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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 22, 2026

Los Altos Council OKs debated encampment ordinance

By Christina Casillas
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Weeks after a homeless encampment popped up along Fremont Avenue near Stevens Creek in Los Altos, the City Council approved an ordinance that provides both a process for city staff to dissolve encampments and consequences to willful resistance of city efforts.

While the ordinance passed 3-1 at the April 14 City Council meeting, an urgency ordinance – which would have allowed city staff to start enforcing the ordinance upon council approval – did not, as it lacked a unanimous vote. The green-lit ordinance will proceed through the normal ordinance process, which takes approximately 30 days before enforcement can happen.

An amendment to the ordinance involving phrasing related to the inclusion of a vehicle being considered a campsite was issued prior to council approval, ensuring that the ordinance did not apply to vehicle dwellers not violating any local signage or parking laws.

The ordinance effectively:

- Establishes no-camping standards and regulations for storage of personal property on publicly owned lands
- Focuses on connecting homeless individuals to services and outreach prior to enforcement or action
- Outlines notification procedures
- Ensures the safe storage of formerly publicly stored personal property with opportunity of retrieval prior to disposal within 90 days

Except in circumstances involving an imminent threat to safety, health, life or infrastructure, staff is required to “make every reasonable effort” to identify and offer shelter – whether it be an emergency, navigation or other shelter – in addition to offering supportive services.

“Enforcement has some negative connotations based on things that have happened in other places in the past years, but our approach and what the ordinance requires is really a con-



SCREENSHOT FROM LOS ALTOS CITY COUNCIL MEETING LIVESTREAM
Julia Rapoza, a vehicle-dwelling Los Altos resident, spoke against the ordinance, noting it needed more nuance, during public comment.

certed effort for outreach and trying to place people in the encampment in supportive housing or other types of housing situations and offer them services,” said Stephanie Williams, Los Altos Planning Commission liaison, during the council meeting. “That could take a week, it could take longer than that, it really depends on those specific individuals and that specific situation, so I don’t want to assign a timeline, necessarily, to that, because that is the priority.”

If a camper refuses services or doesn’t accept aid offered by Los Altos city staff, the city can begin enforcing the ordinance. Prior to enforcement, a notice to vacate must be posted on a prominent location at the encampment site 48 hours before action is taken. The notice must include the date and time of planned enforcement, information on available services,

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Hills council votes 3-2 to increase council pay

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisdr@latc.com

The Los Altos Hills City Council has voted to increase its monthly salary from \$300 to \$950, effective December 2028, following initial council approval at its April 16 meeting.

The new annual salary for a councilmember would be \$11,400, totaling \$57,000 for all five. The council is also eligible for health benefits, with the current annual cost to the city being \$66,000. Total council compensation would increase to \$123,000 a year, given current benefit participation levels, according to a town staff report. If all councilmembers used their health benefits, the cost would be \$168,000 per year, according to a town staff report.

The increase was cited due to increased workload, addi-

tional outreach outside council meetings and to increase civic participation by reducing barriers to public service. The council chose the 2028 date to ensure only those elected after approval would see the increase. It approved the motion by a 3-2 vote, with Mayor Rajiv Bhateja and Councilmember Kavita Tankha voting against.

Vice Mayor George Tyson, who is termed out this year, acknowledged the optics were bad but said the workload had increased dramatically compared to the past. He also wanted to reduce the burden of serving in local government, citing a conversation he had with a fellow volunteer from Redwood City who mentioned the big workload as a barrier to public service.

“I am looking at this to say,

See PAY, Page 5



Poll of the Week Results

Should residents vote on whether the city should build a downtown Los Altos park?

- 79.4% – Yes, voters should make the call
- 17.9% – No, the city knows how to use its funds
- 2.8% – It depends on what the park affects

ALSO INSIDE – APRIL 22, 2026

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Around Town

Celebrating TC coloring contest winners



DANIELLE AMARAL/TOWN CRIER

Winners of the Town Crier's annual Easter coloring contest gathered at the 192 West El Camino Real Baskin-Robbins to celebrate their successful submissions. Winners included, from left, Zahra Sabbir (3), William Schar (5), Millie Kanaparthi (6.5), Amelie Wang (8), Esther Thieu (12), Noa Borgardt (9), Alexis McLinn (7) and Amy Chou (11).



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News

Pilot program allows drinking in areas of downtown Mtn. View

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giusepperr@latc.com

A new Mountain View pilot program would create public drinking districts along Castro Street during the World Cup.

The Mountain View City Council voted unanimously during the consent calendar portion of their meeting on April 14 to pursue an 18-month pilot of entertainment zones, where members of the public can consume alcoholic beverages on streets, sidewalks or plazas during specified days and hours. The program was billed by its staff proponents as a commercial boon to city business and promoting community with a festival feel. Councilmember Alison Hicks recused herself from the vote due to her home's proximity to the downtown entertainment zone.

"This is a fascinating concept," said Councilmember Pat Showalter. "I think that's really a nice idea and I'm glad we're going forward with this, particularly in time for the World Cup."

The vote comes as the city is seeking innovative commercial activations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which is hosting games at Levi's Stadium in

Santa Clara this summer. The entertainment zones would be coordinated around soccer watch parties and managed by the city's economic development department.

Entertainment zones were legalized by the California Legislature in 2024 by SB 969. The zones must be established through local ordinance and comply with the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC). Brick and mortar businesses are allowed to participate – including allowing open containers outside of businesses – if the businesses have an active ABC license and are within the entertainment zone.

The zones will be monitored by law enforcement for compliance with the city ordinance as well as ABC regulations.

Captain Scott Nelson of the Mountain View Police Department said, "We are supportive of the entertainment zone and the council's decision to move forward with the plan. There will continue to be collaboration between the police department and the city as the plan continues to evolve into the implementation later this year."

Tatiana Kuvaldina, a representative of the Odd Fellows

Lodge in Mountain View at 823 Villa St., was concerned the alcohol policy would affect public safety.

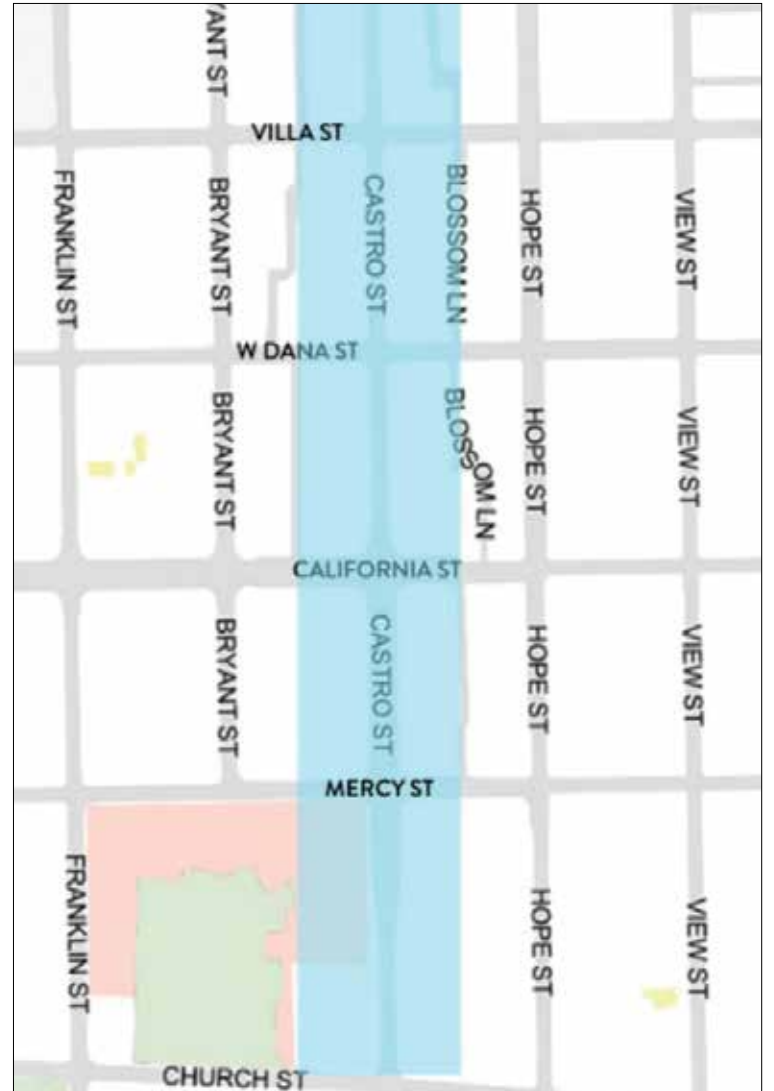
"Unfortunately, drunken people have proven to be an issue for our artists," she said. "We don't want to choose between artist safety and engagement with the public."

City staff espoused the economic benefits of the program, noting increased foot traffic and an overall downtown revitalization.

According to a city staff report, officials credited San Francisco and San Jose as success stories for entertainment zones since SB 969 became effective on Jan. 1, 2025. San Francisco established the state's first entertainment zones on Front Street in 2024 and has since expanded to 15 zones city-wide. San Jose also designated eight downtown areas as entertainment zones that can be activated in conjunction with outdoor special event permits.

City staff anticipates the entertainment zone activations will occur in the spring and summer months in 2026 and 2027. Under the pilot, the events will only be city-sponsored. In

See DRINKING, Page 5



SCREENSHOT OF CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW STAFF REPORT

Mountain View's entertainment zone pilot program will be along Castro Street from West Evelyn Avenue to Church Street and half-block portions of intersecting streets.

Double the limit: Los Altos police arrest drunk driver

By Christina Casillas

Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

After Los Altos Police Department officers made a drunk-driving arrest last week, the department is reminding community members to think twice before driving under the influence.

Officers conducted a traffic stop in the area of West El Camino Real and El Monte Avenue at 3 p.m. April 16. Officers observed signs of alcohol impairment during the stop and instructed the driver to exit the vehicle and complete field sobriety tests.

The driver was unable to complete the tests and, upon providing breath samples, had a reported blood alcohol concentration of .202% and .203%. The blood alcohol concentration (BAC)

driving limit is .08% or higher. The driver was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and booked into the Santa Clara County Main Jail.

BAC measures the grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood. Unless someone has a breathalyzer on hand, there's no way to know if a driver has passed the driving limit.

According to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, having a .07-.09 BAC can cause effects including mild impairment of vision, speech, balance and control.

"Please remember: If you plan to drink, make a safe choice. Use a rideshare service, call a sober driver, or stay where you are. Never drive impaired," the department shared on its Facebook page.

Los Altos weighs downtown plans

By Julia Baum

Staff Writer/juliab@latc.com

Los Altos city leaders are navigating growing tensions over downtown development as a proposed ballot initiative could complicate long-term planning and increase costs.

During an April 17 online Los Altos Community Coalition meeting, Mayor Sally Meadows said the city faces challenges. With limited commercial revenue, Los Altos operates on a lean budget and must carefully plan major investments, including public safety.

Meadows pointed to the city's effort to annex into the Santa Clara County Fire Protection District as a way to stabilize emergency service costs and avoid repeated negotiations.

Those constraints are central to ongoing discussions about downtown, where the city is studying options for a potential park that would be built in an area currently occupied by parking plazas. Meadows said no final decisions have been made and described the current phase as focused on gathering data.

The City Council has said any future design must maintain current parking levels. Underground parking is no longer under consideration after community

response and the cost of building.

"There are a lot of variables," Meadows said. "We're trying to evaluate multiple concepts before moving forward."

The process has been complicated by a proposed citizen-led initiative that would require voter approval for major changes to downtown parking plazas. Supporters say the measure would protect public land and preserve the city's character. City officials, however, warn it could create legal uncertainty and delay projects.

Meadows said determining the measure's legality alone could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Additional legal challenges could further increase costs, she said, adding that unclear language in the proposal may lead to prolonged disputes funded by taxpayers.

Community leaders also raised concerns about the potential impact of the measure.

Crysta Krames, CEO of the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation, said opposition to past projects has driven up costs and limited opportunities. She pointed to the Los Altos Community

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News

DOWNTOWN

From Page 4

Center, which she said became significantly more expensive after delays and resistance.

Krames also cited a missed opportunity involving a local philanthropist who had proposed funding parking and a downtown gathering space. The project did not move forward.

"You look at that now and think, how utterly ridiculous to cut off our nose to spite our face," Krames said.

She said the city's limited budget makes partnerships with private donors and organizations especially important.

"It's this super affluent city and yet it's really not," Krames said. "How do we support civic partnerships ... to move progress forward?"

State housing requirements add another layer of complexity. Parking plazas could be classified as surplus land under state law, which could require the city to allow housing development regardless of local preferences.

Some speakers said delaying decisions could lead to larger, state-mandated projects in the future.

Meanwhile, smaller projects are moving ahead. A renovation at 999 Fremont St. will create a police substation in south Los Altos,

expanding space for officers and services.

Despite disagreements, the need for more constructive public discussion was highlighted. Meadows cited past projects that faced early opposition but later became popular community spaces.

As the city approaches a potential November ballot decision, Meadows said they will continue gathering information but may delay major decisions until there is more clarity.

