasonable and mutually agreeable solution will be reached."

## Los Altos budget looks in good shape

City also considering changes to downtown parking enforcement

By Curtis Driscoll  
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

Los Altos' mid-year budget report shows the city continues to be in a healthy financial position, with revenues higher than expected so far this year.

A March 25 Los Altos City Council meeting about the budget showed the city anticipated additional surplus thanks to revenue and lower than expected costs, with healthy reserves.

As of January, about seven months through the budget year, the city has reached 64% of its expected budget revenue, which is better than expected, with the city usually at 58% through seven months of the year. The year-to-date

revenue is currently approximately \$37.1 million of the \$58.4 million expected. Of the general revenue fund at \$29.9 million, \$23.2 million is from property tax, with smaller revenue in the \$1-2 million range from transit occupancy and sales tax. City staff noted transit occupancy tax is already at 76% of what the city budgeted for this year, showing that travel and tourism have returned. The city saw a significant dip during the pandemic and has budgeted accordingly.

Parks and recreation revenue is at \$706,272 but is expected to increase significantly during the summer thanks to summer camp revenues, with significant property tax revenue also expected in the coming months.

Expenditures are at only

See COUNCIL, Page 6

### Online Poll of the Week



How should MVLA offer ethnic studies courses?

- Make them electives
- Make them mandatory
- Don't offer them

Vote online at [losaltosonline.com](http://losaltosonline.com).

### ALSO INSIDE - MARCH 26, 2025

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# Around Town

## Dogs, art and signs

Recent activity around downtown Los Altos included some house painting, courtesy of artist Bob Schick, below. The longtime local is working on “The Art of Living History” book project. Images will include this yellow Victorian house at 373 First St., Los Altos. At right, dogs were out in force while their humans shopped at the Head West Marketplace on State Street. The market is held 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. every fourth Sunday through October. Below right, a duo sit in the Los Altos Heritage Orchard next to city hall, protesting the recent goings-on in the federal government.

PHOTOS BY SHELLY BROWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER



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<h2 style="margin: 0;">HEIRLOOM ARTICHOKEs</h2> <p style="margin: 0; color: red;">ARE STARTING TO COME INTO SEASON</p> <p style="margin: 0;">JUMBO SIZE MEATY TENDER &amp; TASTY</p> 	<h2 style="margin: 0;">BRUSSEL SPROUTS</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">TENDER &amp; TASTY</p>  <h1 style="margin: 0;">\$1<sup>99</sup> LB</h1>
<h2 style="margin: 0;">HADEN MANGOES</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">LARGE, SWEET, TASTY</p>  <h1 style="margin: 0;">2<sup>FOR</sup> \$5</h1>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">ORGANIC BLUEBERRIES</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">SWEET &amp; CRISPY</p>  <h1 style="margin: 0;">\$4<sup>99</sup> 6OZ PKG</h1>
<h2 style="margin: 0;">MANILA MANGOES</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">SWEET AND CREAMY</p>  <h1 style="margin: 0;">2<sup>FOR</sup> \$3</h1>	<p style="margin: 0; color: green; font-weight: bold;">BACK IN SEASON</p>  <h2 style="margin: 0; color: red;">BLOOD ORANGE JUICE</h2> <p style="margin: 0; color: red;">FRESH DAILY</p>

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# News

## Baier officially MVWSD superintendent

Town Crier Report

The Mountain View Whisman School District (MVWSD) Board of Trustees announced they've found the district's next superintendent: current interim superintendent Jeffrey Baier.

The board interviewed candidates on March 22, after which Baier was identified as the anticipated MVWSD superintendent. Board of trustees director William Lambert announced in an email that the board is expected to appoint Baier during the trustees' April 3 meeting, "subject to the negotiation and approval of an employment agreement between the board and the prospective superintendent."

"At that same meeting, during open session, the board is expected to vote on a proposed employment agreement," Lambert said in the Monday email. "It is the board's intention to share the draft employment agreement as part of the posted meeting agenda."

To access the agenda, visit [tinyurl.com/april3mvwsdagenda](http://tinyurl.com/april3mvwsdagenda).

Baier began his local education career in the MVWSD when he served as a teacher at Graham Middle School; he later served as vice principal there before becoming the principal at Landels Elementary School from 1998 to 2001.

He joined the Los Altos School District (LASD) when he served as Almond Elementary School principal from 2001 to 2007. He then transitioned to his role as Los Altos School District assistant superintendent of curriculum instruction from 2007 to 2010 and became LASD superintendent in 2010.

"I love seeing kids learn," Baier told the Town Crier earlier in the year. "It's amazing to watch. I was in Los Altos for a long time and the joy and the pride that comes with watching what happens to a child from the time they enter TK or kindergarten through the time they graduate eighth grade, it's really impressive and what our teachers do and what our staff accomplishes

See MVWSD, Page 7

## CSA still dedicated to work despite fund freeze

By Christina Casillas

Staff Writer/[christinac@latc.com](mailto:christinac@latc.com)

Community Services Agency (CSA) has served the local community since 1957, and it will continue doing so despite obstacles posed by the federal government, CSA Executive Director Tom Myers said.

The Mountain View-based nonprofit announced in a letter to the community last month that federal funds distributed by United Way Bay Area – the local branch of a worldwide nonprofit that has helped communities across the country with food and nutrition access, education and health for more than a century – had been frozen by the federal government. Myers noted funds of at least \$40,000 were being held from United Way.

"And we don't know when it will be unfrozen, if it will be unfrozen," he said.

The freeze comes after a controversial Jan. 27 memo from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget that froze federal funds from being distributed so the office could assure organizations promoting President Donald Trump's



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO/COURTESY OF CSA

CSA's Food and Nutrition Center recently had funds distributed by the nonprofit United Way Bay Area frozen by the federal government.

priorities, including ending "wokeness" and "financial assistance for foreign aid, nongovernmental organizations, DEI, woke gender ideology, and the green new deal," per the memo.

legality of the memo, it was promptly rescinded.

CSA provides programs including senior case management and a senior

After outrage and questions about the

See FUNDS, Page 6

## Mountain View Fire Dept. warns of dangers of rags used for oil-based stain and paint

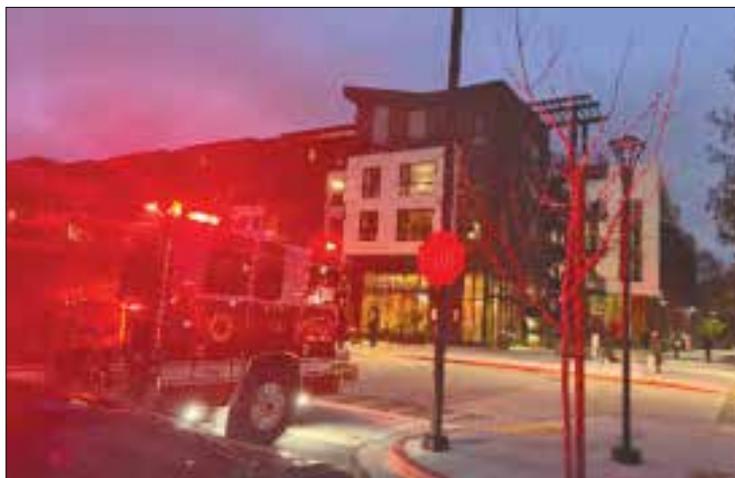
Town Crier Report

Mountain View fire officials responded to reports of a residential fire at a multi-story, multi-family residential apartment last week that was sparked not by electrical wires, not by a charging battery, but by the spontaneous combustion of unattended rags soaked in wood stain.

Officials responded to a 911 call at 6:14 a.m. March 26 of smoke coming from an apartment complex in the 100 block of Lena Way. Upon arrival, firefighters found smoke originating from a maintenance cart left in a hallway; they extinguished the flames and removed the cart and its smoldering contents from the building, according to a Mountain View Fire Department press release.

Fire damage was contained to the maintenance cart, which is where the rags were stored. The only damage to property was smoke damage.

Oil-based stains and paint can often start fires because



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mountain View firefighters responded to a fire last week at an apartment complex sparked by an oily rag.

they release heat as they dry, according to the press release.

"If the heat is not released into the air, it builds up. That is why a pile of oily rags can be dangerous. As the rags dry, the heat is trapped," the release read. "The heat builds up and finally causes a fire."

Fire officials reminded everyone to:

- Not throw rags with oil-based paint or stains in a pile. Keep them away from buildings and hang them outside or spread out on the ground.

- Always store dried rags in tight, metal containers filled with water and detergent. Store the containers in cool places.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, approximately 1,700 home fires per year result from spontaneous combustion or chemical reactions: 900 of those fires are the result of improperly stored oily rags.

For more information on rag safety, visit [tinyurl.com/oilragsafety](http://tinyurl.com/oilragsafety).

## News Brief

### PARC & city council on good terms again

Members of the city's Parks, Arts, Recreation and Cultural Commission (PARC) are back on working terms with city council members following a March 11 study session in which the council approved the commission's work plan for 2025.

Last week's meeting was a stark contrast to a Jan. 28 meeting, at which council members criticized PARC for not following a council-approved work plan in 2024. Mayor Pete Dailey called for the disbandment of the commission, but the rest of the council agreed to continue to work with PARC.

"It was a good turnaround," said PARC chairperson Janet Corrigan of last week's meeting. "I heard that some residents provided feedback about how the January meeting was conducted."

Dailey also felt good about the study session.

"I think the changed tone

See BRIEF, Page 5

## Mountain View Aquatics Center officially open



SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

**Top:** The ceremonious first swims take place at the newly renovated Rengstorff Aquatics Center. **Below:** Mountain View Mayor Ellen Kamei led the grand opening.

**By Curtis Driscoll**

Staff Writer/curtisdriscoll@latc.com

Mountain View's modern, inclusive and environmentally friendly Rengstorff Park Aquatics Center is now fully open to the public following Saturday's opening ceremony.

The 8,200 square foot all-electric facility has a 25-yard by 25-meter lap pool, lap pools with 1-meter and 3-meter diving boards, a water slide, interactive water toys and shallow lap lanes.

"It underscores our city's resilience and determination to get something extraordinary done, like we have with our eco-friendly aquatics center that utilizes the latest in green building design," Mountain View Mayor Ellen Kamei said Saturday. "What you see before us is a new facility that incorporates sustainability with solar energy features, energy-efficient systems and engaging public art scattered throughout the center."

Upgrades include a green building design with solar panels on the roof and an all-electric hot water system with heat pumps, according to city staff. The pool has a zero-depth beach entry, and the building is the first electrified municipal aquatics center in California to include more than 10,000 square feet of pool area, according to the city. Community services director John Marchant noted the hot water system efficiently heats nearly 500,000 gallons of pool water, along with the showers and other building uses.

"Our aquatics center is utilizing renewable energy," Marchant said. "As a result, the facility is minimizing our impact on the environment and reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

The building at 2073 Crisanto Ave. next to Rengstorff Park took 34 months to build instead of the original 16-month-long timeline and replaces the approximately 5,000 square-foot original building constructed in 1959. Initially set to open in the summer of 2024, the city had to delay the opening until this year due to construction issues around implementing the new hot water systems. The \$29 million building was built through the city's Park Land Dedication Fund.



The center held a soft opening earlier in the month to allow people to try lap swimming and drop-in water exercises. The center will have year-round programs like lap swim, water exercises and American Red Cross courses, along with seasonal programs for recreational swim and swim lessons.

Four public art pieces are also in the building, including mosaic fish sculptures from the original park pool, wave benches from artist Masako Miki, lenticular prints of water from Liz Hickok and sculptures from WOWHAUS.

*For more information on the center, visit [tyurl.com/MVpoolinfo](https://www.tyurl.com/MVpoolinfo).*

### BRIEF

From Page 4

was a reflection of very professional work by the new chair, Janet Corrigan, who has spent a lot of time with staff liaison, Manny Hernandez, to focus on the things council wants for 2025," Dailey said. "Four of

the five commissioners seated will be up for reappointment (or not) in September. If the commission doesn't perform to council's expectations, we can address it in September. There was no consensus on council to take a more aggressive approach at this time. And it seems like the com-

mission, now that we have removed one commissioner, has a renewed sense of purpose. I thought the meeting went well and I feel encouraged. I'm happy we can move forward in a way that isn't going to sow any more division in the community, at least in the near term."

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## News

### FUNDS

From Page 4

lunch and nutrition program, homelessness services, emergency financial assistance (for those who can't make rent, utilities), and a food and nutrition center, which provides a food pantry and one ton of food daily to low income individuals and families.

From 2023-24, CSA provided aid to more than 6,000 people. The money that was frozen was slated to support the agency's food and nutrition center, which last year provided 3,213 people with nutritious groceries. Approximately 1,110 people accessed CSA's mobile food pantry.

