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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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1,914-unit Shoreline development moves through city review



CLARKE CONDÉ/TOWN CRIER

Century Theatres' near and long-term future is in flux as the developers move forward with 1,914-unit Shoreline development.

By Julia Baum
TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

A 15.86-acre stretch of North Shoreline Boulevard in Mountain View could eventually become home to nearly 2,000 households, along with shops, restaurants and public open space. But the proposed development is still working its way through the city's review process, with a public hearing anticipated by early 2027. Because the project qualifies for California's Builder's Remedy, however, the city may have limited ability to require changes or reject the development.

Located at 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., the proposal from San

Rafael-based developer Syufy Enterprises would replace an existing movie theater and parking lot with up to 1,914 residential units, including 13% affordable housing, a 100,000-square-foot fitness center, 20,000 square feet of restaurant and retail space and about 24,600 square feet of public open space.

The project calls for eight buildings ranging from approximately nine to 15 stories, according to the city's description.

The city is studying how the development could affect the environment and transportation in the surrounding area, including automobile, pedestrian and bicycle travel. The environmental review will follow the California

Environmental Quality Act, while a separate study will examine how people would travel to and around the site.

The proposal is also subject to the Builder's Remedy provisions of California's Housing Accountability Act, because its preliminary application was submitted before the city adopted a substantially compliant Housing Element.

The Builder's Remedy is a state provision that limits cities' ability to block certain housing projects or reduce their size. Under the law, qualifying housing developments generally cannot be denied solely for failing

SEE SHORELINE, PAGE 6

New Los Altos Hills committee begins to coalesce

By Clarke Condé
TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

Like the birth of a star, the formation of a new governmental committee is an aggregation of matter and energy compelled into being by the gravity of the moment. Members are suggested and eventually an organizing meeting is convened. It's a bumpy start while everyone discovers the microphones are push-to-talk and the nine members learn each other's names, select officers and establish meeting times. By the end of the Aug. 25 meeting, the committee was on track, or as newly-elected secretary Sue Welch said, "The committee has a lot of groundwork to get ourselves

moving, like a large train starting here."

The Housing Element Implementation Committee is tasked with finding a way to do what they said they would in compliance with California state law. Specifically, for Los Altos Hills, that includes finding roughly 49 units that fit within the affordable designation the state has established. This organizational meeting is just another step in a process every city in California must engage in to remain in compliance with the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

The newly elected chair, Michael Grady, told the Town

SEE HOUSING, PAGE 6



CLARKE CONDÉ/TOWN CRIER

The newly elected chair of the Housing Element Implementation Committee, Michael Grady, calls for a motion to establish regular meeting times for the new committee at its Aug. 25 organizational meeting.

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Wild West Whiskey and Bites Stroll



PHOTO BY STEVEN BROWN, LIGHTING UP YOUR LIFE

The team at the Los Altos Town Crier poured Pinhook Bourbon and greeted readers outside our downtown Los Altos offices at the Sept. 18 Wild West Whiskey & Bites Stroll. From the left: Dennis Young, Pat Vazquez, Maria Crowder, Melissa Rodriguez and Janice Fabella.

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News

Small, but anchored:

Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation celebrates 35-year anniversary



COURTESY OF LAMVCF

The current team at the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation. From left to right; Abi Karlin-Resnick, Crysta Krames, Arya Patel, Tiffany Chou, Hank Drew, Kathy Lera.

By Ava Acharya

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

This year marks the 35-year anniversary since the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation (LAMVCF) organized its first community effort.

Since 1991, LAMVCF has uplifted numerous causes, offering hyper-local support toward issues faced by the residents of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View.

"I think I'm most proud that we are growing new people (who) care about being generous and being a part of solutions in our communities," said the organization's CEO Crysta Krames. "You can see that we're on the right track."

Krames added that, while the organization has grown and developed over the years, it has maintained a dedicated focus to its home base.

"We are small, obviously," Krames said. "But we are anchored."

On Sept. 26, the organization is celebrating its three-and-a-half decade milestone with Oktoberfest in Lincoln Park. The event will promote togetherness with "Bavarian fun," including food, live music and dancing. The event is open to all ages.

Krames encouraged all lo-

cal residents to join in the festivities, noting the place that community support and involvement hold in LAMVCF's foundational goals.

The organization started over a poker game, when Los Altos resident Roy Lave felt compelled to help a friend donate his estate, after death, to the community he loved.

"(He) wanted to give back to the community that helped him, who gave him such a wonderful life and wonderful experience," Krames said.

LAMVCF filed its articles of incorporation in 1991, officially becoming a funnel through which residents are able to give back to their people and the environment that surrounds them.

The initial gift that inspired the creation of LAMVCF also planted the seed for the organization's MVLA Scholars program, which annually awards local students over \$700,000 in scholarships.

"They were looking at 'how do we allow for people who want to do things for the community, be able to invest,'" Krames said.

This general notion of cultivating social growth through investment is a big part of why Krames was drawn to LAMVCF.

After moving to the area in 2006, Krames was shocked to see a lack of public support behind a LGBTQ+ pride celebration planned by a local high school's Gay-Straight Alliance Club.

"I thought, where am I that this is such an ordeal?" Krames said. "Here's a group of (queer) young people, and a lot of the allies, wanting to show affirmation and support ... this is a community where these kids could be who they wanted to be and choose how to live their best queer version of themselves."

When Krames saw the verbal and fiscal support that LAMVCF showed for the club's effort, she felt compelled to get involved with the organization. It was this fiscal sponsorship that made it possible for the club to host its pride celebration.

"When someone feels that they want to take actions that are generous, whether that be philanthropic or it be in kindness or in service, we want to help them activate that and here was a group of young people ready to do that and they were told no," Krames said. "For us, this is why fiscal sponsorship is so important."

SEE LAMVCF, PAGE 5

Meet the furry helpers protecting California waters

By Ava Acharya

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

Their ability to reproduce quickly and attach to most underwater surfaces means that invasive mussel species pose a threat to California's underwater infrastructure and aquatic ecosystems.

But one of the most powerful tools used in combating the spread of these mussels may lie in man's best friend. In Santa Clara County and beyond, trained mussel dogs are sniffing out these invasive species.