For more on the Los Altos Community Coalition, visit losaltoscommunitycoalition.org. Previous meetings can be watched at youtube.com/@losaltos

PAY

From Page 1

what is the best thing for this community and with no conception of it having any personal impact," Tyson said.

Councilmember Stanley Mok echoed the sentiments about the workload, noting the time commitment needed to serve had increased in recent years.

"This is my fifth year on council, and the amount of time that I have put into council has more than doubled, and the 20 meetings you have per month, or whatever the time period is, that's a lot of meetings," Mok said.

The \$950-a-month salary is the maximum allowed for cities with fewer than 35,000 residents. Most council salary limits in California were largely unchanged since 1984 until the state passed changes increasing them in 2023. The council introduced the ordinance at its April 16 meeting and will return for a second reading at a later date for final approval.

Bhateja opposed the idea of an increase, arguing that some volunteers who help the town with civic matters put in more hours of work for no pay. Bhateja also said he saw no substance to

the idea that it would encourage lower-income people to run.

"This town was founded on volunteering, and we have volunteers in this town who put in far more hours than any councilmember, and in some cases more than multiple councilmembers," Bhateja said.

According to a survey included in the town staff report from an organization called Info Los Altos Hills, started by Bhateja and now run by volunteers, a majority of the 134 self-identified Los Altos Hills residents who responded to the survey did not support an increase in compensation. Approximately 61% did not support it, 17% wanted it reduced, while 17% supported the increase. Survey comments argued that similarly wealthy cities like Atherton and Hillsborough do not provide a stipend to its council, while others said if stipends were raised, they would want benefits reduced or removed. Those in favor argued the job was extremely demanding in terms of time and stress and deserved more compensation. The mailing list of survey recipients was approximately 4,500 town residents, Bhateja said.

The council voted on the issue at its March 19 meeting, but it did not pass due to a tie vote.

DRINKING

From Page 4

November of 2027, the council will consider permanently adopting the program.

There is no estimated cost of the program at this time. Budgets related to event planning, coordinating, staffing and implementation will be incorporated into departmental event budgets and be brought to the council for review and approval if necessary.

The geographic limits of the program will be between the 100 and 500 blocks of Castro Street, including the Civic Center Plaza and half-block portions of the cross streets at Villa Street, West Dana Street, Cali-

fornia Street and Mercy Street. The city may implement additional street closures to the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of Castro Street, which are already permanently closed to vehicular traffic.

The alcohol consumption rules are stringent and require compliance with the city as well as ABC. Participating businesses must notify ABC of their participation. The businesses must also serve to-go beverages in glass or non metal containers and perform standard identification checks. Patrons also may be provided with an official designated wristband and cannot bring in their own alcoholic beverages.

Outdoor consumption of al-

coholic beverages within the entertainment zones would be limited to the hours of 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., provided at least one participating licensee within the zone is authorized to sell alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption during those hours.

According to the ABC webpage on entertainment zones, licensees must notify the department of their intent to participate in an open container entertainment zone.

Licensees can submit annual notice of intent to participate in an open container entertainment zone at abc.ca.gov/licensing/entertainment-zone-participation/entertainment-zone-participation-notification.

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Owls at Shoreline prompt wildlife oversight budget increase

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

Mountain View is boosting the budget for consultant oversight of the vulnerable population of western burrowing owls at Shoreline while the city position of wildlife preservation coordinator remains vacant.

The Mountain View City Council voted unanimously during the consent calendar portion of the April 14 meeting to augment funding for South San Francisco-based environmental

consulting company LSA Associates, Inc. by \$105,000, upping the cost of the wildlife management agreement this fiscal year to \$345,000. The increase will cover unexpected new costs to monitor and track the burrowing owl population while it is reviewed by the state for potential listing as a threatened or endangered species, according to a city staff report.

“Our staff will be working very hard to ensure our burrowing owls are protected and safe. They are adorable and we love

them in this city,” said Mayor Emily Ann Ramos.

The specific species of owl, about 8 to 10 inches tall with brown and white feathers, burrows holes and tunnels into the ground, embankments and hill-sides. Shoreline at Mountain View is one of four sites in the Bay Area where the owls reside.

A passionate contingent of environmental advocates spoke at the meeting, urging the city to expedite the hiring of a city wildlife coordinator because of mounting concerns about the di-

minishing owl population under LSA’s oversight.

Shani Kleinhaus, environmental advocate with the Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance, urged city staff to accelerate the hiring process.

“The burrowing owl preservation plan needs to be resumed and I hope this is the beginning of that,” she said.

LSA provides monthly owl count reports to the city. In a Community Services Department monthly report for January of 2026, LSA observed 16 burrowing owls and mapped 36 burrows with evidence of activity. In 2025, the owl count was at 27.

The owl counts have fluctuated over previous years: 18 owls were observed in January 2021 and the reporting hit its low point in January 2022, with seven owls observed. Twelve owls were registered in January 2023 and 18 in January 2024.

“These precious, adorable and vulnerable beings need our care and support,” said Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Conservation Coordinator Dashiell Leeds. “Time is of the essence, so let’s act now before it’s too late.”

Community Services Director John Marchant said his goal was to fill the city wildlife coordinator position by the end of the calendar year. He said the timeline was contingent on a forthcoming determination by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on whether the burrowing owl will be classified as an endangered species. The job description for the new hire will be in part guided by that decision, as well as a Biodiversity and Urban Forest Plan coming up for council review in May.

“I understand the desire to have someone sooner,” Marchant said. “We will do what we can to expedite that process.”

In October 2024, the California Fish and Game Commission voted to have the burrowing owl reviewed for potential listing as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act – an approximately yearlong to year-and-a-half-long process. While a species is under review for listing, it assumes the regulatory protections of threatened and endangered species.

According to a staff report, the city was required to expand the burrowing owl protected habitat and have a biologist on site. The



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Shoreline at Mountain View is one of four Bay Area sites where the small western burrowing owl still survives.

city renewed its agreement with LSA in July 2025 for the current fiscal year. The owl oversight by LSA includes surveying foraging or nesting habitats, overseeing mowing work and hand-pulling invasive weeds. But unanticipated services undertaken by LSA in the last fiscal year necessitated additional funding.

The new services include LSA’s review of California Environmental Quality Act documents and city design plans for Shoreline projects which border the owl habitat to ensure their compliance with the Burrowing Owl Preservation Plan, the Shoreline Wildlife Management Plan and state and federal laws. LSA also sought out a federal bird banding permit, which allows the capture and study of migratory birds. Lastly, the CDFW required a second, additional biologist to monitor extensive landfill repairs in northeast meadowlands and north shore areas because of their proximity to the owl habitat.

Councilmember Pat Showalter said the breadth of the biological services package was responsive to many of the city’s conservation responsibilities.

“It’s not just burrowing owls, it’s also with our upcoming biodiversity plan. There will be a need for someone with quite a bit of (knowledge), not only just wildlife, but botanical knowledge that can help with trees and that sort of thing. I can see how we do need more biological services,” she said.

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ORDINANCE

From Page 1

and details of how unattended belongings will be handled, stored and how and by when campers can recover their belongings, according to the written ordinance.

The ordinance also provides a framework for violations. A misdemeanor charge can be brought against those who violate the ordinance, including those who willfully resist, delay or obstruct a city employee from enforcing the ordinance, or those who willfully refuse to comply after being requested to do so by city staff.

Julia Rapoza, a homeless Los Altos resident who has been living out of her vehicle at the Los Altos Council Chambers parking lot, said she saw photos of the Fremont Avenue encampment on Nextdoor.

"I saw a lot of hate and a lot of fear, and I want to encourage you to not be afraid of me," Rapoza said during public comment. She said the unhoused weren't an issue – it was hoarding, which she said some of the photos she saw on Nextdoor included. She said it needed to address hoarding specifically – not camping. She said the ordinance should be informed by community discussions.



SCREENSHOT FROM LOS ALTOS CITY COUNCIL MEETING LIVESTREAM

Members of Los Altos City Council discuss an encampment ordinance last week.

"It would be nice if you had focus groups and community building and intermingling of the community, including those of us that are vehicle dwellers and unhoused," Rapoza said.

Council discourse

Councilmember Pete Dailey was most concerned about the success of the ordinance relying on the threat of criminal charges. He cast the only dissenting vote.

"I think it's foolish of us to sit here and say, 'Oh, but our guidance is to go easy.' Focus on that language in that section that makes it a misdemeanor and if you're all happy with that language, then vote for it," Dailey said. "Based on

the imposition of a misdemeanor, I'm not yet ready to vote for this, but you don't need my vote."

Gabriel Lomas, a policy aide who spoke on behalf of Otto Lee, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors president, also voiced concerns about the prospect of a misdemeanor. He said both the city and county should fight against the homelessness issue.

Lee's statement brought some pushback from both Councilmember Jonathan Weinberg and Vice Mayor Larry Lang.

"It's fine to not want (arrests) to happen, I don't think any of us want those things to happen. But you understand that it comes across somewhat disin-

genuously when what we've said, as a community, that the county is the one that takes primary responsibility for the safety net – and is failing," Lang said to Lomas. While he said he understood issues related to funding – specifically, federal cuts – affected the county's homelessness approach, he said the county was still failing to house the unhoused.

"So for you to come here and say, 'Don't deal with the fallout of our failure,' It comes across as a little disingenuous and kind of leaves us thinking maybe this is our problem to solve after all," Lang said.

Both Lang and Weinberg later apologized for some of their remarks toward Lomas – Weinberg adding that he was moved by another public comment and how the ordinance may not necessarily be the best solution, but it's needed currently.

"I'm not convinced that this ordinance is the best solution, but we don't have another solution in front of us right now," he said prior to the final vote. "... I think that we have a duty to protect and care for all of our residents and Councilmember Dailey, I accept your statement that these residents are Los Altos residents. They are our residents. So are residents who own homes on the other side of the fence."



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- Week 6: 07/20 - 07/24
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Comment

Letters to the Editor

Ballot measure could have dangerous consequences

This is ironic. The claim that “The Future of Downtown is in your hands” is exactly the opposite of what will likely happen if this proposed ballot measure passes. The ballot measure is poorly worded, ambiguous, and may very well lead to Los Altos’ Housing Element being revoked by the state. Why? The parking plazas, currently designated for possible high-density housing, would no longer be under city control, which could invalidate the Housing Element. This opens the door to Builder’s Remedy – the unfettered ability of developers to build what they want where they want with very little restriction. Instead of five-story buildings downtown they can build eight-story buildings. Or something even more extreme, like the 17-story tower proposed for the site of Mollie Stones in Palo Alto (paloaltoonline.com/news/2023/11/21/high-rise-development-proposed-for-mollie-stones-site-in-palo-alto) or the 40-story complex proposed for the

former Sunset Magazine site in Menlo Park (sfyimby.com/2024/05/exclusive-renders-revealed-for-willow-park-residential-tower-menlo-park.html).

It also means our R1-zoned neighborhoods, comprising the vast majority of Los Altos land area and our prized semi-rural feel, will be fair game for developers. Yes, they could build an apartment building on that 1/3-acre lot next door to you and you’ll have no legal means to prevent that. Don’t believe me? It’s happening already in Cupertino, who didn’t get their Housing Element approved in time. Check out cupertino.gov/Your-City/Departments/Community-Development/Planning/Major-Projects/20739-Scofield-Ave, where a five-story 20-unit condo project has been submitted for a 1/3-acre lot on a residential Cupertino street. Passage of this ballot measure will also almost certainly lead to lawsuits, likely costing the city untold millions.

One way or another, due to current state regulation, our parking plazas will almost certainly not exist in their

current form 10 years from now. If this ballot measure passes, the parking plazas will essentially no longer be available for housing. R1-zoning in the rest of the city will be a likely casualty, leading to density throughout Los Altos rather than just in the few areas our Housing Element currently allows (downtown, El Camino and San Antonio corridors, etc.). If this measure doesn’t pass (or never gets on the ballot) our city council and staff will retain control and can bring about a much better outcome for the parking plazas while preserving R1-zoning through most of Los Altos. Don’t let the simplistic messaging of the petition seekers sway you – this ballot measure is a colossally bad idea. Do NOT sign the petition!

Bill Sheppard
Los Altos

Preserve the parking

As 42-year residents of Los Altos, we have always been proud of the beauty and accessibility of our downtown. A key feature is the surface parking behind the stores,

and it baffles us why the City Council wants to replace it with a park, theater, and above-ground parking structure.

The existing surface lots, with their glorious Chinese Pistache trees, are already park-like and heavily used year-round by residents from Los Altos and surrounding neighborhoods. We would much prefer the city invest in caring for those trees and enhancing the existing landscaping.

Placing a theater in the middle of the parking area would surrender public space to a special interest group. The Los Altos Stage Company already has a building near the library with ample parking. If a better facility is needed, consider integrating a theater into the underutilized community center next door.

Parking structures are psychologically less welcoming and, for many, places to avoid – especially at night. Our treed surface parking, by contrast, feels safe and inviting.

If the Council wants to expand green space, we suggest redirecting attention to Grant Park, which is heavily used but whose improvements to date feel utilitarian. The North Los Altos corridor near El Camino is also underserved by neighborhood parks. Consider following Mountain View’s approach of purchasing residential lots as they come available and converting them to small neighborhood parks – a far greater impact per dollar than any downtown intervention.