According to the CSA 2024 Annual Report, the food and nutrition center has served more people who are unstably housed – meaning they have no access to a kitchen or cooking facilities – and need ready-to-eat items.

"It seems outrageous that you would cut funding for food for low income people," Myers said. "So my hope is that people in Washington will come to their senses and understand that you don't cut food funding for food programs."

In addition to the withheld funds, CSA receives federal

support for their programs in the range of several hundred thousand dollars per year. The money ends up at the agency indirectly: It passes through the city and other organizations before the funds reach the organization.

Myers said they're fortunate that the funding streams are diverse; while the city distributes some of the federal funds it receives to CSA, it also provides aid on a city-wide level.

According to Lenka Wright, city of Mountain View spokesperson, the city provides financial support to a variety of CSA programs and services.

In addition to \$1 million for capital improvement (\$2 million total for fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26), the city distributed \$177,000 to CSA, including its housing case management (\$120,000), outreach to the living-in-vehicle residents (\$42,000), and facilitation of a portable restroom (\$15,000). Approximately \$38,029 of the city's general fund grant process is dedicated to senior nutrition, Wright said.

"The city also has an agreement with CSA to provide the Mountain View Senior Center's Social Hall and kitchen for the Senior Nutrition Pro-

gram at no cost," she said.

However, the loss of federal funding would have a significant impact on the long-term health of the agency if the funds are continually held.

"It's one of those things that we will be able to take care of this year," Myers said. "What we will not be able to do, though, is be sustainable. If this money goes away forever, that's a problem."

Wright said the city "continues to monitor the evolving situation concerning federal grant funding and how any policy changes at the federal level might impact Mountain View."

Although a cessation of federal funds would be a hit to CSA and its long-term operations, Myers said the most important source of funding of CSA is provided by individual donors.

"The most important thing for people to remember is that CSA has been here for a long time, and we're going to continue to be here," Myers said. "But right now, the question of funding is concerning, but we're going to make sure that we have some answers for folks at some point."

*For more on CSA, visit [csacares.org](http://csacares.org). To donate, visit [csacares.org/donate](http://csacares.org/donate).*

### COUNCIL

From Page 1

53% of anticipated in the budget and lower than expected, with just five months remaining in the year. Public safety is the highest cost to the city, accounting for \$25.6 million of the city's \$54.6 million budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and \$11.7 million of the \$25.4 year-to-date budget.

The city also plans to send \$6 million in city funds as a prepayment for CalPERS pension obligations for city employees to offset further future increases, with the hope an early payment will lower costs in future years, similar to what the city did four years ago.

### Parking enforcement chalking

A yellow chalk mark on your vehicle tracking if you've moved your car could soon be a thing of the past with new plans by the city to allow digital chalking through mo-

bile Automatic License Plate Readers.

If the ordinance passes, a third-party administrator could issue parking citations and "digitally chalk" a vehicle parked in a timed parking zone, according to assistant to the city manager Anthony Carnesecca. The enforcement officer will have an ALPR scanner, allowing them to track the parking location and monitor the vehicle with their handheld or mobile device. They can then scan the license plate, logging the vehicle into a database for future reference while logging its exact location, Carnesecca said. If the same license plate is scanned more than once beyond the timed limit, the enforcement officer will be prompted to issue a violation to the owner of the parked vehicle. Some instances of traditional chalking and parking enforcement by the Los Altos Police Department would still occur. City staff are currently in the middle of

negotiating a contract with a vendor, with the city hopeful of implementation in the summer.

The Los Altos City Council introduced the ordinance at its March 25 meeting, with approval and details about costs available to be discussed at the next council meeting. A city staff report said the ALPR data on personal information would not be accessible to other jurisdictions. The changes would also allow the removal of vehicles by enforcement officers instead of police officers, freeing up officers for other law enforcement responsibilities.

### Read the Town Crier everywhere

Some features in the print edition do not appear on [losaltosonline.com](http://losaltosonline.com), and some items online don't appear in print. Read both and don't miss out on all the news about your community.

## MVWSD

From Page 4

with kids when they apply their expertise is moving, and it's exciting to lead that."

He became interim MVWSD superintendent in February after former interim MVWSD superintendent Kevin Skelly left. Skelly joined MVWSD after superintendent Ayindé Rudolph left in November 2024. Those familiar with MVWSD were not surprised by his departure as months before, parents were focused on how he implemented their tax dollars.

But Baier's passion for fostering a strong, supportive environment was what brought him back to education, and MVWSD in particular. It's also what led the MVWSD board of trustees to choose him as the next superintendent.

"The board of trustees is eager and excited to begin this new chapter with an experienced leader like Mr. Baier, and to continue to serve the very best interests of all students, staff members, parents, and the broader community," Lambert said.

## VTA strike ended by court: Transportation returns locally

By Brandon Roth

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

The Santa Clara County Superior Court ordered the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265 members to return to work as of last Friday.

According to the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority administration, all bus operations and the Orange Line light rail – running from San Jose to Mountain View – are available for service.

VTA administrative officers on March 10 filed a breach of contract lawsuit against the union for breaking a 1974 clause in their current contract that does not allow them to engage in a strike. There were approximately 1,500 union members, including bus, light rail operators and other front-line staff, who were involved in the strike, affecting commutes to local community colleges, K-12 schools, hospitals and businesses.

There have been many series of negotiations since the

strike took place on March 10. Both ATU and VTA met a couple of times a week leading up to the injunction to find common ground, but nobody in both parties was ever satisfied.

Sergio Lopez, mayor of Campbell and chair of VTA Board of Directors, said at a March 23 press conference following their recent negotiation meeting, that VTA offered the union a revised offer of an 11% merit wage increase over three years, changing the language with arbitration and a compromise with holiday pay.

"This offer at 11% is a significant stretch and proves the agency's commitment and the board's commitment to serving the public, ending the strike and getting our system back up and running to protect the seniors, students and workers who depend on our service," Lopez said. "Our commitment in doing right by our workers and riders is going to mean difficult conversations in the coming months as a result. The reality is that this

commitment is going to require us to tighten our belts."

ATU voted against the offer the next day and it is unknown to Rajvinder Singh, ATU 265 president, when they will meet next.

Singh said despite the disappointing news in court, the union's camaraderie is at "an all-time high." Singh hopes to continue negotiations with VTA, but they are still waiting to hear back from labor relations to carry on their meetings. He said in the last 17 days since the strike, the two parties only met five times and believes the agency is not putting any urgency in the issue and blaming the union for not wanting to come to the table.

"Our history with the agency is that every single time we go into negotiations, they'll start late," Singh said. "And then once we get into it, bring plenty of items to the table, we always lose six months or a year past the expiration date and we even went on strike this time. Obviously, we had a very im-



BRANDON ROTH/TOWN CRIER

Members of ATU 265 protested in Mountain View and other local areas for three weeks.

portant issue with our arbitration section and without that guarantee, no contract really holds any value."

Singh also confirmed that the buses will be operating on a rolling schedule as of last Friday, but the light rails may be slow to reopen due to damage. Copper wire, used to conduct electricity, was stolen from the sites during the strike.

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# Comment

## Letters to the Editor

### Speak up for democracy

I'm 71 years old so I've lived through many political crises in this country – but I have never seen an attack on our democracy like this. In the past, there was bipartisan opposition to lawlessness. Today, the guardrails are being dismantled before our eyes, and we must sound the alarm. The systematic chipping away at our freedoms is real and appears to be unstoppable as Congress is letting us down by cowering to Trump's power, especially the Republicans. Keep your eyes open and speak up.

**Chris Tucker**  
Los Altos

### Who is the real culprit?

Isn't it interesting that the Los Altos/Mt. View School District does not come to the table to discuss a solution to the parking problem around Los Altos High School?

The problem we have was caused by the LAHS School District.

In the 1980s the school district had three high schools – Mt. View, Los Altos and Awalt. The district forecast shrinking enrollment and chose to close Mt. View High School, which was then located on Castro St.

### 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. Drop us a line at 138 Main St., Los Altos 94022, Attn: Editor, or email [bruceb@latc.com](mailto:bruceb@latc.com). No anonymous letters.

Their enrollment has increased to the present day.

It takes a lot of nerve to cause the problem and then not participate with their neighbors to attempt to solve the problem. There is a solution the school district can implement, but I would bet it will never happen.

What happens when a high school student lives so far from their high school that getting to school and back becomes problematic? The answer is that the school district provides a school bus. The bus picks up the students at a bus stop, takes them to school and returns them to the bus stop. This is not a city of Los Altos problem. I say if the school district does not want to discuss a solution with the city, then the city should not discuss this anymore. Eventually the school district will be forced take their head out of the sand and solve the problem.

**Bill Bassett**  
Los Altos

## Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF THE LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

The Los Altos Grammar School's 1917 baseball team poses for a team picture on their school's front steps.

## Advocating for high school education

By Marina Dergun

The March 17 MVLA board meeting was packed with parents. Most parents in the room came to address item 14.4 on the agenda, titled "School Graduation Requirements." More specifically, the parents were there to ask the board to bring back World History to freshman year and make Ethnic Studies an elective. More than 600 hundred parents signed a petition urging the board to change MVLA's graduation requirement.

The chronicle of ethnic studies dates to 2021, when Gov. Newsom signed Assembly Bill 101, which mandates that high schools offer one semester of ethnic studies starting with the 2025-2026 school year, but only "upon appropriation" – meaning funding must be allocated for the bill to take effect. MVLA decided to go beyond the mandate and implement a two-semester Ethnic Studies course as a graduation requirement for ninth graders beginning last year. This course replaced the ninth grade World History class.

Now, sophomores satisfy the World History requirement through AP World History, AP European History, AP Human Geography or

## Other Voices

not have World History as a freshman. The parents urged the board to make Ethnic Studies an elective and restore World History in ninth grade. Board reactions were mixed. Vadim Katz came prepared and offered thoughtful comments. Catherine Vonnegut seemed open to discussion. Alex Levich supported re-evaluating the requirement. Thida Cornes, however, offered vague commentary and seemed unable to engage meaningfully with the current legal uncertainty. She repeatedly cited "four-year plans," though student schedules in MVLA remain flexible.

The most disappointing response came from Superintendent Eric Volta. It was disappointing in both demeanor and content. He was focused solely on logistical challenges and staffing (FTEs) and refused to entertain any adjustment. Parents' concerns were not addressed in any of his remarks. Mr. Volta, many parents in the room were well-informed and deeply invested in their children's education. Please take their concerns seriously and please demonstrate genuine care for students through actions and adaptability instead of being rooted in the status quo.

Given that the course is no longer required by the state, many parents thought it was time to evaluate. Thus, they filled the MVLA board meeting room and waited until 9 p.m. when the item came on the agenda to speak. They shared concerns: lack of adequate World History instruction, more limited elective options, poor preparation for AP courses and weakened college readiness. The student trustee present confirmed that she felt less prepared because she did

standard World History. This reduces students' flexibility in course selection and leaves them less prepared for AP history classes – a concern raised by the student trustee at the meeting.

The course lacks a textbook or a well-vetted curriculum. It has been criticized as divisive and politically charged. At worst, parents feel it attempts to indoctrinate students; at best, they say it offers little educational value. Few, if any, families have expressed enthusiasm for it, though many initially accepted it as a state requirement. However, the state did not appropriate funds for the course this year, meaning it is not required.

Marina Dergun is a Los Altos resident.



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# Community

## Gallery 9 artist's work both funny and thought-provoking

Town Crier Staff Report

Steve Curtiss' work offers simple scenes that evoke both humor and deeper thought. A cat stands at the edge of a stream with a lion reflected in it. A traditional still-life of a fruit bowl shares space with a side of fries.

"The paintings are playful with different layers of meaning interwoven," Curtiss described. "I hope they provide a little enjoyment, ask a few questions and encourage a creative point of view."

The Los Altos resident's art will be on display throughout the month of April at Gallery 9 in downtown Los Altos. The exhibition, "A Different View," will feature 18 of his funny and thought-provoking works.

"I like to get some things that are paradoxical when they're together," Curtiss said. "I like animals and I like landscape. That's where it came from."

The retired engineer studied



PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVE CURTISS

Steve Curtiss' work is equally playful and meaningful.

painting for 10 years with Alfredo D'Annunzio, a well-known painting instructor.

"I've always worked in oil paint and really enjoy the depth and richness that it brings to an image," Curtiss said. "I do a lot of sketching in nature, and combine that with visual material from my imagination and other sources to produce images that are then drawn, re-drawn and painted using traditional art techniques."