"The dog's sense of smell is just incredible," said Mussel Dogs owner Debi DeShon. "They can separate odors. The best way to explain it is if we walk into a pizza place, we smell pizza, but they actually smell each of the ingredients. They can smell the flour and the tomato paste."

Dogs' powerful sense of smell allows them to accurately detect microscopic larval mussel veligers, DeShon said.

"We can't really conceive of the fact that there's an odor to something microscopic, but there is," she said. "The beauty of the dogs is ... they're using their sense of smell instead of their eyesight, so they can smell in places that we can't see."

These veligers can travel with water, hitching a ride with unsuspecting boaters. So while to the human eye a boat may look clean, drained and dry, veligers may still be hiding.

DeShon's company, Mussel Dogs, specializes in training dogs to pick up these key scents. Once they are trained, the dogs aid in vessel inspections.

Training mussel dogs is a matter of channeling their natural instincts, DeShon said. This process starts by finding a dog that is focused and driven, likely on their toys. She referred to these dogs as "ball-crazy dogs."

"We look for that dog that is going to fetch that ball all day long. You put it up in a tree, and that dog is just going to stare at the tree, hoping it's going to fall down," she added.

Next, trainers create an association between that toy and the scent of invasive mussels by putting a sample of that scent on their toy. They receive scent samples from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"All we're doing is training them that basically when they smell that smell, they get their toy, and so they're just playing a huge game of hide and seek, but it's with the odor," DeShon said.

SEE DOGS, PAGE 6



AVA ACHARYA/TOWN CRIER

Mussel dog Angler and his handler Dustin Dang. Angler successfully detected the invasive mussel scent pad hidden on the boat. Dang said they do training exercises like this multiple times a day so Angler does not get bored.

News

Los Altos City Council candidates' forum

Town Crier Staff Report

This is the second in a series of questions we put to the candidates running for Los Altos City Council. This week: In your opinion, what's the biggest environmental win that Los Altos should achieve in the next four years?



"Los Altos can accelerate the shift from natural gas to electric, especially for space and water heating, through incentives and streamlined permitting rather than outright bans. Our city has no shortage of technology-adoption expertise among residents, giving us a real opportunity to lead by example."

– **Larry Lang**, CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 4



"The biggest win would be significantly reducing transportation emissions by making walking, biking and public transit safer and more convenient. I would prioritize safe routes to schools, connected bike and pedestrian networks, expanded EV infrastructure and stronger regional transit connections – while protecting our tree canopy and green spaces."

– **Anky van Deursen**, CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 2



"Los Altos environmental assets need a comprehensive protection plan backed by dedicated funding. Parks, waterways, open spaces, ecosystems and wildlife belong to future generations and deserve long term planning, investment and responsible management. I am endorsed by the Sierra Club."

– **Lynette Lee Eng**, CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 2

LAMVCF

FROM PAGE 4

Specifically, Krames recalled seeing former board chair Mary Prochnow speak to this group of young people.

"As I heard Mary talking about it, I thought, 'I want to do that,'" Krames said.

Krames added that, in its 35 years, LAMVCF has expanded beyond uplifting the general public by offering support to the area's civic infrastructure.

"So many of these communities, even your affluent ones, are having these shortfalls in their budget where they cannot do all of the things that the

community would like them to do," Krames said. "We try to throw (our support) out as a tool for partnership for city infrastructure and to create the opportunity for all of the residents who care."

Krames pointed to initiatives such as Resilient Los Altos and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) as examples of collaborative efforts between LAMVCF and local government. Both efforts center on emergency preparedness and response.

"We're trying to make sure that we're organized and ready," Krames said. "It's really not a matter of if, it's really a

matter of when."

Krames added that this kind of hyper-local aid and support is absolutely crucial because it is an area where people can foster positive change and forge the strongest impact.

"I think that right now nationally and globally, for a lot of our residents, feels so overwhelmingly dark and that this is a moment where it's easier for people to lean in and care locally to just do what they can within their reach and scope," Krames said.

For more information on LAMVCF's initiatives, see lamvcf.org.

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News

The 2026 Corvette Spectacular



MAX ASMAR/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

The 2026 Corvette Spectacular car show, Sept. 20th in downtown Los Altos, featured Corvettes from around the region. In red, Roger Eckstrom's 1968 C3, Base. In grey, Bob Imhoff's 1970 C3, Stingray. In yellow, David Krull's 1971 C3, Stingray. Krull says it is his mostly original daily driver.

SHORELINE

FROM PAGE 1

to comply with local zoning or General Plan standards. Cities may still enforce a limited number of objective development standards, provided they do not make the project infeasible or require a reduction in housing units.

The city is also reviewing the project's proposed building heights, open space, landscaping and tree removal. But because of the Builder's Remedy, it may not be able to require changes to those elements.

The proposal also calls for

removing approximately 356 heritage trees, including 14 street trees, according to the city.

Approximately 249 affordable units – or 13% of the 1,914-unit development – are proposed for low-income households. The city said it has not yet made a final determination about the number of affordable units or the income levels they would serve.

The next major step will come after the city completes its environmental and other reviews. At that point, the project is expected to go before the Administrative Zoning/Subdivision Committee, which will make a recommendation to the City Council.

The council is responsible for final approval, but the Builder's Remedy may limit its ability to reject the project or require substantial changes. If the project meets applicable state requirements, the city may be required to approve it, subject to legally permissible objective development standards.

Residents can submit comments throughout the planning process and review project plans at City Hall. Updates and hearing dates will be posted on the city's project webpage.

Syufy did not respond to requests for comment by publication time.

DOGS

FROM PAGE 4

Trained dogs will alert their handlers when they smell invasive mussels, signaling that a boat is unsafe for use in California waterways.

"We want to use all the tools that we have," DeShon said. "(The dogs) are another tool to confirm that what we're seeing is correct, and also to double-check the areas that we can't see."

Although these dogs are a powerful tool, DeShon stressed the importance of remaining vigilant and following boating guidelines as laid out by the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"We're just one part of the puzzle," DeShon said. "Everyone needs to do their part to keep our waterways safe."