**Catherine Lu and
H Keith Nishihara**
Los Altos

Letters to the Editor

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



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Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

Southern Pacific Extra 2476 chugs by the Los Altos depot on its return trip to SF after taking passengers on a special excursion trip to Los Gatos, April 25, 1954.

Community

Los Altos resident bakes for political causes through nonprofit

By Amalia Tormala

Town Crier Editorial Intern

In 2020 – when then-President Joe Biden was repopularizing the phrase “Build Back Better” and the “sour-dough craze” was ongoing – south Los Altos resident Dina Jacobson said she was diving into baking like never before.

That baking kick, paired with being an “empty nester,” ultimately led to the creation of her nonprofit – Bake Back Better. But, even with its original logo containing an outline of Biden’s classic aviators, the nonprofit is also aligned with the idea of “Build Back Better” that was created prior to Biden’s campaign, Jacobson said.

“That whole philosophy goes way back,” she said. “It was actually kind of one of these (President Franklin Delano Roosevelt) programs, like, ‘Let’s build the country back better than it was before.’”

Her journey of making “the world a better place one sweet treat at a time” – a mantra the Bake Back Better website boasts – began with donations to emergency rooms for first responders. Soon,

Jacobson said her idea evolved.

“I got the idea to use (baking) as a vehicle for political fundraising,” she added.

Later that year, Jacobson said she became a major fundraiser for Biden’s 2020 presidential campaign. In fact, Jacobson’s baking nonprofit grew to become the second largest grassroots fundraiser for Biden in the country, she said.

“Now, we don’t get involved in the high profile (campaigns) because they raise so much money on their own,” Jacobson said.

Today, Bake Back Better is more focused on get-out-the-vote efforts and supporting Democrats running for office in swing states. The nonprofit runs campaigns every four to six weeks – a cadence that Jacobson, who works full time, calls “crazy.” Jacobson kicks off each campaign by selecting a specific cause to support, gathering a crew of 30-40 volunteers and raising money.

“Then, at the end of the month, we deliver four delicious cupcakes to donors, so they get this treat,” Jacobson said. “And a lot of them say, ‘Oh, it’s just

like a surprise,’ because they’ll donate and then two, three weeks later, here come the cupcakes.”

She added that the focus of Bake Back Better is to incentivize donations with the promise of a delivery of cupcakes. Jacobson’s nonprofit suggests a \$35 donation for four cupcakes and occasional premiums, offering additions like a Dubai chocolate bar – which was her last campaign’s featured cupcake flavor.

In Los Altos alone, Jacobson said there are approximately 10 Bake Back Better volunteers. One such volunteer is Barbara Kyser, who said she’s been volunteering for Jacobson’s organization for five years.

“I was just struck by the idea of donating to causes that you believe in and then getting a reward delivered to your house and these beautiful handmade ... cupcakes,” Kyser said. “(Jacobson) doesn’t take any money. It all goes to grassroots organizations that are trying to save our democracy.”



COURTESY OF DINA JACOBSON

Dina Jacobson bakes for her nonprofit Bake Back Better. The nonprofit raises money for political candidates.

See BAKE, Page 10



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BAKE From Page 9

Kyser has seen firsthand the popularity of Bake Back Better in the Los Altos area. Once, as she donned her “Bake Back Better”-branded T-shirt, she said a neighbor asked her about the nonprofit. After explaining, she said the neighbor responded with a simple statement: “Oh, I want to bake some cupcakes.”

“I like baking, so I sort of got (my neighbor) involved, and another friend, and then my granddaughter came over when I was baking cupcakes, and she and I delivered them to Dina at her house,” Kyser said.

Soon, Kyser said her granddaughter was roped in as a baker. However, she said the Bake Back Better volunteer network includes roles beyond baking: It includes drivers and individuals focused on the website, too.

With a total of more than 100 volunteers, most of whom Jacobson said are concentrated in the Bay Area, Bake Back Better has grown to ship cupcakes nationwide, including an active Iowa chapter, a Texas group and a quieter set of Georgian volunteers.

“I want other people to take this idea and do it on their own,” Jacobson said. “If it were my full-time job, I know I would be much more involved in getting other

hubs set up and other areas and, maybe I’d get a volunteer coordinator to do a lot of the work that I do. So it would ... take on a whole different flavor, but this is how I want it to be right now.”

Jacobson said the specific campaign the organization is focused on can contribute to increased donations across the nation. One campaign that particularly resonated with donors raised over \$16,000 for an organization called VoteRiders whose goal is to eliminate voting ID barriers at “every ballot box,” its website said.

Once, a campaign raised such a large sum of money – \$22,000 – that Jacobson said she had to cut off the cupcake portion of the fundraiser.

“I told people, ... you can keep donating, definitely donating, but we’re not going to be delivering anymore,” Jacobson said.

Jacobson said as she considers the future of Bake Back Better, she does so with hopes of broader applications of the organization’s philosophy – for instance, garden fundraising or plant sales for avid plant lovers. In fact, Jacobson said her nonprofit’s ethos of giving back to those who donate is aligned with that of the public radio station KQED, which sends a “premium” to those who donate.



COURTESY OF DINA JACOBSON

Bake Back Better volunteers show off cupcake rewards.

“A (cupcake delivery) is our premium,” Jacobson said. “It’s not necessarily a new idea, but it’s creative in the sense that people donate, donate, donate, and they rarely get anything. To get some sort of thank you and some sort of face time with a volunteer who is like minded means so much to them.”

For more information on Bake Back Better, visit bakebackbetter.com.

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City of
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CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

APRIL 28, 2026 – 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

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Award Contract for Construction at 999 Fremont Avenue

Agendas, Reports and associated documents for City Council items may be viewed at losaltosca.gov/citycouncil/meetings

Veterinarian advice: What to know about itchy cats

By Kenton Taylor, DVM

There are four different patterns of skin lesions resulting from a cat feeling itchy. First is miliary dermatitis. This is when you find or more likely feel tiny crusts on the skin. Interestingly, the crusts feel like millet seeds stuck to the skin, which is the reason for the name. The second is red skin, hairs broken short or absent and crusting at the head and neck area. The third is hair loss due to biting the hairs short, referred to as barbering or fur mowing. Lastly is an assortment of skin lesions collectively referred to as eosinophilic granuloma complex. These lesions are the result of the accumulation of eosinophils, which is the inflammatory cell that responds to allergies. These lesions can occur anywhere including the mouth and lips. They are red and may vary between resembling a growth to an area of ulceration or tissue destruction.

Unfortunately, these patterns are not helpful in determining the cause for the itching as cats will be cats, e.g., variably predictable.

While most cats are itchy due to allergies, other disease conditions can lead to your cat feeling itchy. Ringworm, a fungal

Pet Pause

infection, is variable in causing itchiness. Fleas in small numbers are generally well tolerated by cats. But cats, less commonly than dogs, can be flea-allergic such that the bite of the flea and introduction of flea saliva into the skin can cause severe itchiness. Uncommonly, a mite called Demodex can cause itchiness and can be difficult to diagnose. It is killed by the Isoxazoline class of flea control products, so these products are often used with an itchy cat.

Allergies besides allergic reaction to flea saliva include environment allergy, termed atopy, and food allergy. For some cats the allergy can be a combination of any of the three. Food allergy can be due to a variety of proteins and carbohydrates. Environmental allergies can occur from weeds, grasses, trees, dust mites and mold spores.

With so many potential causes, there is no one single method to evaluate for the cause. Parameters to consider include how frequent is the problem and is the skin traumatized. Many medications can be used for

symptomatic control, making absolute identification of the cause unessential. Also, when a cat becomes more itchy, likely the cause is that an infection has developed as a result of the scratching and chewing. Controlling the secondary infection can significantly decrease the itchiness.

Many medications can be used for symptomatic control of itchiness while the cause is identified and eliminated if possible. Immune modulating therapies should be avoided in cases where suppressing the immune system could precipitate problems such as in a cat with FeLV or FIV. Generally, the most rapid and reliably effective medication is a glucocorticoid ("steroid") but this medication can have adverse effects, especially with long-term use. Modified cyclosporine is generally effective and well tolerated. Apoquel (Oclacitinib) is generally effective but since it is approved only for dogs, it is an "off label" use in cats. Interestingly, Gabapentin in com-

bination with Maropitant (an anti-nausea drug) works quickly and can be given to cats where immune system modulation would be a problem.

If the skin is being traumatized or the itchiness is frequently recurrent then it becomes necessary to determine the cause of the allergy.

In order to have your cat feel better as soon as possible it is recommended to address all three potential allergies at the same time. First, flea allergy is the easiest to control with current flea control products. Second, with possible food allergies, the only way to determine if this problem exists is with a dietary trial using a prescription novel protein, hydrolyzed protein or home-cooked novel protein diet over a minimum of eight weeks. If allergy symptoms have resolved at that time and anti-itch medications have been discontinued, then the prior diet can be re-introduced to see if the itch returns. If food allergy is present, generally the itch will return in a

few days to a few weeks.

For environmental allergy or atopy, blood testing can be done to determine possible causes. That information can be used to reduce exposure to the offending allergen(s) and for hyposensitization treatment, which can reduce long-term dependency on pharmaceuticals. Hyposensitization takes time to become effective, typically six to 12 months, but is beneficial in most cats.

Sometimes corticosteroid treatment cannot be avoided. Severe itching is a reduction in life quality. Steroids are valuable tools in the relief of pain and suffering and they are not to be avoided at all costs, rather used judiciously and for the itchiest episode. Using the lowest and least frequent steroid dose to control the itch will spare your cat both short and long-term effects.

Dr. Kenton Taylor is a veterinarian with Miramonte Veterinary Hospital, located at 1766 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View. Miramonte Veterinary Hospital is accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association since 1996. For more information, call (650) 962-8338 or visit miramonte-vet.com.



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CSA hosts annual Empty Bowls fundraiser: Sundaes on a Sunday

Town Crier Report

Back by popular demand, Mountain View's Community Services Agency (CSA) is set to host its annual Homeless Services fundraiser as an ice cream sundae party for the fifth year in a row. Empty Bowls, traditionally a soup supper, became Sundaes on a Sunday to accommodate an outdoor take on the worldwide phenomenon pairing pot-ers to fundraise for organizations serving the homeless.

Featuring bottomless ice cream from Baskin-Robbins, handmade bowls and fun children's activities, this year's event takes place from 2-4

p.m., Sunday, April 26, in Rengstorff Park.

Director of CSA's Homeless Prevention and Homeless Services Program, Ariana Gomez, said, "Rising housing costs and economic uncertainty continue to put increased pressure on those we serve and case managers remain steadfast in meeting their needs. We eagerly anticipate this fun and family-friendly event. The support from Empty Bowls sponsorships and ticket sales significantly contributes to sustaining CSA's essential services for our community's most vulnerable members."

For tickets (\$10-\$40), visit tinyurl.com/CSA-sundaes.



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

The Community Services Agency is holding its Sundaes on a Sunday fundraiser April 26 in Rengstorff Park.

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Photo by Kevin Berne

Community

Broken Box Theater Company stages 'Our Town' this week

By Mary Larsen

Staff Writer/newsroom@latc.com

Los Altos High School's Broken Box Theater Company has chosen Thornton Wilder's classic and ever-relevant "Our Town" for its last production of the year, playing Thursday through Saturday (April 23-25).

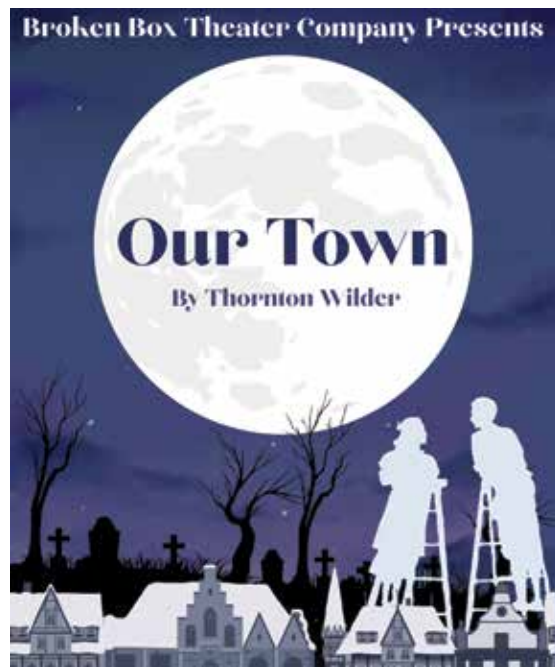
The Pulitzer Prize-winning play is an ostensibly simple tale of ordinary people in a small town – but it's much more than that. In a 1938 New York Times review of the Broadway production, Brooks Atkinson called "Our Town" "one of the finest achievements of the current stage" and "a hauntingly beautiful play."