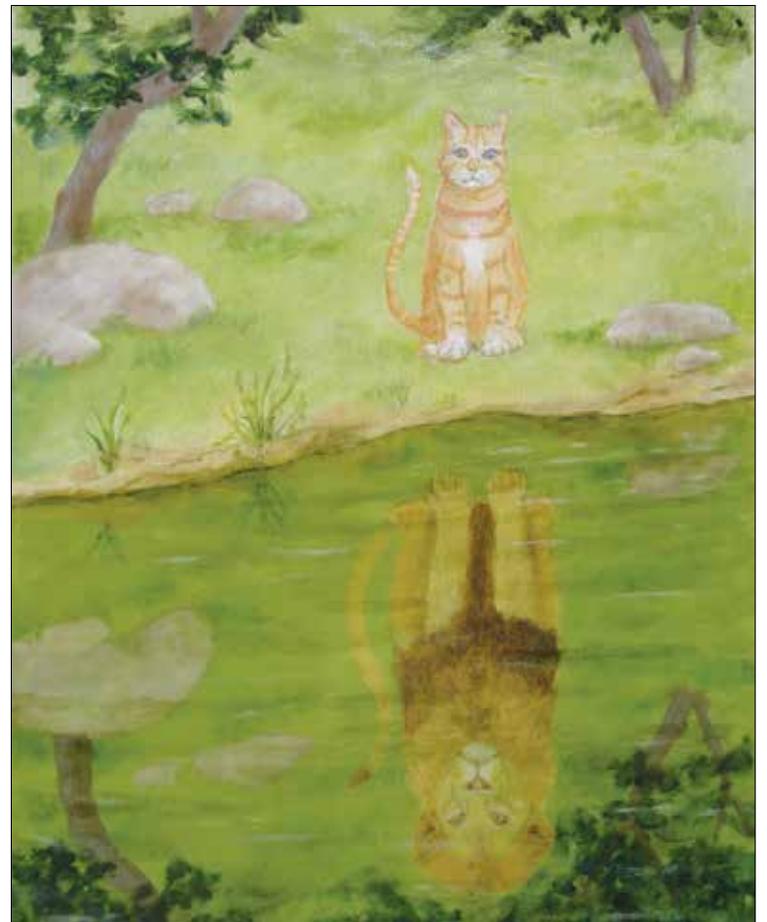
You could say Curtiss appreci-

ates the little things in life.

"I'm in north Los Altos," he said. "I see simple little things you'd walk past. I look at them and get involved."

He described one piece featuring two stepping stones together. "But the light was on them and they looked nice," Curtiss said.

*A reception for the artist is scheduled 5:30-8 p.m. April 4 at Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. For more information, visit [stevecurtiss.com](http://stevecurtiss.com).*



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# Community

## Los Altos resident recognized by DAR with Historic Preservation Medal

Special to the Town Crier

The Los Altos chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently recognized Los Altos resident Mary Kay “Marina” Marinovich with the 2025 Historic Preservation Medal. This award honors a person who has done extraordinary historic preservation volunteer work over a long period of time. The Los Altos Chapter presented this medal to Marinovich for her work for the Immigrant House in Mountain View.

The Immigrant House was originally built in 1888 and serves as a symbol of the resilience and contributions of immigrant families in the region. Marinovich’s leadership, advocacy and collaborative efforts over the

past dozen years helped to protect the Immigrant House from demolition and ensure its future as an educational resource and historical site. She organized fundraising events, lobbied local government, coordinated preservation efforts with historians and architects, and educated the public about the historical importance of the building.

Marinovich secured grants and other financial support for the preservation project. She worked closely with historians and preservation experts to ensure that the restoration efforts align with the historical integrity of the house, respecting its architectural features and historical context. Her work not only saved the Immigrant House and highlighted immigrants’ contributions to the Bay Area, but also

inspired others in the community to take up historic preservation causes of their own.

In 2016, the structure was moved to its current site at Heritage Park, 771 N. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. The organization “Friends of Immigrant House” works to preserve the Immigrant House and organizes events at the site, such as the upcoming seventh-annual Harvest History Festival set for this fall.

Learn more about the Immigrant House at [immigrant-housemv.com/](http://immigrant-housemv.com/).

The Los Altos Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, was founded in 1950 and celebrated its 75th anniversary in February. The chapter focuses on local historic preservation projects, genealogy research, education, fundraising

for a Foothill College scholarship fund, environmental conservation, service to veterans, and other community projects. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political, volunteer women’s service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America’s future through better education for children. Any woman 18 years or older is eligible to join if she can prove lineal descent from a supporter of the American Revolution (through military service, financial donations such as donativos at the California presidios, food supply, government service or other support).

For more information, visit [losaltos.californiadar.org](http://losaltos.californiadar.org).



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN KETTERING

Los Altos resident Marina Marinovich won the 2025 DAR Historic Preservation Medal from the Los Altos Chapter.



City of **LOS ALTOS**

### CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

April 8, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.

In Person

Note- This is not the Final Agenda

Members of the public are invited to participate in person at the Los Altos Council Chamber at Los Altos City Hall located at 1 N. San Antonio Rd, Los Altos, CA. To attend virtually, please view the final agenda for details.

Public testimony will be taken at the direction of the Mayor, and members of the public may only comment during times allotted for public comments. Public comment will be received in person during the meeting or by written public comment submitted to [publiccomment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:publiccomment@losaltosca.gov)

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Adopt an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Los Altos Adding Chapter 11.06 Weed Abatement to Title 11 Miscellaneous Property Regulations of the Los Altos Municipal Code and find that this action is Exempt from Environmental Review Pursuant to Section 15301(h) of the State Guidelines Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970
2. Adopt an Ordinances that will outline the procedures for parking citation enforcement, allow expanded enforcement of parking regulations within the City of Los Altos, and allow the removal of vehicles by enforcement officers
3. Adopt an Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Section 2.04.010 of the Los Altos Municipal Code “Meetings”

#### PUBLIC HEARING

4. Introduce Zone Text Amendments Adding Standards for Bird Safe Design and Lighting Performance to the City of Los Altos Zoning Code (Title 14) of the Los Altos Municipal Code and the Planning Commission Recommendations made at their November 21, 2024 meeting. The proposed amendments are exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Discuss Potential Next Steps for Downtown Theatre

Agendas, Reports and associated documents for City Council items may be viewed at [losaltosca.gov/citycouncil/meetings](http://losaltosca.gov/citycouncil/meetings)

## A.I. in Everyday Life: What Seniors Need to Know

Date: Friday, April 11, 2025

Time: 2 pm - 5 pm PST

Los Altos Community Center

97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos

CA 94022 (Grand Oak Room)

Snacks/Drinks will be served.



Join us for a friendly conversation about **Artificial Intelligence (A.I.)** and how it can impact your life. **Expert panelists from different fields** will explain what A.I. is, how it's being used today, and how it might benefit seniors in the future with things like healthcare and staying connected.

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# Community

## Kiwanis Pet Parade is a springtime tradition

Town Crier Report

Spring is in the air, and that means it's time for one of Los Altos' most cherished traditions – the 78th annual Kiwanis Pet Parade. Mark your calendars for 10 a.m. May 17 in downtown Los Altos, and join the celebration of community, creativity and, of course, pets of all shapes and sizes.

Since 1947, the Los Altos Kiwanis Pet Parade has been a beloved event that brings together families, schools and neighbors to celebrate spring. What began as a small community gathering has grown into a vibrant tradition that showcases the unique spirit of Los Altos.

From the Old Town Band leading the parade to the enthusiastic participation of local schools and organizations, the pet parade is a testament to the creativity and camaraderie of our town.

The pet parade is a feast for the eyes and a delight for the heart. Children and adults proudly showcase their pets, dressed in everything from superhero capes to tutus. While dogs are the most common participants, you'll see just about every kind of pet imaginable – iguanas, rabbits, snakes, chickens and even goldfish in little red wagons. It's a joyful remind-



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

Furry friends, like these pups, will take over Main Street May 17.

er of the special bond between people and their pets.

The parade wouldn't be complete without the energetic involvement of local schools, both public and private.

Students march together, often in themed costumes or with decorated floats, adding to the festive atmosphere. The Old Town Band sets the tone with lively music, and other local bands and performers keep the energy high throughout the event.

Whether a longtime resident or new to Los Altos, the Pet Parade is an event for everyone. It's a chance to connect with neighbors, cheer on the creative costumes and celebrate spring. Bring your family, bring your pets and enjoy a morning of fun, laughter and community spirit.

### How to participate

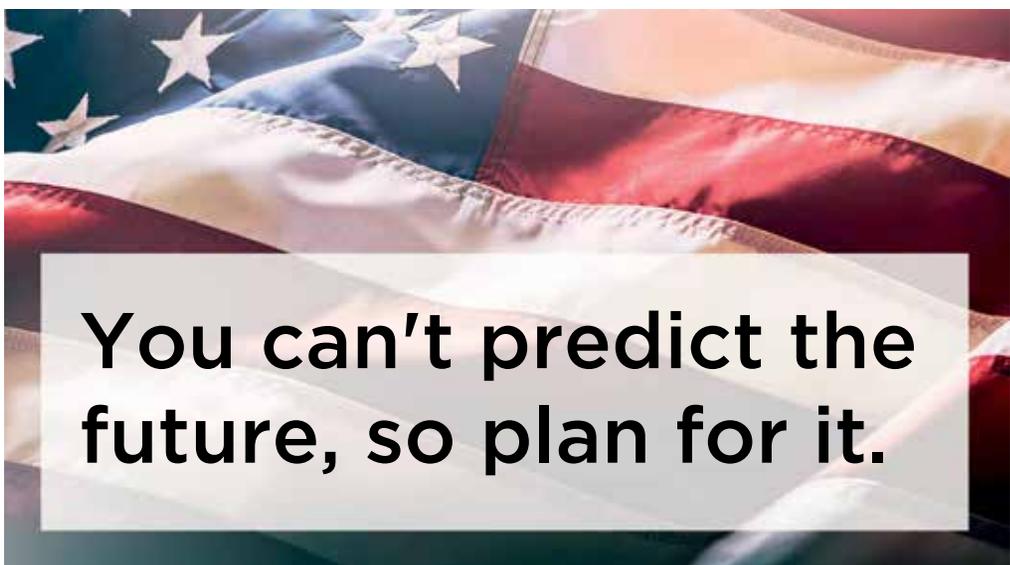
- For pet owners: Dress up your pet (or yourself) and join the parade. All pets are welcome, big or small, furry or scaly.

- For spectators: Grab a spot along the parade route and enjoy the show. Don't forget your camera – you'll want to capture the smiles and surprises.

- For schools and groups: March together and show off your school or organization pride.

Registration for parade participation opened March 1.

*For more information, visit [losaltoskiwanis.org](http://losaltoskiwanis.org) or check out previous coverage in the Los Altos Town Crier. For questions or to volunteer, call (650) 735-1552 or email [info@losaltoskiwanis.org](mailto:info@losaltoskiwanis.org).*



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# Stepping Out

## 'The Heart Sellers' highlights the importance of friendship

By **Brandon Roth**

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

In a new country, finding a community can be hard. Immigrants feel like they don't belong among a majority culture and it might be difficult for them to assimilate in a place where there is a language barrier and the customs are hard to learn.

Lloyd Suh, a Pulitzer Prize finalist and playwright of "The

Far Country" and "The Chinese Lady," is introducing Bay Area residents to his play "The Heart Sellers" for the first time. The play has a three-way co-production with TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Aurora Theatre Company and Sacramento's Capital Stage. The opening night at TheatreWorks will be April 5.

The play will explore the dynamic of two women – Luna

from the Philippines and Jane from South Korea – as they learn together how to survive in the United States as new residents. Both women feel isolated as their husbands work, leaving them alone in a town that views them as "different." Jennifer Chang, the director of "The Heart Sellers," said the story takes place in an anonymous city in 1973 following the Hart-Celler Act of 1965, where

immigrants were allowed to live in the United States without any quotas or biases. Chang said audiences will resonate with the strong need for human connection and the fears of feeling like an outsider.

"I think we witness a friendship happen in real-time," Chang said. "We are watching them share their experiences because it is common to build a relationship and share our hopes and dreams and realizing things that are scary for them may also resonate in this moment in our American timeline. Having a community is the most powerful way to survive challenges in your life."

Chang said in the Bay Area, it is common to be familiar with the accents of the women, but in places where they have performed like in Milwaukee, people are exposed to the culture of the characters for the first time. She said it is very powerful to hear the cross-cultural experiences of Asian Americans and other immigrant communities wherever they perform.

