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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 • June 25, 2025

## A little family fun



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

Los Altos' Family Fun Days welcomed the summer Saturday with myriad activities for families with young children. The event was held at the Los Altos Community Center and hosted by the city's Parks and Recreation Department and Los Altos Library. The free event included games, arts and crafts, movies and a scavenger hunt. Members of the city's Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture Commission were among those in attendance and volunteering.



## Los Altos Hills fire zone map to change after residents protest

By Curtis Driscoll  
Staff Writer/curtisdr@latc.com

Following significant community pushback over concerns about changes in property values and insurance rates, the Los Altos Hills City Council has reversed course and approved a new fire hazard severity map that designates fewer properties as being in higher-risk zones.

At its June 20 meeting, the council adopted a map that re-categorizes properties into fire risk classification zones of no risk, moderate, high and very high, with the council choosing to adopt the minimum requirement map from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The council, at its May 15 meeting, originally approved a map that adds approximately 50 more properties to high and very high-risk

designations to the minimum requirements, citing concerns over the risks of a major fire like the Palisades Fire and wanting to be as prepared as possible to reduce risk.

Being in a high- or very high-risk designation leads to stricter building code requirements, mandatory defensible space requirements and real estate disclosure obligations. City staff said that if a wildfire damages a structure, the new structure would have to meet new building standards when the application is filed.

The catalyst for the switch to the Cal Fire map was broad public opposition to the map proposed by city staff, expressed at a tense June 18 council meeting for the second reading of the city's proposed map ordinance. Dozens of residents packed into

See FIRE, Page 5

### Online Poll of the Week



Here are the results of the latest poll:

What should be included in a new e-bike law?

- No riding on sidewalks, anywhere in the city - 52.2%
- No sidewalk riding in the downtown, only - 4.5%
- Limit use to Class 1 and Class 2 bikes - 11.9%
- Riders of all ages must wear helmets - 16.4%
- Riders younger than 18 must wear helmets - 3.0%
- Fines should occur with the first infraction - 10.4%
- Warnings should be issued with first infraction - 10.4%

Watch for more polls at losaltosonline.com.

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# Around Town

## Independence Day greetings



S.M. LIEU/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Los Altos chapter, work on creating homemade greeting cards June 11 at the Los Altos Community Center. Los Altos members co-hosted this event with the Los Altos Recreation Adult 50-Plus program. DAR member Ann Hepenstal said the group made 70 “Independence Day” cards for the sailors aboard the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier. Pictured from left are Sharon Stokes (standing), Ann Hepenstal, Cindy Newman, Kathy Wright and Mary Lou Neumann.

## Corrections

• A June 4 letter to the editor from Bruce McFarlane about gas leaf blowers contained an incorrect word. A url also was incorrect. The correct sentence

is: “Residents should contact city council members and the city manager, and report the address, date and time of day of violations via the city’s on-line code enforcement form at [losaltosca.gov/development-services/webform/online-](http://losaltosca.gov/development-services/webform/online-)

code-enforcement-form.

• Last week’s caption about new art at State Street Market incorrectly identified the fruit in the image. The fruit is an apricot, reflective of Los Altos’ agricultural history.



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<p><b>ORGANIC MIXED COLOR LOCAL CHERRY TOMATOES</b> NOW IN</p>		<p><b>SEEDLESS WATERMELONS</b> SWEET CALIF. GROWN <b>69¢</b> LB</p> 

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# News

## News Briefs

### Los Altos developer to be arraigned Monday

Vahe Tashjian, a Los Altos-based developer accused of embezzling millions from investors, is scheduled to be arraigned in Santa Clara County Superior Court Monday (June 30) on 24 criminal charges.

The charges against Tashjian, all felonies, range from breach of fiduciary duties, to unfair business practices and fraud. He also has been fighting a host of civil charges brought against him.

Tashjian lost his housing project at 5150 El Camino Real in 2021 after his Dutchints Development LLC declared bankruptcy. Prometheus Real Estate now owns the property and has broken ground on a new housing project.

Many of the complaints suggest Tashjian funneled money from one project to another without investors' knowledge, and he promised large returns on investments. Some investors claim they lost all their money on Tashjian's failed projects. Tashjian has doubled down on the numerous investor accusations, blaming them for the downfall of his company.

### Council members hold office hours

Los Altos City Council members hold regular office hours to meet one-on-one with members of the public and receive feedback on issues.

Vice Mayor Neysa Fligor is scheduled to hold office hours 9-10:30 a.m. Saturday (June 28) at Grant Park. Fligor will not be holding office hours during the month of July.

Councilmember Johnathan Weinberg will be holding hours 10 a.m. to noon Saturday in the Apricot Room of the Los Altos Community Center.

For more information, visit [losaltosca.gov](http://losaltosca.gov).



SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Cyclists navigate the newly repaved El Camino Real in Los Altos with its painted bike lanes and vertical elements.

## New ECR vertical elements get mixed reactions from commuters

By Bruce Barton

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

The new bike lane vertical elements along El Camino Real, through Los Altos and Mountain View, appear to be a hit with cyclists while generating a thumbs-down from motorists.

"The vertical delineators now on El Camino are a strong visual reminder to drivers that cyclists may be present," said Terry Barton with Mountain View's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. "They are also a sign to cyclists that using El Camino to connect to quieter streets as part of a bike trip is feasible."

The 43-inch-high vertical elements (also called mega markers) are among the finishing touches on Caltrans' 7-mile El Camino Real upgrade project from Palo Alto through Mountain View and Los Altos. The project includes resurfacing, and crosswalk, ADA ramp and traffic signal improvements.

As an avid cyclist, Barton acknowledged that the thoroughfare, even with the protected bike lanes, is not the preferred route.

"There are gaps where the bike lanes disappear or are very narrow, so El Camino is far from a preferred cycling route, but the changes are a significant upgrade in safety for cyclists and should help distracted drivers

regain attention before colliding with a cyclist or roadside object," he said. "The bike lanes make better use of the public right-of-way to get more people where they need to go. The improved crosswalks and the new crosswalks which are coming are also making it safer for those on foot."

Local cyclist David Tucker outlined the pros and cons of the protected bike lanes.

"I appreciate the goal of the vertical barriers: insulating cyclists from the faster moving cars," he said. "The downside is that drivers appear frightened by the posts. I see many cars drifting left into the center lane, which causes cascades of emergency braking across all lanes. I am hopeful that this is a temporary situation as local residents get used to the barriers and the narrower lanes."

He added: "Several neighbors have expressed less positive opinions to me. Their annoyance boils down to 'the bike lanes are too wide and the cars deserve more room.' I try to respond gently, pointing out that the bikes deserve not to get hit ... and less dramatic bike lane designs did not deliver that safety."

Bruce Hildenbrand of Mountain View offered additional concerns regarding the vertical elements and the bike lanes.

"The vertical elements clearly

provide separation but I don't think they are sturdy enough to provide protection if a car/truck somehow veers into them," he said. "What is also interesting will be what sort of maintenance program will be put in place to keep the bike lane area clear of debris. I have seen this as a problem in other areas where there is a separation barrier because street cleaning equipment can't access the narrow bike lane."

He also addressed the issue of whether the improvements will result in increased bike lane usage.

"Will regular (bike) commuters change their route to make use of the new lane(s)? Data collected by (the cycling advocacy group) People for Bikes indicates that yes, commuters will change their route(s) to the new lanes. ... Will the new bike lanes entice non-cyclists to start riding their bikes because there is a perception that cycling is now safer? Sadly, the data collected by People for Bikes indicates that this does not happen."

He added: "It will be interesting to see if the (El Camino Real) bike lanes have enough bicycle traffic such that car drivers won't resent the fact that they have lost parking spaces for something which is rarely/barely used. This has happened in a number of cities and for some reason, local news channels seem to enjoy pointing this out."

## Cal Water work proceeds amid few complaints

Town Crier Staff Report

For the past several weeks, downtown Los Altos visitors have been putting up with closed parking lots, noise and dust from work on underground water lines.

Officials from the California Water Service (Cal Water), which is doing the work, promise construction work pain will result in everyone's gain.

"There's always going to be certain pinch points with things like noise or dust," said Chris Wilson, Cal Water operations manager. "We're doing the best that we can to make sure that everything is kept as tidy and usable as possible."

They've also stayed away during busy farmers markets, held every Thursday along State Street.

Wilson said he's heard of only one complaint thus far, conveyed by the city of Los Altos which received the initial call.

Cal Water's upgrade is aimed at improving water supply reliability and fire protection in the area. Crews are replacing more than 7,060 feet of decades-old water main, along with replacing and installing additional fire hydrants and valves.

"The infrastructure is in," Wilson said. "The (new) water main is all constructed and tied in, and the services are connected, so the customers are benefiting from that new system now."

Wilson said Cal Water looked to do work in conjunction with scheduled road improvement work by the city of Los Altos.

Sometime in late summer, city crews plan to be micro-resurfacing sections of Main and State streets during a three-week project aimed at extending road life.

Streets will be closed during the work period, with closures lasting approximately one day

See WATER, Page 5

# News

## FIRE

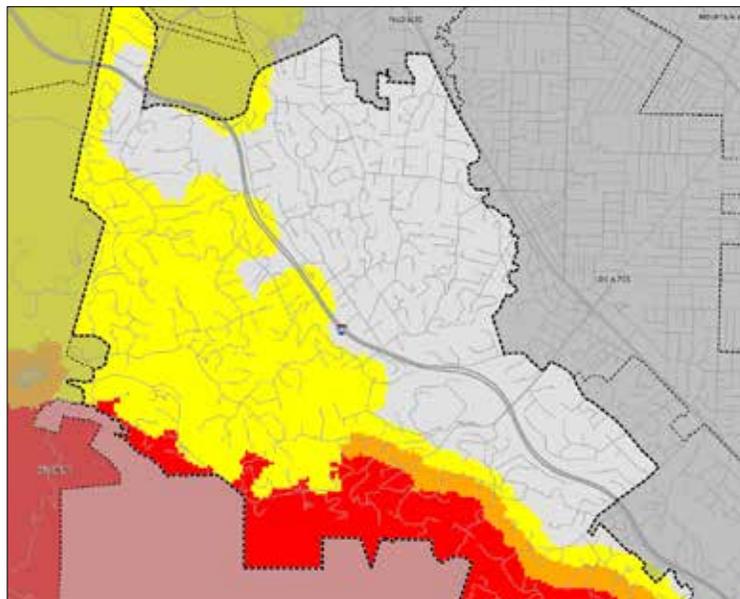
From Page 1

Town Hall to argue against the chosen map and to request the map from Cal Fire. Those who spoke expressed dissatisfaction with adding more properties than necessary, the process for how the city finalized the map, and asked why the town should do any more than required by the state. Several residents, in emails to the city, noted that insurance companies had cancelled their plans, leading to residents having to switch to other insurance companies that charge significantly more. Many were also worried insurance companies would use the map information.

“I don’t believe Los Altos Hills has “substantial evidence” to increase the hazard severity of parcels in Los Altos Hills, and the town likely doesn’t have the expertise, resources or time to develop the substantial evidence needed to review and change the baseline,” Los Altos Hills resident Bill Ralston said in an email. “Cal Fire’s baseline severity map already provides what the town needs for preparing for and responding to a major fire.”

Others argued that the town already had effective fire prevention measures in place, including defensible space requirements and vegetation management programs, and called for alternative ways to increase fire safety.

“Instead of reclassification, I think it would be more effective to enhance our existing fire prevention programs and education initiatives,” Pankaj Raghuvanshi said in an email to



SCREENSHOT FROM A LOS ALTOS HILLS CITY STAFF REPORT

**The Cal Fire map the Los Altos City Council approved at its June 20 special meeting. The map meets the minimum requirement from the state.**

the city. “This could include engaging residents through public forums to address concerns and gather feedback.”

The process of reaching the new map involved several meetings. The council initially passed the first reading of an ordinance with a map that expanded zones beyond those provided by Cal Fire at its May 15 meeting with a 3-1 vote, with Vice Mayor Rajiv Bhateja voting against it. Mayor Kavita Tankha recused herself from all discussions on the topic because she lives near the affected properties. At the second reading on June 18, a 2-2 deadlock occurred, with Council members Linda Swan and George Tyson opposing changing the map and introducing a new ordinance for the Cal Fire base map, while Vice Mayor Rajiv Bhateja and Councilmember Stanley Mok were in favor. The council eventually agreed to reconvene Friday morning

to discuss the issue. At the June 20 meeting, the council agreed by a 4-0 vote to use the Cal Fire base map.

The map will help implement fire prevention strategies and inform land use planning, building codes and wildfire mitigation plans. Even with the Cal Fire map, approximately 178 properties will be classified as high and 507 as very high risk.

In 2021, the state required Cal Fire to identify moderate and high fire hazard severity zones in local responsibility areas, where Cal Fire and local agencies share responsibility, like Los Altos Hills.

The council held a June 24 meeting to finalize the new map for adoption, which is the state’s deadline. The town must adopt a map within 120 days of receiving a recommendation from the state, which sent it to the town in late February.

then going down State Street to Main Street, and back up Main Street to Third Street. Crews will also install main on Third Street, from Plaza North to Plaza South.

During Phase II, the remainder of Plaza Central, from Third Street to First Street, will be completed. Work will continue along all of Plaza North, from First Street to Edith Avenue, and then down Edith to San Antonio Road.

Wilson said Cal Water crews hope to finish Phase I in time for the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival, scheduled July 12 and 13.

Phase I is expected to take two months. Phase II will take another three months, according to the water company.

Wilson said aligning work schedules with the city amounts to a “win-win for the city and for Cal Water rate payers.

“While some parking spaces may be unavailable during construction, all businesses in the immediate area will remain accessible,” Cal Water officials said.

California Water Service provides water to more than 70,000 people through 18,500 service connections in Los Altos and more than 2 million people statewide through nearly 500,000 connections.

For any questions, customers can contact at calwater.com or the Cal Water office at (650) 917-0152.

## WATER

From Page 4

per block. Roads also will be restriped.

“This is an important project for our downtown area,” said Dawn Smithson, Los Altos suburban district manager. “We appreciate everyone’s patience during construction, as we continue our partnership with the city of Los Altos to make water system improvements that will benefit our community for decades to come.”

Work will be completed in two phases.

Phase I includes construction on Plaza Central, from Third Street to State Street,

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## News

# Farmers' market vendor told to leave after brick-and-mortar complaints

By **Christina Casillas**  
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

**L**auren and Luigi Proto – owners of Pizza and Amore – are left wondering what the rest of the farmers market season will be like for them after they received indirect notice from the Los Altos Village Association (LAVA) that their business was no longer welcome at the Los Altos Farmers' Market after June 26.

Redwood City-based Pizza and Amore was founded by the husband-and-wife duo. In addition to classes and catering services, Pizza and Amore provides local farmers markets – including the downtown Los Altos Farmers' Market and Campbell Farmers' Market – fresh, wood-fired Positano pizza.

The pizza is a labor of love for Luigi, who emigrated from Italy. His love for authenticity and quality, fresh ingredients is reflected in his craft – the sauce is made from imported Italian tomatoes, and the airy crust is fermented for 48 hours prior to being cooked.

"We offer Neapolitan style pizza," Lauren said in a phone call. "And there are other types of different pizza that you'll find throughout Italy."

### Business complaints

LAVA initially "expressed desire" to the Pacific Coast Farmers Market Association (PCFMA) for the removal of Pizza and Amore during the 2024 season, Scott Hunter, LAVA executive director, stated in an email. "As a courtesy they were allowed to remain for that season with the caveat they would not return."

While Lauren and Luigi said the type of pizza they sold set them apart from downtown brick-and-mortar restaurants – the local brick-and-mortars overwhelmingly offer American style pizza – LAVA did not accept that argument.

And neither did some local restaurants. The decision to bar Pizza and Amore from the business came after LAVA received complaints from some downtown Los Altos brick-and-mortars about Pizza and Amore taking their business. The identity of the restaurant owner(s) was not shared with the Town Crier.

Claims that Pizza and Amore was competition for local brick-



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

**Customers line up for Pizza and Amore at the Los Altos Farmers' Market.**

and-mortars befuddled Lauren, who noted the two-person team is there for only four hours once a week during the farmers market season, which ranges from April to October.

But Pizza and Amore's presence at the downtown Los Altos Farmers' Market was a point of contention – and misunderstanding – since before the season began, according to Hunter and Allen Moy, PCFMA executive director. The PCFMA has been the downtown Los Altos Farmers' Market operator, in partnership with LAVA, for three years.

During a meeting between PCFMA and LAVA staff prior to the start of the 2025 season, the teams discussed Pizza and Amore, with LAVA requesting PCFMA seek out another hot food vendor to replace the business because they were concerned about competition. PCFMA staff understood that the new vendor would be needed for the 2026 season, while LAVA staff understood that Pizza and Amore would not be returning for the 2025 season.

Moy's staff moved forward with their interpretation of the verbal agreement, he said. He added it would have been more ideal if the confirmation had been written.