HOUSING

FROM PAGE 1

Crier he is up to the task. "People in our area are reconciled to doing our part." He added that he was ready to get to work, but expressed frustration that the process wasn't started sooner. "There's still 49 units of affordable that need to be found somewhere."

Los Altos Hills Mayor Rajiv Bhateja, attending as an individual and speaking with the Town Crier directly after the meeting, said that creating the committee means that implementing the housing element gets more attention than the City Council can give it. "City Council wants to deal with a lot of different issues," he said. "They are only focused on this."

Monday, Sept. 14 saw the first regular meeting of the

Housing Element Implementation Committee. With the help of city staff, the work began to outline its mandate. However, as the committee rounded the two-hour mark, it became clear that there would be an immense amount of background work to do before the committee could entertain much of anything actionable. Discussions frequently focused on logistical issues like issuing members city email addresses, Brown Act compliance and digging into the vast 280-page document that is the city's Housing Element. Again, like a star, through subsequent meetings the nascent committee will likely generate angular momentum and refine its structure.

The Housing Element Implementation Committee is scheduled to meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 10 a.m.

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Invasive, non-native mosquito species found in Los Altos

By Ava Acharya

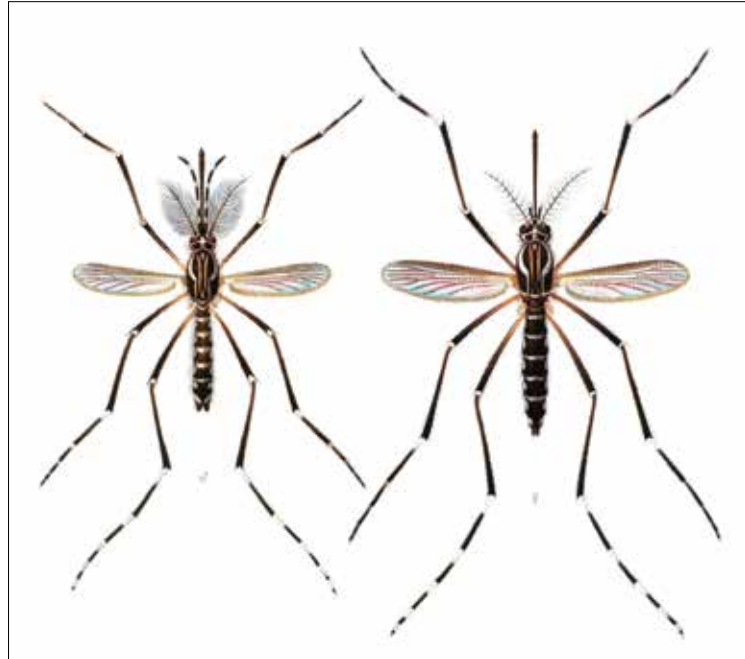
TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

A non-native mosquito species, associated with the spread of Zika virus, dengue, yellow fever virus and chikungunya virus, has been found within the city of Los Altos.

This mosquito species, *Aedes aegypti*, may pose a greater threat to residents due to its preference for mammal blood and tendency to be more active during the daytime.

“People tend to notice this mosquito more, they find it to be more of a nuisance. It also is just more aggressive at pursuing people,” said Taylor Kelly, the scientific technical services manager at Santa Clara County mosquito and vector control.

Kelly explained that mosquitoes are typically more active during the evening and early morning, when people are less likely to spend time



BY EMIL AUGUST GOELDI

Colour print of the yellow fever or dengue mosquito *Aedes aegypti*.

outdoors. However, *Aedes aegypti* is active closer to midday.

“There is significant nuisance,” Kelly said. “One thing that we hear from other areas that are experiencing heavy

infestation is that residents feel that they really can’t enjoy the daytime outdoors freely anymore without wearing insect repellent.”

Additionally, *Aedes aegypti*

prefers mammal blood, meaning they actively pursue human populations.

Other mosquito types, such as the species that carry West Nile Virus, show a stronger preference for birds as a blood source.

Kelly said that *Aedes aegypti* is highly unlikely to carry West Nile Virus, but it does carry other diseases which residents should look out for.

Zika, dengue, yellow fever and chikungunya can all cause fever, malaise, joint pain, rashes and headaches. In severe cases, these symptoms can lead to hospitalization.

Aedes aegypti was first discovered in Santa Clara County, in Milpitas, in 2022. Since then, it has been found in several Santa Clara County cities, most recently Los Altos in September 2026.

This mosquito species has black and white stripes on its legs and body, and is able to

spread to new areas easily.

Kelly cautioned residents to avoid creating and maintaining mosquito sources by removing any outdoor standing water.

“Mosquitoes need standing water for their eggs to develop,” Kelly said. “This mosquito is able to breed in very, very small amounts of water, as little as a bottle cap, so keeping yards clean, clutter-free, and making sure that water can’t stand and pool in little container sources for more than a week is the first thing that we ask residents to do.”

Kelly added that anyone experiencing an uptick in daytime mosquito bites can reach out to vector control and a service technician will survey the area for breeding sources.

For more information, see vector.santaclaracounty.gov/invasive-mosquitoes/aedes-aegypti.

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Letters to the Editor

Protect our groundwater

The “Peek Into the Past” (Town Crier, Sept. 16) photograph of a well being drilled on J. Gilbert Smith’s Los Altos property in the 1940s is a reminder of something that many of us may not realize: Our community relies on local groundwater.

City staff and council need to make groundwater protection a real priority in planning and policies. As Los Altos develops and grows, we must maintain or increase the amount of stormwater infiltrating into the ground and increase our monitoring for leaks and illegal discharges into our storm and sanitary sewer systems.

Here’s why: In 2025, over 40% of the water California Water Service delivered came from local wells right here in our community and the rest was imported from Valley Water. That balance is shifting – by 2040, local wells are projected to supply only 20%. As import sources shrink and treatment costs rise, protecting what’s underground becomes critical.

Individual choices matter too. Hard surfaces prevent rainwater from percolating into the ground. The pesticides and fertilizers we use, and chemicals from the synthetic turf and surfaces we install, can leach through soil into the groundwater we all drink or pollute our streams and the Bay.