The play is set in the fictional town of Grover's Corners, based on Peterborough, New Hampshire, where Wilder often spent his summers, but meant to represent any town. The three acts – "Daily Life," "Love and Marriage" and "Death" – cover the full life cycle. It is in Act III, "Death," that protagonist Emily fully grasps the beauty of ordinary life. Director Lisa Battle said that because of strict copyright rules, the play can't be adapted or abridged. They did, however, split the stage manager's big role into three parts, with one main stage manager for each act, interacting with the other two conversationally. And three different actors play Emily, one for each act and stage of life.

On the play's relevance today, Battle said the play is a timeless masterpiece that examines what it means to be alive.

"I think that Wilder wanted us all to examine the fact that our only legacy was who we were to each other," she said. "We don't always choose our roles in life but we can do our best to be there for our loved ones and take time to appreciate one another."

The group followed Wilder's suggestion for a very minimal set and props. The cast wears what Battle called "rehearsal production" shirts throughout most of the play: T-shirts with their character's name and epitaph, along with accessories. The actors analyzed their roles and wrote what they thought would be an appropriate epitaph – "Who were they to the people they left behind," Battle said. Only in the final scene, when Emily leaves "rehearsal" and fully lives does the group appear in full costume. The cast of 20 actors and 10 technicians (who will also play extras) includes Nora Saraci-Alonso, Sarah Ardelean and Kira Polen as



COURTESY OF BROKEN BOX THEATER COMPANY

Los Altos High School's Broken Box Theater Company will perform "Our Town" April 23-25.

Emily; Sam Gali as George; and Jason Byrne, Abigail Andrade and Samuel Hiltgen as the stage managers. There's also a student assistant director and a student music director. Battle said the students are excited to be doing a drama.

"They were a little nervous that we wouldn't have enough time (two and a half months) to do it justice, but they have all worked so hard and rose to the challenge," she said.

Battle, now a theater and survey/composition literature teacher, discovered her love of theater as an actor in Broken Box Theater when she was a student at Los Altos High. As for going from acting in Broken Box to directing it, she couldn't be happier.

"I love producing plays with these talented young artists. Every rehearsal is so exciting and rewarding," she said. "I loved being in these plays when I was a student and I cannot express how grateful I am to get the privilege to direct."

"Our Town" shows 7 p.m. April 23-25 at the Los Altos High School Eagle Theater, 201 Almond Ave. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 general admission. For tickets, visit tinyurl.com/BrokenBox-OurTown.

Follow Broken Box on Instagram at [instagram.com/lahsbrokenbox](https://www.instagram.com/lahsbrokenbox).

50th Sequoia ride begins June 7

Town Crier Report

Western Wheelers Bicycle Club, a Peninsula institution founded in Palo Alto, invites cyclists to its 50th Sequoia ride on Sunday, June 7, starting at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. This storied event has tested riders on the Bay Area's premier roads – including favorites through Los Altos – while supporting local bicycling organizations and coastside communities for half a century.

From Foothill College, five iconic routes deliver relentless climbs, sweeping descents and unrivaled Santa Cruz Mountains beauty – towering redwoods, ridgeline vistas and coastal panoramas:

- 100-mile Century: 10,000 ft. climbing – endurance pinnacle

- 80-mile Gravel (2026 debut): 8,000 ft. mixed-surface thrills
- 75-mile Challenge: 7,900 ft. steep, rewarding ascents
- 62-mile Metric Century: 6,600 ft. classic summit views
- 43-mile Fun Ride: 2,800 ft. rolling local roads – family-friendly

Riders of all ages, from racers to families, have made this a generational tradition across the Peninsula.

"Fifty years prove The Sequoia's magic: world-class riding starts minutes from Foothill College," said Jon Penn, Western Wheelers president.

To register, visit westernwheelers.org/Sequoia. For more information, contact registration@westernwheelers.org.

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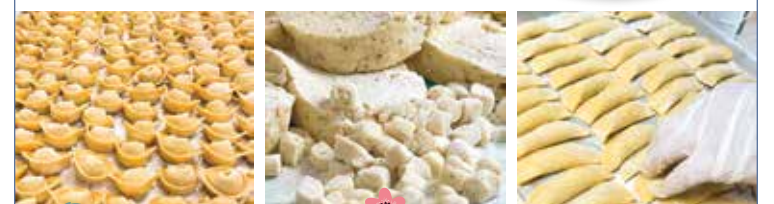
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Schools

New LASD trustee emphasizes continuity, community engagement

By Julia Baum
Staff Writer/juliab@latc.com

Newly appointed Los Altos School District Trustee Brandon Stroy says his goal is not to change the district's direction but to sustain its foundation while learning the role.

"I'm very much in the learning phase," he said, describing his early weeks on the Board of Trustees since being sworn in on March 19. "I think the most important thing to know about me with regard to the board is I'm very much looking to learn."

Stroy's appointment fills a vacancy created when his predecessor, former trustee Vladimir Ivanovic, resigned in March after a disagreement with fellow board members over plans to build a future Bullis Charter School campus on the so-called "10th site" near the San Antonio Shopping Center in Mountain View. The board later selected Stroy as Ivanovic's replacement through its standard appointment process.

Stroy, a native of Los Altos who attended local schools including what is now Gardner

Bullis Elementary, has two children – one at Blach Intermediate School and the other at Mountain View High School. He brings years of PTA and committee experience across multiple campuses, including work to improve coordination between the Los Altos Educational Foundation and school PTAs.

When the board vacancy emerged, he said, it felt like a natural extension of that work.

"I wouldn't say that I applied for this position with a motivation to make a change in how things were going," Stroy said. "I've long felt the district is well managed and well taken care of by the board. My main motivating factor would be to help ensure continuity of that excellence."

As he gets up to speed, Stroy pointed to several key challenges facing the district, including balancing budget constraints with community expectations.

"Being able to meet our own goals as far as what we can provide students given the budgetary limitations – fundraising is an important part of that," he said. He also cited fluctuating enrollment and questions around how to allocate space across



COURTESY OF BRANDON STROY

New Los Altos School District Trustee Brandon Stroy filled a vacancy left by Vladimir Ivanovic.

campuses, particularly as the district plans for future facilities.

Despite those challenges, Stroy said his priorities center on maintaining strong educational quality, starting with support for teachers.

"Making sure that we have the best possible teachers ... involves teacher development programs, giving them the resources that they need to give the students the education that they deserve," he said. He added that ensuring classrooms are equipped with appropriate technology and re-

sources, along with addressing individual student needs, are also key.

A central theme of his approach is community engagement – something he said he has already been doing through his PTA work and plans to continue as a trustee.

"I have built enough of a community that I hope people know me and are comfortable coming talking to me," Stroy said. "At the same time, I want to keep on trying to engage more with folks ... and being a presence on cam-

puses."

Looking ahead, Stroy said success should be measured not individually but by the board's ability to represent and respond to the community. He also plans to run for election when his appointed term expires in December.

"I think my own success would depend on the success of the board as a whole," he said, "in trying to accomplish communication, community engagement, and addressing the issues that are important to the community."

LAHS student's nonprofit brings art to underprivileged youth

By Ananya Kota
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Whether it is animal clay art, tote bag-making or painting, student-founded nonprofit organization KraftyKids offers a range of activities aimed to support disadvantaged kids.

KraftyKids, founded by Los Altos High School junior Maya Panchal, is a local organization aimed at supporting disadvantaged kids through art. This is done through various art-related exercises hosted by KraftyKids and its volunteers, and collaboration through various local homeless shelters, according to Panchal.

Panchal said she founded KraftyKids due to her enjoyment of working with youth and her belief that art helps express emotions.

"Using art to bring people together was how I decided to (create) something like this and work with kids who need it the most," Panchal said. "Especially in

homeless shelters, they (kids) experience a lot of trauma, and so by using ... different events and workshops, we can work to reduce the effects of adverse childhood experiences."

Events and workshops hosted by KraftyKids vary, Panchal said. In the past, workshops have included painting, clay art and tote bag-making. One event, Panchal said, involved giving stuffed animals to blind children, allowing them to understand and discuss with other kids how the animal feels, and to make a clay mold of it.

"I generally have people work in groups, because I feel like collaboration is such a great thing, and it's very helpful for the kids," Panchal said.

KraftyKids collaborates with several local organizations, including LifeMoves Mountain View, where Panchal has hosted several workshops.

"I would say (the workshops) definitely help, just because a lot of the kids here have gone through a lot," said Vi-



COURTESY OF MAYA PANCHAL

Los Altos High junior Maya Panchal founded KraftyKids, aimed at supporting disadvantaged kids through art.

cente Garcia-Luna, the coordinator at LifeMoves. "Whenever (the kids) have some outside organization do an activity with them ... they're always excited

De Anza President Omar Torres resigns

By Julia Baum
Staff Writer/juliab@latc.com

De Anza College President Omar Torres has resigned after roughly 15 months in the role, according to an email sent to campus staff April 13. Foothill-De Anza Community College District officials said Torres stepped down to “focus on family.”

Torres’ resignation follows a recent leadership transition that began in March, when he took a leave of absence. During that time, Chancellor Lee Lambert and Vice President of Instruction Ram Subramaniam assumed those duties.

Torres began his tenure in January 2025, launching his presidency with a “100 days of listening” initiative aimed at gathering input from the campus community.

An interim president was selected the same day the resignation was announced and

is expected to be formally presented to the Board of Trustees at a special meeting

on Friday, April 17 at 3:15 p.m.

The district has confirmed a search for a permanent president will begin, though no detailed timeline has been released. In an email, district officials said such searches typically take several months and include stakeholder engagement and national recruitment. “We expect the upcoming search to be similar in overall duration and process to prior presidential searches in the district,” officials said. More information about the interim appointment and the presidential search process is expected in the coming weeks.



Omar Torres

KIDS

From Page 14

and happy.”

Garcia-Luna added that these activities are important for kids to engage in to give them their experiences with various forms of art. He noted that after talking to the kids post-activity, they generally seemed more content.

“You can always see afterwards that they’re in a better mood,” Garcia-Luna said. “That (mood) carries on throughout the week.”

In the future, Panchal said she hopes to expand KraftyKids by partnering with other local organizations while continuing to fulfill its original mission of supporting kids.

“I want to expand more, but also have the same idea of building a positive mindset, fostering collaboration and bringing people together,” Panchal said. “I can strive to continue to provide that through kids’ workshops.”

For more information on KraftyKids, visit kraftykids.org.



COURTESY OF MAYA PANCHAL

Students take part in art activities hosted by KraftyKids.

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Sports

St. Francis softball beats Valley Christian in WCAL battle

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

St. Francis dispatched one of its main challengers for the WCAL throne in a 5-2 win over Valley Christian Wednesday, thanks to some timely power hitting from its young stars.

Freshman Penny Duus hit a home run to left center in the bottom of the fourth, and sophomore Emi Yumiba had an RBI double in the third and a homer in the fifth to keep Valley Christian at bay. Yumiba got the pitch she was looking for on her home run, allowing her to hit a line drive bullet over the center field wall, the deepest part of the yard. Yumiba is batting .380 with two homers and 13 RBIs on the season, with the home run giving the Lancers a 4-1 lead and enough of a cushion to secure the win.

"I was looking for more outside pitches because I know that's what they tend to pitch, so I was just kind of hunting when I knew they were getting thrown," Yumiba said.

While the early league test went in favor of St. Francis

(17-2), the team must still visit Valley Christian (13-3) in a few weeks. St. Francis' only league loss the past two campaigns was away against Valley Christian last season, with the two West Catholic Athletic League teams splitting the season series and finishing tied for first at 9-1.

"I would definitely say they are one of the top teams in the league without question, if not our section," St. Francis coach Mike Oakland said. "Jackie (Hinojosa) has done a great job over there getting those kids to compete and play well, and they are really tough to play at their place, yeah, definitely a huge challenge for us."

Valley Christian has steadily improved in league play over the past few years, rising from solid middle finishers to sweeping Mitty last season and splitting the season series with St. Francis, the two main contenders each year.

"Our games are always tough against them, every single year," Yumiba said. "They've got really good bats, so that's something we watch out for."



JEFFERY STONE/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Valley Christian baserunner Charlotte Coney is tagged out at home plate during Wednesday's game against St. Francis. The tag helped end the top of the sixth inning and ensured St. Francis held onto its 4-2 lead.

Valley Christian kept it close Wednesday thanks to a solo home run from Soledad Healy in the fourth to make it 2-1 and looked poised to rally down 4-1 in the sixth. With runners at first and second, Hannah Paquiz hit an RBI double to left

center that would have scored even more if not for a great relay throw by St. Francis to tag Valley Christian's Charlotte Coney at the plate to end the inning. A strong outfield throw to shortstop Peyton Tsao allowed the infielder to deliver

a strike to catcher Malianna Liongitau. Instead of being 4-3 with a runner on third and two outs, the inning was over.

"We practice that pretty much daily, and to (the) point

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 17

Los Altos School District Junior Olympics held at MVHS



GABRIELA DE CARVALHO TELLES/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INERN

The 64th Los Altos School District Junior Olympics took place Saturday at Mountain View High School, featuring a day of athletic events and community pride. Each of the district's seven elementary schools participated.