"For us to empathize with them and to hear their struggles of what it means to be an immigrant has been a beautiful aspect of this story and something that feels very universal," Chang said. "We've had so many

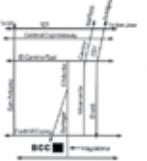
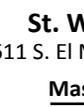
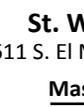
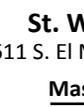
people since the Milwaukee days, which has a large Polish American community, tell us the women reminded them so much of their grandmother or mother where it captured their feelings of isolation and the stories they would talk about."

Nicole Javier, who has played Luna since the play's first incarnation in Milwaukee, said people will learn it is possible to find friends in unlikely places. The women form a close bond despite their differences in personalities and food but learn to appreciate what they can offer to each other. Javier said the play will get heavy at some moments with tears to be expected, but will catch people by surprise with its humor.

"It's the perfect play for the Bay Area and that's one of the reasons why I wanted to do it here," Javier said. "The play is being produced all over the place, but it was important to me to be able to do it here so that most of my family could see it. It's interesting. Growing up in the Bay Area, I never felt othered until I left."

For more information about the play, to view times and to buy tickets (\$34-\$54), visit [theatreworks.org/mainstage/heart-sellers](http://theatreworks.org/mainstage/heart-sellers).

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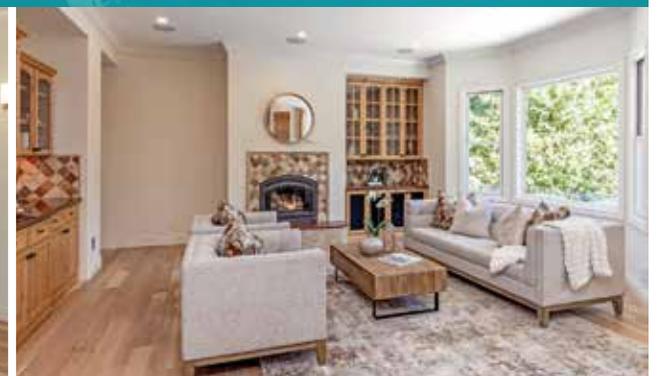
COURTESY OF MICHAEL BROSILOW

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents "The Heart Sellers," the acclaimed new play about two immigrant women finding friendship in the U.S., performing April 2-27 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. Seen here are Nicole Javier (left) and Narea Kang (right) in Milwaukee Repertory Theater's World Premiere production.

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# Schools

## MVLA parents question ethnic studies at recent board meeting

By Brandon Roth

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District parents expressed their dissatisfaction with the ethnic studies class at the March 17 district board meeting. Many parents were concerned about its relevance to their children's education and if it should become an alternative course.

Ethnic studies, a required ninth-grade class at MVLA, was passed as a state-mandated graduation requirement in 2021 and became an official class in the district in June 2023. It wasn't until the 2024-2025 school year it became a graduation requirement in the district. Ethnic studies looks at a non Eurocentric approach to history, providing students with the historical perspectives of African American, Latino, Native American and Asian American and Pacific Islander studies. It

also provides a wider lens of diverse community struggles and contributions.

Esmeralda Ortiz, MVLA board president, said that many parents think they have removed world history from their curriculum but instead, it was moved to the 10th grade. She said she understands parents' concerns are that the class is divisive and blames white students for past transgressions, but she does not see that as the case.

"The course only looks at laws and practices that were put in place to prevent some from succeeding in hopes that they are not repeated," Ortiz said. "No blame is given."

Ortiz said the course was organized by a group of teachers across the state to create the course's framework. According to the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum guiding principle requirements, the class must include accurate information and research, promote civic engagement, encourage cul-



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

Ethnic studies class, a mandatory graduation requirement for MVLA ninth grade students, was put in the hot seat at the March 17 board meeting where parents discussed alternatives for the course and the issues it has for students later on.

tural understanding and critical thinking history lessons. The model curriculum also provides

an overview of its history, citing the student movements of the 1960s to have lessons of systems

of oppressions and community

See ETHNIC, Page 17

## The Junior Olympics celebrate 63 years of fitness, friendship and family bonds

By Brandon Roth

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

The Los Altos School District Junior Olympics is celebrating its 63 years of student-athlete achievement and is welcoming all community members to support the local schools and to cheer students on the sidelines. The event will be on Saturday, April 26 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Mountain View High School and admission is free.

The Junior Olympics is an annual event organized by a parent-run committee that welcomes fourth, fifth and sixth graders to participate in group activities such as the 4 x 100 meter relay, challenges such as basketball free throws and softball throws and other racing events. Each of the seven LASD schools are required to volunteer at one of the events, but Gardner Bullis Elementary School parents make up the committee this year, where they fundraise for the various food carts, security and equipment.

Alison Granbery, the Junior Olympics president and a parent of a Gardner Bullis student said that she is looking forward to

another year of fun and sportsmanship. She said the event has not been held at MVHS since before the pandemic and is excited to be at their new location where they can expand on their events and draw in a larger crowd. She said every aspect of the event is a way for the district community to grow closer together.

"The sportsmanship is wonderful because the kids are cheering for student-athletes from their school as well as other schools," she said. "It will be a great day and everybody's excited, enthusiastic and there's wonderful community bonding."

The event begins with a 1320 run, a quarter-mile track event, that will then lead to the opening event ceremony at the football stadium. She said many of the students are proud at this moment and they express their school spirit through their colors. The event also provides time to announce the event sponsors and provide donations to the district.

"Mountain View High School has been wonderful to work with and our sponsorships include the Kiwanis Club of Mountain View for the second



COURTESY OF FAUSTO IBARRA

The Los Altos School District 63rd Junior Olympics will be taking place at Mountain View High School on April 26 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with each of the seven schools from the district in charge of an event. This year Gardner Bullis Elementary School will be the committee chairs of the event.

year in a row, Alan Wang Realty, Bald Eagle Sports Camp and Los Altos Orthodontics," she said. "From a financial perspective, they have helped us cover our costs."

She said the event continues

with many of the individual events and challenges. Many of the students practice for these challenges in their physical education classes alongside their teachers and peers, but many also push themselves and prac-

tice for a few hours outside the of class.

In the afternoon, there is a pep rally with the schools' mascots but she said this is usually a time

See OLYMPICS, Page 15

# Schools

## ETHNIC

From Page 14

responsiveness included in K-12 schools lessons.

Lev Stesin, a parent of a Mountain View High School student, said that he has hesitations about the ethnic studies class and believes the district assumes the whole community is on the same page with the course. Stesin does not believe it should be eliminated as a course but offered as another option for students who want to explore other topics. Stesin said he does not think the course adds anything to students who want to become productive citizens and only teaches students about the grievances they have against the government.

“What does it add to our kid’s education?” Stesin said. “It’s the question we should ask ourselves. It is a class where they cover the grievances of every group of people in this country against the United States government and each other. Is that a worthy topic of discussion? Maybe, yes or no? As part of our understanding of this country, we should know its shortcom-

ings. There is no perfect place, and the United States is just a country as any other country, maybe a little better than others, but still far from being perfect.”

Guy Resheff, a parent of a Los Altos High School student, said the ethnic studies class sounds positive with the intention of inclusiveness of other cultures, but it is a mask for studying the belief of Critical Race Theory, where he described it as the “idea that splits people into the oppressed and the oppressors.” Resheff said the idea of ethnic studies divides people and categorizes them based on their beliefs, making it seem the same as a vague course that heightens discrimination.

Resheff also believes the course should be taught later in high school, where the students can first develop a historical context of larger issue and then learn about its complex nature.

“I feel like this is doing a huge disservice to our children because they’re young, they don’t know the world yet,” Resheff said. “They need to understand that there’s balance.”



COURTESY OF FAUSTO IBARRA

Many of the events at the Junior Olympics will include 4 x 100 Meter Relay, challenges such as Basketball Free Throws and Softball Throws and other racing events. The events are divided by grade level and gender and many try to compete to break a school record.

## OLYMPICS

From Page 14

where students take a break and meet up with their family and friends for food, photobooth and other activities. The events then conclude with the various race events on the track. She said her favorite event is the re-

lays, where she sees a lot of collaboration take place.

“I personally love the relays,” she said. “It’s just really fun to see all of the kids working together after lots of training. The event is all coached by parent volunteers, so it’s really fun to get the parents involved in the training as well. You also get to

see all the parents and students yelling simultaneously and cheering everybody on.”

Although everyone has a range of abilities, she said the events at their core are designed to get people outside and a make special day for their of school staff, kids and their families making a special day.

## Suffering in Silence? Find Relief. Reclaim Your Comfort: Solutions for Pelvic Floor Issues



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### Pelvic Floor & Back Pain

Pelvic floor dysfunction weakens core stability, causing poor posture and spinal misalignment. This imbalance strains the lower back, leading to chronic pain, stiffness, and discomfort. Weak pelvic muscles also affect hip function, increasing stress on the spine. Strengthening the pelvic floor can help relieve back pain and improve mobility.

### C-Sections and Pelvic Floor Dysfunction Years Later

A C-section can weaken pelvic floor muscles, leading to issues like incontinence, pain, or prolapse years later. Scar tissue and core instability contribute to dysfunction, affecting posture and mobility. Strengthening pelvic muscles helps restore balance, reducing long-term complications and discomfort



Author:

**Kim Gladfelter, MPT, OCS, FAAOMPT**  
Executive Director | Physical Therapist | Pilates Instructor

# Sports

## Los Altos loses series against Los Gatos

By Curtis Driscoll  
Staff Writer/curtisdriscoll@latc.com

An extra innings win Saturday and a quick offense start Tuesday for the Los Gatos baseball team helped ensure a sweep over Los Altos last week.

A Gavin Moore grand slam wasn't enough to complete a comeback in the first game at home against Los Gatos, with the Wildcats scoring nine runs in the first three innings to build an insurmountable lead over the Eagles.

"Some guys didn't have the greatest day, but it wasn't because of a lack of effort or positive attitude; sometimes things don't go the way you want, but I thought the team stayed locked in even when it was 9-0," Los Altos coach Gabe Stewart said Wednesday. "We fought back and gave ourselves a chance to get back in the game."

Defending league champions Los Gatos jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the first after several walks and hit bat-

ters, with another two runs in the second and five in the fifth inning helped by walks.

"We just can't give those free bases, because when they do get a couple of hits, it's a force multiplier," Stewart said.

After Los Altos' Quinn Chiochios drove home a run in the fourth inning with a single, the Eagles loaded the bases in the fifth inning for Moore, who destroyed a fastball over the left-center field fence, the deepest part of the field at about 375 feet.

"I got a fastball, right where I wanted it, middle in, and end of story," Moore said.

Moore, the team's 6-foot-5-inch No. 3 hitter who just returned from an ankle injury, took Los Altos from down 9-1 to 9-5 with a swing of the bat and shifted momentum to the Eagles.

"Gavin took advantage of it, bases were loaded, he got a pitch he could handle, he put it over the fence, he put us back in the game," Stewart



ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Los Altos' Aaron Baum hits a grand slam in the fifth inning during the March 26 game against Los Gatos. Los Altos lost both games against defending SCVAL De Anza Division champions Los Gatos during the series last week to open the league season.

art said. "It's what I try and tell the guys, 'look, you're going to have opportunities, the question is, are you going to take advantage of it.'"

The Eagles then loaded the bases again with two walks

and a single with just one out. However, Los Gatos pitcher Baker Robinson was able to strike out Kyle McKinney and get Jagger Heath to ground out to get out of the inning. The Eagles got another two run-

ners on in the sixth with two outs but could not bring them home. Chiochios, Moore and Enrique Nicolas all finished with two hits.

The Saturday game saw See BASEBALL, Page 17

## Los Altos High coach wins CIF award for leadership

### Town Crier Report

Los Altos High School baseball and girls flag football coach Gabe Stewart has been named a CIF Model Coach Award winner for his leadership and dedication to the school.

Stewart, who also teaches social studies at Los Altos High, has coached baseball at Los Altos for 22 years, 10 with the varsity squad and 12 with the junior varsity, and started coaching the girls flag football team in its inaugural 2024 season. Stewart began coaching while a student teacher at Los Altos High and completing his master's degree thesis, with the Los Altos administration approaching him about being a junior varsity baseball coach early in his career.

"It's a great honor. I didn't know I was nominated, so up until last week, I didn't know there was such an award," Stewart said. "I'm just really appreciative of all the people who nominated (me) and the people who supported me getting the award. It's very nice."

The California Interscholastic Fed-

eration awards coaches who are positive role models in their schools and communities around trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. Nineteen coaches from all the different sports sections of California were picked as the 2024-2025 winners.