"This year, the market has a new on-site manager who was not aware of the wording of our agreement with his (supervisors) at PCFMA. We thought, however, he understood we would like to not have a pizza vendor at the market," Hunter said. "When we discovered our request was not heeded, we were forced to ask for the removal of Pizza and Amore. This was part of enforcing the contract which also calls for only a certain percentage of the mar-

ket being hot food."

LAVA requested PCFMA remove Pizza and Amore from the farmers market May 30. Moy said LAVA was "gracious enough" to give Pizza and Amore until June 26 because that was the last Los Altos Farmers' Market date when the business's quarterly health permit was valid.

While PCFMA submitted a petition to LAVA June 13, LAVA denied it. Additionally, Lauren has accrued approximately 139 signatures on a petition to LAVA to allow Pizza and Amore to continue operating at the Downtown Los Altos Farmers' Market this season and future seasons.

Currently, the contract between LAVA and PCFMA requires PCFMA to adhere to LAVA hot food vendor requests, except for products that had received clearance prior to the season's opening, Moy said.

"We feel like we're confident that the remaining hot food vendors that are there will be able to stay," he added. "We greatly value our partnership with LAVA, and our goal is to always work collaboratively with them. We really regret that this miscommunication created this problem that's affecting both LAVA and Pizza and Amore."

### Community response

Many farmers market patrons feel LAVA's approach to the situation – and communication with members of the public – have been less than gracious.

Diana Weisler, who has lived in Los Altos for most of her life, said LAVA's decision to bar Pizza and Amore from the farmers market was uncharacteristic of the Los Altos, and the Los Altos community, that she loves.

See **PIZZA**, Page 26



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## Assessor Stone to call it quits after 30 years

Town Crier Report

After three decades as Santa Clara County Assessor and more than 47 years in public service, Lawrence “Larry” E. Stone announced June 23 that he will not seek re-election in 2026, and will officially step down on July 6.

First elected to Sunnyvale City Council in 1975, Stone, 81, is the longest serving elected official in Santa Clara County. Elected assessor in 1994, Stone also has the longest tenure as Santa Clara County Assessor since Lewis Spitzer left office in 1912.

Over the past 30 years, Stone said he has successfully completed the annual assessment roll by the mandated deadline, overseen significant changes in property valuation practices, implemented advanced technologies to improve transparency and efficiency, and managed the office during recessions to periods of growth and positive economic activity, while maintaining a steadfast focus on customer service.

“It has been the honor of my lifetime to serve the people of Santa Clara County,” Stone said. “When I first took office, I could not have imagined the journey ahead. My private sector real estate and business experience prepared me for success in the efficient and effective management of the Assessor’s Office.”

Even with a 500% increase in the assessment roll, Stone has added only one person to staffing levels and returned more than \$35 million to the county’s general fund since he took office on January 1, 1995.

Stone is leaving office prior to the end of his current term, which expires in December 2026.

“My office has been working diligently to find a vendor with a California-compliant assessment management system to



Stone

replace our four-decades-old system. I am happy to announce that after a long request for proposal (RFP) process, the Board of Supervisors approved the new system contract on June 17. I knew I just couldn’t leave until this critical project was moving forward. Now, with the new system ready to implement and the successful completion of my 30th assessment roll close, the timing feels right to step down,” said Stone.

Assistant Assessor Greg Monteverde will become Acting Assessor, effective July 7, 2025. Monteverde has been with the Assessor’s Office for 35 years.

Los Altos Vice Mayor Neysa Fligor, currently working as a special assistant to the assessor, is finishing her second four-year term on the council this year.

County election code calls for a special election to be held within 120 days of Stone’s announcement. Fligor has not declared whether she will run for the position in the Nov. 4 election. “Stay tuned,” she said.

## Los Altos council adopts budget with emphasis on public safety, environment

Town Crier Report

The Los Altos City Council has unanimously adopted the fiscal year 2025-26 operating budget and the 2026-30 five-year capital and major maintenance program. The balanced budget was developed in alignment with the city’s strategic goals that are devoted to fiscal responsibility while maintaining city services, according to a city press release.

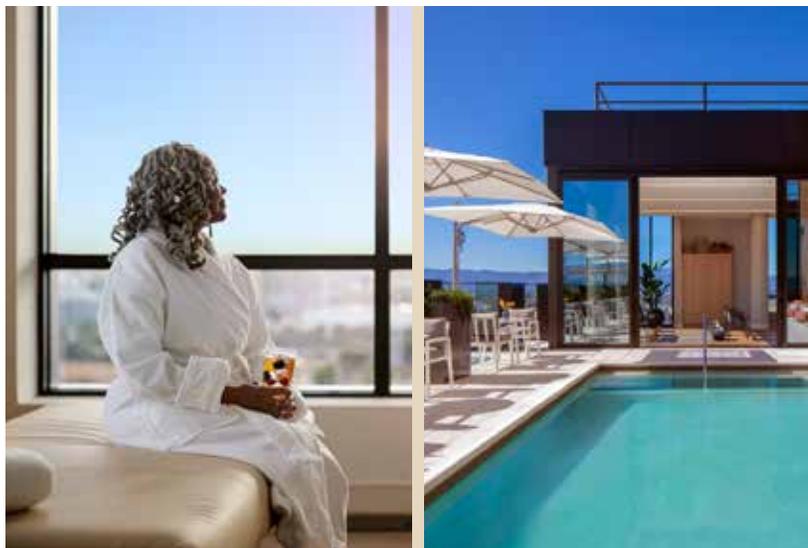
“The proposed budget aims to invest in each of the city council’s priority areas, with a special emphasis on public safety, environmental sustainability, traffic infrastructure including complete streets and safe routes to schools, the construction of a dog park at the civic center campus, and the replacement of play structures and other amenities in Los Altos parks,” said City Manager Gabriel Engeland, following the adoption.

The new budget, adopted

June 10, will enable the city to continue “uplifting our community” and delivering essential services, while also laying the groundwork for sustainable growth and equity in the years ahead, according to the press release. “With growing concerns about economic uncertainties at the state and national levels, the city is committed to addressing immediate needs and incorporating strategic fiscal leadership to strengthen its long-term outlook,” the release stated.

“Despite ongoing uncertainty at the federal and state levels, the adopted FY 2025-26 budget demonstrates Los Altos’ commitment to fiscal responsibility, essential service delivery, and long-term sustainability,” Finance Director Jessie Kim said in the release.

For more information, visit [losaltosca.gov/252/Operating-Capital-Budgets](https://losaltosca.gov/252/Operating-Capital-Budgets). The budget will be posted to the city website within 30 days of adoption.



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# Comment

## Other Voices

### Taking the electric plunge, together

By Radhika Dutt and Anne Infeld

Wouldn't it be wonderful to live in a lush green Los Altos with clean air, amiable climate, cozy homes and healthy families? While idealistic at first glance, this imagined city could become a reality if we choose to transition away from fossil fuels toward clean energy sources. Before you wonder how an ordinary citizen can help solve this meta problem – a most impactful shift we can make lies close to home, quite literally.

Our homes, safe havens of hopes and dreams, are in fact, chambers of circulating air that could negatively impact our health, well-being and happiness. A recent study from Stanford University corroborates this by emphasizing that children living in homes with frequent gas stove use and poor ventilation face nearly twice the lifetime cancer risk, compared to adults, from benzene exposure – one among many other hazardous chemicals emitted by gas stoves.

Here, replacing natural gas

(methane) with clean electricity, especially for heating and hot water production, can slash emissions from California's single-family homes by up to 90% over the next 30 years.

This isn't just an environmental win; it's a financial one, too. Clean electrification will cut energy bills, reduce air pollution and create jobs. In fact, statewide, this transition could eliminate 400 million metric tons of emissions, save households \$60 billion annually, and create more than one million jobs.

Encouragingly, the city of Los Altos recognizes this opportunity. The Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) 2.3 envisions building electrification as a central strategy to meet sustainability goals. Yet, intention, however commendable, must now proceed towards action, accompanied by thoughtful policy and grassroots momentum.

#### An electric home

At the core of transforming homes is electrifying home energy use. A key solution here is the heat pump – a super-

## Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF THE LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

Covington Pool was a popular place to cool off on hot summer days. Several generations of Los Altos children learned to swim and many held summer jobs at the pool from the early 1950s until it closed in 2001. The community-funded pool was located on the Covington Junior High campus (now Covington Elementary School).

efficient technology that both heats and cools homes using electricity. Heat pumps can also provide hot water, replacing traditional gas-fired water heaters. These systems are not only cleaner but often cheaper to operate over time, especially when paired with solar panels.

Our next-door neighbor, Mountain View, recognizes this and is championing heat pump adoption through its Year of the Heat Pump Water Heater program that is providing up to \$4,000 in rebates for residents switching to heat pump water heaters. Los Altos residents can benefit from rebates like those offered by Silicon Valley Clean Energy. Moving to heat pumps is also

an investment that will preferentially attract the next generation of buyers.

However, the switch isn't always simple. Concerns about cost, installation complexity, or simply breaking from habit are often difficult to navigate, demanding local collaborations that educate, inform and alleviate misgivings.

#### The power of collective action

Electrification isn't just about new technologies; it's about building an ethos of collective responsibility. The city of Los Altos takes pride in its rich culture of civic engagement and environmental stewardship, which is driven

by individuals who realize their power to act and actualize community-wide change.

The imagined lush green Los Altos with clean air and healthy homes could be achieved by a chain reaction that starts with a cohort of families incentivized to electrify their homes. Their success then motivates other households to rethink energy use, and soon, a cascade of small, local decisions begins adding up to citywide change.

This, dear readers, is how we can build an electrified Los Altos – not just with policies, but with people. When intention meets implementation and residents become ambassadors for clean energy, we can realize a future that's healthier, more affordable and much more resilient.

*The authors volunteer with Electrification Collaboration – a civic initiative to help Los Altos meet its building emission goals. For more information, visit [electrificationcollaboration.com](http://electrificationcollaboration.com).*

#### Letters to the Editor

The Town Crier welcomes letters to the editor on current events pertinent to Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View. Drop us a line at 138 Main St., Los Altos 94022, Attn: Editor, or email letters to [bruceb@latc.com](mailto:bruceb@latc.com). Because editorial space is limited, please confine letters to no more than 200 words. Include a phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be printed.



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Serving the Greater Los Altos Community since 1947

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# Comment

## E-bikes, state law and what the city can do

By Anne Paulson

Los Altos residents have been concerned about the proliferation of e-bikes in our city, especially e-bikes ridden by children. As the city of Los Altos considers a new ordinance, it's important to understand state laws on e-bikes and regular bikes.

Under California law Class 3 e-bikes, the fastest kind, are limited to a maximum of 28 mph, and cannot have throttles. Because they are so fast, they cannot be ridden by children under 16. Other e-bikes, the ones kids can ride, cannot go faster than 20 mph under power. No e-bike of any kind is allowed to be powered (either with a throttle or through pedal assist) to a speed greater than 28 mph. Anything faster than that is an electric motorcycle or motorbike of one kind or another, which has many more legal restrictions than an e-bike in the state of California: e.g., bikes have to be registered, riders need a license of one kind or another, riders have to wear a motorcycle helmet, things like that depending on exactly the parameters of the vehicle. I urge parents not to buy their children

### Other Voices

overpowered e-bikes over the internet; they're dangerous for children, as well as being illegal.

If the city council wanted, they could instruct the police to crack down on illegal overpowered e-bikes. The police don't want to do that, though; they justifiably believe it would be hard to distinguish legal from illegal bikes (although if they found an "e-bike" rider going faster than 28 mph, that would be de facto illegal).

Many residents believe the city should require riders of all ages to wear helmets. But the city does not have the power to do that; cities are not allowed to require adults to wear helmets.

The proposed ordinance will require children to wear helmets, but that's a nuance: The state already requires children to wear helmets, but if the city also requires the helmets, then police can charge a kid with violating the city ordinance, which will carry lesser penalties so the officer will be more likely to make the charge.



ADOBE STOCK IMAGE

Some residents think the city should disallow Class 3 e-bikes, the fastest kind, from city streets. This, again, is not under the city's power. All legal types of e-bikes are bikes, and like all bikes they must be allowed on public streets according to state law. Of course the city can crack down on illegal overpowered e-bikes already, because they're already illegal.

The ordinance the council has

instructed staff to produce will ban all bike riding on sidewalks throughout the city other than for safety reasons, will require children to wear helmets (already required by state law), and will ban dangerous stunt riding on streets (already illegal under state law). This looks like a sensible law, promoting safety without falling afoul of state law.

*Paulson is a Los Altos resident.*

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- Executive Director
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# Community

## Thanks to family and friends, late poet's work becomes a book

By Zoë Friedman  
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Soon after his wife's passing, Alan Adler was determined to share his wife's poetry with the world. Less than two years later, Irene Adler's collection of poems, "Bone Flute: A Woman Speaks," reached readers.

"People were just constantly telling her to publish," Alan said, "and I'm glad that I outlived her so that I could contribute to the effort."

Alan and friends on July 2 plan to host a reading of the book, published April 29, at

Books Inc. in Palo Alto.

"Bone Flute" explores themes of motherhood, marriage, family relationships, nature and the fleeting nature of life.

Irene, a longtime Los Altos resident, was an English and ESL teacher, as well as a prolific poet. After she died in late 2023, Alan – a prominent inventor who holds more than 40 patents – discovered an excess of 2,000 poems Irene had written.

"In the last 25 years of her life, she wrote a lot, and in the last 10 years, she would wake

up in the morning with three poems in her head and she would rush to write something down – sometimes in the notebook and sometimes at the keyboard," Alan said.

Alan reached out to his late wife's close friend and fellow poet, Angela Narciso Torres, for help compiling a collection of Irene's work.

"He (Alan) was her No. 1 grand champion," said Torres, a working poet and editor for the literary journal Rhino.

She added that the two women met in 2000 at a Stanford poetry workshop, where they quickly became good friends. They took several workshops together and bonded over their shared love of poetry and often conversed about motherhood and traded life advice. Throughout their friendship, they regularly exchanged poems and maintained an informal poetry workshop that lasted several years.

Alan turned to Torres for help in getting Irene's work published. Torres enlisted her colleagues, Rhino co-editors Gail Gelford and Nan Fujimoto, to aid in the process. Together, they read and reviewed more than 2,000 poems. Torres said they devised a system where each poem was evaluated by at least two readers and rated on a scale of 1 to 3. The final selection process involved balancing themes and ensuring a cohesive narrative arc across 100 of Irene's strongest poems, showcasing her full range of themes and styles, including her joy in nature, humor and curiosity about the world.

The title "Bone Flute" comes from the poem on page 62, which Alan and Torres mutually agreed was their favorite from the collection. Alan made his own flutes for more than 30 years, and Irene would help him get the correct timbre of the instrument. One day, Alan read about the discovery of a bone flute in an archeological dig.

"I often would say to Irene, 'Write a poem about that.' And she'd usually pooh-poohed the idea. But then I discovered a week later, she really had," Alan said.



PHOTOS BY ALAN ADLER/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

At top are copies of a new book containing Irene Adler's poetry. Above, friend Angela Narciso Torres, left, poses with Adler.

Torres noted, "I love how it's also a metaphor for how someone can speak even after they're gone. Her bones do sing."

When the manuscript was finalized, Torres reached out to her friend Aileen Cassinetto of Paloma Press, who agreed to publish the book.

"In terms of publishing this book, it's a way of honoring a fellow poet, it's a way of honoring a life, it's a way of saying Irene's voice mattered, her life mattered, and that her love lives on," said Cassinetto.

Cassinetto emphasized the long-lasting impact poetry can have and its importance to the wider community.

"When someone reads a poem, it's sort of like having this connection with the poet, so I just hope people find themselves in her poems," she said. "When someone has passed, there's still that sense of belonging. It's sort of finding some

semblance of joy and beauty in such an impermanent world."

Torres hopes the collection will resonate deeply with readers and allow them to connect not only with Irene's poetry but also with her enduring spirit.

"If there's anything I've learned in the past few decades, it's that it's really art that will save us. It's art, it's poetry, it's music, it's the arts that will make our lives make sense of the world that we're living in," Torres said.

Royalties from "Bone Flute" will go to cancer research at Stanford University, according to Alan. In addition, after Irene's passing, Alan endowed a chair at Stanford Medicine in Irene's name.

The July 2 event, which organizers described as a book launch, is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Books Inc., Town and Country Village, 855 El Camino Real, St. 74, Palo Alto.



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## Residents welcome to 'Glorious Fourth'



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

Ye Olde Towne Band, above, performs during "Glorious Fourth" activities last year. The band is scheduled to return for this year's Los Altos Glorious Fourth of July celebration, scheduled 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Shoup Park, 400 University Ave. Put on by the city's Parks and Recreation Department, this year's event will feature live music, games and activities. American Legion Post 558 of Los Altos will be providing 720 stick flags. The event is free and no registration is required. A food truck will be present with items for purchase. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (650) 947-2790 or visit [rec-info@losaltosca.gov](mailto:rec-info@losaltosca.gov).