SOFTBALL
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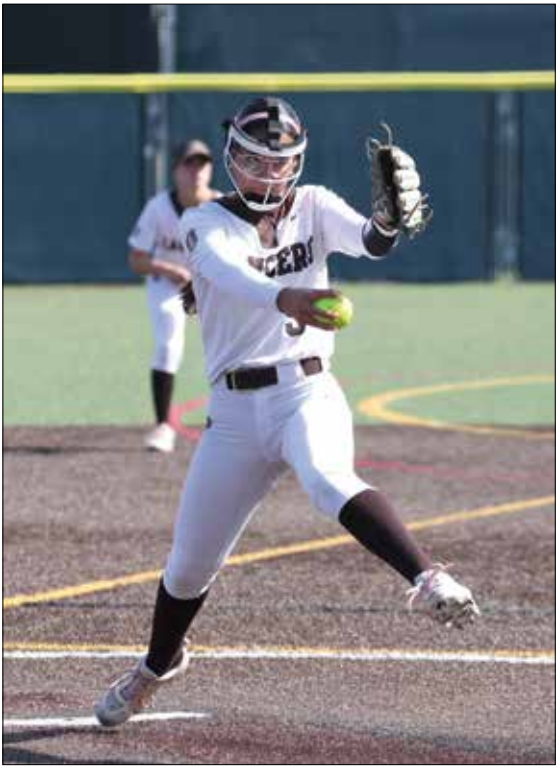
of almost nausea, but I tell them afterwards, that's why we do it, because we get into the game and you know exactly what to do, you don't have to think about it, you can do it and you can execute it, and it's a thing of beauty," Oakland said.

The bats for St. Francis woke up in the latter half of the game after a slow start, scoring at least one run in the final four innings, a level of consistency Oakland wants to see more of during the season.

"I'd like to see us continuing to improve offensively, build off our pitching we've already established, just continue to get better defensively as well, running the bases," Oakland said. "I think offensively, just being able to put up runs against good pitching is the biggest key for us."

The win would not have been possible without the strong pitching from starter Mercedes Collier. The sophomore pitched a complete game, giving up only two runs and striking out seven. Oakland praised Collier for her pitching movement over the plate and competitiveness. After struggling with back injuries last year as a freshman, Collier is back healthy to form a formidable young pitching duo with fellow sophomore Bianka Fisher.

"She was in a really competitive mode today, I could tell from the first pitch," Oakland said.



ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER
St. Francis pitcher Mercedes Collier.

St. Francis is now 3-0 in league play and hosts Liberty 3:30 p.m. today, with its next league game 4 p.m. tomorrow away to Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Foothill Youth Basketball league
sees success at All-Star Tourney



COURTESY OF NELSON LUI
The third grade all star championship team, from left to right: Matthew Grunewald (Assistant Coach), Bennett Lilly, Joshua Wu, Ryan Hamby, Charlie Sohn, Charlie Grunewald, Devin Lui, Rayan Syed, Vihann Bobbarjung, Benny Woodward, Nelson Lui (Head Coach) and Teddy Paoli.

Town Crier Report

The Foothill Youth Basketball league recently had a successful showing at its end-of-season All-Star Tournament, held March 15-18 in Pismo Beach.

The league fielded teams in 12 divisions and brought home five first-place trophies from the

seventh-grade boys, fourth-grade boys, third-grade boys, the D2 girls and the D3 girls. Foothill Youth Basketball features student athletes from Los Altos, Cupertino and Sunnyvale and is composed of players across multiple grade levels, from third through seventh grade, with both boys' and girls' divisions represented.

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Stepping Out



PHOTO BY KEVIN BERNE

TheatreWorks' 'Come From Away' continues run in Mountain View

By Zoë Friedman
Town Crier Editorial Intern

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's long-awaited production of "Come From Away" has finally taken flight, opening last week in Mountain View.

For artistic director emeritus and TheatreWorks founder Rob-

ert Kelley, the journey to this moment has been more than a decade in the making.

"As a company, we've been trying to get the rights to 'Come From Away' since, really, 2013," he said of the musical, which runs through May 10 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts.

Kelley first encountered "Come From Away" in a workshop at a New York festival that same year and was immediately struck by its emotional impact.

"It really overwhelmed me. ... It was such a beautiful, touching, positive, uplifting show that had wonderful music. It was funny but also deeply moving," he recalled. "Right then and there, I was determined that we would find a way for it to come here."

Set in the immediate aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, the musical tells the true story of airline passengers stranded in Gander, Newfoundland, when U.S. airspace abruptly closed to air traffic.

While the day itself reflected "humanity at its worst," Kelley said, the response from the people of Gander was "a sense of positive thought and caring in the face of hatred and anger, making (the show) perfect for our community."

Now, after years of anticipation, Kelley said the production has come together in ways that exceed his hopes.

"We wound up with a cast that I think is a dream," he said. "After just a week of rehearsals, I'm totally thrilled by all of them."

The show comes with challenges for the performers, who rapidly shift between multiple roles – sometimes even within the same scene.

"There's a real logistical challenge," Kelley noted. "They play the citizens of Gander and the people on the planes, often going back and forth."

For actress Melissa WolfKlain, who plays pilot Beverley Bass, the complexity is part of the appeal.

"This show has been on everyone's bucket list, and because it's the Bay Area premiere, it was a very sought-after thing to do,"

she said. "It's just a really beautiful show and a true ensemble piece. I feel so lucky to be a part of it."

WolfKlain, a Foster City native and TheatreWorks veteran, described Bass, the first female captain at American Airlines, as "a trailblazer and really inspiring person. ... I'm fortunate to be able to play her."

The 100-minute musical is performed without intermission and keeps the actors onstage nearly the entire time, demanding stamina and focus.

"Because it's such an ensemble community show, we are all doing things all the time, so you don't really get a break," WolfKlain said. "It's a lot of work and a lot of brain power. That can be hard, but it can also be really rewarding."

That sense of shared effort extends offstage as well. Both Kelley and WolfKlain emphasized the strong camaraderie among the cast, many of whom are Bay Area natives and have worked together before.

"We already have that respect for each other going in," WolfKlain said. "That really helps to feed the community aspect on stage."

At its core, "Come From Away" balances heavy subject matter with an ultimately optimistic message.

"It's definitely a challenge not to let the heaviness drag down the piece," WolfKlain said. "It is such a hopeful story and a coming together of all kinds of people. It should be joyful."

Both artists see the show as especially relevant today.

"People are being divided all over our country," WolfKlain said. "Hopefully, people can see this and remember that we need to build each other up and be supportive of each other. There's enough love and support for everyone."

For Kelley, the impact is personal.

"This wonderful musical actually changed me," he said. "I'm really hoping that our audience will feel the same way."

For times, tickets (\$34-\$115) and more information, visit theatreworks.org.

Newfoundlanders and stranded passengers mix in TheatreWorks' "Come From Away," playing at MVCPA through May 10.

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Living Well

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Trump Accounts: A new savings choice for children

By Jean Kohler and
Victoria Kaempf

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 introduced a new type of savings vehicle known as a Trump account, designed to help children begin investing early in life. Recently, the U.S. Treasury and IRS provided more detail about how the accounts will operate. In general, Trump accounts provide a way for parents, relatives, employers and certain organizations to contribute money each year on behalf of a minor. The concept is straightforward. Provide a simple investment account that can grow over time and potentially support future milestones such as education, homeownership or other long-term goals.

To establish a Trump account, an election must be made on the child's behalf by filing IRS Form 4547 (Trump Account Election(s)) or by completing the process online at trumpaccounts.gov. Generally, the election may be made by a parent or legal guardian, an adult sibling, or a grandparent. The beneficiary must

Estate Planning

be under age 18 during the tax year in which the election is made and must have a Social Security number.

Contributions may be made by the beneficiary, the beneficiary's parents or relatives, employers or certain governmental or tax-exempt organizations. For 2026 and 2027, annual contributions are limited to \$5,000. This limit will be adjusted for inflation in later years. In addition, a pilot program provides an initial contribution for certain children. If a beneficiary is born between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2028, the U.S. Treasury will contribute \$1,000 to that child's Trump account. This seed contribution does not count toward the \$5,000 annual contribution cap, and similar contributions from governmental or tax-exempt organizations are also excluded from the limit.

While the beneficiary is a minor, investment op-



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Trump accounts help families plan their children's savings with rules similar to traditional IRAs.

tions within the account are limited. Funds may only be invested in mutual funds or exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that track an index of primarily U.S. companies, such as the S&P 500. These funds must not use leverage and must have annual fees of no more than 0.1%. During the child's minority, the investments in the account grow tax free.

Withdrawals from the

account are generally not permitted while the beneficiary is under age 18. Limited exceptions include correcting excess contributions, rolling over funds from other qualified accounts, or distributions made in the event of the beneficiary's death.

In the calendar year in which the beneficiary turns 18, the account becomes subject to rules similar to those

that apply to a traditional IRA. At that point, withdrawals may be subject to a 10% early withdrawal penalty unless the distribution qualifies for certain exceptions, including qualified higher education expenses, first-time home purchases, or withdrawals made after age 59½.

When funds are withdrawn,

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Aging by design: Why longevity without infrastructure can lead to crisis

By Duanni Hurd

We are living longer than any generation in human history. Over the past century, advances in medicine, public health and technology have added decades to the average lifespan. In many parts of the world, living into our 80s and 90s is no longer exceptional. But while longevity has advanced rapidly, the systems that support those extra years have not evolved at the same pace. The result is a quiet but growing reality: Many families are navigating aging without the infrastructure needed to support it. And when infrastructure is missing, crisis often fills the gap.

Modern medicine has extended lifespan, but health-span – the years lived in good health and independence – has not kept pace. This creates what might be called the longevity paradox: we have gained more years of life, yet we have not fully

Journey into Aging

designed how those years should be lived.

When aging is not designed intentionally, the consequences often appear in moments of urgency: a sudden hospitalization, a fall at home, cognitive decline that families did not anticipate, or difficult medical decisions made under pressure. In these moments, families are forced to make complex decisions with little preparation and limited support. Those decisions shape the final decades of life, and too often they are made during crisis.

Most conversations about longevity focus on biology: diet, exercise, supplements, and medical interventions. These factors matter, but they represent only part of the picture. In

practice, aging outcomes are shaped by several interconnected layers, including preventive healthcare, the environments where people live, the systems that coordinate support and care, and the decisions families make over time.

When these layers are thoughtfully designed, people are far more likely to experience aging with stability, dignity and quality of life. When they are not, families encounter fragmentation, stress and uncertainty. Aging, in other words, is not just something that happens to us. It is something shaped by the systems around us.

One of the least-discussed aspects of longevity is what might be called the “infrastructure of aging.” Behind every older adult navigating later life successfully, there is usually an invisible network of support: coordinated healthcare providers, family members providing oversight, home environ-

ments adapted for safety and mobility, financial and logistical planning, and access to community and social connection.

This infrastructure rarely appears in headlines about longevity innovation, yet it is often the factor that determines whether aging unfolds with stability or with crisis. When these systems are absent or poorly coordinated, hospitals often become the default coordinators of care – a role they were never designed to play. The result is reactive and fragmented decision-making.

Although healthcare systems play an important role, most critical aging decisions are ultimately made by families. Adult children frequently find themselves confronting difficult questions: When is it time to adjust living arrangements, what level of

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AGING

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care is appropriate, how should medical decisions be approached, and how can independence be preserved while maintaining safety? These are not small decisions. They shape daily life, relationships and long-term well-being. Yet families often face them with little guidance, limited planning, and enormous emotional weight. This is why the concept of aging by design matters.

If longer lives are becoming the norm, we must begin to design the systems that support them. Aging by design means approaching later life with intention rather than improvisation. It means thinking earlier and more systematically about environments that support mobility and safety, preventive health and lifestyle choices, systems that coordinate care and communication, and family frameworks for decision-making.

The goal is not to eliminate the uncertainties of aging, as that would be impossible. The

goal is to reduce unnecessary crises by designing better support structures around individuals and families.

The future of longevity will not be shaped solely by scientific breakthroughs or medical technologies. It will also be shaped by how well we design the everyday systems that support longer lives: homes, communities, care models and family decision structures. These elements may lack the glamour of biotechnology or cutting-edge medicine, but they are essential to translating longevity into quality of life lived.

Longer lives alone are not the measure of progress. The real measure is whether those years are lived with dignity, stability and connection. And that requires design.

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

SAVINGS

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the tax treatment depends on the source of the contributions. Investment earnings (i.e., the growth), employer contributions, nonprofit contributions and the \$1,000 government seed contribution are treated as taxable income when distributed. However, after-tax contributions made by parents or other individuals are not taxed again when withdrawn. Once the beneficiary reaches adulthood, the account may also be rolled over into a traditional IRA, after which standard IRA rules apply.

Trump accounts are intended to provide a way for children to begin building savings

at an early age. The accounts, however, do have their limitations. For example, (1) annual contributions are capped; (2) contributions must be invested in specific U.S. stock index funds with low fees; (3) only one account is allowed per child; (4) the U.S. Treasury \$1,000 seed contribution is only available to newborns born between 2025-2028; (5) funds generally cannot be withdrawn until the child reaches age 18; (6) a 10% early withdrawal penalty will be applied for withdrawals made before the beneficiary is age 59 1/2 unless the withdrawal is for the beneficiary's education or the purchase of the beneficiary's first home; and (7) with few exceptions, the beneficiary will pay income

tax on withdrawals. Other savings vehicles – such as Roth IRAs or 529 education savings plans – may offer greater tax advantages, greater flexibility and higher contribution limits for many families. As a result, Trump accounts may serve as a complementary option rather than a primary savings strategy, depending on a family's financial goals and planning priorities. We will address some of the other savings options in our next article.