Stewart coached the 2018 Los Altos baseball team that won the Central Coast Section Division I title and the 2017 and 2021 teams that reached CCS finals. Los Altos High Athletic Director Michelle Noeth praised Stewart for being a good communicator with the players, parents and the school administration and keeping on top of logistical sports issues to help the school and administration. Stewart is also involved in more than just coaching baseball and flag football, helping out as an announcer at basketball games, being a representative at league meetings and previously helping the junior varsity football program.

"He goes above and beyond to try and help others and other programs be successful," Noeth said.



COURTESY OF MICHELLE NOETH

Los Altos coach Gabe Stewart, center, receives the CIF Model Coach Award.

# Sports

## BASEBALL

From Page 16

Los Gatos' Beau Musser drive home the game-winning run in the ninth inning by getting a hit past second baseman Jonah Altschuler. Los Altos pitcher Aaron Baum went five innings and gave up only one run on five hits with seven strikeouts. The game was 1-0 until the top of the seventh inning when Los Altos hitter Kai MacQuiddy singled home Baum at third base to tie the game. Los Altos had two runners on base with just one out in the eighth inning, but Los Gatos got the two outs needed to end the threat. Darrion Wesley and Enrique Nicolas each had two hits for the Eagles in the game. MacQuiddy pitched three innings and gave up one run and no hits.

Los Altos (6-3) travels to play Westmont Monday (after the Town Crier print deadline) in non-league play. Los Altos will then play Palo Alto in a league game today at 4 p.m. in the first game of a two-game series, with the second game Friday at home. Los Gatos (9-3) hosts Mountain View today at 4 p.m. and then travels to Mountain View Friday for a 4 p.m. game.



ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Los Altos pitcher Sly Cash pitching for the Eagles in the March 26 game against Los Gatos.

## St. Francis announces new athletics director

### Town Crier Report

Saint Francis High School has named Matt Maguire, class of 1998, its new director of athletics, the school announced Thursday.

Maguire will be responsible for leading the school's renowned athletic program and has previously served as interim athletic director, associate athletic director, head coach of the baseball team and science teacher.

"I am honored and humbled to continue serving Saint Francis in this new role," Maguire said in a press release. "The values I learned through Saint Francis athletics have shaped my life from the moment I first stepped foot on campus as a student to now as an educator. I look forward to working with our exceptional coaches to empower student-athletes as leaders and strengthen community



COURTESY OF ST. FRANCIS

New St. Francis director of athletics Matt Maguire.

engagement with athletics for the next generation of Lancer athletes."

Michael Pilawski, vice principal for campus life at St. Francis, said in a statement, "As a former Lancer student-athlete, coach and parent, Matt has a deep understanding of our school," Pilawski said. "He knows where we are headed and has a clear vision for our athletic program – one that is committed to pushing us forward and building on our standards of excellence."

To pitch an idea for the Sports section or to comment on its content, email section editor Curtis Driscoll at [curtisd@latc.com](mailto:curtisd@latc.com).

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# On The Road

On the Road is published the first week of every month. For advertising information, email [sales@latc.com](mailto:sales@latc.com).

## 2025 Lucid Air Pure sets the EV bar

By Mike Hagerty

Here, on the pages of the Los Altos Town Crier and the pixels of [losaltosonline.com](http://losaltosonline.com), I review new cars, trucks and SUVs sold in America but built all over the world.

This time, though, we will talk about an almost hometown car. An electric car. From a car company with its headquarters just across the bay.

Except it's probably not what you're thinking. It's Newark, not Fremont, and Lucid, not Tesla.

Lucid Air is clearly meant to be a direct competitor to the Tesla Model S, which is built with a relentless focus on quality. Their current advertising slogan is "Why build the best EV when you can build the

best damn car?"

Coincidentally, 16 other Northern California automotive journalists and I awarded the Lucid Air both "Best EV" and "Best Overall" at Western Automotive Journalists' annual "Best of the Bay" competition in Santa Cruz last October.

### Auto Review

Lucid's strategy is to offer the same car but with four different levels of power and some differences in standard equipment in a wide range of pricing. As Carroll Shelby used to say, "Speed costs money. How fast do you wanna go?"

Over the last three years, Lucid has introduced five different versions of the Air. The



MIKE HAGERTY/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

The Lucid Air Pure has a base price of \$69,000.

first model was the Dream Edition, priced at \$169,000, with 1,111 horsepower and 451 miles of range per charge. It was a limited launch edition and is now out of production.

For 2025, there are four

different Lucid Air models: The ultra-powerful Lucid Air Sapphire (fully equipped at \$249,000, 1,234 horsepower, 0-60 in 1.89 seconds and 427 miles of range), the Grand Touring (starting at \$110,900,

819 horsepower, 0-60 in three seconds and 512 miles of range), the Lucid Air Touring (starting at \$78,900, 620 horsepower, 0-60 in 3.4 seconds and 406 miles of range, and the

See LUCID, Page 20

## 2005 Toyota Highlander causes battery of issues

By Matt Pataky

We had a customer call in and tell us that his 2005 Toyota Highlander battery would go dead if he let it sit for two weeks. He also stated that the car would not start after being driven to a destination, but that there were no other problems. He told me it was his wife's car. After talking with his wife, it was still unclear how the vehicle was not starting. We then told them to bring it in so we could start testing the electrical system.

We started doing the basic electrical checks once the car was in the shop. But before we get too far along, I want to talk a little about batteries. I have written several articles on the electrical chemical reaction inside of a battery, but this time, I want us to think of a battery as a vessel. Electricity or current flows through wires like water flows through pipes. If we have a fully charged battery in good condition, it would be like a full-gallon milk jug. If the battery is depleted, it would be like a gallon milk jug with just a cup of milk at the bottom. If we are testing a full battery or a really low battery with a voltmeter, both will likely test the same (approximately 12 volts).

Suppose we have a 600-cold cranking amp (600 CCA) battery. The battery is in good condition and fully charged. The correct way to load test the battery is to apply half the cold cranking amperage (300 amps) with

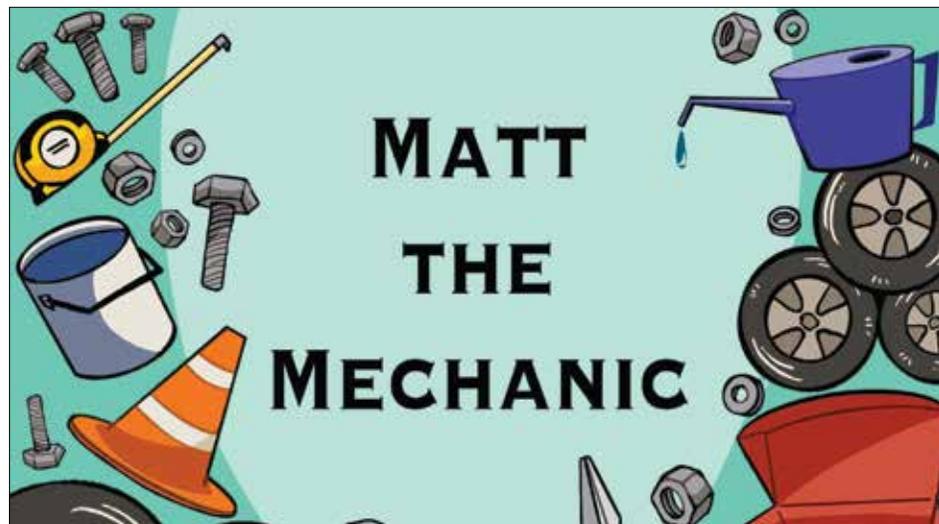
a carbon pile. This test should be performed for approximately 15 seconds. If the battery is in good condition, the results should be somewhere at or above 10.1 volts at 300 amps for 15 seconds. If the battery is in poor condition, it will test below 9.4 volts. If the battery is in really bad shape, it might not even exceed 5 volts.

### Matt the Mechanic

The reasoning behind a carbon pile load test is that when a car has a good battery and the charging system is working properly, the vehicle may only use about 20 amps even with all the consumers on (radio, auxiliary plug, lights, AC, blower, wiper blades, etc.). Yet, when you start the car, it can use anywhere from 100 to 300 amps. If the battery is low and only has 50-100 amps, it will likely not start.

We started with the battery. We checked to see if the battery terminals were tight and performed a carbon pile test. The battery tested at 10.1 volts at 300 amps. At that point, we knew the battery was strong. We then tested the alternator and saw it was delivering 120 amps at 2000 rpm with a 60 amp load. So we knew the battery and the alternator were good.

Since the car only had this problem after sitting for weeks, we thought a parasitic draw might have caused the



RACHEL ARONSON/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Columnist Matt Pataky explains his process for fixing cars with various issues.

issue. We connected the power probe draw monitor and checked the car for three days. The highest draw the monitor read was 0.054 mil amps. The average sitting amperage was 0.032 mil amps. The acceptable draw for a car is 0.055 mil amps.

We were testing a good battery and a good alternator, and there was no discernible draw that would deplete the battery. We tested the car for a few more days but couldn't find a problem. The car also started every time for us, and we could not see any abnormal conditions from the starter.

In every article I write, there is always this moment when we figure out a complex problem, yet not this time. With that being said, there still could

be something causing an intermittent draw on this car, yet we couldn't find it. I wrote the article to remind people not to leave their cars unattended for more than two weeks at a time. If you need to leave your car for extended periods, you should connect a battery tender. The battery tenders will simulate the car running normally and keep your battery healthy.

**Matt Pataky owns Sunnyvale Foreign Car Service, 15 Pioneer Way, Mountain View. For more information, call (650) 960-6988, email [sfcsmv@gmail.com](mailto:sfcsmv@gmail.com) or visit [sunnyvaleforeign-car.com](http://sunnyvaleforeign-car.com).**



# On the Road



MIKE HAGERTY/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

The interior of the Lucid Air Pure.

## LUCID

From Page 19

newest addition, debuting last year – the Lucid Air Pure (430 horsepower and 420 miles of range per charge).

If 0-60 in 4.5 seconds is fast enough for you (a reminder that those are 1960s peak muscle car numbers), then the Lucid Air Pure is a steal, with a base price of \$69,900. That's \$99,100 less than the only Lucid Air you could buy three years ago (the Dream Edition), with very nearly as much range per charge. Recharging? Lucid says 200 miles of range can be regained via DC fast charging in just 17 minutes.

The Air is a gorgeous automobile, sleek and futuristic without being gimmicky. It has an enormous trunk in the rear and a usable front trunk ("frunk").

The cabin is contemporary and tech-focused, but it dispenses with the one huge screen in the middle approach Tesla takes in favor of two distinct displays – a 34-inch screen with instrumentation in front of the driver and infotainment in the center and then, below that, a tablet-style screen for climate control and various functions and settings. In a clever touch, it retracts to reveal a generous-sized cubby for miscellaneous items. Even if you're not using that storage space, some drivers appreciate the ability to simply make a screen disappear when it's not in active use.

Materials, fit and finish are excellent both outside and in. The Air is one of the highest-quality vehicles on the market.

And the driving experience is just brilliant. It's quick, quiet, rides smoothly, has adaptable driving modes if you want more off-the-line oomph and its handling shows through with every turn in the road.

As mentioned before, the base price of the 2025 Lucid Air Pure is \$69,900 (\$71,400 with destination charges), and that includes 19-inch Aero Range wheels, a power trunk lid, auto-dimming, power folding, heated exterior mir-

rors, intelligent microlens array LED headlights with adaptive front lighting, with auto off/on and a daytime LED signature, LED taillights, a rear fog lamp, powered illuminated door handles, PurLuxe leather alternative upholstery, 12-way power front heated seats, navigation, an audio system with HD radio, SiriusXM satellite radio, wireless Apple CarPlay, wireless device charging, three-zone climate control, 60/40 folding rear seatback with a pass-through and a comprehensive suite of active safety features.

Our test vehicle also had some extra cost options: The Fathom Blue metallic paint was \$800. DreamDrivePro, a semi-autonomous driving system and the first automotive application of lidar in North America was \$2,500. An excellent 21-speaker surround audio system added \$2,900.

A comfort and convenience package with soft-close doors, power rear and rear side window sunshades, four-zone climate control, a heated steering wheel and heated rear seats is \$2,500, plus our car had the Stealth Appearance package for \$1,750 and an upgrade to 20-inch Aero Lite Stealth wheels for \$1,200.

The total as-tested price of the 2025 Lucid Air Pure was \$83,050.

Lucid will debut the Lucid Gravity SUV later this year, and they have teased a mid-size SUV aimed directly at the Tesla Model Y that could be priced near \$50,000.

I've seen the Gravity, and it's stunning, just like the Air. In an era where choices in the EV market are multiplying, Lucid is the company setting the bar for quality and style.