## Number of homeless on the rise, according to Santa Clara County report

Town Crier Report

The County of Santa Clara has released the preliminary results of the 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) count of unhoused residents. The PIT is one of many data sources that provides information about the unhoused population in Santa Clara County.

The total number of people experiencing homelessness in Santa Clara County rose by 8.2% compared to the 2023 PIT count, going from 9,903 to 10,711 people. The county issued a press release Friday with the new figures.

County officials said the number of sheltered individuals rose about 30%, reflecting an increase in shelter capacity and higher utilization of available shelter beds throughout the county. The number of unsheltered individuals remained relatively flat, with an increase of 1%.

The PIT count results are consistent with what the county and homelessness experts have observed in recent years: more people are enter-

ing homelessness than exiting homelessness in the region. Systemic factors such as the lack of affordable housing supply, wage gaps, and structural inequities all contribute to housing insecurity and homelessness in the Bay Area, including in Santa Clara County. Officials said these economic pressures have continued to increase in the years since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognizing these conditions, officials said the county has strengthened its response to the homelessness crisis, with direct funding of homelessness solutions reaching approximately \$446 million in the 2024-25 fiscal year. This includes homelessness prevention, temporary housing and shelter, permanent supportive housing, and housing for individuals receiving behavioral health services or substance use treatment.

Through these investments, the county and its partners helped more than 8,000 people move from homelessness to housing between 2023 and 2025.

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# Community

## Help fill CSA food pantry this summer

The Community Services Agency of Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills is putting out the call for more canned food donations, in the wake of increased demand.

“On a typical day at CSA, we provide more than 2,000 cans of food and other dried food items plus fresh food to over 200 families,” the agency said. “Food donations tend to drop in summer months but hunger doesn’t take a vacation. In fact, when schools are closed for summer, many children eat

fewer meals.”

Top needed food items include pop-top meals, high protein items, and low-sodium canned vegetables.

CSA is located at 204 Stierlin Road in Mountain View. Canned food deliveries are welcomed any weekday 9 a.m. to noon or 1-4 p.m.

To make a gift donation or for more information, visit [tinyurl.com/mz49d2bu](http://tinyurl.com/mz49d2bu) or [csacares.org](http://csacares.org).

## Memorial service for Chuck Baker

Friends of Charles (Chuck)

Baker are invited to “A Celebration of Chuck’s Life,” scheduled 2-4 p.m. July 12 at the Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos.

The decorated World War II veteran died in April at age 106.

Desserts will be served in honor of Chuck’s sweet-tooth.

## Hidden Villa at Farmers’ Market

Hidden Villa, an environmental education and wilderness preserve in Los Altos Hills, is participating in this year’s Los Altos Farmers’ Market.

The nonprofit is offering “fresh, sustainably grown produce straight from our farm,” members said. “Stop by to meet our team and support local agriculture.”

The Farmers’ Market is open 4-8 p.m. every Thursday along State Street in Los Altos.

For more about Hidden Villa, visit [hiddenvilla.org](http://hiddenvilla.org).

## MV Presbyterian hosts leadership summit

The Global Leadership Summit, an annual leadership event, is coming to Silicon Val-

ley via simulcast on Aug. 7-8, hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View (FPCMV).

With this year’s theme, “Lead Where You Are,” the summit is intended to inspire and equip individuals to lead with purpose – regardless of their role or setting.

First Presbyterian is one of more than 350 locations nationwide hosting the summit, with an expected attendance of 60,000 nationwide.

For more information, visit [fpcmv.org/events/gls/](http://fpcmv.org/events/gls/).

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**Los Altos Town Crier**

## Save the Date

- 2025 Summer Concert Series, hosted by the city of Los Altos Parks & Recreation Department. Concerts held 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at Grant Park and Hillview Soccer Field, 97 Hillview Ave. Coast Tribe are set to perform in the next scheduled concert, Thursday (June 26) at Grant, 15475 Holt Ave. Information: [losaltosca.gov/325/2025-Summer-Con](http://losaltosca.gov/325/2025-Summer-Con)

- Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 12-13, downtown Los Altos. Information: [downtownlosaltos.org](http://downtownlosaltos.org)
- Rotary Club of Los Altos’ 50th Fine Art in the Park, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Aug. 9 and 10, Lincoln Park, Los Altos. Information: [rotaryartshow.com](http://rotaryartshow.com)

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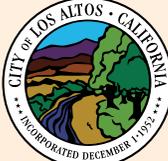
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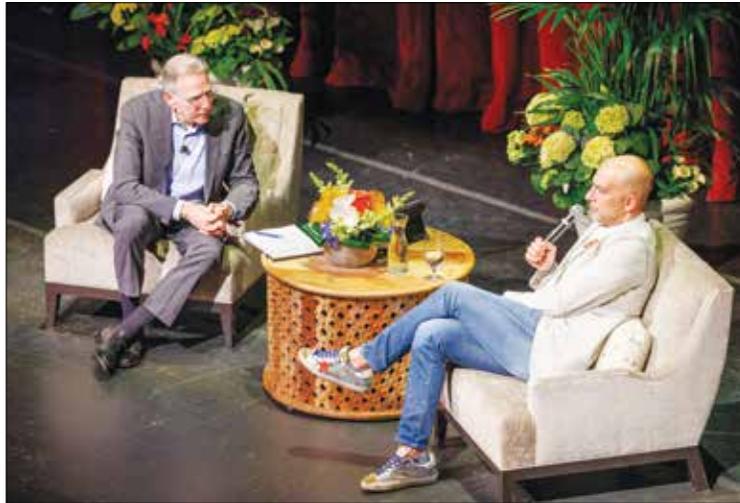


# Community

## Live long and prosper: How living with happiness and good health is the goal

By **Bettina Rosenberg**  
Special to the Town Crier

**D**r. Peter Attia, author of the New York Times bestseller “Outlive: The Science and Art of Longevity,” engaged in a scintillating conversation with El Camino Hospital Board of Directors Chairman Bob Rebitzer, at El Camino Health Foundation’s spring benefit on May 13. Nearly 500 people attended, eager to hear Attia’s thoughts on extending health span together with lifespan. His appearance was underwritten by Los Altos resident Leslie Behar and her family in memory of Jerry Behar and Don Ehrman.



COURTESY OF THE EL CAMINO HEALTH FOUNDATION

**El Camino Hospital Board of Directors Chairman Bob Rebitzer, left, engages in discussion with Dr. Peter Attia, author of “Outlive: The Science and Art of Longevity.”**

Rebitzer read a passage from Attia’s book that gave context to the doctor’s inspiration: What’s important is one’s health longevity.

“I really began to understand how emotional health relates to longevity and how my journey helped redefine my perspective,” Attia wrote. “I had long subscribed to a kind of Silicon Valley approach to longevity and health, believing it possible to hack our biology and hack it until we became these perfect little humanoids who could all live to be 120 years old.

“Everything in my life needed to be optimized, and longevity was basically an engineering problem, or so I thought. It took five years, two stints in inpatient treatment centers, and the near loss of my marriage and my kids, to change my mind. What I eventually realized after this long and very painful journey is that longevity is meaningless. If your life sucks or if your relationships suck, none of it matters. If your wife hates you, none of it

matters. ... Your resume doesn’t really matter either when it comes to time for your eulogy.”

El Camino Health CEO Dan Woods provided introductory remarks.

“We all want the healthiest most fulfilling life possible for ourselves and the ones we love,” he said. “At El Camino Health we want to partner with you and your family ... to help you thrive.”

To that end, proceeds from the spring benefit will be used to support a community health initiative to address prediabetes, a chronic health condition that impacts approximately 45% of adults (or 100,000 residents) in the El Camino Healthcare District. The initiative is a project of the El Camino Healthcare District supported by El Camino Health.

Attia is a proponent of “Medicine 3.0,” the next step in the centuries-long development of medical practice. In his view, “Medicine 2.0,” which is practiced today, has doubled life

expectancy thanks to doctors’ success at managing acute conditions as they arise. But progress has come at the expense of quality of life in what he calls “the marginal decade,” a person’s final 10 years.

“Medicine 3.0” tackles that challenge, Attia said, by addressing chronic disease through early and aggressive prevention, and embraces evidence-informed medical decision-making tailored to each patient. That prevention centers on exercise (strength training, cardio training and resistance training), nutrition (especially protein consumption), consistent sleep, and emotional wellbeing – particularly developing acceptance, and letting go of the things we can’t control.

“The happier we are the longer we will live,” Attia said, “and even if we don’t live one day longer, we will live one day better.”

*Rosenberg is with the El Camino Health Foundation.*

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Los Altos History Museum

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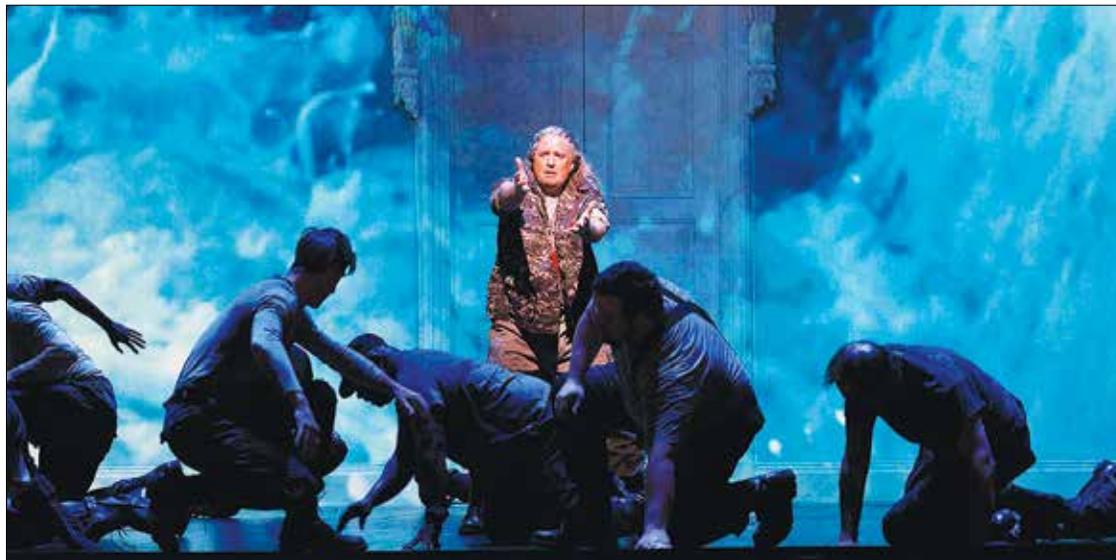
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## Community



CORY WEAVER/SF OPERA

Matthew Polenzani performs in the title role of "Idomeneo." The SF Opera production runs through June 25.

## SF Opera's 'Idomeneo' based on honor, compassion and love

By Duanni Hurd

Special to the Town Crier

"Saved from the sea, I have a raging sea," sung by the King of Crete (Idomeneo) in the greatest aria "Fuor del mar," captures the central theme of the opera "Idomeneo" as it expresses the guilt and inner conflict of the emotionally tormented king. San Francisco Opera is featuring "Idomeneo" through June 25 at the War Memorial Opera House in San Francisco.

After promising in an oath to sacrifice the first person he sees to the sea god (Neptune) in exchange for surviving a shipwreck, that first person he sees turns out to be his son (Idamante). "Stern god! Tell me at least, if my body was so close to shipwreck, for what cruel purpose was that wreck withheld?" The aria vividly portrays the opera's epic themes, the struggle between personal duty and divine will and the burden of leadership and sacrifice, via a father's deepest anguish caught between love and fate.

"Idomeneo" is a prime example of Opera Seria, an opera genre prominent from the 17th to the early 19th centuries. It showcases virtuosic singing and presents historic or mythologic themes within a distinct and structured narrative musical framework. Considered the first mature opera in Mozart's career which premiered in 1781, just two days after his 25th birthday, "Idomeneo" is the turning point masterpiece for the very young genius to emerge as a brilliant artist for the stage with its origi-

### Arts & Culture

nal orchestration, thematic complexity and dramatic intensity.

San Francisco Opera presented "Idomeneo" four times in its previous history with the company premiere in 1977, then once a decade in 1989, 1999 and 2008.

After 16 years of absence from its stage, director Lindy Hume brings this production to San Francisco, which was first staged by Opera Australia in Melbourne in 2023. This marks her San Francisco Opera debut.

This production balances ancient mythic themes with the modern staging and costume. The story is transferred from the Bronze Age and the Trojan War to the present time with refugees in street clothes, worshipers in black suits and dresses and soldiers in camouflage uniform.

King Idomeneo (Matthew Polenzani) wears a feathered cape, Princesses Ilia (Ying Fang) and Elettra (Elza van den Heever) stand out in a pink coat and purple dress respectively and Prince Idamante (Daniela Mack) switches from grey suits to camouflage.

The set has three blank walls with two ornate doors while the acts change by the filmed scenes of Tasmanian coastlines and landscapes which symbolize the Island of Crete with flying seagulls soaring over ragged coastlines and inky storms rolling over sky, as well as ocean waves and deep woods.

The stage culminates in a

bloody red flash when Elettra storms out the door, raging with a dagger in hand after she loses Idamante to her love rival Ilia.

Eun Sun Kim is San Francisco Opera's third music director to lead the orchestra for "Idomeneo" and she does not disappoint.

The star-studded cast includes American tenor Polenzani, who has won many accolades for the title role; Van den Heever, one of today's leading dramatic sopranos, is statuesque, regal and dominant on stage, returning to War Memorial where she started as a young artist in the training program; Fang, the Chinese soprano who has made a name in the Mozart operas worldwide, marks her SF debut.

SF Opera's "Idomeneo" ends with chorus members holding eucalyptus branches symbolizing peace and hope after King Idomeneo relinquishes his crown to his son Idamante who weds Trojan princess Ilia and achieves the god Neptune's forgiveness, therefore resolving conflicts.

The leader's courage to act with moral autonomy transcends the symbolic opera seria into centuries thereafter. What a lesson that resonates today more than ever.

For tickets to "Idomeneo" or for more information, visit [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com).

*Duanni Hurd is a Los Altos Town Crier columnist covering arts, culture and lifestyle. Find her coverage of arts and performing arts on Instagram @ duannihurd9.*

## Pet of the Week



COURTESY OF PETS IN NEED

Joy, a 7-month-old pup with “big brown eyes, a wiggly tail and a heart full of love to give,” is available for adoption through Pets In Need. At just 26 pounds, her handlers describe Joy as the “perfect size for couch cuddles, trail walks and everything in between.” Joy came to Pets In Need from a partner shelter in the Central Valley. Joy has received training lessons from the Goldfield Good Dog Club. Joy is available at the Pets In Need location in Redwood City. To adopt Joy or for more information, contact Pets In Need at (650) 496-5871 or visit [petsinneed.org](http://petsinneed.org).

## Overlooked Isabel Merriman story gets just dues at History Museum

Town Crier Report

Among the Pardee sisters born in New Haven, Connecticut, much is known about Sarah – heiress to the Winchester Repeating Arms Company. Her younger sister, Isabel, has long been overlooked. A new exhibition at Los Altos History Museum aims to change that.

“Building El Sueño: Isabel Merriman, Sarah Winchester, and the California Dream,” opens June 26 and runs through November 30, 2025. It shines a long-overdue spotlight on Isabel Merriman – an independent woman and active force in the rural community that predated Los Altos. Though often overlooked in historical records as anyone beyond Sarah’s sister, Isabel’s story is brought to life through original documents and artifacts, period images and architectural elements.

“Isabel didn’t have Sarah’s fortune or a 160-room mansion,” said Amy Ellison, the museum’s curator and director of exhibitions, “but she used what she had – her home, her voice and her determination – to fight for causes she believed

in, from animal welfare to child protection.” A complex figure, Isabel didn’t back down from conflict – even reportedly “trouncing” a man on a train who disagreed with her politics.

The exhibition takes its name from El Sueño (the dream), the name the sisters gave to the farmhouse Sarah bought for Isabel on the outskirts of Mountain View. The irony, Ellison said, is that “Isabel wasn’t a dreamer – she was a doer.” El Sueño became both a literal and symbolic home for Isabel’s California Dream: a place of purpose, independence and community activism.

The exhibition features historic photographs from the museum’s collections of early Los Altos, clothing of the Victorian era, correspondence from prominent local figures and architectural elements on loan from the Winchester Mystery House which resemble those adorning El Sueño. The distinctive variety of windows that grace both houses are echoed in the exhibition’s design.

One key moment in the exhibition tracks how the arrival

of the railroad altered Isabel’s life and land, and marked the founding of Los Altos.

Until recently, Isabel’s grave in Alta Mesa Cemetery was unmarked. A new headstone, placed with help from the Winchester Mystery House, now honors her legacy. “This exhibition is another way of giving her name back,” Ellison said.

### Related programs

- The Pardee Sisters: An Interview with Mary Jo Ignoffo and Robin Chapman, Wednesday, July 16, 5:30-7 p.m.