Jean M. Kohler, Esq. and Victoria Kaempf, Esq. are attorneys-at-law with the Kohler Legacy Law Group, PC, in Los Altos. For more information, call (650) 475-0209 or visit kohlerlegacylaw.com.

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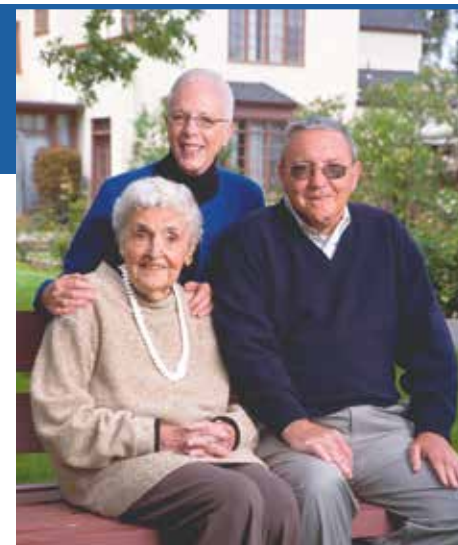


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Living Well

What lenders look at in mortgage applications

Statepoint

Qualifying for a mortgage can be intimidating. By learning what lenders assess when deciding whether to make a loan, you can take actionable steps now toward homeownership.

While credit history is an essential metric, it's not the only one at play. There are actually four core factors – the four C's – that lenders consider: capacity, capital, collateral and credit. Here's what to know about each one:

Loan repayment

Lenders want to make sure you have the means to comfortably take on a mortgage. To do so, they look at your income, employment history, savings, monthly debt payments and other financial obligations.

One of the ways lenders verify your income is by reviewing several years of your federal income tax returns and W-2s, along with current pay stubs. They evaluate your income based on:

- The source and type of income (e.g., salaried, commission or self-employed)
- How long you've been receiving the income and whether it's been stable
- How long that income is expected to continue into the future

Countering that, lenders also review your recurring monthly debts or liabilities, such as car payments, student loans, credit card payments, personal loans, child support and alimony.

Capital

A review of your overall capital is used to determine your ability to make mortgage payments. Having cash reserves proves that you can manage your finances and that you have funds, in addition to your income, that you can access fairly quickly.

Cash reserves might include savings, money market funds and other investments that can be converted to cash, such as individual retirement accounts, certificates of deposit, stocks, bonds or 401(k) accounts. Along with cash reserves, other acceptable sources of capital might include gifts from family members, down payment or closing cost assistance programs, grants and sweat equity.

Lenders may also look at the last two months of statements for your checking and savings accounts, money market accounts or investment accounts to evaluate how much capital you have.

Collateral

Lenders consider the value of the property you're pledging as

security against the loan. In the case of a mortgage, the collateral is the home you're buying. If you don't pay your mortgage, the mortgage company could take possession of your home. This is known as foreclosure. To determine the fair market value of the home you'd like to buy, your lender will order an appraisal of the property that will compare its value to similar homes in the neighborhood.

Credit

Lenders check your credit score and history to assess your record of paying bills and other debts on time. This helps lenders gauge your financial stability and thus your risk of defaulting on your loan. In addition, your credit score could dictate your interest rate and how much of a down payment will be required.

Freddie Mac tools can help you assess your readiness to buy a home and discover how much you may qualify to borrow. Visit myhome.freddie.mac.com to access a Mortgage Amount Calculator and other home buyer preparedness resources.

Having a better understanding of how lenders evaluate potential loan applicants will give you an opportunity to prepare financially to take out a loan. It can also help you navigate the process with confidence.

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Business & Real Estate

Los Altos farmers market set to make its return April 30

By Johanna Klaiman

Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association

The first thing you notice at the Downtown Los Altos Farmers' Market is the buzz of excitement and anticipation. Before the market is even officially open, eager customers line up at P&K Farms, patiently waiting for baskets of the farm's sweet Watsonville strawberries, each berry hand-selected before being placed into a basket.

The strawberries are only the beginning. Standing in that line, it becomes clear there is something magical in the air. On Thursday evenings, the intersection of Third and State Street transforms into one of Los Altos' most beloved weekly traditions. The aroma of sizzling porchetta from Roli Roti drifts through the air; colorful tents stretch down the block, and neighbors gather under the evening sun to shop, snack and socialize.

As Scott Hunter, executive director of the Los Altos Village Association, said, the "weekly farmers market is not only a place to find outstanding fresh food... but it is also a beloved community gathering place."



COURTESY OF THE PACIFIC COAST FARMERS' MARKET ASSOCIATION

Locals peruse vendors' stalls at the Downtown Los Altos Farmers' Market in May 2025.

That gathering place is set to return for another season April 30, with an opening celebration beginning at 3:45 p.m. Community leaders will gather for a ceremonial ribbon cutting to officially welcome shoppers back. To celebrate opening day, children can participate in

a crafting activity with the Power of Produce Club, decorating tote bags with farmers market fruit designs. Following the festivities, the market will continue every Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. through October 15.

The vendors themselves are

deeply rooted in the community. New to the market this season is Brain Foods, serving mouthwatering Indian food. Local customers may already know the team from their nearby restaurant, Aurum, located just down the street. Their arrival reflects the close ties

between the market and the surrounding downtown.

The market also offers the perfect blend of comfort and discovery, a chance to return to familiar favorites while trying something new. There's nothing quite like fresh blueberries from Triple Delight Blueberries, and many shoppers await the arrival of mulberries from Very Mulberry each season, a unique market favorite. Meanwhile, Zaida's Kitchen continues to serve authentic Oaxacan food, and newcomer Shindig Home and Garden offers microgreens still on the grow pad for shoppers to harvest and toss onto their favorite dishes.

It may sound cliché to say the farmers market is more than a place to fill your fridge, but for many in Los Altos, it truly is a cornerstone of the community.

"There's no app for running into your neighbor. The farmers market coming back to downtown Los Altos gives us that again," Crysta Krames, Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation CEO, said.

Whether for a weekly grocery run, to grab dinner after work, or to simply soak in the lively atmosphere, the Downtown Los Altos Farmers' Market offers something for everyone.

Expert talks: Is now the right time to buy gold?

By Artie Green

After languishing for well over a decade, gold has suddenly garnered a lot of media attention after having risen more than 60% over the past year. Even investors who are not performance chasers are asking if this might be a good time to buy some.

The bullish case is compelling. As an asset class, gold has been historically uncorrelated with both equity and fixed income investments. A basic tenet of modern portfolio theory (MPT) is that by adding uncorrelated assets to a portfolio you reduce volatility. That provides two benefits: less drag on returns from bigger price swings and less emotional inclination to buy or sell (out of greed or fear) at the wrong times.

Hard assets such as gold and real estate have historical-

Nest Egg Briefs

ly been popular as safe-haven investments during times of economic or political uncertainty. Which is why many alarmists have been touting gold recently as the best place to invest your cash. A number of global central banks such as China, Turkey, and Poland have also been reducing their U.S. dollar dependency in favor of gold due to wariness over President Trump's vacillating tariff policy. This so-called de-dollarization – although not necessarily a trend – has the potential to reduce the demand for dollars as well as to increase the demand for gold. Both would be positive for gold prices.

On the negative side, gold is neither an income-producing asset nor a purely indus-

trial commodity. According to USGS 2024 data only a little over 50% of global gold is used for industrial purposes (mostly jewelry). The remainder is maintained as a store of value by governments and financial institutions. As such, its only growth comes from capital gains. And its price has been volatile. Equities, on the other hand, represent shares of income-producing corporations, generating both capital gains and income for investors. They play a much stronger role in long-term wealth accumulation than gold does, frequently with lower volatility.

Gold has shone brightest (pun intended) as a hedge against many equity bear markets. Its performance during more stable and growth-oriented economic periods has been generally inferior to that of stocks. Since the latter



JODI/ADOBE STOCK

Gold has long been a safe-haven investment in times of uncertainty.

periods of time have occurred more frequently and with greater duration, stock returns have beaten gold hands down. For example, over the 50 years from 1976 through the end of 2025, the price of gold increased 3,372% while

the S&P 500 gained 6,298%.

Gold also faces new competition from cryptocurrencies as a store of value. For the present, Bitcoin's volatility, valuation difficulties,

See GOLD, Page 24

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COMPASS

GOLD

From Page 23

and lack of stronger regulatory oversight seem to have had little impact on gold prices. But in the near future, especially with Trump promoting greater cryptocurrency ownership together with a new meme coin in his own name (\$TRUMP), who knows?

Recognize also that in the wake of the recent runup in price, gold is currently quite expensive relative to its historical average. Expected future returns are likely to be lower moving forward.

What should a prudent investor do? As a diversifier, gold certainly adds value to an investment portfolio. And these days you don't even have to worry about buying gold bars and storing them somewhere. There are at least half a dozen ETFs in which you can invest that buy and store gold for you in multiple banks worldwide to reduce the risk of theft. But I would not recommend more than a small allocation, given its volatility and its poorer long-term performance.

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

Financial literacy is important



PHOTO COURTESY OF FEATURE IMPACT

Knowing how to manage finances is often overlooked when preparing for adulthood.

Feature Impact

You may have mastered the core subjects like math and grammar in school, but financial literacy – or understanding the basics of money management in order to help you make better financial decisions – often goes overlooked before adulthood. It's not so much a course of study as it is a plan of action.

Financial literacy in the United States has remained stagnant at generally low levels for several years, according to research from TIAA Institute and the Global Financial Literacy Excellence Center, with even lower levels among Gen Z. Yet greater financial literacy – including key aspects such as goal-setting, budgeting, saving, credit management and investing – is strongly linked to better financial outcomes, including lower rates of debt constraint and financial fragility.

While emboldening yourself to understand financial terms can be a little overwhelming at first, once you have a grasp of basic concepts you can begin to get a handle on your money and make better financial decisions. Simply put: When you understand how to earn, save, spend and invest wisely, you aren't just building a stable future for yourself, but your family and community as well.

From nonprofit partnerships to volunteer-led programs and free online resources, Schwab and its employees help millions of people every year build the knowledge and confidence to take charge of their financial futures by serving as board members, mentors, role models and educators.

Because financial health is a lifelong journey, the earlier people learn vital money skills, the better. That's why the financial advisory services provider develops education programs geared toward kids that continue into adulthood, helping people no matter where they are on their journeys.

Talk money

It's never too early to start a conversation about financial literacy. Having teens identify goals that are important to them – such as concert tickets or a first car – can kickstart conversations about money. Working with your child (and a financial advisor, if necessary) on a plan for saving to realize those goals can serve as a jumping off point. After achieving some success, their enthusiasm may grow, which is a powerful motivator to keep saving.

Support initiatives, programs

Outreach programs that empower young people to make smart financial decisions is key to a bright future. Programs like Money Matters – Schwab's flagship financial education program utilized by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America – gives young people hands-on experience with all aspects of money and investing.

This example, and others, don't just include program funding – they build partnerships that create impact and opportunity with national collaborations that reach more than 17 million youth annually, empowering young people with the tools and confidence to make smart financial decisions for life.

Spread the financial love

Championing financial literacy empowers everyone – individuals, families and communities. By serving as a board member, mentor, role model or educator to help bring financial literacy to others in your community, you can supply the tools and knowledge to lead programs that focus on giving back, empowering future generations in countless ways.

To learn more about financial literacy and find resources to empower your local community, visit Schwab-Moneywise.com.

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- The tactics some agents use to **"work around" the new rules**
- Why some agents push for hidden **"office exclusive"** listings — and who they really benefit
- The truth behind pressure to **pre-set buyer agent commissions**
- Why DeLeon Realty **never takes compensation from both sides** of a transaction
- The **must-have terms** every seller should demand before signing a listing agreement

No obligation — RSVP now. We look forward to seeing you there.

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6 PM - 8 PM**

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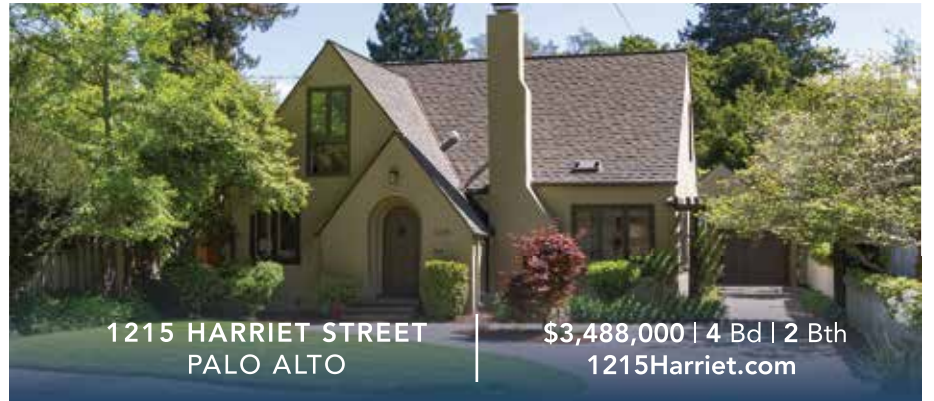




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All The Best,

Ken DeLeon, DRE #01342140
Alex Wilbur DeLeon, #01926475



To our Valued Clients and Friends,

Since DeLeon Realty was formed in 2011, Michael and Rachel Repka have contributed immensely to the development and growth of the company.