*Mike Hagerty, past vice president of membership for Western Automotive Journalists (waj.org), has been writing about cars since 1997. Read more of his reviews at Mike-HagertyCars.com.*





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If you have an idea for On the Road or want to comment on its content, email section editor Curtis Driscoll at [curtisd@latc.com](mailto:curtisd@latc.com).



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## 2025 Volkswagen Taos competitive in SUV class

By Mike Hagerty

We live in a hyper-competitive world where car companies spend a lot of money on consumer research to identify weak spots in their vehicles and fix them in the next update.

Case in point: the Volkswagen Taos. VW was late to the subcompact SUV party four years ago with the Taos, which competes with vehicles like the Kia Niro (“On The Road,” February 2023), Subaru Crosstrek (“On The Road,” January 2018) and Honda HR-V (“On The Road,” September 2022).

Actually, let’s take a step back. The first Taos was supposed to compete with those vehicles. But it was an also-ran at best, hampered by what seemed like a giant Novocain injection. I don’t have a better way to describe it. The Taos just felt numb. You knew you were driving because you were holding a steering wheel, and stuff was going by out the windows, but that was the level of engagement.

There’s a type of isolation you can find in older luxury cars. This wasn’t that – it was more of a disconnect.

2025 brings what’s known as a mid-cycle refresh to the Taos. For most vehicles, that means the vehicle stays largely the

same but gets some styling and interior tweaks. Fortunately, Volkswagen took a much more aggressive approach to freshening the Taos.

### Auto Review

The engine remains a 1.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder, but a lot of work’s been done on it – revised piston rings and fuel injectors, a modified turbo housing, a larger intercooler and a new gasoline particulate filter combine to provide a 16-horsepower boost to 174. A new eight-speed automatic replaces the previous seven-speed dual-clutch unit. Fuel economy remains a strong point at 31 mpg combined city/highway for front-wheel drive models (FWD) and 28 mpg combined for all-wheel-drive models (AWD).

Even in “Normal” driving mode, the Taos is more engaging and satisfying – “Sport” mode dials up some additional steering feedback, improves throttle response and provides more aggressive shifting. I’d be inclined to make “Sport” my default.

Beyond that, this is a typical refresh – exterior styling has been refined, with squared-off wheel arches and a character



MIKE HAGERTY/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

The Volkswagen Taos base S model price starts at \$24,995.

line that gives the Taos some perceived ruggedness. And the interior gets a redesigned instrument panel.

Taos’ pricing is attractive – with the base S model starting at \$24,995 (without destination charges). From there, the ladder goes to SE, SE Black and SEL.

I drove the SE Black FWD, which is the same as the SE but with a black roof, exterior accents and wheels. The base price is \$30,145 (\$31,570 with destination charges). Standard at that price are 18-inch wheels, automatic LED headlights, daytime running lights and taillights, adaptive front lighting with dynamic cornering lights, a front grille with integrated

light bar, heated, foldable, power-adjustable side mirrors, rain-sensing wipers with heated washer nozzles, a rear window washer and wiper, a power tilting and sliding panoramic sunroof, dual-zone climate control with second-row vents, a heated, leatherette-wrapped steering wheel, a tilting and telescoping steering column, heated front seats, a power driver’s seat, a 60/40 split-folding rear seat, illuminated vanity mirrors and reading lights, an illuminated, carpeted cargo area, keyless access, pushbutton start, remote start, a six-speaker sound system, wireless charging and a comprehensive suite of active safety features.

The car was so well-equipped the only extra-cost option was the Bright Moss Green paint at \$455, bringing the total as-tested price to \$32,025.

Bravo to VW for recognizing room for improvement in the Taos. It’s now a solid contender among subcompact SUVs.

*Mike Hagerty, past vice president of membership for Western Automotive Journalists (waj.org), has been writing about cars since 1997. Read more of his reviews at MikeHagertyCars.com.*



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# Business & Real Estate

## Theater aims to open in Mtn. View before blockbuster season

By Michael Shtrom  
Town Crier Editorial Intern

A Mountain View theater that closed abruptly last summer will soon reopen under new ownership and a new name.

Alamo Draffhouse Cinema is slated to open later this spring at The Village at San Antonio Center, replacing Show-Place ICON Theater, which shuttered in July.

According to Mountain View Chamber of Commerce president Peter Katz, the theater will be a welcome addition to the center and to the community as a whole.

“It’s a real vibrant spot,” Katz said. “We’ve got great restaurants, gorgeous hotels, shopping and living spaces, so having a movie theater there is just a natural and welcome addition. It just fits in so well with the whole vibe of The Village at San Antonio.”

Those at Alamo Draffhouse



Alamo Draffhouse is set to take over the Mountain View theater space once occupied by ICON Theater.

MCKAYLA KAO/TOWN CRIER INTERN

share Katz’s excitement about the opening of the Mountain View location and the chain’s other new theater at Westfield Valley Fair in San Jose.

“We’ve always been interested in finding opportunities to grow in California and specifically in Northern California,” said John Smith, director

of West Coast marketing for Texas-based Alamo. “I think, when these opportunities present themselves, it seems like a no-brainer.”

Smith added that Alamo Draffhouse hopes to open in Mountain View in time for the start of the summer blockbuster season. Like ICON before it, Alamo sells food and drink that can be served to your seat. This includes full meals and beer.

Smith is confident local audiences will enjoy the entire Draffhouse experience.

“I think they’re going to see that this is a theater by film lovers, for film lovers,” he said. “It’s going to look a lot different in a lot of fun ways you will see in a few months, ... it’s going to be really, really cool, and it always is anytime we enter a new city or a new market.”

Katz considers Alamo Draffhouse’s arrival in Mountain View as a win-win for the theater chain and for the shopping center.

“From an economic standpoint, any time you have an anchor tenant that has enough

See THEATER, Page 23

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## Real estate agents vs. car salespeople

### A world of difference

By Alex Wang

“What’s the difference between selling cars and selling real estate?”

It’s a question that reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of what real estate agents actually do. While both professions involve facilitating a purchase transaction, the similarities end there. After recently experiencing car buying with a friend firsthand, I gained a deeper appreciation for the unique value real estate agents have during the home-search and buying processes.

### Unique properties vs. interchangeable products

Cars are interchangeable products. If a dealership doesn’t have the exact model you want, they’ll direct you to something similar or more expensive. Their inventory is fluid, and salespeople are trained to move you toward vehicles that maximize profits.

Real estate, however, deals in unique assets. Each property has a unique location, design, history and potential characteristics. Even identical floor plans differ in countless ways that affect value and livability. When a buyer falls in love with a specific home, there simply isn’t a substitute.

### Realtor Field Notes

#### Fiduciary responsibility vs. profit maximization

Real estate agents are fiduciaries – professionals legally bound to put their client’s interests first. Whether representing buyers or sellers, our duty is to secure the best possible outcome for our clients, not ourselves.

Car salespeople operate under no such legal obligation. Their primary goal is maximizing dealership profits through upselling features or steering customers toward higher-margin inventory. They’re incentivized to prioritize the dealership’s interests over yours.

This difference transforms the entire relationship. Working with a real estate agent means partnering with an advocate dedicated to protecting your interests throughout a complex, high-stakes transaction.

#### Complex coordination vs. simple transaction

Real estate transactions involve orchestrating multiple stakeholders – lenders, inspectors, appraisers, title companies and contractors – over

See SALES, Page 24

# Business & Real Estate

## Transactions

### Los Altos

104 Lyell Street, L. Lee to G. & V. Housen for \$965,000

430 Lassen Street #5, Ward Living Trust to S. Wagner for \$1,665,000

425 1st Street #32, 425 First Los Altos LLC to K. & T. Detter for \$2,675,000

553 San Luis Avenue, Jaquette-Stuart Family Trust to Rajaram & Radhama Family Trust for \$4,150,000

26645 Altamont Road, Najafi-Valian Living Trust to O. Friedrichs for \$5,800,000

### Los Altos Hills

26687 Altamont Road, Richert Trust to X. & H. Zhang for \$5,380,000

14345 Saddle Mountain Drive, Blue Lake Ents LLC to I. & L. Leshem for \$5,555,000

13620 Roble Alto Court, Boyden Family Trust to C. & E. Reinertsen for \$7,850,000

25538 Adobe Lane, Eschenbach Family Trust to Big Sky 2024 Trust for \$11,000,000

### Mountain View

321 Easy Street #8, M. Singhal to

M. Jong for \$910,000

1910 Aberdeen Lane, D. Jacobs to P. & A. Parekh for \$1,425,000

2206 Leland Avenue, L. Yang to M. Keller for \$2,000,000

3318 Pyramid Way, K. Tam to M. & K. Tanita for \$2,130,000

125 Azalea Drive, Rosen-Quach Living Trust to S. & P. Green for \$2,212,500

1757 Crane Avenue, Z. Wang to S. & S. Dinh for \$2,759,000

1691 South Springer Road, Herbert Family Trust to As Homes LLC for \$2,800,000

### Cupertino

10154 Amelia Court, F. Ng to Wong Trust for \$597,000

20488 Stevens Creek Boulevard #1611, Chen Trust to R. & J. Khosla for \$1,220,000

22649 Weeping Oak Court, K. Hsieh to F. & S. Khorram for \$1,925,000

18631 Medicus Court, Hisatomi Trust to D. & X. Han for \$2,392,000

10334 El Prado Way #A, H. Adelman to Gennext Properties LLC for \$2,465,000

8131 Presidio Drive, Smith Living

See TRANSACTIONS, Page 24

## THEATER

From Page 22

of a reputation or size or attractiveness that it brings people together and brings people to that spot, that's a positive for everyone," Katz said.

Alamo Drafthouse shared late last year that it was expanding to Mountain View and San Jose; the theater chain already had a location in San Francisco.

Remodel work at the Mountain View location began approximately six months ago, Smith said.

"Some of it is operationally focused to make it so that the way we operate works or overhauling the look and feel

of things," he said. "That's kind of the phase we're starting to head into now, and we're getting close."

When Alamo does open its 10-screen Mountain View location, Smith said theatergoers can expect to choose from not only blockbuster movies but also a wide range of films.

"We're going to be able to focus on some of those big-screen entertainment opportunities while making sure we've got the room to bring in smaller, more complicated films," he said. "We try to make sure as many audiences as possible are covered in our programming, and it's seemed to work for the past 25 years."

*For more information on Alamo Drafthouse, visit [drafthouse.com](http://drafthouse.com).*

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# Business & Real Estate

## SALES

From Page 22

weeks or months. Agents are quarterbacks, coordinating these elements while navigating nuanced negotiations and financial complexities.

As agents, we arrange inspections, oversee repairs, negotiate terms and guide clients through numerous hurdles. This requires specialized expertise and problem-solving abilities under pressure.

Car buying, while sometimes frustrating, takes place in a single location over hours, not months. There's no escrow period, fewer third-party professionals and significantly less complexity.

### Transparent closing vs. last-minute surprises

In real estate, the closing process emphasizes transparency. Buyers receive detailed settlement statements well before closing, outlining every financial detail. Escrow doesn't close until both parties' instructions align perfectly, ensuring all terms are met and eliminating last-minute surprises.

Car purchases often culminate in a high-pressure finance office where managers push warranties, service plans, and add-ons that inflate the

final price. Many buyers leave feeling manipulated or confused about what just happened.

Our goal is to make closing a celebration for both buyers and sellers. By signing day, all issues have hopefully been resolved, giving sellers peace of mind about their property transfer and allowing buyers to confidently take possession, knowing exactly what they're getting.

### Ongoing relationships vs. one-time transactions

Perhaps most importantly, real estate agents build lasting relationships with clients. From initial consultations in your living room to sharing financial details to securing life-changing investments, we're deeply involved in consequential personal journeys.

For many agents, our role extends far beyond the sale. We provide guidance on renovations, refinancing and future moves for years afterward. We become trusted advisors in our clients' ongoing homeownership experience.

Car salespeople rarely maintain relationships after purchase. Once the paperwork is signed, they move to the next prospect. Real estate isn't just about transactions – it's about earning trust, building connections and supporting clients' evolving needs.

## The true value of real estate agents

Home buying isn't just another purchase – it's a life-changing decision with substantial financial and emotional implications. It demands expertise, trust and careful guidance through complex negotiations, legal requirements and financial considerations.

This is where real estate agents prove their worth. Unlike car salespeople focused on immediate sale and commission, we guide clients through entire journeys, from finding the right property to closing with transparency to providing ongoing support.

Our work as advisors, problem-solvers and advocates helps clients navigate one of life's most significant investments with confidence. That's what makes our profession uniquely valuable – and distinctly different from the transactional world of car sales.