- Isabel’s Scavenger Hunt, in the museum’s garden, Saturday, Aug. 9, noon to 4 p.m. Free admission.

- Sarah and Isabel: Two Sisters and their “Dream Houses,” with Winchester Mystery House historian Janan Boehme, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 5:30-7 p.m.

- A Winchester Mystery in the Valley of Heart’s Delight, with author Robin Chapman, Wednesday, Oct. 15, 5:30-7 p.m.

Evening program admission is \$15/person; free for museum members. Registration required at [losaltoshistory.org/elsueno](http://losaltoshistory.org/elsueno).

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# Stepping Out

## 'Sweat' shows the wealthy will never care about the working class

By Brandon Roth

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

Time and time again, our society is in a clash between the rich and poor. Many turn on each other when they can't afford their necessities, and they fight every day to escape their insecure living environments. Many are afraid that their employers will turn on them, creating anxiety and fear as their formative emotions.

Palo Alto Players' production of "Sweat" displays the struggle of poverty as ever more present in our society, which values profit over people.

"Sweat," a musical written by playwright and Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage in 2015, shows one can never trust authority figures at face value when their ultimate goal is to toss one aside. We learn early in the story that the people at the bottom are not treated with the respect they deserve.

The play opens up in the working-class town of Reading, Pennsylvania in the early 2000s while the country was experiencing an economic downturn. In every scene, we watch newscasters in small box television sets as they announce what is going on in

the national context of the play such as stocks dropping in value, companies moving to foreign countries and the presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore.

Many of the characters, who all work for a steel factory called Olstead's, meet at a local bar every night to relate their work problems and to update each other on any gossip they hear from their management. Cynthia (Kimberly Ridgeway), Tracey (Amy Meyers) and Jessie (Tannis Hanson) have worked in the factory for decades and so had their parents before them. They live and breathe their work and have formed a community within it. Every day they are exhausted from their hard work, but it is a stable income.

Cynthia, who got word that there may be a job opening with management, hopes to move up in the company. Many of her friends support her decision, but she soon learns there will be a backlash as there are rumors that the company may move overseas and everyone could lose their jobs. Afraid that she could lose the trust of her friends, she does her best

to be honest with them about what could happen to them. Cynthia's son (Chris) and Jessie's son (Jason) also work for the factory and face their challenges if they were to lose their jobs.

Jessie is a character who is tough when she wants to be and is nurturing to the community around her. She feels victimized by the system that she is in and is willing to put up a fight to protect her employment. She feels betrayed by Cynthia when she gets promoted and accuses her of being a traitor when she believes she is aware of her fate with the company. Jessie, on the other hand, is the comedic voice for the play when anything gets out of hand. She faces alcoholism as a result of her challenging life, but she allows the characters to breathe a little.

While the community is facing the effects of the economy, the local bar is their safe zone. Stan (Scott Solomon) and Oscar (Aaron Edejer) are the front-facing people of the bar and are the support system the others need while everything around them is crashing down. Stan is the moral support for

the women when they are in an argument and reminds them of the importance of standing together.

Although the women are tough, they are still a family unit that supports each other. However, the conditions in the play make the women go into survival mode and make them ignore their once-close bond. Money is shown to be the driving factor for all their emotions, manipulating them to blame each other for their problems and have intense reactions when new issues come about, such as a pay cut or downsizing.

The play explores that the impacts of the economy can form catastrophic results for local communities. The women in the play are just one aspect of hardworking people who are lied to and betrayed by their company and are not given any benefits for working for them. The play seems to be created as a result of the upper class being unaware of how people at the bottom are affected by their selfish decisions.

*"Sweat" runs until June 29. For tickets and more information visit [paplayers.org](http://paplayers.org).*

### 2000 Measure A Citizens Watchdog Committee

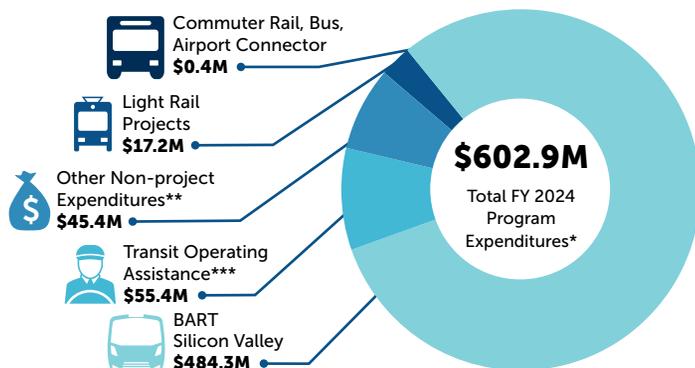
## REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

2000 Measure A is a 30-year half-cent sales tax devoted to transit improvements. The measure mandated that an independent watchdog committee review the 2000 Measure A expenditures, commission audits, and issue reports to the public. This report is the 2000 Measure A CWC's report for FY 2024, the 18th year of the 30-year program.

After careful review, the CWC concludes that for FY 2025, 2000 Measure A tax dollars were spent in accordance with the intent of the measure.

### SUMMARY OF FY 2024 PROGRAM EXPENDITURES:



\* Expenditures were grouped by category. Totals may not be precise due to independent rounding. Individual project details are available in the project summary section of the CWC Annual Report.

\*\* Includes professional services, debt service, principal payment, bond interest, etc.

\*\*\* Transit Operating Assistance equals 20.75% of sales tax receipts, which is approximately \$55.4M for FY 2024.

For more information, visit [vta.org/2000MeasureA](http://vta.org/2000MeasureA)



COURTESY OF SCOTT LASKY

The company of Sweat, the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Lynn Nottage that tells the story of a group of friends who have spent their lives sharing drinks, secrets and laughs while working together on the factory floor in industrial Pennsylvania.

To pitch a story for Stepping Out, email section editor Brandon Roth at [brandonr@latc.com](mailto:brandonr@latc.com).



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**INTERO**  
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# Schools

## Local student's debut novel helps literacy program

By Brandon Roth

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

Creative storytelling makes one dream big. Although there is an importance in writing research papers and articles, it is important to explore topics that are out of the real world and to grow past the restraints of academic writing.

Amar Ahjua, an eighth grader at Egan Junior High School, said that he has been writing since he was in kindergarten and has always enjoyed writing stories. At a young age, he remembers finding scratch paper, at any place such as in the classroom and scribbling his ideas to form a story.

With the support of his English teacher, he was able to produce his debut novel "The Heist," a story of Grayson and three friends named Leo, An-

drew and Johnny who come across Julius Caesar's crown while on a trip to Washington, D.C. When Grayson's friend Leo finds out that he is the rightful heir to Caesar's throne, the friend group forms a plot to steal the crown. The 13-year-old author said that he is "fascinated" with European history and learning about the myths of Greek, Roman and Norse cultures.

"I read a ton about those mythologies and the Percy Jackson series," he said. "All my ideas came from reading these different cultures and all of that just definitely inspired me to add some history into my book."

Whenever he had free time, he would write. He said it wasn't an easy process and he stumbled many times while

See HEIST, Page 19



COURTESY OF MONA AHUJA

Fourth from right, Amar Ahuja, a rising eighth grader at Egan Junior High School, self-published his debut novel called "The Heist" this month. Linden Tree Books hosted his launch party where his friends and community members asked him questions on the story.

## Los Altos Hills teen selected to speak to U.S. Congress members about diabetes

By Lisa Zivanic

Los Altos Town Crier Intern

As one of the 170 youth delegates selected to speak to members of the U.S. Congress about being a Type 1 diabetic, Los Altos teen Chase Edwards hopes to get them to fund research for a cure.

The 17-year-old will be in Washington D.C. July 7-9 on behalf of the nonprofit organization Breakthrough T1D, which aims to make Type 1 Diabetes a condition of the past.

"On a smaller scale, we want all of this funding to make better access to items for day-to-day life, like making life easier with diabetes, with new and better glucose monitors and insulin pumps and stuff like that," Edwards said.

The Menlo School rising senior added that on a broader scale, "the main goal would be to get these projects for these accelerated cell therapies into action and get them working on a consumer level, so that everyone can have access to these and T1D just becomes a

thing of the past."

At the Breakthrough T1D Children's Congress, Edwards and his cohort will share their T1D stories and lobby for continuation or revision of funding for nationwide programs, such as the Special Statutory Funding Program for T1D Research or the Special Diabetes Program.

Edwards became involved with the organization shortly after receiving his diagnosis at age 5.

"I was actually diagnosed in Hawaii, because it was a spring break trip with my family. So, it's away from home, in an unknown environment, which is pretty scary. And I had to go stay in the ICU for over a week," Edwards said.

Soon after, he joined the nonprofit's Youth Ambassador Buddies Program, in which youth living with T1D provide support and advice to those who are recently diagnosed.

"I actually had someone through Breakthrough T1D who came and visited me and my family and helped me walk through like 'Oh, you know, your life is different now, but

you can still live a normal life and be a normal kid. Here's how to manage your glucose and diabetes," Edwards said.

Edwards has now taken on a mentoring role in the YA Buddies Program and said he remains close to his first mentor, who visited him through the program. Edwards added that his mentor helped him overcome feelings of fear and isolation that resulted from his diagnosis.

Edwards applied to be part of the Breakthrough T1D Children's Congress at 8 years old, but he was not selected at the time. He reapplied for the Children's Congress in September 2024, and from nearly 1,000 applications nationwide, was one of 170 selected by the organization's advocacy office.

"I know what it's like to experience being diagnosed and being isolated at such a young age, and I think that so many other people are going through that, so I want to help them in any way that I can," Edwards said.

In advocating for the advancement of diabetes research and the technological



COURTESY OF SHELLY JENSEN

Chase Edwards, a rising senior at Menlo School and a resident of Los Altos Hills, has been involved with Breakthrough Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) since he was 5-years-old, shortly after receiving his own diagnoses. Edwards, along with other volunteers will speak to Congress on T1D research.

development of insulin pumps and other treatments, Edwards said he has developed a strong interest in pursuing an engineering career and will be attending a two-week biomedical engineering intensive at Duke University later this summer. The teen said he continues to manage his diabetes with a continuous glucose monitor, allowing him to ski and golf competitively.

"More than 1.6 million people in the U.S., and almost

9 million people globally live with T1D and I think it's really important to understand that this is something that affects such a large amount of people. ... Anything that you can do to help is really important to not only me, but also the millions of other people living with T1D in the US and globally," Edwards said.

For more information on Breakthrough T1D, visit [breakthrough1d.org/about](http://breakthrough1d.org/about).

# Schools

## HEIST

From Page 18

editing and generating his ideas. He said it was worth the journey because he sharpened his grammar skills and broke free from writer's block. He said he has been writing this book for the past year and used many of his friends as his references for the character.

He said that he celebrated his book release at Linden Books on June 10 with the help of Miss Leslie, a bookseller at Linden Tree Books, who helped organize the event and invited more than 30 community members and his classmates to support his creative work. He said by writing this book and presenting it to his close friends, he is ready to share it with the rest of the community.

"I had to build up my confidence in writing this book," he said. "At first, I was a little embarrassed. I didn't really

want people to know about this book, but after sharing my book for the first time with other kids at his school, I just sort of owned it and was proud of it."

He said a portion of his novel's profits will go to Project Read in Redwood City, an organization that provides free literacy tutoring to adults and at-risk youths. He said in the past two summers he has raised more than \$3,000 for the organization and will go there in person sometime this summer to donate his royalties from his book.

"I want people to know that reading and writing is awesome because a lot of people think English is boring and that you got a lot more to say when you're old," he said. "I want kids to know that they can start writing their ideas out now."

*To learn more about "The Heist" and to donate to Ahjua's fundraiser, visit [blurb.com/b/12445555-the-heist](http://blurb.com/b/12445555-the-heist).*

## Reflecting on what I learned interning at the Town Crier

By Kaavya Mehrotra  
Los Altos Town Crier Intern

I started interning at the Los Altos Town Crier midway through my sophomore year at Pinewood School and continued until I graduated high school in May.

### Student Voices

I prepared for the internship by learning AP Style and, 10 published articles later, it's safe to say I know a thing or two about writing here.

The first time I entered the office to apply for an internship, I wore the most unprofessional outfit ever: white, baggy sweatpants and a blue oversized hoodie. Not exactly office attire. So, the first thing I learned was how to actually dress for a newsroom. I may have worn floaties a few times (for the senior assassin game), but I like to think I've stepped up my style.

I started out by taking several AP style quizzes and

writing practice articles, doing so for a few months. My quiz scores weren't great at first, but I have learned a lot since then.

I eventually graduated from practice quizzes and articles to real assignments. My first published story was about two teens winning the U.S. Department of Energy's 2023 Algae Prize, helping create a positive impact in the community through bioenergy issues. During the writing process, I rewrote the article at least five times. I thought it would take me an hour to write (which unfortunately, took weeks). This made me learn pretty quickly that writing wasn't about putting somewhat cohesive thoughts down on a Google Doc and hoping for the best.

Since then, I've learned much more than putting together an outfit, AP style and the writing process. If you told me when I started that I would get pretty good at interviewing, I would have laughed. However, I have learned how to interview people without sounding like I am reading off

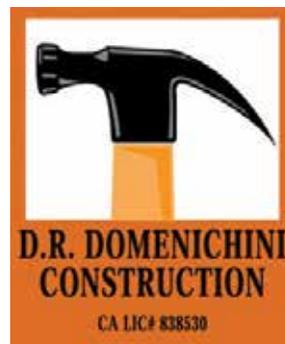
a bad script. Not only this, but I feel like I can talk with almost anyone randomly.

Beyond that, I learned what journalism is really about: storytelling. Journalism is about telling stories and connecting the community through the power of the written word, staying curious about the world and learning the nuances and impact of each experience; all aspects that transform an experience or event into a story. Everyone has a story, and it is journalists' job to share that with the world.

I didn't just learn how to write articles, but perceive the world differently. Whether I go into journalism or not, I will never forget AP style, the rewrites, powering through writer's block when a deadline is three hours away (and I've written two sentences), the floaties, the lessons and most importantly, the stories I got to tell here.

*Kaavya Mehrotra graduated from Pinewood School in May and will attend Smith College in the fall.*

To pitch a story for Schools, email section editor  
**Brandon Roth at [brandonr@latc.com](mailto:brandonr@latc.com).**



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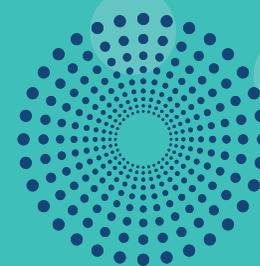
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## Your Home

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INSIDE  
Sports  
Business & Real Estate  
Datebook

## The first place is to start: Steps to decluttering the home

By Lyn Rogers

Has your home become an overpriced storage unit? Do you feel overwhelmed with the number of items in each room, the piles of papers on every surface and the boxes stacked in the garage? Are you drowning in making decisions on what to keep, what to donate, or what to rehome?

Perhaps bills aren't getting paid, library books are past due and prescriptions and food items are long-expired. It's never too late to make a fresh start, and you can start now, today, this very moment. First you tackle one small space completely, then another, then another. In no time, you find out you can do this.

I always tell my clients that even baby steps are still steps. You are only competing with yourself. Don't compare your home to what you see on organizing shows – they're staged for the cameras.

One trick I started doing with my daughter when she was little was setting my alarm on my phone for 10 minutes. We would quickly tackle our

separate projects in the house until the alarm went off. I'd hit snooze and we'd both tackle two more projects. There were "rules" we'd follow: Every 10 minutes we had to pick a different project in a different room, we had to race to finish each task before the alarm went off, and we had to work for at least half an hour.

In one hour, two people can accomplish 12 different tasks. Just imagine how much can be done if you have a larger family! We call these "time chores." Your family may come up with a different name. All that matters is that it is a collaborative effort. Make sure to do something fun together when the hour is up.

Many of my clients struggle with paper piles. They can be overwhelming, especially because it's so easy to use every flat surface as a "catch-all." The problem with that is that bills get lost (and accrue late fees), invitations are buried (and you miss out on having fun with loved ones) and checks are never seen (and have to get reissued because it has been more than six months since it was



GAMMAPHOTOSTUDIO/ADOBE STOCK

Unnecessary plates and cups can often contribute to visible clutter, but a clean space can calm the mind.

sent). The solution is to prevent this in the future by starting today. I always advise my clients to set up a mail station. It doesn't have to be fancy, expensive or even a desk. It has to make sense for you and your family. This is where you open mail daily and sort it by "needs to be taken care of quickly,"

shred and recycle. You can work on the current piles while you have dinner in the oven or microwave, waiting for your kettle to boil or the length of a song on YouTube. Before long, the piles are gone.

Linen closets have also been a problem for many people. It's so easy to "lose" things there.

Frequently, if sheets and other linen have even a tiny bit of use still in them, many people will hold on to them, "just in case." Please stop doing that. You deserve to own and enjoy items that are in great condition, without stains or tears.