Their vision transformed a small team into a powerhouse of innovation, redefined what it means to be “client-centric,” and paved the way for a more specialized real estate experience.

Today, we congratulate Michael and Rachel on the announcement of their well-deserved retirement. Whether they are traveling the globe, or taking to the skies, we wish them nothing but clear skies and fair winds.

The Next Chapter

We are thrilled to introduce **Alex Wilbur DeLeon** as our incoming CEO. Alex is a second-generation real estate leader with a formidable educational background from **UC Berkeley** and **Georgetown**. She is uniquely prepared to carry the torch of excellence that Ken and the Repkas lit over a decade ago.

Our Commitment to You

Rest assured, the transition will be as meticulous as our service. Over the next few months, Michael, Rachel, and Alex will be working side-by-side to ensure that every client and every project continues to receive the world-class attention you’ve come to expect from DeLeon Realty.

**DeLeon Realty: Same Innovation. Same Business Model.
Same Specialized People. Same Ken. New Generation.**

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | Rachel Repka, #01933909
DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

Public Notices

T.S. No.: 200-020124E Title Order No. 91238022 APN: 003-01-033 & 120-01-018 Property Address: 235 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD & 660 PALO ALTO AVENUE, PALO ALTO, CA 94301 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/8/2022. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale of the Trustor's interest will be made to the highest bidder for lawful money of the United States, payable at the time of sale in cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: VICTOR SZCZERBA and JOLANTA SZCZERBA, AS TRUSTEES OF THE SZCZERBA FAMILY REVOCABLE TRUST DATED OCTOBER 10, 2016 Duly Appointed Trustee: PLM LOAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC. Recorded 8/9/2022, as Instrument No. 25355647, The subject Deed of Trust was modified by Modification Agreement of Real Estate Secured Equity Credit Line Revolving Loan Agreement secured by Deed of Trust recorded as Instrument 25695851 and recorded on 09/09/2024 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Santa Clara County, California, Date of Sale: 5/13/2026 at 10:00 AM Place of Sale: At the gated North Market Street entrance of the Superior Courthouse at 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$2,785,830.82 (estimated as of the first publication date) Street Address or other common designation of real property: 235 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD & 660 PALO ALTO AVENUE PALO ALTO, CA 94301 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. The

following statements; NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS AND NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER are statutory notices for all one to four single family residences and a courtesy notice for all other types of properties. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (916) 939-0772 or visit this Internet Website <http://www.nationwideposting.com/>, using the file number assigned to this case 200-020124E. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (916) 939-0772, or visit this internet website <http://www.nationwideposting.com/>, using the file number assigned to this case 200-020124E to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 4/15/2026

PLM LOAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC., as Trustee Phone: 408-370-4030 5446 Thornwood Drive, Second Floor San Jose, California 95123 Elizabeth A. Godbey, Vice President NPP0488042 To: LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER 04/22/2026, 04/29/2026, 05/06/2026 (04-22,29-26,05-06,13-26)

092-T

APEAK CONSTRUCTION FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN725625

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: APEAK CONSTRUCTION, 898 Hyde Ave, Cupertino, CA, 95014, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a general partnership. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Yvonne F Szu, 898 Hyde Ave, Cupertino, CA 95014, Mark A Logie, 898 Hyde Ave, Cupertino, CA 95014. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 04/01/2026. /S/ Mark A Logie / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 04/08/2026. (04-22,29-26,05-06,13-26)

090-T

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

FOR

2026 Sanitary Sewer Repair and Replacement Project

1. BID OPENING. Bids will be received by the City Clerk of the Town of Los Altos Hills, California, until **2:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2026**, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. Bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes marked on the outside "**Bid For 2026 Sanitary Sewer Repair and Replacement Project**".

2. WORK DESCRIPTION. This project consists of improving various segments of the existing sanitary sewer system. The scope of work for base and alternate bids includes, but not limited to, mobilization and demobilization; potholing all crossing utilities; cleaning/de-rooting and color video inspection of the sewer mains prior to construction; grubbing, tree removal and tree trimming, replacing existing sewer mains with the open trench method; reconnecting sewer mains to existing manholes; modifying the concrete flow channel; reconnecting sewer laterals to new sewer mains; installing new sewer manholes; lowering manhole frames and covers to grade; providing post-installation cleaning, and color video inspection; repair and/or replacement of pavement markings, restoring all improvements disturbed by the project at various locations throughout the Town of Los Altos Hills; replacing landscape in kind to the original condition; replacing the asphalt pavement, and replacing all damaged properties caused by this work; and doing all appurtenant work as shown and described in the contract documents with the title of **2026 Sanitary Sewer Repair and Replacement Project** dated **4/9/2026** and on file in the office of the Public Works Direc-

tor. The project Plans and Specifications/Contract Documents can be downloaded from the Town of Los Altos Hills website at <https://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/Bids.aspx>.

3. WORKING DAYS. Work under this Contract is to be completed in **FIFTY (50)** working days from the notice to proceed for the **BASE BID** and **TWENTY (20)** working days for all three **ALTERNATE BIDS (ALTERNATE 1 - BID ITEM 16-17 - SIX (6) working days; ALTERNATE 2 - BID ITEM 18-19 - FOUR (4) working days; and ALTERNATE 3 - BID ITEM 20-21 - TEN (10) working days.**

4. LIQUIDATED DAMAGES. If the Contractor fails to achieve Substantial Completion of the Work within the time specified in the Contract Documents, including any authorized extensions, the Contractor shall pay to the Owner, as liquidated damages and not as a penalty, the sum of **Three Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$3,400.00) per working day** for each day of delay until Substantial Completion is achieved.

The parties acknowledge that actual damages resulting from delay would be difficult to ascertain with certainty, and that the stipulated amount is a reasonable estimate of such damages at the time of contracting. Liquidated damages shall be cumulative and may be deducted from any monies due or to become due to the Contractor.

5. CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE. Both **Class "A"** and **Class "C-36"** Contractor's Licenses are required for bidders to bid on this project. **If a bidder does not have the required license classifications, the bidder's bid proposal shall be considered non-responsive, and the bid will be rejected.** No bid will be accepted from a Contractor who has not been licensed in accordance with Chapter 9, Division 3 of the Business and Professional Code.

6. BID DEPOSIT. A Bid Deposit, equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the total amount of the bid, shall be placed in the sealed proposal. The Bid Deposit shall be in one of the following forms: cash, cashier's check, or certified check payable to the Town, or bidder's bond in favor of the Town executed by an authorized surety company.

7. PERFORMANCE BONDS. Performance guaranty bonds, as set forth in Section 4-2 of the Special Provisions, will be required from the successful bidder.

8. TOWN'S RIGHT TO REJECT BIDS. The right is reserved, as the interest of the Town may require, to reject any or all bids, or to waive any informality or minor irregularity in the bids.

9. PRE-BID MEETING. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 28, 2026**, at the Town of Los Altos Hills Town Hall located at 26379 Fremont Road in the Town of Los Altos Hills. This meeting is to inform bidders of project requirements and subcontractors of subcontracting and material supply opportunities. This meeting includes a field visit to construction sites. Bidder's attendance is **optional**.

10. GENERAL PREVAILING WAGE RATES. Pursuant to Section 1773 of the Labor Code, the general pre-

vailing wage rates in the county, or counties, in which the work is to be done have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations. These wages are set forth in the General Prevailing Wage Rates for this project, available from the California Department of Industrial Relations' website at <http://www.dir.ca.gov>.

11. OBTAINING THE PROJECT PLANS AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS. (a) A full set of plans and Contract Documents is available for inspection without charge at the office of the Public Works Department, Town of Los Altos Hills, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. (b) A complete set of said Contract Documents is available for viewing and downloads from the Town's website at <https://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/Bids.aspx>.

12. OBTAINING THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SPECIFICATIONS. The State of California Department of Transportation Standard Specifications and Standard Plans may be purchased at the State of California Department of Transportation Publication Distribution Unit, 1900 Royal Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA 95819; Telephone: (916) 445-3520; Fax: (916) 324-8997.

13. WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS. Any bid may be withdrawn at any time prior to the time fixed in the public notice for the opening of bids only by written request for the withdrawal of the bid filed with the Director of Public Works. The request shall be executed by the bidder or his/her duly authorized representative. The withdrawal of a bid does not prejudice the right of the bidder to file a new bid. Whether or not bids are opened exactly at the time fixed in the public notice for opening bids, a bid will not be received after that time, nor may any bid be withdrawn after the time fixed in the public notice for opening of bids.

14. RELIEF OF BIDDERS. As stated in the California Public Contract Code Sections 5100 to 5110, inclusive (State Contract Act) concerning relief of bidders and in particular to the requirement therein, that if the bidder claims a mistake was made in his/her bid, the bidder shall give the Public Works Director written notice within five (5) days after the opening of the bids of the alleged mistake, specifying in the notice in detail how the mistake occurred.

15. DISQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS. More than one proposal from an individual, firm, partnership, corporation, or combination thereof under the same or different names will not be considered. Reasonable grounds for believing that any individual, firm, partnership, corporation or combination thereof is interested in more than one proposal for the work contemplated may cause the rejection of all proposals in which such individual, firm, partnership, corporation or combination thereof is interested. If there is reason for believing that collusion exists among the bidders, any or all proposals may be rejected. Proposals in which the prices are obviously unbalanced may be rejected.

16. PREVIOUS DISQUALIFICATION, REMOVAL, OR OTHER PREVENTION OF BIDDING. A bid may be rejected based on a bidder, any officer of such bidder, or any employee of such bidder who has a proprietary interest in such bidder,

having been disqualified, removed, or otherwise prevented from bidding on, or completing a federal, state, or local project because of a violation of law or a safety regulation.

17. RESPONSIBILITY FOR VERIFYING CONTRACT ADDENDA. All bidders shall verify if any addenda for this project have been issued by the Town of Los Altos Hills. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that all requirements of Contract addenda are included in the bidder's proposal.

18. ESCROW FOR SECURITY DEPOSIT IN LIEU OF RETENTION. Pursuant to the California Public Contract Code Section 22300, for monies earned by the Contractor and withheld by the Town to ensure the performance of the Contract, the Contractor may, at its option, choose to substitute securities meeting the requirements of said California Public Contract Code Section 22300.

19. SHORING AND BRACING. Pursuant to the provisions of the California Labor Code Section 6707, each bid submitted in response to this Notice to Bidders shall contain, as included in each bid item, adequate sheeting, shoring, and bracing, or equivalent method, for the protection of life and limb in trenches and open excavation, which shall conform to applicable safety orders. By listing this sum, the bidder warrants that its action does not convey tort liability to the Town, Engineer, and their employees, agents, and subconsultants.

20. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (DIR) REQUIREMENTS. This Contract will be subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the California Department of Industrial Relations, pursuant to Labor Code section 1771.4. Under California Labor Code section 1771.1, as amended by SB 854, a contractor may not bid, nor be listed as a subcontractor, for any bid proposal submitted for public work on or after March 1, 2015, and contracts entered into on or after April 1, 2015, unless the contractor and its subcontractors are registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to section 1725.5 of the Labor Code. The Bidder and its Subcontractors must be registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to section 1725.5 of the Labor Code, subject to limited legal exceptions under Labor Code section 1771.1.