So, conserve water, plant native drought-tolerant landscaping, direct runoff into gardens and permeable ground, skip synthetic turf and surfaces and store chemicals safely.

But, individual action isn’t enough. Our leaders must develop and implement plans and policies to protect the quantity and quality of our groundwater.

Don Weiden

LOS ALTOS

Correction

The Sept. 16 article “No on Measure D group holds kickoff event” incorrectly spelled the name “Fagin” as “Fagan.”

Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

Emma and Theodore Halsey enjoy spring flowers at their home near University Avenue in the 1920s. The couple built the Mission-style house on the 5.9-acre property, a wedding gift from Emma’s father, in 1923. Emma transplanted dozens of redwood seedlings from the Santa Cruz Mountains that replaced the native oaks and willows and grew into today’s Redwood Grove.

The intended consequences of Measure D

There has been plenty of discussion about possible unintended consequences. The intended consequences of Measure D are clear: Better planning before permanent changes to our downtown plazas, avoiding costly mistakes and the unchecked use of public money, clear financials and tradeoffs and a meaningful public vote on major projects proposed for these public lands.

A voter-approval checkpoint encourages major downtown projects to begin with demonstrated public need, feasibility and community priorities – not a development opportunity looking to monetize valuable public land. It puts community planning ahead of project-driven development and recognizes the economic, environmental and community value already invested in our downtown village.

Most importantly, it trusts the people who park, walk, work, shop, dine and gather here to have a say in the future of the downtown village we love – supporting its local businesses, public spaces and the community life that makes it the envied small town commercial and historic heart of Los Altos.

Parking or profit

In June, City Council commissioned the “9212 Report” to analyze Measure D. City Council had the choice to adopt the parking plazas voter initiative without putting it on the November ballot. The 9212 report, conducted by urban planning firm M-Group, was intended to inform a decision.

Opponents of the ordinance have cherry-picked from the 9212 report to create fear and uncertainty when, in fact, the 9212 report was relatively inconclusive. The study primarily focused on how future potential revenue generation might be affected if Measure D passes – whether through sale of land, leases to third parties, incentives to developers or tax-generating projects. Currently, the parking plazas do not directly generate revenue for the city; they function, as originally intended, as a vital element to downtown business and a benefit to the community.

Is the sky falling?

Los Altos City Council has reserved three of the ten parking plazas for development projects unrelated to housing. Council professes that these projects will not invalidate the city’s Housing Element. Yet, they also declare that, if Measure D passes, put-

ting these same projects to a vote of the people will generate a housing penalty. How can that be?

Opponents of Measure D are employing a strategy of running in circles, yelling “The sky is falling!” Most persistently, naysayers of a voter-approval initiative are waving a “YIMBY letter” warning, “They’ll sue, they’ll sue.” In point of fact, YIMBY Law, a pro-housing nonprofit and author of the letter, is threatening to sue the city regardless of whether or not Measure D passes. Measure D was crafted by preeminent law firm Rutan & Tucker with input from other regulatory and land-use experts. Los Altos has good standing with the California Department of Housing as a pro-housing designated city with a certified Housing Element (which will need to be amended when D passes).

A “yes” on Measure D simply gives voters a decisive voice before our downtown is dramatically changed forever. If change happens, what that looks like is up to us.

Our downtown. Our decision. Vote yes on D.

**J.T. Fennell and
Cindy Andrews**

LOS ALTOS

Los Altos History Museum hosts Mid-Autumn Festival

By Ava Acharya
TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

The Los Altos History Museum, in collaboration with the Greater Los Altos Chinese Association (GLACA), gathered community members for the 3rd annual Mid-Autumn

Festival. In celebration of family togetherness and cultural heritage, attendees enjoyed traditional Chinese food and games, alongside crafts and music. Festivities included sugar design printing and local musicians.

“It is a traditional Chinese culture festival, (and) it’s one of the important ones,” said GLACA director Cecily Zhang. “It is for families to come together, appreciate each other and bond.”

Within Chinese cultural heritage, the Mid-Autumn

Festival celebrates the fall harvest under a full moon. Celebrations often serve as a kind of family reunion, Zhang added.

“The goal for us is to share the joy of the Chinese culture and festival with the broader Los Altos community,” Zhang

said. “It is meant to be a celebration with the whole neighborhood, and we want families to come out and bond with each other, spend a fun day, like eat some mooncakes and then play some games.”

SEE FESTIVAL, PAGE 11



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“How do I get down there” by Kaaren Marquez, on exhibit through Sept. 27 at Viewpoints Gallery.

EXHIBIT FROM PAGE 9

their own. “Sometimes just reflecting and remembering a moment can bring just as much joy,” Marquez said. “I hope my paintings remind people of a time when they were doing something that

brought them a lot of joy.” Marquez’s collection is on display at Viewpoints Gallery in Los Altos through Sunday, Sept. 27. Viewpoints Gallery, open noon to 6 p.m., is located at 315 State St.

For more information, see viewpointsgallery.com.

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Community



Ava Acharya/Town Crier

Mid-Autumn Festival attendees making paper crafts.

FESTIVAL

FROM PAGE 10

Los Altos’ festivities took place on Sept. 20 at the Los Altos History Museum. The museum’s executive director, Anna Toledano, said that, alongside bringing people together, festivals like this represent a big part of Los Altos’ history.

“There’s a strong history of the Chinese community in Los Altos, and it’s important for us to let everyone who is here know about the history,” Toledano said.

“This is also equally a part of the cultural history and intergenerational interactions that we like to highlight at the museum, which is part of our mission.”

Festivals like this encourage community building and cultural understanding, Toledano added. The festivities brought together not just attendees, but local volunteers from around the Los Altos area.