See DECLUTTERING, Page 23

## Maximizing your harvest with the implementation of succession planting

By Melinda Myers

Special to the Town Crier

Make the most of every square inch of garden space and containers with succession planting. As you harvest your first crop of the season, consider replanting the space with a vegetable that will mature and can be harvested before the end of the growing season.

Start by calculating the number of frost-free days remaining in your growing season. Next review the plant tags and seed packets for the number of days from planting to harvest. Compare these two to see if you have time to replant one or maybe even two more quick-maturing vegetables in that space.

Keep in mind that cool season crops like lettuce, spinach and radishes perform and taste best when grown and



MELINDA MYERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Staggering harvests can lead to better hauls and more flavorful produce.

harvested during the cooler months of spring and fall. Consider using these quick-maturing vegetables as your last planting of the season.

Others, like broccoli, collards and kale, taste even better after a light frost.

Planting these so they mature in fall is another way to extend the harvest for maximum flavor and nutrition.

Warm season vegetables, like beans and cucumbers, are perfect for summer planting. They prefer warm air and soil

for the best growth and productivity.

Here are a few vegetables you may want to include in your succession planting this summer. Leaf lettuce and spinach prefer cooler temperatures and depending on the variety, are ready to harvest in 30 to 60 days. If you can't wait for cooler weather, try growing more heat-tolerant greens, like Sandy and Red Sails lettuce, and although they are not true spinaches New Zealand and Malabar are more heat tolerant and provide a similar flavor.

End the season with a harvest of peas. Short varieties, like Patio Pride and Sugar Ann sugar snap peas and Maestro and Laxton's Progress #9 shelling peas, are perfect for containers and small spaces.

Root crops make great additions to succession plantings. Salad radishes

See PLANTING, Page 22

## Saving some money when setting up your smart house

Statepoint

Whether you're setting up a smart home in new digs this moving season, or simply looking to get better connected, making your home smart doesn't have to break the bank with these practical ways to get connected and save.

### Get connected

A smart home all starts with fast, hassle-free internet, and these days, there are options available that can help you get connected with no downtime.

Rather than waiting for an installation appointment or technician, solutions like T-Mobile 5G Home Inter-

net offer easy setup right out of the box. Simply plug it in, power it on and you're online within minutes. Now is an especially good time to make this switch, thanks to current promotions. With all T-Mobile Home Internet plans there are no annual contracts or monthly equipment fees. Additional savings are available when bundling with T-Mobile voice plans, making this a solid choice if you also happen to be shopping for a wireless plan.

Moving into a new home can mean making adjustments to your budget, and unexpected bill increases can make planning difficult. Un-



COURTESY OF STATEPOINT

Setting up a smart house can be made easier when you find service bundles.

like some other internet options, T-Mobile doesn't have introductory promo pricing that increases later, making it easy to account for this line item into the future. Select plans even come with extras, like subscriptions to popular streaming services, so you can save on these monthly expenses too.

### Get smart

Now that you have internet that can support your smart home, it's time to select a smart home ecosystem on which to run it, along with de-

vices you'd like to connect it to. Just be sure the ecosystem and devices you choose are compatible.

The good news? While this technology that adds seamless convenience to your life comes with a price tag, many smart home features can help you save on monthly expenses, offsetting the cost of your new smart home. For example, devices that make your home more secure, such as smart locks, doorbells, cameras and security systems, could potentially score you a discount on renters or homeowners insur-

ance. Other devices, such as thermostats, lights and appliances, can be programmed to help reduce energy usage and bills. Of course, you should be sure to protect all your smart devices from hackers by using strong passwords and two-factor authentication, and by keeping systems up to date.

There are endless details to manage when settling into a new residence. Fortunately, setting up internet and smart home technology no longer needs to be stressful.

*This Statepoint article includes sponsored content.*

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## PLANTING

From Page 21

are ready to harvest in 25 to 30 days, beets in 50 to 60 days, and carrots in 60 to 70 days.

Bush beans prefer warm temperatures and are ready to begin picking in 50 to 80 days. Mascotte compact snap beans are productive compact plants perfect for containers and window boxes. You'll start harvesting these in as few as 50 days.

Cucumbers and summer squash are another option for summer plantings. Vining varieties can be trained onto a support to save space or crawl over the ground. Bush types

are perfect for containers and small spaces. Check the seed packet for the number of days from planting to harvest.

Increase the health and productivity of your second planting by preparing the soil before planting seeds and transplants. Mix an inch of quality compost into the top six inches of soil. You'll improve drainage in heavy soil, increase water retention in fast-draining sandy soils, and add micronutrients that feed the soil, building microorganisms.

Once your seeds and transplants are in the ground, be sure to water properly. Keep the seedbed and roots of

transplants moist the first few weeks. Gradually reduce watering frequency as seedlings sprout and grow and transplants become established.

You may need to adjust your succession planting schedule based on the weather. Hotter and cooler than normal temperatures can delay seed germination, harvest times, and flavor.

With a bit of planning, succession plantings, and regular harvesting you can enjoy fresh vegetables throughout the growing season.

*Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books and hosts the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. She is also a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. For more information, visit MelindaMyers.com.*

### Have a comment or idea? Reach out

If you have an idea for Your Home or would like to comment on its content, email section editor Christina Casillas, [christina@latc.com](mailto:christina@latc.com).

# Your Home

## DECLUTTERING

From Page 21

Each bed should have two sets of sheets and no more than two blankets. Each of your bathrooms should have two sets of towels, plus a couple of sets for guests. Your extra linens that are in less-than-perfect condition can be donated to your local animal rescue or sanctuary. Better towels (those that don't fit in with your current decor) can be donated to your local homeless shelter. Shelters are also in need of your extra (good condition) blankets. Other linens can be appreciated by families after listing them on Buy Nothing, Trash Nothing or Craigslist sites. Theater and art groups may be happy to take your sheets for props or artistic purposes. You can often get a tax receipt which makes this a win-win situation.

I often find when I go into a client's kitchen that they own more pots and pans than they have burners. If you have four burners but own seven frying pans, plan to keep the best four

and let go of the rest. Take all of your utensils out of their drawers. Count how many you have of each item. You should own no more than two of each item unless it's knives and silverware. Do you use each item regularly? If not (or if it's an unneeded gift), it's time to give it away.

How many glasses, mugs and water bottles do you own? Do you frequently have parties? You should have twice as many glasses and mugs as there are people in the home, plus a few for guests. Any more than that is taking up valuable real estate. You should have one water bottle for each person in your home. You don't need to hold onto the freebies you get from conventions or community events. Many of those leak BPA, don't keep your drinks cold or are just plain junk. Feel free to give them away or recycle them.

Pantries are often filled with expired foods. This is mainly due to shelves being so crowded that you can't see that you already have 12 cans of that rarely used food item that only

gets eaten during the holidays, so you buy more. Sometimes we are given an item that our family is allergic to, but we are wracked with guilt over giving it away. It's much better to take unwanted foods that haven't expired to your local food bank or pantry. Do the same thing with your fridge and freezer. Don't hold on to an item because it was a gift. If you won't eat it, give it to someone who will.

Your feelings of being overwhelmed, loss as to where to start or mental fatigue are very common and shared by many. You have nothing to apologize for and you don't need to feel any shame. Hiring a professional organizer is the first step to changing your chaos to calm. It's a no-judgment zone, your confidentiality is secure and you have an expert who will help you every step of the way.

*Los Altos Hills resident Lyn Rogers, a professional organizer, is owner and CEO of Lyn At Your Service. For more information, visit [LynAtYourService.com](http://LynAtYourService.com).*



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# Sports

## Distance runner from Los Altos commits to Johns Hopkins

By Dorie Xie  
Town Crier Editorial Intern

After winning individual and team championships, Bellarmine College Preparatory senior Shrey Chettiar is striding toward the next level of his distance running career. This fall, the Los Altos resident will join the cross-country and track teams at Johns Hopkins University.

“Johns Hopkins was just the place for me,” Chettiar said. “Obviously the academics are really good, but the people on the team were exactly what I was looking for – they were just like my community at Bellarmine.”

Chettiar’s fruitful running career included numerous individual wins in West Catholic Athletic League races, as well as relay and team victories at the Central Coast Section and state championships through-

out his cross-country and track and field seasons. Most notably, Chettiar won the 800 meters at this year’s CCS championships and qualified for the state meet, where he finished 20th. His 4x800 relay team also finished second at CCS.

All this from an athlete who detested distance when he enrolled at Bellarmine.

“In elementary school, I absolutely hated distance running,” Chettiar said. “I always thought I’d be a sprinter, and I played soccer and basketball throughout middle school. The only reason I joined was because my brother was a long-distance runner.”

That all changed when Chettiar joined Bellarmine’s cross-country summer training camp before his freshman year. After that – and still following his brother Tanish’s footsteps – he joined the team



COURTESY OF SHREY CHETTIAR

Bellarmino distance runner Shrey Chettiar runs at a race during his senior year. He has committed to join the Johns Hopkins University cross-country and track team.

in the fall.

“It was really grueling – it was really difficult, especially at the start of the season,” Chettiar said. “We had a mile time trial, I ran 5:08 and made it into the sub-5:20 group, but

there was no way I was ready for the workouts that we were given.”

At their final league meet of the fall, Chettiar led Bellarmine’s freshman boys distance team with an 18:08 5-kilometer

personal record. That season, he also realized his love for the sport and the team’s community.

“It was super hard, but I also

See **RUNNER**, Page 25

## Los Altos Little League teams win big at District 44 tournament



COURTESY OF LORI MCKINNEY

The Los Altos/Los Altos Hills Little League Minor AAA Royals won the District 44 Minors Tournament of Champions June 16, defeating the Santa Clara Westside Little League Reds 3-0 and finishing the season 21-0. Back row from left: coach Jeff Chung, coach Brian Rieben, coach Sunil Poonen, manager Ashton Grewal. Middle row from left: Ford Grewal, Zeke Rieben, Jack Kersey, Micah Poonen, Connor Chung. Front row from left: Matthew Mendizabal, Max Hanken, Kane Carey, Tyler Zwijsen. Not pictured: Jake Tarr, Rob Sobota, Veer Bhatia.



COURTESY OF LORI MCKINNEY

The Los Altos/Los Altos Hills Little League Padres took home the District 44 Majors Division Tournament of Champions title with an 11-1 victory over the Santa Clara Westside Giants June 16. District 44 features 10 local leagues and two divisions, the Minors and Majors. The Padres also went undefeated and finished the season 23-0. Back row from left: coach Brian McDermott, manager Dean Cappellazzo, coach Mike Sgroi. Front row from left: Vihaan Anand, Colton Siebel, Ojas Pathak, Raza del Rosario, Ethan Hsieh, Hugo Namiki, Anthony Sgroi, Rocco Cappellazzo, Yuta Koseki. Not pictured: Dylan Lee. This year is the first time Los Altos/Los Altos Hills has ever won both championship games in the two divisions in the District 44 Tournament of Champions.

# Sports

## RUNNER From Page 24

loved it,” Chettiar said. “It was less of just another sport I was doing, but more a lifestyle that I grew into. And more than that, it was the community that was there. We all were bonded in pain.”

In his final freshman cross-country race, Chettiar took fifth in the frosh boys division and led Bellarmine to a first-place finish. A strong track season followed, including a season-opening 2:08 in the 800 meters and a personal-best 4:38 in the 1,600.

“That 4:38 told me, if I keep being committed, I can be really good,” Chettiar said. “That really motivated me. But I was also motivated by my brother – I really looked up to him and I wanted to become as fast or even faster than him.”

Patrick McCrystle, Bellarmine’s cross-country and track coach, noted that Chettiar’s combined stamina and speed made him especially strong in mid-distance events – particularly the 800.

“He’s a distance runner with the speed of a sprint or middle-distance runner,” McCrystle said. “That’s really valuable.”

As a sophomore, Chettiar jumped straight into success with an individual victory in the first WCAL sophomore

boys race of the season. Midseason, he ran a season-best 5K of 16:38 and cemented his spot on varsity. At CCS, Chettiar finished 23rd individually and helped the team finish second in Division I and qualify for the state meet.

In the spring, he kicked off his track season with a 4:30 in the 1,600 and then improved his time to 4:20 at the CCS Top 8 Invitational a month later. At the WCAL Championships, Chettiar individually qualified for CCS in the 3,200.

“I had the fastest mile in the league, but I had a horrible race, so I came back in the 2-mile thinking, ‘I really need to qualify for CCS,’” Chettiar said. “To this day, that race is one of the greatest races I’ve ever run. I kicked the hardest I ever had and I won the race, just barely.”

Highlights of Chettiar’s junior season of cross-country included helping his team place first in the top tier of the Clovis Invitational and the CCS Division I final.

A pair of ankle injuries derailed the start of his next track season. However, he recovered in time to prevail in the 800 at the WCAL finals and was part of the Bells’ victorious 4x400 team at the CCS championships last year.

“His commitment and consistency mean that he always puts himself in a position to do well if he gets the

chance,” McCrystle said. “Every time he runs, we know we’re going to get a really solid effort through the whole race.”

In the postseason, Chettiar traveled to Eugene, Ore., to run the 800 at Nike Outdoor Nationals.

Returning to cross-country last fall, he helped Bellarmine place second at the CCS and state meets.

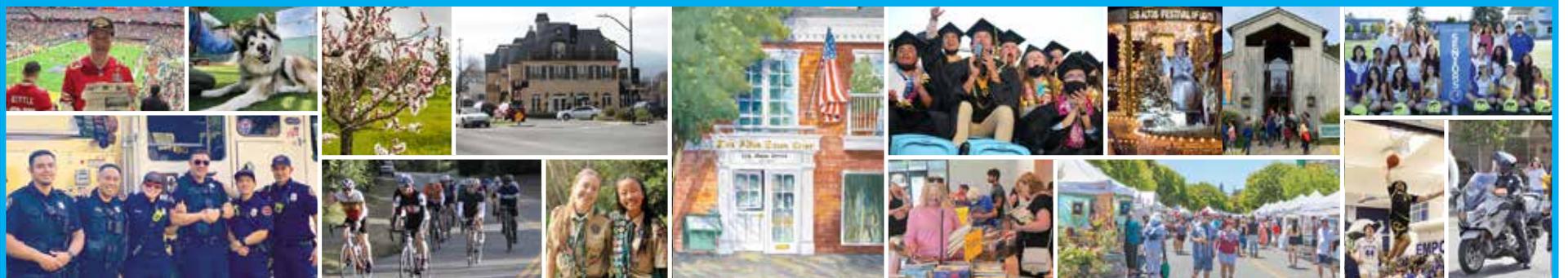
“Senior year season was everything I wanted it to be,” Chettiar said. “I had a good time with my teammates, and we never thought we’d be able to finish second in the state and stand on the podium. So that was a really cool experience.”

But Chettiar’s personal records and team finishes weren’t the only result of his hard work – college recruiters noticed his efforts as well. Despite wanting to follow his brother and run for Yale University, Chettiar said he committed to Johns Hopkins for its top-tier engineering program and highly-ranked NCAA Division III cross-country and track and field teams.

“Johns Hopkins wanted me because I’m the fastest 800 recruit that they’ve ever had,” Chettiar said. “I knew that at a point (my brother and I) would have to switch paths, and this was finally that point. It feels like I’m actually forging my own path, and I think that’s a gift.”



COURTESY OF SHREY CHETTIAR  
Shrey Chettiar signing his letter of intent to run for the John Hopkins University cross-country and track team.



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# Business & Real Estate

## PIZZA

From Page 6

“It’s just not acceptable behavior for a small little community like Los Altos,” Weisler said in a phone call. “I mean, we’re not a big, huge city. They don’t need to bully people.”

Weisler herself felt slighted by LAVA after she claimed a LAVA employee abruptly hung up on her in the middle of a phone call she made in support of Pizza and Amore. Prior to the employee ending the call, Weisler said she had told the employee she thought the decision was racially motivated.

“So then I called right back, and I pretended I didn’t know (he hung up),” she said. “And I said, ‘I think we got cut off.’ He said, ‘No, we didn’t get cut off. I hung up on you.’”

Weisler wasn’t alone in her assessment. Abhi Madhugiri, a six-year Los Altos resident who has frequented Pizza and Amore with his 10- and 4-year-old sons since it joined the farmers market, agreed with Weisler’s suspicion. He questioned why the hot food vendor that LAVA deemed to be competition for local brick-and-mortars was immigrant-owned.

“Luigi is an immigrant from Italy who’s bringing his flavors and his knowledge that’s been passed (for generations) of making great Positano pizzas,” Madhugiri said. “What message do you send to the community that you know an immigrant is working hard, and then he and his wife are being pushed out because they’ve been successful at a farmers market stall?”

But Hunter said the decision was based on the percentage of hot food vendors at the market.

“As a new vendor, and one we had already asked to be removed, they were an easy choice to be part of the reduction in the percentage of hot food vendors,” he said.