*Alex Wang is a Los Altos resident, realtor and founder of Rainmaker Real Estate. For more information, text or call (650) 800-8840 or visit AlexWang.com.*



## TRANSACTIONS

From Page 23

Trust to X. & Z. Hu for \$3,635,000  
 7617 Kirwin Lane, C. Zhou to B. Ischo for \$3,900,000  
 1060 West Hill Court, H. Liaw to P. & S. Geethakumar for \$5,000,000

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### Los Altos Hills

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 Lowest sale: \$5,380,000  
 Highest sale: \$11,000,000  
 Average sale: \$7,446,300

### Mountain View

Total sales: 7  
 Lowest sale: \$910,000  
 Highest sale: \$2,800,000  
 Average sale: \$2,033,800

### Cupertino

Total sales: 8  
 Lowest sale: \$597,000  
 Highest sale: \$5,000,000  
 Average sale: \$2,641,800

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Sanctuary awaits on over an acre of land amidst the pastoral beauty of the hills of Los Altos. Beyond an extended driveway lies a spectacular estate that has been meticulously upgraded to perfection. With a flawless blend of opulence and warmth, the nearly 7,200 square feet of space invites grand-scale entertaining while providing all the comforts of daily living. Virtually every lifestyle need has been considered, from generous gathering areas and a gourmet kitchen to an executive office, a sprawling game room, a cinema-quality theater, and lavish bedrooms highlighted by a retreat-inspired primary suite. All-encompassing grounds reflect the lush surroundings, offering a five-star resort experience complete with an indoor/outdoor pool and a lighted regulation tennis court. And though you will feel tremendous privacy inside of its gates, this estate is conveniently located mere minutes from downtown Los Altos and an esteemed country club, with access to sought-after public and private schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

**OPEN HOUSE**

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

[23171MoraGlen.com](http://23171MoraGlen.com)

Offered at \$7,888,000

**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.

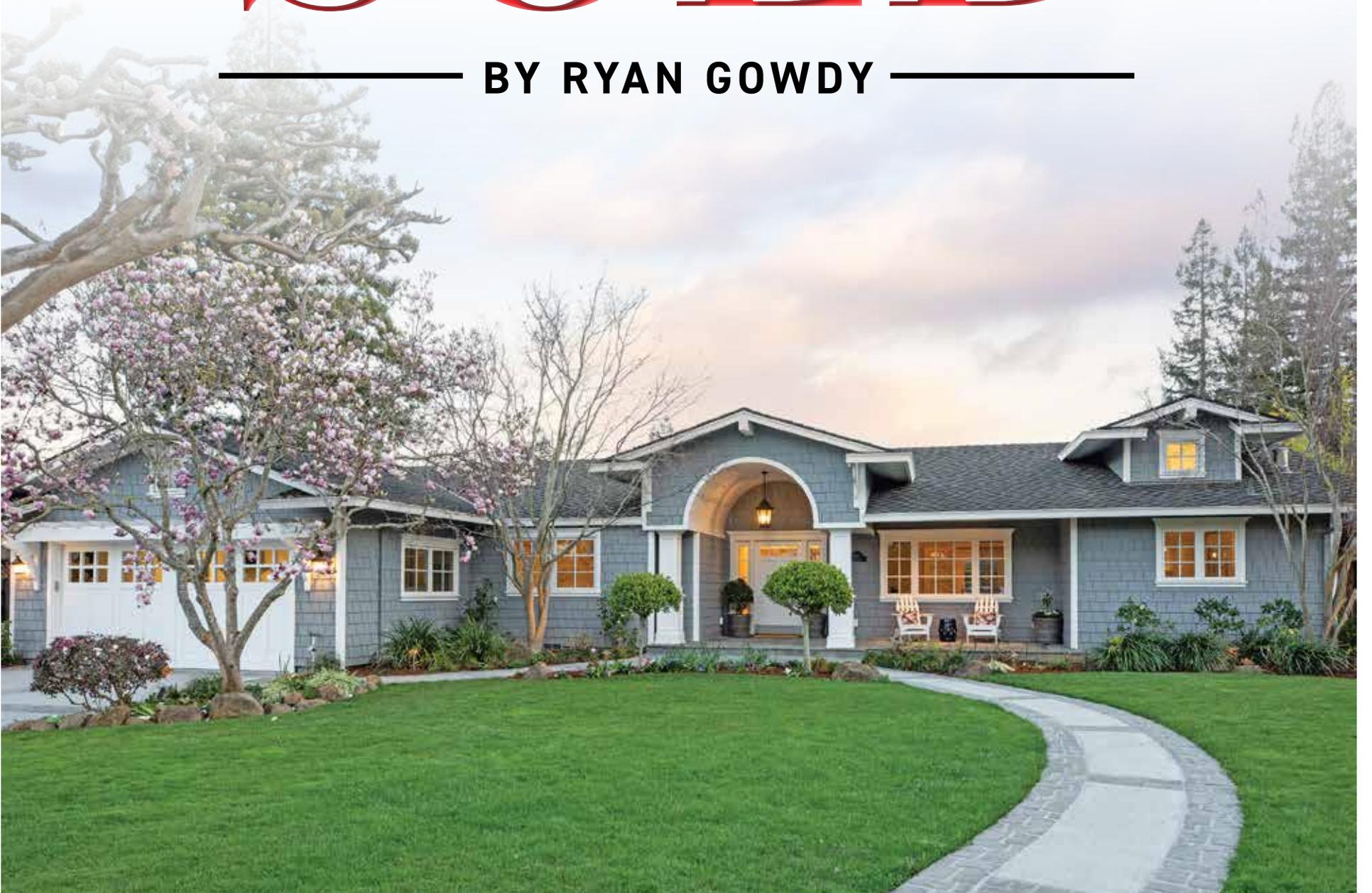
Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com | Equal Housing Opportunity  
中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

**ANOTHER HOME**

**SOLD**

**BY RYAN GOWDY**



**500 PINE LANE, LOS ALTOS**

Designer Luxury with a Resort-Style Backyard

**SOLD FOR \$6,100,000  
\$900,000+ OVER ASKING**



**RYAN GOWDY**

408.309.8660  
ryan.gowdy@theagencyre.com  
License# 01322889

**LOS ALTOS NATIVE & Consistently  
Ranked Among Top Local Agents!**

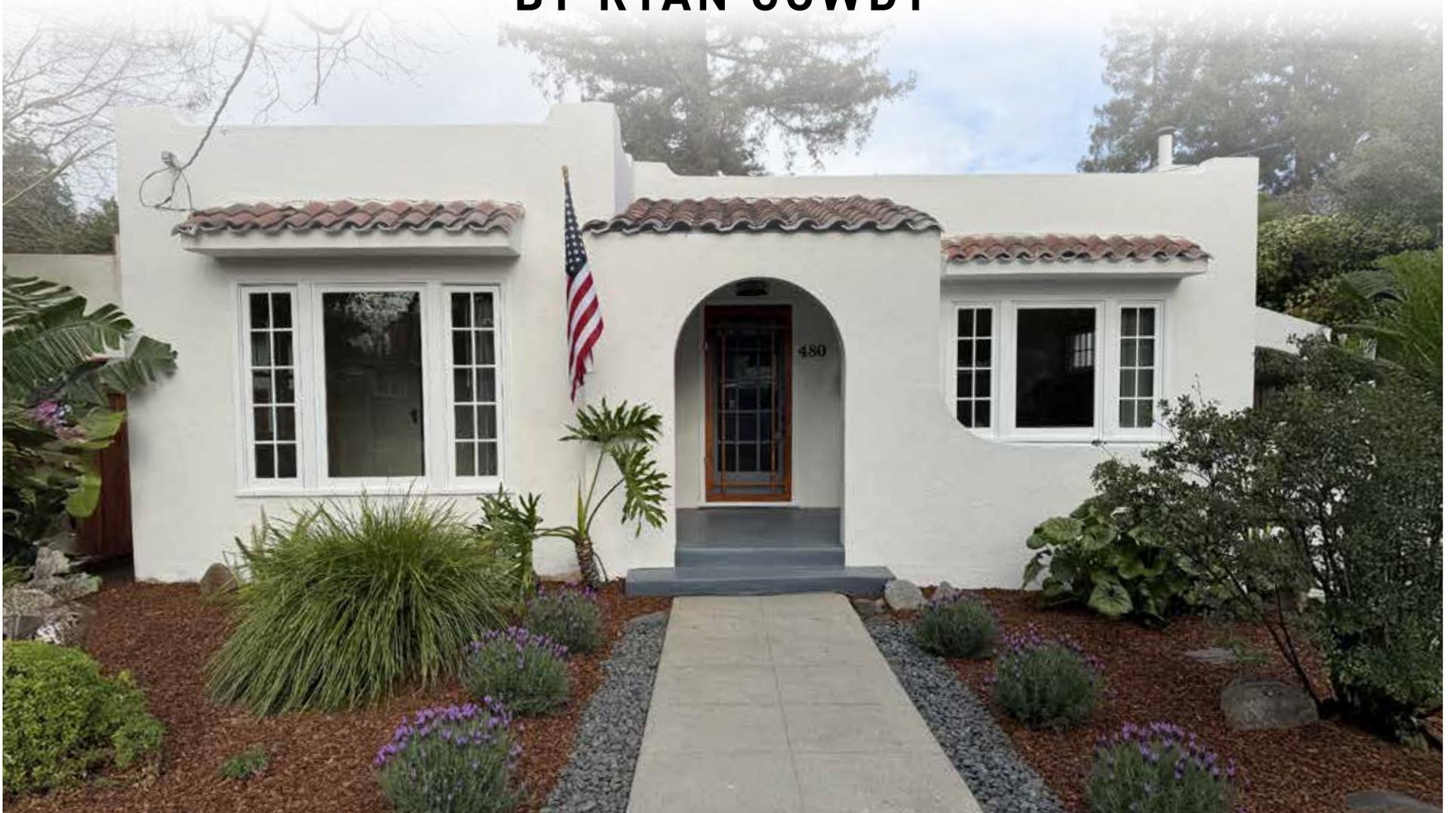


All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

**ANOTHER HOME**

# LISTED

**BY RYAN GOWDY**



**480 PALO ALTO AVE., MOUNTAIN VIEW**

**OFFERED AT \$1,849,000**

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

- 1920's charm just a few blocks to Downtown Mountain View
- 2 bed 1 bath 1,248 square feet
- 2 car garage with large storage room
- 5,000 square foot lot

**RG**  
RYAN GOWDY



**RYAN GOWDY**  
408.309.8660  
ryan.gowdy@theagencyre.com  
License# 01322889

**LOS ALTOS NATIVE & Consistently  
Ranked Among Top Local Agents!**



**OPEN SAT & SUN April 5 & 6, 2:00 – 4:00pm**



# Kathy Bridgman's

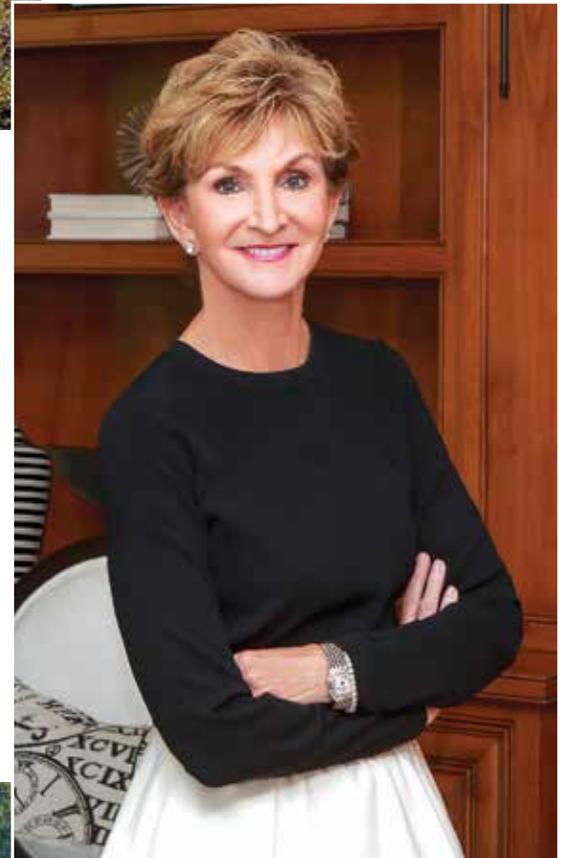
## FEATURE LISTINGS OF THE WEEK

### Updated Poolside Living in a Prime Location

#### 1040 Russell Avenue, Los Altos

- 3 bedrooms, 2 baths on one convenient level
- Approximately 2,056 square feet of living space (not verified by Compass)
- Freshly painted inside and out, refinished hardwood floors in every room, new lighting, and refreshed landscaping, including new front lawn
- Spacious living room with fireplace sleekly outlined in new natural stone slab
- Eat-in kitchen with granite counters and all stainless steel appliances
- Formal dining area and family room combination with fireplace just off the kitchen
- Primary bedroom suite plus two adjacent bedrooms served by a hallway bath
- Private rear yard with sparkling, gas-heated pool, expansive covered and open patio space, lawn, and prolific orange tree
- Separate laundry room and attached 2-car garage
- Approximately 10,286 square-foot lot (not verified by Compass)
- Great location just one-half mile to Rancho Shopping Center
- Excellent Los Altos schools