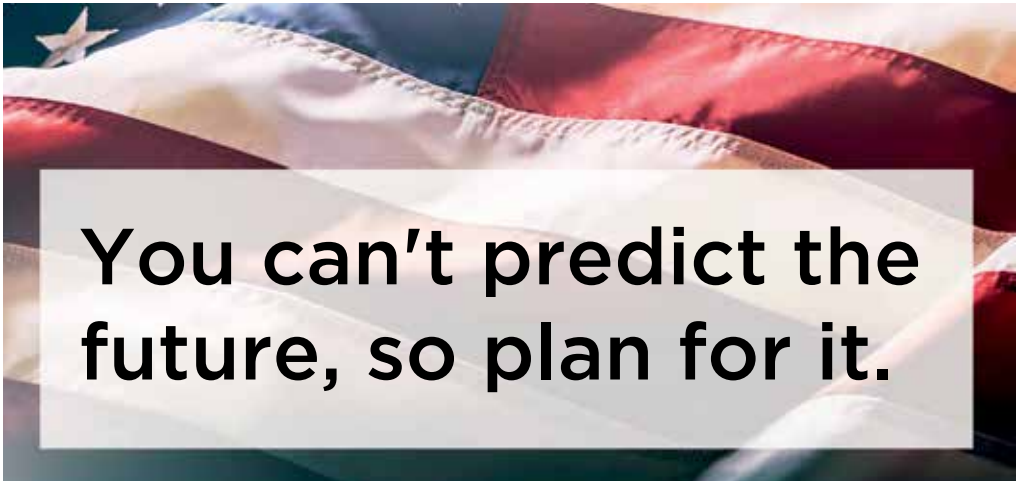
This included local high schoolers fundraising to encourage technological literacy in rural areas of the Guizhou

Province in China and Taiwanese-American children’s novelist Crystal Z. Lee. Lee showcased her recent book centered on community togetherness during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

“We want to introduce the culture to the community, create our belonging to the community, and see what we can contribute back to the community,” Zhang said. “We feel this is a way we want to give back to the community. We can celebrate, give it back and appreciate.”

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City of Los Altos

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Priority 2 - Persons who have lived or worked in the City of Los Altos for the past two years, or who are required to relocate due to Council action, as further defined on City’s website.

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Parking is extremely limited, so please consider biking, walking, or carpooling to the festival.

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Saturday, September 26
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Community

Pet of the Week: Coral



COURTESY OF PETS IN NEED

Coral is a sweet, easygoing girl who has been waiting a long time for a home of her own. Her favorite things are simple: cozy beds, sunny spots, leisurely sniffing and spending time with her people.

Coral is currently with a foster, and they say she's a great walking companion who doesn't pull and is generally unfazed by other dogs, even when they bark at her. At home, she has great manners, does well when left alone and is perfectly happy snoozing on the couch or soaking up the sun. She's also good with kids!

Once Coral bonds with her people, she loves being near them and gets especially excited to welcome them home. After so much time in the shelter and foster system, she's ready for a cozy spot and a family to finally call her own.

Find out more about Coral at petsinneed.org/pet/coral

Blossom Buddies seeks vase donations

TOWN CRIER STAFF REPORT

Blossom Buddies is once again putting out a call for vase donations.

The local volunteer group that makes hundreds of flower arrangements each month for hospital patients and delivers them free of charge every week is running low on vases and is

asking the community to dig through their cupboards, garages and other storage spots to find vases that could use a new home in a hospital room. They need medium-sized vases, ideally 6" to 12" tall, but nothing smaller than 6". Vases can be plain or fancy, clear or colored. The group also welcomes Mason jars as well.

While they emphasize that they aren't picky, they would prefer that the vases aren't sticky. Please clean your vase, remove any sticky label residue and email info@blossombuddies.org for pickup or drop-off coordination.

For more information, see blossombuddies.org.



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INTERO

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Sports

1974 Awalt CCS title team to be honored Sept. 25 at MV game

By Curtis Driscoll

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

The 1974 Awalt CCS championship football team was tough, committed and fun.

The underdog team that started 0-3 but finished as champions will be back in town 52 years later at the Sept. 25 Mountain View High football game against Sacred Heart Prep for a pregame ceremony honoring its achievements.

For Awalt starting quarterback Terry Martin, the memory of the season and championship night of having friends, family and the community pouring onto the field was a highlight of his high school career.

“For each of us, it was quite a moment that we remembered and used it throughout our lives because of what we overcame that year, and the fact that we were a small school. It was a pretty cool experience,” Martin said.

The CCS football playoffs were in their infancy at that time, with no lower divisions based on competitiveness or size and everyone was in the Open Division. Awalt, now known as Mountain View High, entered the CCS playoffs as a smaller school with approximately 1,200 students, while some schools like Leland had over 5,000 kids, Martin said. Leland was undefeated, had upset powerhouse Archbishop Mitty in the semifinals and had recent CCS success, winning

the 1972 CCS championship over Archbishop Riordan.

Awalt won 21-14 in front of a packed crowd at Spartan Stadium on the San Jose State campus thanks to an outstanding passing game from Martin, who finished the game completing 21 of 38 passes for 298 yards, while wide receiver John Doyel caught eight passes for 132 yards. The game was tied 14-14 in the fourth quarter with about three minutes left when Martin found Doyel in the end zone for a touchdown to take the lead 21-14.

“We tried to isolate their cornerback with our two wideouts and leave John on his own against a linebacker, and it worked crazy good. When I looked up, he was already five yards behind the guy trying to cover him, and just had to put it in his hands,” Martin said.

Denny Devine, the line coach and defensive co-coordinator on the Awalt team, remembers the Awalt defense sealing the game up 21-14 when defensive guard Doug Schmitz got two sacks to help preserve the lead.

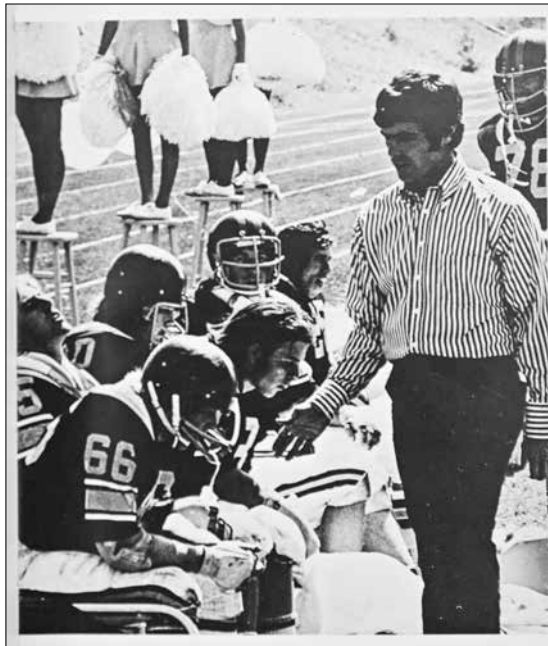
“He would do magical things,” Devine said of Schmitz. “He would go over people instead of through. That sequence,

he did his amazing stuff; nobody could block him.”