### Monetary loss

While Pizza and Amore leaving the Downtown Los Altos Farmers’ Market may be beneficial to downtown restaurants that offer pizza, as LAVA alleges, it will be a financial hit to the Protos. Months into the farmers market season, it’s essentially impossible for them to join other farmers markets as the enrollment periods with different farmers market operators have ended.

PCFMA offered Pizza and Amore a spot at any of the other farmers markets it offers, but none of the markets fit Pizza and Amore’s schedule, Moy said. Pizza and Amore will only have a stand at the Campbell Farmers’ Market on Sundays.

“It would have a significant impact on our small business. We were count-



CHRISTINA CASILLAS/TOWN CRIER

**A printed sign alerts customers of Pizza and Amore of the last day the stall will be at the Downtown Los Altos Farmers’ Market last Thursday.**

ing on (the Downtown Los Altos Farmers’ Market), and we’ve been waiting patiently for its return. So this would be a major setback for us,” Lauren said.

While the ideal outcome for Pizza and Amore would be for Pizza and Amore to continue at the Downtown Los Altos Farmers’ Market for this and future seasons, Madhugiri and Weisler said, Weisler said the least that LAVA can do is reimburse the financial losses

that Pizza and Amore will have with a shortened season.

“You reimburse them, and you pay them for their losses and their pain and suffering and what they’ve had to endure for no reason,” she said.

*Pizza and Amore will be at the Campbell Farmers’ Market 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday along East Cambell Avenue. For more on the business, visit [pizzandamore.com](http://pizzandamore.com).*

## Safe renting: How to protect yourself from rental scams

By Alex Wang

The Peninsula’s tight rental market has become a magnet for scammers targeting both renters and property owners. With single-family homes commanding monthly rents upward of \$12,000 in Los Altos and Palo Alto, fraudsters are deploying increasingly sophisticated schemes that can cost victims thousands.

The numbers are staggering: FBI data shows more than 11,700 people fell victim to real estate scams in 2022, losing more than \$396 million – an 86% jump from 2020. The Federal Trade Commission logged more than 10,000 rental scam cases in 2023, while the Better Business Bureau reported complaints spiking 45%.

What’s particularly troubling for our area is that 88% of identified rental scams originated on Facebook. While social media offers advertising convenience, it’s also become a hunting ground for bad actors exploiting our competitive rental market.

Modern rental fraud is surprisingly sophisticated. Fraudsters strategically target legitimate properties using publicly available information, with timing being everything. They monitor newly listed homes for sale, posting fake rental

### Realtor Field Notes

ads either before “For Sale” signs appear or after homes sell but before new owners move in. During these windows, properties appear vacant to drive-by viewers, lending credibility to the scam. Common tactics include:

- Pricing significantly below market rate (a four-bedroom Los Altos home for \$7,000 instead of \$12,000)

- Creating false urgency with “emergencies” requiring immediate wire transfers or Venmo payments

- Meeting prospective renters legitimately, then pressuring for untraceable payments as move-in approaches

When looking at potential rentals, smart renters look out for these red flags:

- Rental prices that seem too good to be true

- Requests for upfront payments before lease signing

- “Agents” who don’t properly secure properties when leaving

- Pressure for wire transfers or untraceable payment methods

- Incomplete documentation or reluctance to provide proper lease agreements

- Requests to send money overseas

(tricky locally, where many legitimate owners travel internationally)

### Protection strategies

- For renters: Do your homework by cross-referencing addresses on multiple platforms like Zillow to verify properties aren’t currently for sale. Meet rental agents at neutral locations first, then arrive at properties together to observe legitimate access. Don’t pay for background checks through agents – run your own credit report and provide it directly. Chat with neighbors, who can often reveal whether properties are actually available or if others have been similarly approached.

- For property owners: When scammers use your property for fake listings, it damages your reputation and complicates legitimate rental efforts. Consider partnering with established property management firms or digital platforms with strong fraud protections. Platforms like Rently.com offer self-guided tours where renters upload identification and receive temporary access codes, creating audit trails while preventing unauthorized access. That said, nothing beats meeting real people and assessing their legitimacy in person – technology should supplement, not replace, face-to-face

interactions.

If you travel internationally, establish local systems for handling deposits and payments rather than requesting international transfers, which can appear suspicious.

When searching for rentals, platforms like Dwellsy.com offer extensive Peninsula inventory with built-in fraud protections, including verification processes. Whatever platform you use, invest time understanding their policies and protections before diving into listings – this upfront diligence can save significant headaches later.

Peninsula renters face enough challenges without adding scammer threats to the mix. By recognizing common tactics, conducting proper due diligence, and using reputable platforms, both renters and landlords can navigate these waters more safely.

Remember, in real estate as in life, deals that seem too good to be true usually are. Take your time, ask questions, and trust your instincts. Your future self will thank you for the extra caution.

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

# Business & Real Estate

## Transactions

### Los Altos

389 1st Street #32, 1st Place Village LLC to L. & J. Menchavez for \$2,195,000

70 Bay Tree Lane, Weindorf Real Estate LLC to T. & D. Buck for \$2,925,000

1898 Granger Avenue, 1898 Granger LLC to X. & P. Lin for \$3,000,000

945 Andover Way, Kel Survivors Trust to Wahid Family Trust for \$3,861,000

34 Carriage Court, George & Mehrotra Family Trust to Liu Family Trust for \$6,120,000

11525 Old Ranch Lane, Hirschman-Rosales Family Trust to D. & S. Balasubramanian for \$6,154,000

230 Yerba Buena Avenue, Davis Trust to Hiremagalur-Satis Family Trust for \$6,200,000

1417 Country Club Drive, M. & Y. Gottdenker to H. & D. Kim for \$6,400,000

656 Benvenue Avenue, Corso Family Trust to Maciag Living Trust for \$8,657,000

### Los Altos Hills

10531 Magdalena Road, Corduan Trust to I. & M. Son for \$3,000,000

25600 Willow Pond Lane, Gallivan Trust to Dharmendra 2022 Trust for \$7,000,000

### Mountain View

550 Ortega Avenue #B321, Y. Tsai to M. & R. Cherniak for \$1,041,000

108 Bryant Street #20, D. Chan to Huang Family Trust for \$1,330,000

181 Ada Avenue #26, Palmon Trust to C. & B. Bell for \$1,350,000

447 Lotus Lane, W. Fang to H. and S. Burton for \$1,450,000

2328 Rock Street, S. Kang to Y. and X. Bai for \$1,500,000

49 Showers Drive #B453, R. Sharpe to Sinton Living Trust for \$1,575,000

247 Orbit Way, W. & A. Shih to A. & T. Munnavar for \$1,620,000

2001 Saint Emilion Way, Buntschuh Trust to C. & Y. Huang for \$1,803,000

230 Bryant Street #4, Nuzzolo Living Trust to Wu Family Trust for \$1,833,000

937 Farley Street, D. Tang to R. & J. Belur for \$2,280,000

105 Chetwood Drive, M. & J. Tjernberg to M. & G. Samatli-Pac for \$2,420,000

1158 Cuesta Drive, Pogozeleski Family Trust to Aro Properties Norcal 1 LLC for \$2,528,000

68 Gladys Avenue, M. Schoendorf to J. & L. Fang for \$2,600,000

1592 Ernestine Lane, Burcell Family Trust to M. & R. Shum for \$3,300,000

2345 Sun Mor Avenue, G. Hedayati to S. & T. Bruckhaus for \$4,080,000

1532 Meadow Lane, Schein Family Trust to C. & A. Bangla for \$12,255,000

### Cupertino

10080 Firwood Drive, Y. Shen to V. & B. Woo for \$1,450,000

20654 Gardenside Circle, Chao & Pan Trust to N. & G. Zhang for \$1,788,000

10154 Imperial Avenue, J. Ge to J. and Y. Lee for \$1,880,000

21513 Dana Point Lane, Taylor Morrison of California to P. & S. Kumar for \$2,575,000

20091 La Roda Court, Kim Trust to H. & H. Lu for \$3,470,000

10080 Judy Avenue, McClellan Campus Lp to A. & S. Guan for \$5,550,000

### Total sales

#### Los Altos

Total sales: 9  
Lowest sale: \$2,195,000  
Highest sale: \$8,657,000  
Average sale: \$5,056,900

#### Los Altos Hills

Total sales: 2  
Lowest sale: \$3,000,000  
Highest sale: \$7,000,000  
Average sale: \$5,000,000

### Mountain View

Total sales: 16  
Lowest sale: \$1,041,000  
Highest sale: \$12,255,000  
Average sale: \$2,685,300

### Cupertino

Total sales: 6  
Lowest sale: \$1,450,000  
Highest sale: \$5,550,000  
Average sale: \$2,785,500

– Transaction information is obtained and provided by Cal REsource.

**Have a comment or idea? Reach out**

If you have an idea for the Business and Real Estate section or would like to comment on its content, email section editor Christina Casillas at [christinac@latc.com](mailto:christinac@latc.com).



*31499 Via Las Rosas, Carmel Valley*  
**Offered at \$3,300,000**

Via Las Rosas Retreat is a beautiful 4 bedroom, 2.5-bathroom private residence on a 2.61-acre lot offering stunning mountain and valley views.



**Katherine Hudson**

BROKER ASSOCIATE®  
831.293.4878 | LIC. #01363054  
THEAGENCYRE.COM



JUST LISTED | PALO ALTO

2330 SIERRA COURT

**\$3,698,000**

OFFER PRICE

2,065 sqft Interior | 11,442 sqft Lot | 4 Beds  
3 Baths | 1 Car Garage

FOUNDING SALES PARTNER

**Alex Wang** | 650-800-8840

DRE 01351503

**OPEN SAT & SUN June 28 & 29, 2:00 – 4:00pm**



# Kathy Bridgman's

**NEW LISTING  
OF THE WEEK**



**KATHY BRIDGMAN**  
BROKER ASSOCIATE

## Freshly Updated on Two-Thirds Acre with Western Hill Views 348 Costello Court, Los Altos

- Just updated and lovingly owned by the same family for the past 40 years
- Classic California ranch style ready to enjoy or remodel for the future
- Spacious lot of approximately 0.65 acres (28,500 square feet; not verified by Compass)
- 3 bedrooms and 2 baths with distinct living and family rooms
- Approximately 2,064 square feet (per County records; not verified by Compass)
- Elevated and private property at the end of a cul-de-sac with western hill views
- Refreshed with new paint inside and out, new carpet, hardwood floors, and new light fixtures
- Large living/dining room with Craftsman-style rock fireplace and western hill views
- Big and bright eat-in kitchen with once-in-a-lifetime kitchen sink view
- Inviting family room with fireplace opens to extensive patio and private rear garden
- Office/pantry room with direct access to the oversized 2-car garage
- Two primary bedrooms, each with en suite bath and ample closets, one with its own patio
- Large third bedroom with door to private rear patio
- Terraced and level grounds with refreshed landscaping plus hillside observation deck
- Great west side location just 1.5 miles to The Village and 1 mile to Rancho Center
- Excellent Los Altos schools

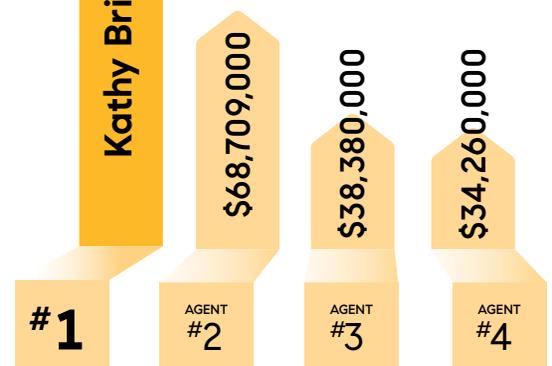
**Price upon request**  
**348Costello.com**



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

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

**The Results Are In . . .**  
Kathy remains the leader in LA/LAH sales by an individual agent.  
**Work with the best in 2025!**



Per MLS reported sales volume for LA/LAH. 2024

650.868.7677

License #01189798

kathy@kathybridgman.com

kathybridgman.com

**COMPASS**

.....  
**JUST LISTED**  
.....



## 106 SECOND STREET, LOS ALTOS

2 Bedroom | 2 Bathroom | 1,237 Sq. Ft. | \$1,800,000

Just steps from the boutiques, cafés, and fine dining of downtown Los Altos, this sophisticated cottage-style townhome blends timeless charm with elevated finishes. Sun washes throughout the home, and the airy interior showcases Granite countertops, oversized windows, and beautiful design details.

The spacious top-floor suite captures sweeping mountain views—an idyllic retreat above the treetops. Outside, a private side yard with a soothing fountain offers the perfect setting for al fresco dining or quiet relaxation. A private garage and dedicated driveway deliver exceptional convenience in this coveted downtown locale.

With its prime location and thoughtfully refined aesthetic, this home is a rare opportunity to enjoy luxurious cottage living in the heart of Silicon Valley.

**106-2nd.com**



**CHRISTINA ULLESEIT**

Pellego, Inc.  
**REALTOR®**

DRE: #01983681

m: 650-561-5922

[Christina@redwoodpacifillc.com](mailto:Christina@redwoodpacifillc.com)



# YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS



DeLeonRealty\_USA



1045 LASSEN DRIVE  
MENLO PARK

\$5,488,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth  
1045Lassen.com



467 LINCOLN AVENUE  
PALO ALTO

\$8,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
467Lincoln.com



176 ENCINAL AVENUE  
ATHERTON

\$21,888,000 | 8 Bd | 10.5 Bth  
176Encinal.com



850 ARROYO COURT  
PALO ALTO

\$4,288,000 | 5 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
850Arroyo.com



300 LOWELL AVENUE  
PALO ALTO

\$8,688,000 | 5 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
300Lowell.com



590 MILITARY WAY  
PALO ALTO

\$4,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
590Military.com



128 CORNELL ROAD  
MENLO PARK

\$3,688,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth  
128Cornell.com



5 OAK FOREST COURT  
PORTOLA VALLEY

\$5,488,000 | 4 Bd | 5.5 Bth  
5OakForest.com

## Don't Overpay to Sell your Home List with Us for 3% Total commission

Michael Repka (DRE #01854880) **650.488.7325**  
中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun (DRE #01933274) **650.785.5822**  
DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224 | Equal Housing Opportunity

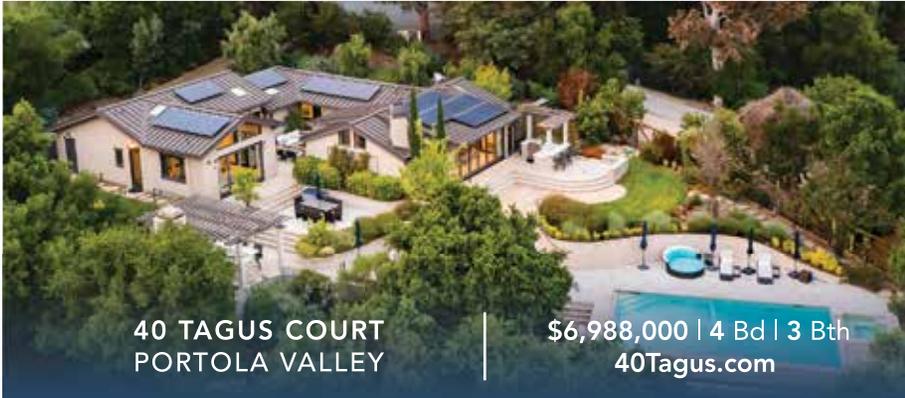




# YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS



DeLeonRealty\_USA



40 TAGUS COURT  
PORTOLA VALLEY

\$6,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth  
40Tagus.com



835 LA HONDA ROAD  
WOODSIDE

\$7,988,000 | 5 Bd | 7 Bth  
835LaHonda.com



695 N CALIFORNIA AVE  
PALO ALTO

\$3,988,000 | 4 Bd | 2 Bth  
695NCalifornia.com



8 REYNA PLACE  
MENLO PARK

\$8,388,000 | 4 Bd | 7 Bth  
8Reyna.com



1932 EMERSON STREET  
PALO ALTO

\$10,500,000 | 6 Bd | 6 Bth  
1932EmersonStreet.com



1948 EDGEWOOD DRIVE  
PALO ALTO

\$2,988,000 | 5 Bd | 3 Bth  
1948Edgewood.com



756, 758, 760 WAVERLEY ST  
PALO ALTO

\$3,240,000 | Triplex  
756-760Waverley.com



28500 MATADERO CREEK LN  
LOS ALTOS HILLS

\$9,798,000 | 6 Bd | 9 Bth  
28500MataderoCreek.com



## SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS OR VISIT US AT [DELEONREALTY.COM](https://deleonrealty.com)



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





# Seller's Bill of Rights



At DeLeon Realty, we believe sellers deserve better. Better marketing, better support, and better results, without any Realtor® games or hidden agendas. Further, sellers should not be coerced or persuaded to offer their homes only to buyers represented by that listing brokerage (where they would get double commission) – whether in advance of all the other interested buyers or instead of them.

This *Seller's Bill of Rights* lays out what you can expect from us, in plain terms. These aren't nice-to-haves or vague promises. They're real, concrete commitments we make to every seller with whom we work.