**Price upon request**  
**1040Russell.com**



## KATHY BRIDGMAN

BROKER ASSOCIATE®

### Resort-Style Living on a Private Knoll with Bay View Potential

#### 23641 Camino Hermoso Drive, Los Altos Hills

- Beautifully appointed country estate with complete privacy at the top of a knoll
- Approximately 1.52 acres with potential for San Francisco Bay views
- Two levels with 5 bedrooms and 3.5 baths
- Approximately 4,044 square feet of living space (not verified by Compass)
- Hardwood floors throughout most rooms
- Open and spacious living room with fireplace plus formal dining room
- Sleek modern kitchen/casual dining/family room combination with fireplace
- Separate family room with fireplace just off the kitchen
- Privately located primary suite with newly remodeled bath and couture closet
- Separate wing with three bedrooms and bath
- Lower-level flexible-use bedroom suite or poolside recreation room
- Vast grounds with pool, spa, fire pit terrace, barbecue kitchen, wraparound front deck, and play area with tree fort
- Excellent location minutes to trailheads, Highway 280, and Rancho Shopping Center
- Top-rated Los Altos schools (buyer to confirm)

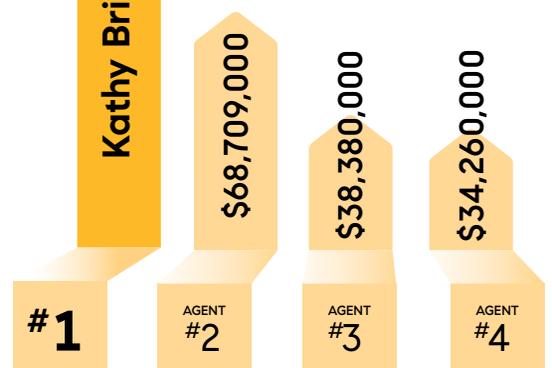
**Price upon request**  
**23641CaminoHermoso.com**

**Kathy Bridgman: \$189,415,000**

**#1 Individual Agent**  
**Los Altos &**  
**Los Altos Hills, 2024**

**The Results Are In . . .**  
Kathy remains the leader in LA/LAH sales by an individual agent.

**Work with the best in 2025!**



Per MLS reported sales volume for LA/LAH. 2024

**650.868.7677**  
**License #01189798**

**kathy@kathybridgman.com**  
**kathybridgman.com**

**COMPASS**

# Public Notices

## NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: VICTOR V. PLATONOFF CASE NO. 25PR199443

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of VICTOR V. PLATONOFF. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ANGELIQUE ELMENGARD in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ANGELIQUE ELMENGARD be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act . (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 05/05/25 at 9:01AM in Dept. 2 located at 191 NORTH FIRST ST., SAN JOSE, CA 95113 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner Diana Dean Gendotti, Esq. 95 Main Street, Suite 7 Los Altos, CA 94022 (650) 947-0307 (04-02,09,16-25)

083-T

## TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

### SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 10 (ZONING AND SITE DEVELOPMENT) OF THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS' MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADOPT REGULATIONS RELATING TO EMPLOYEE HOUSING, FARMWORKER HOUSING, RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES, SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY (SRO), SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING AS PERMITTED LAND USES IN THE RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURAL (R-A) ZONING DISTRICT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROGRAMS E-4, 5, 8 AND 9 OF THE LOS ALTOS HILLS 2023-2031 HOUSING ELEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN The Town of Los Altos Hills' City Council introduced on February 20, 2025, and adopted on March 20, 2025, an Ordinance to amend Title 10 of the Town of Los Altos Hills' Municipal Code to adopt regulations relating to Employee Housing, Farmworker Housing, Residential Care Facilities, Single Room Occupancy (SRO), Supportive Housing, and Transitional Housing as permitted land uses in the R-A Zoning District in accordance with Programs E-4, 5, 8 and 9 of the Los Altos Hills 2023-2031 Housing Element. Specifically, the adopted Ordinance includes new definitions for the foregoing types of housing uses and adds or revises all of those uses with the exception of SROs to be primary permitted uses in the R-A Zoning District to be permitted by right and/or as primary uses as required by state law. The Ordinance would add SROs as a permitted accessory use on properties designated Institutional and/or Public under the Land Use Diagram in the R-A Zoning District and include baseline objective development/design standards to facilitate their development. All amendments under the Ordinance are introduced in accordance with Programs E-4, 5, 8, and 9 of the Housing Element to continue facilitating these uses and to comply with applicable state law.

Adoption of the Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed Ordinance would have a significant effect on the environment since they do not create any land uses, approve any development projects, issue any entitlements, or make any physical changes to the environment.

This Ordinance Summary was prepared pursuant to Government Code Section 36933. The full text of the ordinance is available from the Town's City Clerk's Office at 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA, or on the Town's website at [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov).

## CITY CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

I, ARIKA MILLER, City Clerk of the Town of Los Altos Hills, CERTIFY that this Ordinance was adopted on the 20th day of March, 2025. Fourteen (14) days thereafter (1) the Summary of this Ordinance, was published in the "Los Altos Town Crier," a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the Town, and (2) a certified copy of this Ordinance, with the names

of those City Council members voting for or against this Ordinance, or otherwise voting, was posted in my office, all in accordance with Government Code Section 36933.

/s/ Arika Birdsong-Miller, City Clerk

## CERTIFICATION AND POSTING AFTER ADOPTION

This Ordinance was adopted on the 20th day of March, 2025, and a certified copy of the full text, together with the names of the City Council members voting for and against the Ordinance, or otherwise voting, is posted in the Office of the City Clerk.

The vote was recorded as follows:

FOR: Tankha, Bhateja, Mok, Swan, and Tyson

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

/s/ Arika Birdsong-Miller, City Clerk

DATE: March 26, 2025 (04-02-25)

081-T

### MAGIC CLAW WORLD FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN714746

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: MAGIC CLAW WORLD, 447 Great Mall Dr, Milpitas, CA, 95035, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): HUMAN CLAW MACHINE. INC, 528 N Moore Ave Apt A, Monterey Park, CA 91754. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 03/20/2025.

/s/ Shen Bing / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/20/2025. (04-02,09,16,23-25)

080-T

### TENTS-N-RENTS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN713807

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: TENTS-N-RENTS, 14 Muirfield Ct, San Jose, CA, 95116, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Liza Marie Escobar, 14 Muirfield Ct, San Jose, CA 95116. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/12/2025.

/s/ Liza Escobar / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/18/2025. (04-02,09,16,23-25)

079-T

### REDEEMING SPEECH FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN714830

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: REDEEMING SPEECH, 1548 Meadow Lane, Mountain View, CA, 94040, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Natalie Kato, 1548 Meadow Lane, Mountain View, CA 94040. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A.

/s/ Natalie Kato / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/24/2025. (04-02,09,16,23-25)

076-T

### MYSTIC POETS SOCIETY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN714848

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) MYSTIC POETS SOCIETY, (2) URBAN DEBUG, (3) PURPLE SCREAM, 4173 El Camino Real #41, Palo Alto, CA, 94306, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): BLURRED WHISPER, LLC, 4173 El Camino Real #41, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/03/2008.

/s/ Mojdeh Marashi / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/24/2025. (04-02,09,16,23-25)

075-T

### 1EYEC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN714727

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1EYEC, 3903 Middlefield Rd Apt D, Palo Alto, CA, 94303, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): LED-DYORLD LLC, 3903 Apt D Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94303. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 03/19/2025.

/s/ Anthony Leddy / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/19/2025. (03-26-25,04-02,09,16-25)

074-T

### Lemon Slice FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN714529

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Lemon Slice, 608 Palm Ave, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Infinity AI, Inc., 608 Palm Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) list-

ed above on: 02/20/2025. /s/ Lina Colucci / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/13/2025. (03-26-25,04-02,09,16-25)

072-T

### SOUTH BAY CRANE & RIGGING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN714720

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SOUTH BAY CRANE & RIGGING, 1800 Russell Ave, Santa Clara, CA, 95054, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): ARBORLIFT INC., 1800 Russell Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 04/30/2015.

/s/ Jose Melendez / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/19/2025. (03-26-25,04-02,09,16-25)

071-T

### SOUTH BAY WATER AND CONSTRUCTION FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN714383

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SOUTH BAY WATER AND CONSTRUCTION, 649 Distel Dr, 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): Margaret Manassero, 649 Distel Dr, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 03/01/2025.

/s/ Margaret Manassero / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/11/2025. (03-26-25,04-02,09,16-25)

070-T

### DESIGNFIX LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN714677

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: DESIGNFIX LLC, 779 Glenborough Dr, Mountain View, CA, 94041, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): DESIGNFIX LLC, 779 Glenborough Dr, Mountain View, CA 94041. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/01/2022.

/s/ Amanda Giles / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/18/2025. (03-26-25,04-02,09,16-25)

069-T

### BIT BOAT TECHNOLOGY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN714653

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business

as: (1) BIT BOAT TECHNOLOGY, (2) BITBOAT TECHNOLOGY, 1695 Fairway Dr, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a married couple. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Charles Stephen Spirakis, 1695 Fairway Dr, Los Altos, CA 94024, Ruth Ann Spirakis, 1695 Fairway Dr, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A.

/s/ Charles Stephen Spirakis / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/17/2025. (03-26-25,04-02,09,16-25)

068-T

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MICHAEL DAVID FRIER CASE NO. 25PR199362

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of MICHAEL FRIER, MICHAEL DAVID FRIER. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by LAURA CASAS FRIER in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that LAURA CASAS FRIER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act . (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 04/30/25 at 9:01AM in Dept. 1 located at 191 NORTH FIRST ST., SAN JOSE, CA 95113 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any

petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Petitioner Laura Casas Frier 1957 Amalfi Way Mountain View, CA 94040 (650) 906-1514 (03-26-25,04-02,09-25)

066-T

**Do you need to have a Legal or Public Notice published?**

**Then look no further than the Los Altos Town Crier. The Town Crier's unmatched service can take care of your Fictitious Business Name Statement, Notice of Probate, Name Change and much more.**

**For more information, contact Melissa at 650-397-5208, or email [legals@latc.com](mailto:legals@latc.com)**



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

# Beautiful Views and Single-Story Living in the Sought-After Rancho Deep Cliff Community

10920 Kester Drive | Cupertino | 10920KesterDrive.com | \$2,498,000



**IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A PEACEFUL RETREAT**, look no further than Rancho Deep Cliff. Nestled in the beautiful Cupertino foothills this private gated community has 61 homes on 18 acres and offers a healthy lifestyle with tennis courts, pool, spa, and gym at your fingertips. This wonderful 2-bedroom, 2-bath home has been extensively remodeled in 2012 featuring a large, covered patio, open kitchen, spacious dining room with extended dining buffet, an expansive living room, and den. For all your work-from-home needs, the primary suite provides a cozy office alcove with a built-in desk and cabinetry. Unobstructed views of the foothills, the adjacent Deep Cliff Golf Course, and the community green belt are some of the many benefits of this particular unit.

Extensively remodeled in 2012, single-level 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom townhome for 2119 +/- sf

Eat-in granite kitchen with 2 skylights, garden window, large peninsula, and updated appliances

Spacious formal dining room with large buffet and built-in cabinetry, sliding doors to covered entertaining patio

Formal living room with fireplace, sliders to stone patio for majestic views of the Cupertino hills and Deep Cliff Golf Course

Primary suite with custom-designed office, slider doors to patio, and spa bath

Excellent Cupertino schools, Steven's Creek Elementary, John F. Kennedy Middle, and Monta Vista High (buyer to verify enrollment)

Conveniently located to Stevens Creek County Park for hiking and biking, Stevens Creek Reservoir, Ridge, Picchetti, and Garrod Cooper wineries, and Garrod Farms for horseback riding  
HOA dues \$975 (buyer to verify)



**JUDY &  
CINDY**



**JUDY BOGARD-TANIGAMI**  
License # 00298975  
650.207.2111  
judy.bogard@theagencyre.com



**CINDY BOGARD-O'GORMAN**  
License # 01918407  
650.924.8365  
cindy.ogorman@theagencyre.com  
ConsultantsInRealEstate.com



## THE BOGARD-TANIGAMI TEAM

All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.