Owen Halliday, a junior wide receiver, called it a formative event for a team that competed, worked hard and had great chemistry.

“We lost our first three games, and everybody wrote us off, and then we got together and said, you know what, we are going to do it our way and just pulled together and ran the season. We had some great guys, and some people I still stay in touch with. I still have very fond vivid memories of that time,” Halliday said.

The seeds of success were planted the year before when Awalt won the league and made



COURTESY 1975 AWALT HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK

Coach Oppezzo.

the playoffs, falling to Monta Vista in the first round, along with bringing back seniors like Lou Clinton.

“They lost to Monta Vista (in the playoffs), but they were a good team, and so this next year, there was a core left over, and those guys were determined to win,” Devine said.

After a 0-3 start, Awalt made offensive adjustments after a team meeting and had a momentum-changing win over Marian A. Peterson High School to start an eventual nine-game winning streak to the Central Coast Section title. Despite the early adversity, the team never lost its confidence. Martin noted the team had won a league championship as juniors and lost in the first round of the playoffs the year before, with a core group close since their freshman year together and success at every level.

“We really just had to get that first win,” Martin said. “After that first win against Peterson, we went on a really good run; we had a great defense and a good offense.”

Georgette Oppezzo, the wife of the late Awalt head coach Fred Oppezzo, remembers the season as an important part of their lives

when he left coaching at Los Altos High to take the job at Awalt, with their first daughter born in October of that season. Oppezzo was joined by assistants Abner Greene, Devine and Art Mori. Georgette praised the team for their cohesion and strong team mentality.

“For them to do what they did was just phenomenal,” Oppezzo said. “There was no way they were supposed to win, but they came together as a group, and after those three losses, they had a team meeting, and they decided that they needed to get it together, and they did.”

The last game of the regular season was against Tom Burt and the Los Altos Eagles at Foothill College in a high-stakes affair to win the local SCVAL title and make the CCS playoffs, with Awalt emerging on top and finishing the regular season 6-3.

“It was always about beating Los Altos; they were definitely our arch rival,” Martin said.

Awalt began its playoff run by getting revenge on Monta Vista with a 21-0 win, followed by a 26-8 win in the semifinals over Pacific Grove, which had a handful of Division I players but not the depth to keep up with Awalt as it advanced to the title game.

The team has stayed in touch and had anniversary celebrations after 25 and 50 years, with the last one in 2024. The Mountain View football team hosts Sacred Heart Prep 7 p.m. Sept. 25.

Smooth league waters so far for Los Altos boys water polo

By Curtis Driscoll

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

The Los Altos boys water polo team is off to an undefeated league start to the season, including a notable recent away win over defending champion Los Gatos.

Los Altos coach Seth Tasman said the win is the first in at least six years for Los Altos at Los Gatos, an encouraging sign as it looks to overtake them in the SCVAL De Anza Division after finishing third last year.

“It’s a great start to league play,” Los Altos coach Seth Tasman said. “So we are hoping to be a league champion and then make the Open Division

of CCS.”

Los Altos made the CCS Open Division bracket last year as the No. 7 seed but lost in the first round, with the hopes of reaching the semifinals this year to advance to the NorCal playoffs. Three teams from the SCVAL De Anza Division made the CCS Open Division last year. While the end goal is clear, how the team gets to the finish line is still being worked out. The team has only two returning starters and is still working on its chemistry after graduating so many seniors, including star player Tiernan Braun, now playing at Pomona-Pitzer. Ronnie Tseung is the team’s starting goalkeeper, while newcomers Gustavo Ca-

margo and Jameson Murdock are on the right side of the formation, and David Feldman and Bruno Beckmann are returning starters and seniors.

“Everybody else from our team is a junior, sophomore or freshman. We have a really young team,” Tasman said. “We have a really bright future, but we are still figuring out how to play without the senior leadership that we had.”

Los Altos won 11-6 over Palo Alto Tuesday to move to 3-0 in league play and 4-3 overall. Los Altos also recently participated in the Roche Invitational hosted by Menlo School and Menlo Atherton, playing tough competition like Merced, Serra and



ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Los Altos’ Bruno Beckmann gets ready to shoot during the 11-6 win against Palo Alto.

Archie Williams, while more tests await against non-league opponents like St. Francis and Archbishop Mitty.

“We had a really high-level

tournament this past weekend, and we worked some of the kinks out, but we still have a long way to go to reach our goals by the end of the season,” Tasman said.

Los Altos girls water polo gets statement win against Palo Alto

By Curtis Driscoll
TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

It's early in the season, but a 12-5 win Sept. 15 over perennial league contender Palo Alto has Los Altos off to an undefeated start in league play.

A year after finishing tied for first in the SCVAL De Anza Division standings with the Vikings, the Eagles were the better team, jumping out to a 4-0 lead at the end of the first quarter and never looking back, with Los Altos coach Katie Tasman calling it the best performance of the season.

"We were coming off a rough loss to Santa Cruz, so I think it was more of a statement to ourselves in how we wanted to come out and keep our composure and attack offensively and not get flustered with mistakes," Tasman said.

Palo Alto took two out of three games against Los Altos last year, something Los Altos

team captain Kylie Parman (No. 12) remembers.

"I am so happy," Parman said. "I came into this game very nervous. Last year, we did not play against them so well."

"I think this is a great group of girls. There's a lot of team camaraderie around them, and I can't wait to see what they do."