## I. The Right to Fair Representation

DeLeon Realty will never accept commission from both sides of any transaction. We will also provide and fully compensate a qualified agent to represent any unrepresented buyers on DeLeon listings at no cost to the buyer OR the seller.

## II. The Right to Legal and Tax Guidance

DeLeon sellers will have access to a licensed California attorney to address any legal issues or tax questions related to the sale of their home, free of charge.

## III. The Right to Industry-Leading Marketing

DeLeon sellers will receive more marketing and better marketing than any other comparable property on the market (excluding other DeLeon listings).

## IV. The Right to Maximum Exposure

All DeLeon listings will be featured on the MLS, Zillow, Redfin, and other top platforms, unless the seller opts for an unrecommended off-market strategy with full understanding that it will likely yield a lower price due to reduced exposure and competition.

## V. The Right to Print and Digital Visibility

Your home will appear in at least one newspaper advertisement every week it's on the market and will include a custom video, 3D tour, and professional photography, all featured on a dedicated micro website specific to your home.

## VI. The Right to Guided Preparation

Every DeLeon seller benefits from access to an experienced interior designer and handyman to oversee the home preparation process, including selecting a stager whose vision aligns with the property and marketing strategy.

## VII. The Right to Complimentary Staging

DeLeon sellers will never pay for staging – ever.

## VIII. The Right to Covered Inspections

All property and pest inspections arranged by DeLeon are covered at no cost to the seller.

## IX. The Right to Flexibility

Listing agreements automatically expire 39 days after the home goes live on the MLS, unless the seller chooses to extend. We believe listing agents should have to earn that extension.

## X. The Right to a Team That Works for You

Michael Repka, and our sellers, benefit from the most robust group of professionals in the real estate industry, all working in unison to achieve the best result possible. From interior designers, handymen, and a licensed contractor, to highly specialized marketing professionals, and attorneys, DeLeon Realty delivers a level of service and results unattainable by any individual agent or small team.

---

If you are thinking of listing your home, meet with Michael Repka to learn how a recent court case and massive settlement has brought down the cost to sell a home.

**Michael Repka**, DRE #01854880  
**650.488.7325** | michael@deleonrealty.com  
DELEON REALTY, INC. | DRE #01903224  
Equal Housing Opportunity



467 LINCOLN AVENUE  
PALO ALTO



### REMODELED TUDOR BEAUTY ON OVER 1/3 ACRE

On one of the most coveted streets in Palo Alto's storied Professorville neighborhood, this gorgeous Tudor-style home blends nearly a century of heritage with refined modern updates. Timeless architectural details – rich hardwood floors, classic millwork, divided light windows, and glittering chandeliers – complement a thoughtfully remodeled interior tailored for today's lifestyle. The multi-level floorplan includes expansive formal and casual spaces, a dedicated office, and a chef's kitchen with high-end appliances, while all four bedrooms rest upstairs, including a spacious primary suite. A flexible-use attic adds extra functionality and charm.

Set on over a third of an acre, the home opens to a beautifully designed backyard oasis perfect for entertaining year-round. A large paver patio with built-in grill and fireplace flows to a covered lounge area with space heaters, surrounded by a lush lawn and mature shade trees. Additional highlights include air conditioning and a 2-car garage. Enjoy a walkable lifestyle just moments from downtown Palo Alto, Stanford University, and top-rated schools including Addison Elementary, Greene Middle, and Palo Alto High (buyer to verify eligibility).

## OPEN HOUSE

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

[467Lincoln.com](http://467Lincoln.com)

Offered at \$8,988,000

### Notice to Buyers:

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

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team

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

.....  
**JUST LISTED**  
.....

**1011 VIA DEL POZO ■ LOS ALTOS**



*open house*

**SAT 6/28 ■ SUN 6/29**  
**2-4PM**

**\$4,798,000**

**4 BEDS ■ 2.5 BATHS ■ 2,377 SQ FT ■ 12,726 SQ FT LOT**

Extensively updated and tucked on a quiet North Los Altos cul-de-sac, this turnkey home offers a spacious, sun-filled layout with seamless indoor-outdoor flow—plus an oversized yard with mature landscaping, a sunroom, and a shaded pergola under towering redwoods. Modern upgrades include newer kitchen and baths, newer HVAC, EV charging, Anderson French doors, and more, all just steps from the Sweet Shop and Palo Alto bike path. Top-rated Los Altos schools: Santa Rita Elementary, Egan Jr. High, and Los Altos High School

[www.1011ViaDelPozo.com](http://www.1011ViaDelPozo.com)



**#109 IN THE U.S.**  
**OUT OF 1.5M AGENTS**  
PER REALTRENDS, 2024

**OVER \$1 BILLION**  
**IN PROPERTY SALES**

**650.773.8000**

[REALTORNICKFRENCH.COM](http://REALTORNICKFRENCH.COM)

[NICK@REALTORNICKFRENCH.COM](mailto:NICK@REALTORNICKFRENCH.COM)

 **REALTORNICKFRENCH**

DRE#01350085 | 467 FIRST STREET #200 | LOS ALTOS, CA 94022

**CHRISTIE'S**  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE  
SERENO



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

# JUST LISTED



32 N. El Monte Avenue **LOS ALTOS**

Open Saturday & Sunday  
June 28 & 29, 1:30 – 4:30 PM



## TURN-KEY DESIGNER HOME CLOSE TO EVERYTHING

- Extensively remodeled and expanded
- 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths on one level
- Approximately 2,872 sq. ft. of living space plus finished bonus space above garage
- Formal living and dining rooms
- Tremendous great room kitchen opens to a loggia with barbecue center
- Bedroom wing with primary suite plus three bedrooms and two full baths
- More than one-quarter acre (approximately 12,000 sq. ft.)
- Low maintenance synthetic front yard and beautifully landscaped rear gardens with spa
- Owned solar panels
- Minutes to parks, excellent Los Altos schools, plus shops and cafes



Offered at **\$4,998,000** | [32NElMonteAve.com](http://32NElMonteAve.com)

### And what a location!

Draeger's Market.....1.3 miles .....4 min  
Peet's Coffee .....1.5 miles .....6 min  
Starbucks.....1.7 miles .....6 min  
Highway 280.....1.7 miles .....5 min  
Whole Foods .....2.3 miles .....6 min  
Caltrain .....2.3 miles .. 10 min

El Camino Hospital .....2.4 miles .....8 min  
Trader Joe's .....2.6 miles .....8 min  
Google.....4.0 miles.. 14 min  
LinkedIn.....4.0 miles.. 12 min  
SJC Airport..... 11.8 miles.. 25 min  
Facebook..... 12.3 miles.. 25 min

All miles and times approximate. ©Pam Blackman 2025

REALTOR®

## Pam Blackman

CERTIFIED RESIDENTIAL SPECIALIST®  
SENIORS REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST®  
License 00584333

**650.823.0308**

[pam.blackman@theagencyre.com](mailto:pam.blackman@theagencyre.com)

[www.PamBlackman.com](http://www.PamBlackman.com)



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



**OPEN HOUSE SAT 6/28 & SUN 6/29, 2-4PM**

## **Build Your Dream Home — Peaceful Acre Lot Near Town**

**13888 Fremont Pines Lane, Los Altos Hills**

Discover the rare opportunity to build your custom home on a quiet, one-acre lot just a short walk from town. Enjoy stunning views of the western hills, the calming sounds of nature, and complete serenity with no traffic noise—just birdsong and fresh air. This property includes a spacious ADU perfect for guest quarters, rental income, or a place to live while you build. A beautiful blend of privacy and convenience—don't miss this unique offering!

**OFFERED AT \$4,998,000**

**4 BEDS · 3 BATHS · ±3,306 SQFT · ±1 ACRE LOT**



**Golden Gate**

**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO

**13888FremontPines.com**

195 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos  
Each office is independently owned and operated.

**Barbara Telesco Curley**

650.861.2488

b.curley@ggsir.com

Lic. #01837664



# Public Notices

## **RUNELEAF PRESS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717244**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: RUNELEAF PRESS, 2015 San Luis Ave, Mountain View, CA, 94043, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Brian Gardner, 2015 San Luis Ave, Mountain View, CA 94043. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Brian Gardner / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/18/2025. (06-25-25,07-02,09,16-25)

**165-T**

## **SURESTAY BY BEST WESTERN SUNNYVALE SILICON VALLEY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717209**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SURESTAY BY BEST WESTERN SUNNYVALE SILICON VALLEY, 1280 Persian Dr., Sunnyvale, CA, 94089, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): ROHIT CORPORATION, 1280 Persian Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94089. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/26/2019. /S/ Bhavna B Shah / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/17/2025. (06-25-25,07-02,09,16-25)

**164-T**

## **VITESSE DETAILING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717004**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: VITESSE DETAILING, 55 Marian Lane, San Jose, CA, 95127, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Gavin Joseph Regua-Jimenez, 55 Marian Lane, San Jose, CA 95127. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/01/2025. /S/ Gavin Regua-Jimenez / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/09/2025. (06-25-25,07-02,09,16-25)

**163-T**

## **LOS ALTOS NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE DUE TO PASS-THROUGH OF WHOLESALE SUPPLIER COST INCREASES**

Beginning July 1, 2025, water bills of California Water Service (Cal Water) customers in the Los Altos District will reflect updated wholesale water and groundwater replenishment charges by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which are incurred by the company. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the state agency that regulates Cal Wa-

ter's operations, has determined that expenses for wholesale water supplies are not under the company's control, and that a pass-through of those costs to customers is just. On or around June 25, 2025, Cal Water will file Advice Letter 2556 to request authority to increase its annual revenue in the Los Altos District by \$2,813,033, or 4.6%, due to these wholesale cost increases. Pending the CPUC's review of Cal Water's calculations, the rate changes will be effective on July 1, 2025. With the increase, a typical monthly bill for a Los Altos District residential customer with a 5/8" x 3/4" meter and who uses approximately 6,732 gallons (9 ccf) of water per month will increase by \$3.95, or 4.7%. A copy of Advice Letter 2556 will be available online at [www.calwater.com/rates-advice-letters](http://www.calwater.com/rates-advice-letters) (please select the Advice Letter from the drop-down menu), and may also be obtained from the company's local office by calling (650) 917-0152. You may also contact the company's headquarters by mailing the Rates Department at 1720 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95112-4598. Cal Water offers many programs to help customers manage their water bill, including a low-income Customer Assistance Program (CAP), water-saving appliance/device rebates, and other conservation programs. Please visit our web site at [www.calwater.com](http://www.calwater.com) to take advantage of these opportunities. Responses and Protests

Anyone may respond to or protest this filing. A response supports the filing and may contain information that proves useful to the CPUC in its evaluation. A protest objects to the filing in whole or in part and must set forth the specific grounds on which it is based, and shall provide citations or proof where available to allow staff to properly consider the protest. The grounds for protests are:

1. The utility did not properly serve or give notice of the filing.
2. The relief requested in the filing would violate statute or CPUC order or is not authorized by statute or CPUC order on which the utility relies.
3. The analysis, calculations, or data in the filing contains material errors or omissions.
4. The relief requested in the filing is pending before the CPUC in a formal proceeding.
5. The relief requested in the filing requires consideration in a formal hearing or is otherwise inappropriate for the filing process.
6. The relief requested in the filing is unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory (provided that such a protest may not be made where it would require relitigating a prior order of the CPUC).

A response or protest must be made in writing and received by the CPUC's Water Division by July 17, 2025, the end of the comment period. The response or protest should be either emailed to [water.division@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:water.division@cpuc.ca.gov) or mailed to Tariff Unit, Water Division, 3rd Floor, CPUC, 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102. On the same date the response or protest is sent to the Water Division, it must also be either emailed to [cwsrates@calwater.com](mailto:cwsrates@calwater.com) or mailed to Rates Department, California Water Service, 1720 North First St., San Jose, CA 95112. Cities and counties that need Board of Supervisors or Board of Commissioners approval to protest should inform the Water Division within the protest period so that a late-filed protest can be considered. The informing document should include

an estimated date on which the proposed protest may be voted. If you have not received a reply to your protest within 10 business days, contact Cal Water at (408) 367-8200 and ask for the Rates Department. CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE 6/25/25 CNS-3940146# LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER (06-25-25)

**161-T**

## **MXTECH & CHROMATIC HEALING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717181**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) MXTECH & CHROMATIC HEALING, (2) AMAN'S ACE OF TRADES, 575 Piazza Drive, Mountain View, CA, 94043, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Aman Anit Patel, 575 Piazza Drive, Mountain View, CA 94043. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/23/2025. /S/ Aman Anit Patel / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/16/2025. (06-25-25,07-02,09,16-25)

**160-T**

## **ALEPH-B FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717144**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ALEPH-B, 332 Forest Ave, #9, Palo Alto, CA, 94301, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): ALEPH-B LLC, 332 Forest Ave, #9, Palo Alto, CA 94301. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/10/2025. /S/ Michel El Khoury Maroun / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/13/2025. (06-25-25,07-02,09,16-25)

**159-T**

## **Elite Events FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717128**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Elite Events, 1281 Lawrence Station Road #402, Sunnyvale, CA, 94089, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Fresh Global LLC, 1281 Lawrence Station Road #402, Sunnyvale, CA 94089. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/18/2025. /S/ Diane Youel / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/12/2025. (06-18-25,25,07-02,09-25)

**158-T**

## **SHEERSARCASM FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717087**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SHEER-SARCASM, PO BOX 235, Los Altos, CA, 94023, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Simplify Digital AI LLC, 1450 Oak Ave, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 04/20/2024. /S/ Anec-Cecile Bellisario / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/11/2025. (06-18,25-25,07-02,09-25)

**157-T**

## **NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS**

### **2024-2025 ANNUAL STREET RESURFACING PROJECT TS-01001 & TS-01004**

CITY OF LOS ALTOS  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY,  
CALIFORNIA

**1. Description of Work:** The City of Los Altos, Santa Clara County, California, invites sealed bids for furnishing labor, material and equipment required to complete the project in the locations located in the plans and specifications. The following information is presented to indicate the size of the project, and no warranty is made or intended to final quantities:

The project includes but is not limited to mobilization, micro-surfacing, milling and asphalt overlay on existing pavement, traffic control, striping and signage improvements, replacing loop detectors, storm improvements, and all other items or details not mentioned above that are required by the contract Drawings and Specifications to repair various streets within the City of Los Altos.

**2. Location of Work:** All said work is to be done at the places indicated on the exhibit list and map of street segments and locations, in accordance with these specifications.

**3. Contract Documents:** Bids must be submitted on the City's bid forms. A copy of the plans (half-size) and specifications shall be obtained from the office of the City Public Works Director, City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California, 94022, for a non-refundable fee of \$50 or visit the City's bids and vendor management portal hosted by PlanetBids to download the PDFFile(s) (<https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/71685/portal-home>). Copies may also be inspected at the office of the Public Works Director. To the extent required by Public Contract Code section 20103.7, the City will also make the Contract Documents available for review at one or more plan rooms.

**4. Labor Compliance. Labor Compliance.** Pursuant to paragraph 7-1.01A, Labor Code Requirements, of the General Provisions in these specifications, Contractor is required to comply with California Labor Code Section 1770, et seq. This Code requires the Contractor to pay their workers based on prevailing wage rates established and issued by the Department of

Industrial Relations, Division of Labor and Statistics and Research.

Pursuant to Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1771.1, all contractors or subcontractors bidding on public works projects must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). No contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal for a public works project unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations [with limited exceptions from this requirement for bid purposes only under Labor Code section 1771.1(a)].

No contractor or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for public work on a public works project unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the contractor registration requirements mandated by Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1 shall not apply to work performed on a public works project that is exempt pursuant to the small project exemption specified in Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1. This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

**5. Pre-bid Site Review:** A pre-bid conference is not scheduled for this project. Prospective bidders are directed to Section 2-1.03 of the Standard Specifications regarding examination of the site of work.

**6. Contractor's License:** The Contractor is required to have a Class A General Engineering or Class C-12 Earthwork and Paving Contractor for this work. All bidders shall be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California to do the type of work contemplated in the project.

**7. Bid Bond:** Bids must be accompanied by cash, a certified or cashier's check, a Bid Bond, or an Electronic Bid Bond (e-Bond) executed and verified by an admitted surety in favor of the City in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the submitted Total Bid Price. In the event that the successful Bidder fails or refuses to enter into the Contract awarded to it, the Bidder's Bond shall be retained by the City and applied to any damages sustained by the City.

Cash, certified or cashier's check, and the original Bid Bond shall be delivered to the City before the latest date and time for Bid submittal.

The City requires a bid bond that can be verified as authentic pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 995.311.

Electronic Bid Bond shall be submitted in the form of a verified e-Bond through either Surety2000 at <http://www.surety2000.com> or Tinubu at <https://www.tinubu.com/ebonding> in PlanetBids before the due date and time for submitting Bid Proposals as specified in the Procurement Schedule.