Dated: April 8, 2026
/s/ Arika M. Birdsong-Miller
City Clerk
(04-22,29-26,05-06-26)

089-T

T.S. No.: 25-17271 Loan No.: ***1332 APN: 336-02-065
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/7/2022. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings bank specified

in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Lawrence L.M. Wu And Mealea Men, Husband And Wife As Community Property With Right Of Survivorship Duly Appointed Trustee: Prestige Default Services, LLC Recorded 3/14/2022 as Instrument No. 25259278 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Santa Clara County, California, Date of Sale: 5/13/2026 at 10:00 AM Place of Sale: At the Gated North Market Street entrance of the Superior Courthouse 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$4,803,076.60 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 730 S El Monte Ave Los Altos, California 94022 A.P.N.: 336-02-065 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. All checks payable to Prestige Default Services, LLC. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to

Public Notices

you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (949) 776-4697 or visit this Internet Website <https://prestige-postandpub.com>, using the file number assigned to this case 25-17271. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (949) 776-4697, or visit this internet website <https://prestigepostandpub.com>, using the file number assigned to this case 25-17271 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 4 / 8 / 2 0 2 6 Prestige Default Services, LLC 1920 Old Tustin Ave. Santa Ana, California 92705 Questions: 949-427-2010 Sale Line: (949) 776-4697 Nida Taylor, Foreclosure Coordinator P P P # 2 6 - 0 0 3 8 7 1 (04-22,29-26,05-06-26)

088-T

VELORA COACHING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN725573

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) VELORA COACHING, (2) DANCING IN COLLEGE, 664 Fremont Ave, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): THE BAY AREA DANCE SCHOOL, LLC, 664 Fremont Ave, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Leyla Boissonnade / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 04/07/2026. (04-15,22,29-26,05-06-26)

087-T

IMPACT THROUGH EQUITY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN725549

The following person (persons)

is (are) doing business as: IMPACT THROUGH EQUITY, 124 Del Monte Ave, 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): Jocelyn Lee, 124 Del Monte Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Jocelyn Lee / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 04/06/2026. (04-15,22,29-26,05-06-26)

086-T

T.S. NO.: 112-020117E APN: 132-66-001; 132-66-002; 132-66-003; 132-66-004; 132-66-005; 132-66-006; 132-66-007; 132-66-008; 132-66-009; 132-66-010; 132-66-011 Property Address: 4115 EL CAMINO REAL, PALO ALTO, CA 94306 NOTICE OF UNIFIED TRUSTEE'S SALE

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED AND SECURITY AGREEMENT DATED 11/2/2021. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 5/6/2026, 10:00 AM, PLM LOAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC., as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded on 11/5/2021, as Document No. 25156545, of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of Santa Clara, California, executed by Y & J MICHELE WAY LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, as Trustor, AVIDBANK, as Beneficiary. WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by Cash, a Cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). At: At the gated North Market Street entrance of the Superior Courthouse at 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California, describing the land therein: As more fully described on said Deed of Trust. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 4115 EL CAMINO REAL, PALO ALTO, CA 94306. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warrant, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trust created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: \$17,748,690.99* (estimated as of the first publication date). Ac-

rued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase the figure prior to sale. *This loan is also secured by the following Deeds of Trust: Deed of Trust recorded in San Mateo County, CA on 3/29/2024 Instrument #2024-016531, as modified Deed of Trust recorded in Santa Clara County, CA on 3/29/2024 Instrument #25616402, as modified Beneficiary hereby elects to conduct a unified foreclosure sale pursuant to the provisions of California Commercial Code section 9604, et seq., and to include in the non-judicial foreclosure of the real property interest described in the Security Agreement dated 11/2/2021, between the original trustor and the original beneficiary, as it may have been amended from time to time, and pursuant to any other instruments between the trustor and beneficiary referencing a security interest in personal property. Beneficiary reserves its right to evoke its election as to some or all of said personal property and/or fixtures, or to add additional personal property and/or fixtures to the election herein expressed, as Beneficiary's sole election, from time to time and at any time until the consummation of the Trustee's Sale to be conducted pursuant to the Deed of Trust and this Notice of Trustee's Sale. See the Deed of Trust, if applicable. The personal property which was given as security for trustor's obligation is described as: All equipment, fixtures, and other articles of personal property now or hereafter owned by Debtor, and now or hereafter attached or affixed to the Real Property; together with all accessions, parts, and additions to, all replacements of, and all substitutions for, any of such property; and together with all proceeds (including without limitation all insurance proceeds and refunds of premiums) from any sale or other disposition of the Property. The words "Personal Property" also include all tangible and intangible items obtained or owned by, or in the possession of Debtor that are directly or indirectly related to the acquisition, development, design, construction, permitting, marketing, or habitation of the Real Property or the Improvements to be constructed on the Real Property, whether heretofore or hereafter issued, prepared, or executed, including without limitation all permits, licenses, authorizations and approvals, trademarks and tradenames, and any and all land use entitlements, development rights, sewer capacity, approvals, density allocations and other rights or approvals relating to or authorizing the development or occupancy of the Property, plus all utility or other deposits, reimbursement rights, studies/tests, contracts, plans and specifications, relating to the Property and Improvements; whether any of the foregoing is owned now or acquired later; all accessions, additions, replacements, and substitutions relating to any of the foregoing; all records of any kind relating to any of the foregoing.. No warranty is made that any or all of the personal property still exists or is available for the successful bidder and no warranty is made as to the condition of any of the personal property, which shall be sold "as is" "where is". The beneficiary under the Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned, a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a Written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the County here the real property is located and more than three months have

elapsed since such recordation. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (916) 939-0772 or visit this Internet Website <http://www.nationwideposting.com/>, using the file number assigned to this case 112-020117E. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (916) 939-0772, or visit this internet website <http://www.nationwideposting.com/>, using the file number assigned to this case 112-020117E to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. 4/1/2026 PLM LOAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC., as Trustee Phone: (408) 370-4030 5446 Thornwood Drive, 2nd Floor San Jose, CA 95123 Elizabeth A. Godbey, Vice President

NPP0487488 To: LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER 04/15/2026, 04/22/2026, 0 4 / 2 9 / 2 0 2 6 (04-15,22,29-26)

085-T

A1 COMPLETE AUTO CARE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN725128

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) A1 COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR, (2) A1 FOREIGN AUTO REPAIR, 1544 West El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA, 94040, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): EDGE AUTOWORKS LLC, 1066 Salerno Dr, Campbell, CA 95008. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 03/25/2026. /S/ Sam Jackson / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/25/2026. (04-15,22,29-26,05-06-26)

084-T

THE FRONT DOOR EDIT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN725480

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: THE FRONT DOOR EDIT, 6759 Velvet Meadow Ct, San Jose, CA, 95120, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): THE EDITS BY MY LLC, 6759 Velvet Meadow Ct, San Jose, CA 95120. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/28/2026. /S/ Maryann Cristofi / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 04/03/2026. (04-15,22,29-26,05-06-26)

083-T

ALRI INTERPRETING SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN725440

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ALRI INTERPRETING SERVICES, 1236 Calle Oriente Apt 2, Milpitas, CA, 95035, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Ana Guadalupe Magallon, 1236 Calle Oriente Apt 2, Milpitas, CA 95035. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/27/2023. /S/ Ana Guadalupe Magallon / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 04/02/2026. (04-15,22,29-26,05-06-26)

082-T

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOY SHIEMAN AKA JOY L. SHIEMAN CASE NO. 26PR202094

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in

the WILL or estate, or both of JOY SHIEMAN AKA JOY L. SHIEMAN. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CHERE H. MOORE in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CHERE H. MOORE 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: 05/01/26 at 9:01AM in Dept. 7 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 BENJAMIN D. HARVEY, ESQ. SBN 191750 MILLER LAW GROUP, PC P.O. BOX 130937 CARLSBAD CA 92013 Telephone (650) 566-2290 4/8, 4/15, 4/22/26 CNS-4030295# LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER (04-08,15,22-26)

081-T

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOHN G. CHEN CASE NO. 26PR202143

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or es-

tate, or both of JOHN G. CHEN. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JANE J. YANG in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JANE J. YANG 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: 05/06/2026 at 9:01AM in Dept. 7 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 Jason L. Pintar, Esq. (#212452) 2021 The Alameda, Suite 310 San Jose, CA 95126 PHONE (408) 983-0500 FAX (408) 216-9976 (04-08,15,22-26)

079-T

GRAND WORLDSCHOOL TRAVEL CO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN725112

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: GRAND WORLDSCHOOL TRAVEL CO, 2165 Dartmouth St, 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): GRAND HOMESCHOOL TRAVEL CO LLC, 2165 Dartmouth St, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Registrant began transact-

Public Notices

ing business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 03/24/2026. /S/ Katherine English / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/25/2026. (04-01,08,15,22-26)

078-T

KORITA JUNK REMOVAL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN724734

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: KORITA JUNK REMOVAL, 960 Vine St, San Jose, CA, 95110, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Abraham Aguayo Garcia, 5461 Holt Blvd, Ste A, Montclair, CA 91763. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 03/02/2026. /S/ Abraham Aguayo Garcia / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/12/2026. (04-01,08,15,22-26)

077-T

JLC HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN724696

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) JLC HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES, (2) JLC HOME SERVICES, (3) CALVILLO HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES, (4) CALVILLO HOME SERVICES, 126 San Antonio Circle -11B, 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): Jose Luis Calvillo, P.O. Box 332, Mountain View, CA 94042. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 03/16/2016. /S/ Jose Luis Calvillo / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/12/2026. (04-01,08,15,22-26)

076-T

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Town Crier**

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by 2pm on Thursday



Datebook

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

EVENTS

Los Altos Main Library. All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, unless otherwise indicated. **Monday Meditation & Mindfulness**, 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Los Altos Main Library, 7 p.m., Woodland Library, 1975 Grant Road. **Poetry Community Hour Open Mic**, 7 p.m., first Monday of every month. **Bay Area Games Day**, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., third Saturday of every month. **Other events: Coexisting with Urban Wildlife**, 2 p.m. May 2. Learn about the wildlife that live in Silicon Valley, as well as how to co-exist with them. Silicon Valley Wildlife Group will discuss their ongoing research on local wildlife. **Ekphrastic Creative Writing Poetry Workshop**, 2 p.m. May 9. Masuma Ahmed will lead an ekphrastic creative writing poetry workshop that will invite participants to respond creatively to the artwork on display, using it as a springboard for their poetic explorations. The workshop aims to foster an appreciation for the interplay between visual and literary art while encouraging self-expression and creativity. Masuma Ahmed's Celebration of Women art exhibit will be on display at the Los Altos Library for the month of May.

Mountain View Public Library. All events held in the main library, 585 Franklin St, Mountain View, unless otherwise indicated. **Baby Storytime**, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Wednesdays, Mountain View Public Library, first floor program room. Musical storytime for infants, babies and new toddlers with books, baby bounces and dancing. After storytime, there is a brief stay and play for grownups to connect and mingle. Program designed for ages 0-18 months. **Needle Crafts Circle**, 10-11:30 a.m. the fourth Saturday of every month. Second Floor Program Room. Join the needle crafts circle – a relaxed, friendly space for all fabric arts, including hand sewing, knitting, crocheting and more. Bring your project and unwind with a welcoming community of fellow crafters. No registration required. Seating is limited and available on a first come, first served basis. The needle crafts circle is intended for adults, ages 18 and up.

OBITUARY NOTICE

SCOTT JAMES SCHERER



September 12, 1969 –
March 6, 2026

James Scherer passes away at age 56. A deeply devoted father, husband, brother, son, and friend to many, whose expertise in and passion for the outdoors spanned his entire life. Scott James Scherer passed away from natural causes while surfing along his beloved California coast on Friday, March 6, 2026. He was 56 and lived in Menlo Park.

Scott was born in Palo Alto to Jim and Renie Scherer on September 12, 1969. He grew up alongside his sister Julie in Los Altos and attended Los Altos High School, where he excelled at water polo and tennis, graduating in 1988. He went on to attend the University of Redlands, where he played both sports for the Bulldogs.

A lifelong student of markets and world affairs, he studied International Relations and spent time studying in Russia in 1991. He graduated in 1992 and joined CoinStar as its third-ever employee, moving to Seattle to start his career. It was there he met the love of his life, Meg McGraw.

After Meg and Scott married in 1998, they settled in Los Angeles, where Scott attended the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business and Meg continued her career in affordable housing. After two years in Los Angeles, they moved to San Francisco. They bought a house in the neighborhood of West Portal,

and in 2004, they welcomed Miles James into their lives. Two years later, they were joined by their daughter Sadie Margaret, and soon moved to Menlo Park, nearly across the street from his sister Julie and her family, and only a few miles away from his parents.

Scott spent his career as a technologist and product executive, working at established technology names and start-up companies across a 30-year career. He also worked as an advisor to several start-ups, most notably Tablet Command, of which he was most proud.

A natural inventor and creative thinker, with patents to his name, Scott brought the same curiosity and craftsmanship to everything he did. That creativity extended to his passion for artistry and woodworking, where he developed a side venture building beautiful custom furniture for family, friends, and clients.

While Scott and Meg raised their kids in Menlo Park, Scott maintained an enduring commitment to the outdoors. Whether mountaineering in the Pacific Northwest, backcountry skiing with friends around the world, camping with family and close friends, mountain-biking weekly with his buddies, or surfing throughout California, he felt most alive in the mountains, the ocean, and the wild places in between.

Scott was the rare person who felt equally at home in the great cities of the world, as well as wandering through the most rural and untouched climes. His mantra was "No Wasted Days" — a credo that he lived by daily.

During 2025, Scott took a 10-month sabbatical to ski throughout the western United States/Canada and surf on the west coast of Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Everywhere he traveled, he eagerly connected with old friends. A devoted planner at heart, he loved adventure and could always be counted on to originate the most exciting plans and follow through on the details. He loved planning travel to share with others.

In that vein, whether it was work, play, travel, or relaxation, he focused all of his energies on relationships. He was a devoted husband, an enthusiastic and loving father, a wonderful son and brother, and a fiercely loyal friend. He was positive, funny, kind, and made those he loved feel special. He lived life to the fullest and pushed all those he loved to do the same.

He is survived by his father Jim, his sister Julie, his wife Meg, his son Miles, and his daughter Sadie, as well as many adoring family and friends. He will be missed daily, remembered always, and his legacy will live on in all the people who are fortunate enough to call themselves his friend.





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