Katie Tasman,
LOS ALTOS COACH

Los Altos had a balanced scoring attack thanks to four goals each from Parman and Tessa Nielsen (No. 7), along with two goals each from Ava Smith (No. 4) and Kylie Barkovich (No. 6). The Eagles are now 3-1 on the season and 3-0 in league play. Tasman noted Palo Alto is an outstanding team and would require her

players to be ready for adjustments when the two sides meet later in the league season and potentially in the playoffs.

"They're never a team to sleep on," Tasman said.

Last year's star Sophia Boschken is now playing for Loyola Marymount University, but Tasman believes this year's group has players ready to step up and contribute, with Parman expected to help lead the team and defense.

"Kylie Parman has been the backbone of our leadership on our team," Tasman said. "She's an outstanding defender, really found her footing in offense this offseason and has been stepping up."

Barkovich will also be a key player for the Eagles and has done a good job setting up players and scoring goals at the center forward position this season.

"Kylie Barkovich is an absolute monster in front of the



ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Los Altos player Zoey Shan passes the ball during the game Sept. 15 against Palo Alto.

cage," Tasman said.

While Parman and Barkovich will set the tone for the season, the whole team will make contributions thanks to a strong base from last season's varsity squad and additions from junior varsity that have the drive and desire to make another playoff run. Los Altos won the Central Coast Section Division I title last year as the No. 1 seed and also made a run to the final of the NorCal Water Polo Championships in the

Division III bracket, losing to Merced. The Eagles hope to do even better this year by reaching the CCS Open Division as one of the top eight teams in the area. Palo Alto earned the only Open Division seed for SCVAL last year as the No. 4 seed.

"I'm really hopeful for this season. I think this is a great group of girls. There's a lot of team camaraderie around them, and I can't wait to see what they do," Tasman said.



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Rotarians help Mayan villagers in Yucatan, Mexico

By Frank Verlot

ROTARY CLUB OF LOS ALTOS

My major focus within Los Altos Rotary has been with our World Community Service committee's international service projects, helping the less fortunate in this world. Over the decades, a number of our club's international projects have included working among people living in various impoverished parts of Mexico.

My wife Marian and I joined other club members on several trips aimed at improving the lives of indigenous Mayan villagers in a number of poor, rural areas outside the provincial capital of Yucatán state, Mérida, Mexico.

These included three fascinating efforts. First, reading educational instruction materials in Spanish to little kids enabled them to learn about modern cultures. Second, most of the adults focused on sustainable organic farming with both wet and dry season irrigation. By improving agriculture, their nutrition also improved. Third, they learned the value of more ef-



COURTESY OF FRANK VERLOT

Chuck Lindauer (left) and Frank Verlot atop a Mayan pyramid with a village ruin in the background.

ficient cooking using "rocket stoves" with affordable and locally-produced biomass briquettes and solar cooking instead of deforestation for wood fuel.

Among the Rotarians visiting and working on these projects over the years, starting in the early 2000s, were Roy and

Penny Lave, Dick Henning, Jane and John Reed, and Allart and Ineke Ligtenberg. Then, after I joined Rotary in 2007, our project trips included myself, my wife Marian, Alan Varni, the Reeds and Chuck Lindauer.

We worked with the local Mérida Yucatan Nueva

Generaciones Rotary Club of young urban professionals and NGO Proyecto Itzaes. They helped the remote Mayan village families improve their quality of life in multiple ways, from bringing village libraries stocked with children's reading books, Lego blocks and notebook

computers to encouraging village teens toward competing with city teens for higher education. We could see the sustainability of organic gardening, using equipment to produce biomass fuel briquettes instead of wood slashed from the forest trees.

We progressed with the villagers to using "rocket stoves" for more efficient/cleaner cooking, then to solar box and parabolic cooking. I fondly remember working with Chuck Lindauer, Alan Varni and John Reed, squatting down with tools in our hands under the leafy shade of their community palapa area. We assembled several jigsaw, puzzle-like parabolic solar cooker ovens to the curiosity and delight of welcoming and grateful villagers. By that time, solar cooking specialist Allart Ligtenberg was unable to come, but his legacy of sustainability lives on, in both our memory and the lives of those villagers.

For more information on the Rotary Club of Los Altos, visit portal.clubrunner.ca/4000.

Orchestra conductors live long and productive lives

By Lina Broydo

SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

At my recent annual check-up, Dr. Newman insisted on interrogating me on the following subjects: What is my daily diet? Do I drink eight glasses of water daily? How many hours a night do I sleep? How much do I exercise daily?

Well, the last question made me sweat... I hate exercising and get irritated and bored when my slender and very attractive girlfriends talk passionately about the hours they spend at the fitness center, dancing Zumba, running on the treadmill and riding their stationary bicycle at home. Just in case, they wake

up in the middle of the night and run to their favorite high-tech machinery. After all, they live in Silicon Valley.

Basically, I am totally jealous and very envious of their passion for fitness. But I would rather visit my favorite sushi restaurant and zoom by my vroom – vroom in my red sporty Beemer to attend the fabulous concert with the Peninsula Symphony. Can you relate to my personal choice of satisfaction, as Mick Jagger sings? It's priceless!

Ever wonder how and why so many notable orchestra conductors lived a long life? According to Dr. Newman, it's their daily two-hour exercise

atop the podium. Sometimes even more if they have to run a practice session with their amazing musicians.

Here are a few of the very famous orchestra conductors who enjoy and have enjoyed a very long and productive life:

- Dr. Charlene Archibeck: Happy 92nd birthday Dr. Archibeck! A long-time resident of Los Altos Hills, Maestra Archibeck, Professor Emerita for over 35 years of San Jose State University is busy traveling the world while conducting and teaching talented choraliars. Known for her knowledge of the choral repertoire and performance practice of all styles, Dr. Archibeck's choir appear-

ances included 16 tours of Australia, Mexico and throughout Europe. She has conducted in many of the major music halls, including Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, The Royal Albert Hall and the Berlin Philharmonic. She is definitely in demand!!