Bidders are solely responsible for completing Surety2000 or Tinubu registration, and payment of associated fees and charges. The City is not responsible to Bidders for (a) Surety2000 or Tinubu acts or omissions; (b) the completeness or timely verification of the authenticity of the issued e-Bond; or (c) any other errors by third parties in the issuance of the e-Bond.

**8. Location of Bid Submittal and Date and Time of Opening:** The City accepts electronic submittal of bids only. Bids shall be submitted electronically to the City's bids and vendor management portal hosted by PlanetBids at <https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/71685/portal-home> on or before

**Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at 2 PM**

The PlanetBids contract ID for this project is TS-01001 and TS-01004. The Bidder's PlanetBids vendor identification number may also be necessary for the Bidder's Security. Each Bid received before the Bid submittal due date will be automatically opened and unsealed by PlanetBids at the time of the Bid deadline. Bids received after the Bid submittal due date will be rejected. Bids shall be valid for sixty (60) calendar days after the Bid opening date. Bid results (not verified) will be published.

**9. Payment & Performance Bonds:** The successful Bidder will be required to furnish the City with a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each equal to 100% of the successful Bid, prior to execution of the Contract.

All bonds are to be secured from a surety that meets all of the State of California bonding requirements, as defined in Code of Civil Procedure Section 995.120, and is admitted by the State of California. The cost of said bonds shall be included in the Bid amount.

**10. Award of Contract:** Said bids will be presented to and considered by the City Council at a regularly scheduled meeting. The City shall award the Contract for the Project to the lowest responsive, responsible Bidder on the basis of the Total Bid. In the event of any discrepancy between extended and unit prices as set forth in the bidder's bid schedule (i.e., the bidder's extended price does not equal the unit price multiplied by the applicable quantity), the City shall use the unit price to recompute the extended price and bid totals accordingly, and the re-computed amounts shall be used as the basis of determining the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. In the event of a significant discrepancy between unit and extended prices, the City reserves the right in its sole and absolute discretion to reject the bid as nonresponsive.

**11. Time of Completion of Work:** The work shall be completed and ready for full use within **one-hundred and twenty (120) calendar days**, the first day of which shall be the date specified in the Public Works Director's "Notice to Proceed".

**12. Substitution of Securities:** Pursuant to Public Contract Code section 22300, the successful Bidder may substitute certain securities for funds withheld by the City to ensure performance under the Contract.

**13. Rights of the City:** The City reserves the right to cancel the project, and to reject any or all bids if not satisfied as to the price for the work or the responsibility of the bidder. The City also reserves the right to waive any informalities according to law.

**14. Project Administration:**

All questions relative to this project prior to the opening of bids shall be in writing and directed to the Public Works Director, City of Los Altos, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022.

Special direction is directed to Section 2 of the General Provisions for full directions as to bidding.

Dated: June 10, 2025

/s/ Steven Son, P.E.  
**Transportation Manager**  
(06-18,25-25)

**156-T**

## **INNOVATEACH FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717069**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: INNOVATEACH, 1269 Lakeside Dr., #3114, Sunnyvale, CA, 94085, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Stephanie Gervais, 1269 Lakeside Dr., #3114, Sunnyvale, CA 94085. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/27/2025. /S/ Stephanie Gervais / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/10/2025. (06-18,25-25,07-02,09-25)

**155-T**

## **THE FIRST TAKE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717059**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: THE FIRST TAKE, 76 E Santa Clara St, San Jose, CA, 95113, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): KAFFEINEX LLC, 2469 Renfield Way, San Jose, CA 95148. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/03/2025. /S/ Celine Truong / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/10/2025. (06-18,25-25,07-02,09-25)

**154-T**

## **VERY BLESSED CHOCOLATES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN716333**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: VERY BLESSED CHOCOLATES, 2310 Homestead Road, Ste. C1-308, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): VICTORY FINANCE INC, 2310 Homestead Road, Ste. C1-308, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/11/2018. /S/ Weihong Victoria Bracha / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa

# Public Notices

Clara County on 05/16/2025.  
(06-18,25-25,07-02,09-25)

**153-T**

**ISHKA FLOW  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO. FBN716706**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ISHKA FLOW, 1065 Miramonte Avenue, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Shweta Aneja, 1065 Miramonte Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/24/2025. /S/ Shweta Aneja / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 05/29/2025. (06-18,25-25,07-02,09-25)

**152-T**

**ADDVIA.AI  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO. FBN716869**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ADDVIA.AI, 3477 McKee Road #245, San Jose, CA, 95127, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): ADDVIA.AI LLC, 3477 McKee Road #245, San Jose, CA 95127. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Misook Chung / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/03/2025. (06-11,18,25-25,07-02-25)

**151-T**

**TEQSCALE SOLUTIONS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO. FBN716851**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: TEQSCALE SOLUTIONS, 1400 Coleman Ave Ste C13-2, Santa Clara, CA, 95050, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): G R Enterprises Inc, 1400 Coleman Ave Ste C13-2, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/03/2025. /S/ Gopi Chowdary Ravipati / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/03/2025. (06-11,18,25-25,07-02-25)

**150-T**

**ALTO PLASTIC SURGERY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO. FBN716818**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ALTO PLASTIC SURGERY, 171 Main St, Suite 404, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Sean

Hashemi, M.D. Inc, 171 Main Street, Suite 404, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Sean Hashemi / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/02/2025. (06-11,18,25-25,07-02-25)

**149-T**

**DENTAL SOLUTIONS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO. FBN716821**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: DENTAL SOLUTIONS, 903 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale, CA, 94087, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Yvonne Wong D.D.S Inc, 903 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/10/2002. /S/ Yvonne Wong / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/02/2025. (06-11,18,25-25,07-02-25)

**148-T**

**SKY BODYWORK  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO. FBN716717**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SKY BODYWORK, 22620 Ricardo Rd, Cupertino, CA, 95014, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Natsumi Kondo, 22620 Ricardo Rd, Cupertino, CA 95014. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Natsumi Kondo / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 05/29/2025. (06-11,18,25-25,07-02-25)

**147-T**

**NOXENEMIES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO. FBN715990**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: NOXENEMIES, 4450 Alex Drive, San Jose, CA, 95130, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Yury Shirokov, 4450 Alex Drive, San Jose, CA 95130. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Yury Shirokov / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 05/05/2025. (06-11,18,25-25,07-02-25)

**146-T**

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE  
File No.: 25-268768  
A.P.N.: 197-09-041**

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED NOVEMBER 29, 2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROP-

ERTY, 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 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. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. The property described heretofore is being sold "as is". 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 Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor(s): BHARAT B. BEHAN Duly Appointed Trustee: Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, & Crane, LLP DEED OF TRUST Recorded on December 08, 2004 at Instrument No 18135722 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of SANTA CLARA County, California Sale Date: 7/9/2025 Sale Time: 10:00 AM Sale Location: At the Gated North Market Street entrance of the Superior Courthouse, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$248,484.72 (Estimated) Street Address or other common designation of real property: 695 WALTHAM STREET, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040. See Legal Description - Exhibit "A" attached here to and made a part hereof. LEGAL DESCRIPTION - EXHIBIT A LOT 16 OF TRACT NO. 8131, ACCORDING TO THE MAP THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD ON 19 AUGUST 1988 IN BOOK 590 OF MAPS, AT PAGE(S) 23, 24, 25, 26 AND 27, SANTA CLARA COUNTY RECORDS. 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. 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. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDER(S): 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(S): 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 (866-684-2727) or visit the website <http://www.servicelinkasap.com>, using the file number assigned to this case 25-268768. 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(S): Effective January 1, 2021, you may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to California Civil Code Section 2924m. 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 (866-684-2727) or visit the website <http://www.servicelinkasap.com>, using the file number assigned to this case 25-268768 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. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid & Crane, LLP By: Marisol Nagata, Esq. Authorized Signatory 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Phone: 858-997-1304 SALE INFORMATION CAN [HTTP://WWW.SERVICELINKASAP.COM](http://WWW.SERVICELINKASAP.COM). PLEASE CALL (866-684-2727). BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION, The above-named trustee may be acting as a debt collector attempting

to collect a debt. Any information obtained may be used for that purpose. CA DPFI Debt Collection License # 11461-99; NMLS ID 2591653. To the extent your original obligation was discharged or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code, this notice is for compliance and/or informational purposes only and does not constitute an attempt to collect a debt or to impose personal liability for such obligation. However, a secured party retains rights under its security instrument, including the right to foreclose its lien. A-4844130 06/11/2025, 06/18/2025, 06/25/2025 (06-11,18,25-25)

**145-T**

**TWOMAIDS OF CUPERTINO  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO. FBN716158**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) TWOMAIDS OF CUPERTINO, (2) TWOMAIDS OF PALO ALTO, 1084 S De Anza Blvd, San Jose, CA, 95129, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Ghaderi Family LLC, 1255 Dorchester Ln, San Jose, CA 95118. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Amir Ghaderi / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 05/12/2025. (06-04,11,18,25-25)

**142-T**

**LUVLI-UGLI  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO. FBN716203**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: LUVLI-UGLI, 406 Sierra Avenue, Mountain View, CA, 94041, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Lisa Toni Hyndman, 406 Sierra Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94041. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/11/2025. /S/ Lisa Hyndman / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 05/13/2025. (06-04,11,18,25-25)

**141-T**

# 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 [bruceb@latc.com](mailto:bruceb@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: **No Fuss Meal Prep**, 4 p.m. June 29. A guest chef will offer practical solutions for busy individuals and families. Discover the joy of having delicious, ready-to-eat meals at your fingertips. **Indian Dance Performance by Pagrav Dance Studio**, 1 p.m. June 29. Live Indian music and dance performance by Pagrav Dance Studio, led by Purvi Jejurkar. **Healing Art Workshop**, 7 p.m. July 8. Relax, de-stress, and reconnect with emotions through a multisensory experience. **Retiro Roadshow: Mario Through the Ages**, 2-5 p.m. July 12. Join an interactive presentation tracing the evolution of video game art and science through the lens of Nintendo's iconic "Mario" character. **Dividend Investing for Financial Growth**, 7 p.m., July 15. This in-depth program provides you with the knowledge and actionable strategies to confidently build a portfolio of dividend-paying stocks for both consistent passive income and substantial long-term growth. **Teen Paint-Your-Own Pottery Workshop**, 10:30 a.m. July 26. A curated selection of pre-formed pottery and a diverse palette of paints are provided, allowing participants to design a masterpiece. Following the workshop, artwork will be expertly clear glazed and fired. For ages 13-18 years old. Programs are free and open to the public. Information: (650) 948-7683, [scld.org](http://scld.org).

## REUNIONS

**The 60 year reunion of Los Altos High School Class of 1965** will be held Aug. 16 in Los Altos. Information: Jim Koski, (408) 313-4848, [koskiphoto@gmail.com](mailto:koskiphoto@gmail.com).

**The 50-year reunion of Awalt High School Class of 1975** will be held Oct. 3-5, including a happy hour get-together (Friday), reunion dinner party (Saturday), and pot-luck picnic and campus tour (Sunday). Tickets are now on sale, and all details are on [awalt75.com](http://awalt75.com). Information: contact the planning committee at [AwaltClassOf75@gmail.com](mailto:AwaltClassOf75@gmail.com).

## CLUBS/GROUPS

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

**Kiwanis Club of Los Altos.** Service organization. Meets at noon every Tuesday at Neutra House Conference Center, 181 Hillview Ave. Information: (650) 735-1552, [losaltoskiwanis.org](http://losaltoskiwanis.org).

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

Email  
[legals@latc.com](mailto:legals@latc.com)  
by 12pm on Thursday

# OBITUARY NOTICE

## GAIL SOLOMON



December 25, 1940 –  
June 2, 2025

Gail Solomon, 84, of Los Altos Hills, California, passed away peacefully on the evening of June 2, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

Gail was born in Barcelona, Spain, and immigrated with her family to the Willow Glen neighborhood of San Jose, California, in 1950. She attended Willow Glen High School and later earned a bachelor's degree in child development from the University of California, Berkeley. It was at Cal that she met the love of her life, Ernest Solomon. They married in 1962 and went on to raise two children, Debra and Aaron.

Gail dedicated her professional life to education, spending many years as a bilingual kindergarten and first-grade teacher in the Sunnyvale School District. Her passion for teaching left a lasting impact on generations of students and their families.

In retirement, Gail and Ernest traveled the world together and remained active in their community. Gail served as a docent at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University and was an involved member of the Los Altos Hills Newcomers Club.

Gail is survived by her devoted husband of 63 years, Ernest; her children, Debra and Aaron; her daughter-in-law, Kathy; and her cherished grandsons, Andrew and Jared.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Gail's memory to one of the following organizations:

Mission Hospice and Home Care: [missionhospice.org](https://missionhospice.org)

Jewish Family and Children's Services: [jfcs.org](https://jfcs.org)

Stanford Alzheimer's Disease Research Center: [med.stanford.edu/adrc](https://med.stanford.edu/adrc)

## ERNEST SOLOMON



August 27, 1935 –  
June 12, 2025

Ernest (Ernie) Solomon, 89, of Los Altos Hills, CA, passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of June 12, with the music of the Modern Jazz Quartet playing softly beside him.

Ernie was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1935 and moved to California in 1940. His family later settled in Los Altos, where he attended Fremont High School in Sunnyvale. Ernie went on to study geology at UC Berkeley, where he also earned a varsity letter as a member of Cal's vaunted wrestling team. After graduation, he met the love of his life, Gail, then still a student at Cal.

Ernie and Gail married in 1962 and moved to Palmdale, CA, where Ernie worked as an engineering geologist for the California Department of Water Resources on the California Aqueduct. Together, they raised two children, Debra and Aaron, who grew up learning about soil, rocks, and faults at every family outing.



Ernie enjoyed a long and successful career as an engineering geologist. He joined Wahler Associates and was instrumental in designing the foundations of numerous earth-filled dams and other critical infrastructure throughout California, as well as dam projects in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. He was a 50-year member of the Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG), a testament to his commitment to the field.

In retirement, Ernie found joy in gardening and traveling the world with Gail. In 1996, he was elected to the board of the Purissima Hills Water District, where he served for 24 years—including five terms as board president. He championed water conservation, natural landscaping, and the seismic safety of the district's water infrastructure.

Ernie was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 62 years, Gail Solomon, who passed away just ten days before him. He is survived by his siblings Suzon, Semyon, and Sheba; his children Debra and Aaron; his daughter-in-law Kathy; and his grandchildren Andrew and Jared.

Memorial services for both Ernest and Gail Solomon were held on June 18th, 1:30 pm, at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in memory of both Ernie and Gail to one of the following organizations: Mission Hospice and Home Care: [missionhospice.org](https://missionhospice.org)  
Association of Engineering Geologists: [aegfoundation.org/about](https://aegfoundation.org/about)  
Stanford Alzheimer's Disease Research Center: [med.stanford.edu/adrc](https://med.stanford.edu/adrc)

## HANS COAZ



October 9, 1928 –  
June 10, 2025

Hans Coaz passed away peacefully on June 10, 2025, at the age of 96, after a courageous 10-year battle with melanoma. He faced his illness with strength and determination.

Hans will be remembered for his strong work ethic, sharp sense of humor, deep love of nature and landscaping, and his lifelong passion for trains and photography.

Hans was born on October 9, 1928, in Walenstadt, Switzerland. At the age of 16 he started his three-year apprenticeship program in Brugg, Switzerland. In 1950, he met the love of his life, Heidy, whom he married in 1955. Heidy preceded him in death in 2018.

He is survived by his loving daughters, Claudia Westrum (Bill) and Lucy Maehl; four grandchildren, Michael (Taylor) Maehl, Jeffrey (Sasha) Maehl, Nicholas (Lacey) Westrum, and Brittany (Paul) Maxson; and seven great-grandchildren: Jordan Thomas-Maehl, Calaway Maehl, Beckham Maehl, Jackson Maehl, Theodore Westrum, Aurora Westrum, and Elora Maxson.

In 1958, Hans, Heidy and Claudia moved to California where Lucy was born and they began their new chapter.

Hans initially worked at a nursery in Portola Valley for two years and in 1968 he ventured off to start his own business as a residential landscape contractor in Los Altos. Through dedication and talent, he built a highly respected and successful career in the field.

Hans was also actively involved in the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA) as well as the European Train Enthusiasts (ETE).

Hans retired in 1993, proud of his accomplishments and ready to

enjoy life's next adventures. Together, he and Heidy traveled the world and spent cherished time with family. In retirement, Hans pursued his passion for HO model trains, building an intricate train room complete with moving ski lifts—a delight for his grandchildren and visitors alike.

Hans lived a rich and full life, marked by love, creativity, and resilience. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered for his wit, vitality, and joy for life.

A memorial celebration will be held at Spangler Mortuary, Los Altos on July 8 at 2pm. Following the service, you are welcome to join for a gathering at Shoup Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Hans Coaz to Grassroots Ecology: <https://give.grassrootsecology.org/donate>



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