- Mitchell Sardou Klein (67 years old) is the director and conductor of the prestigious Peninsula Symphony headquartered in Los Altos. A winner of many prestigious awards, including the 2008 Diamond Award for the Best Individual Artists, the Silver Lei Award from the Honolulu Film Festival, the 2000 ASCAP Award for programming of American

Music on Foreign Tour as well as the 1993 Bravo Award for his contribution to the Bay Area Cultural Life. Mr. Klein was born in New York City. Don't miss the Oct. 2 concert at the Heritage Theater in Campbell and the Oct. 4 one at San Mateo Performing Arts Center with Peninsula Symphony's performances saluting John Williams, the legendary composer and conductor of E.T. "The Extra Terrestrial," "Star Wars" and "Jurassic Park." Don't miss the pre-concert talk hosted by Maestro Mitchell Sardou Klein 45 minutes prior to curtain time.

SEE CONDUCTORS, PAGE 18

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Everyday Life

CONDUCTORS

FROM PAGE 17

• **Michael Tilson Thomas:** Lived to 81 years old (Dec. 21, 1944-April 22, 2026); was an American conductor, composer, pianist and music pedagogue. Thomas was principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra and then music director of the San Francisco Symphony until 2020. Beloved member of the San Francisco community. He will be celebrated at a very special concert event on Oct. 2 at Davies Symphony Hall. Not to be missed – I already purchased my ticket!

• **Frank Emond:** Lived to 104 years old (May 21, 1918-Jan. 10, 2023); known for leading the United States Navy Band and

recognized as a record-holding older maestro.

• **Leopold Stokowski:** Lived to 95 years old (April 18, 1882-Sept. 13, 1977); famous long-tenured conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra who signed recording contracts into his mid-90s.

• **Herbert Blomstedt:** Born July 11, 1927 (99 years old); renowned with the SF Symphony, a Swedish-American maestro who spent many years conducting and remains active on the international podium as one of history's oldest working conductors.

• **Sir Adrian Boult:** Lived for 93 years (April 8, 1889-Feb. 22, 1983); prominent British conductor of the BBC Symphony and London Philharmonic.

• **Pablo Casals:** Lived to 96 years old (Dec. 29, 1876-Oct. 22, 1973); celebrated Catalan cellist and conductor.

• **Arturo Toscanini:** Lived to 90 years old (March 25, 1867-Jan. 16, 1957); was an Italian conductor. One of the most acclaimed and influential musicians of the late 19th century.

Yes, my friends, these prominent conductors exercised every day on their conductor's podium and they live and lived long lives.

Well... I invited Dr. Newman to join me for the concert with the Peninsula Symphony! Hopefully he will understand my allergy to exercising and my love for classical music.

P.S. Any orchestra podiums for sale?

Newsom signs law to let these Californians get out of jury duty – for good

By Lynn La

CALMATTERS

This story was originally published by CalMatters.

Starting Jan. 1, 2028, Californians ages 80 and older can opt-out of jury service permanently due to a medical condition, without needing a note from a health care provider.

The change comes after Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1359 on Monday, which enables seniors to request a permanent exemption by attesting that they have an impairment that renders them incapable of performing jury service. Further medical documentation

will not be required. Seniors who still want to serve on a jury can still do so.

Assemblymember Patrick Ahrens, a Cupertino Democrat, said he introduced the bill after a constituent — Dianne McKenna, a former Santa Clara County supervisor — relayed to Ahrens the difficulties she faced helping her elderly husband get an exemption from jury service.

“Seniors are great jurists that can and will continue to serve if they’re willing and able to,” said Ahrens in an email to CalMatters. “But if they cannot, they will no longer have to jump through hoops to permanently opt out.”

Unlike some other states

including Florida and Texas, California doesn’t have a blanket age of exemption for jury service. It’s 70 in Florida and 75 in Texas.

Californians 70 years and older can be excused due to a medical impairment without a doctor’s note, but they still must inform the local jury’s office that they’re unable to serve with a written excuse. But under current law, this is a one-time exemption and residents must repeat this process each time they’re selected for service.

For the full text of this article, see calmatters.org/justice/2026/09/jury-duty-seniors.

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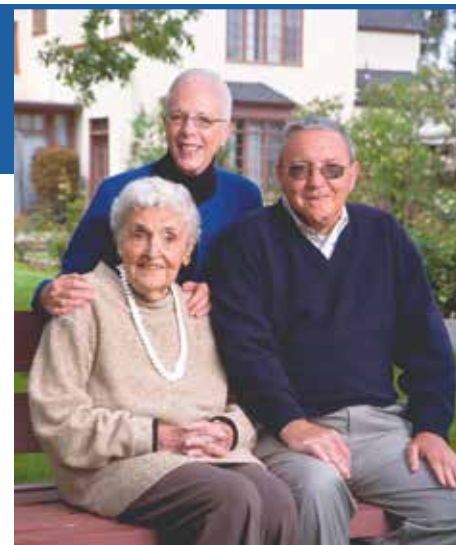


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Stepping Out

Grand Kyiv Ballet's 'Swan Lake' lights up Mountain View

By Annabel Chaw

TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

A reimagined production of "Swan Lake" will take the stage at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24 at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts as part of Grand Kyiv Ballet's U.S. tour.

The Ukrainian ballet company brings the familiar tale to audiences with a series of new visual elements that include illuminated costumes and updated lighting effects, according to artistic director Oleksandr Stoianov. The company calls it "Swan Lake: Symphony of Lights."

"(This) will be our fifth tour in (the) United States, and every time we try to bring something new for the audience here," Stoianov said. "Every-

body already knows 'Swan Lake,' and everybody knows the story, but we try to give the people a new experience and new emotions."

Planning and production for the new costumes and lighting began more than six months ago, Stoianov said. While the production features new lighting effects, he said the story and dances remain true to Tchaikovsky's original "Swan Lake."

"It will be a classical version of 'Swan Lake.' The choreography is the same, but with new costumes and new lighting because we updated the costumes with lights," Stoianov said. "(The) second and fourth act will also have special light effects, with more haze, smoke."

However, according to Stoianov, the illuminated cos-

tumes will primarily be worn by members of the corps and dancers in smaller roles. Principal dancers will not be wearing the RGB lights as the additional equipment would interfere with their more demanding movements like lifts and pirouettes, Stoianov said. The company had initially experimented with illuminated costumes for principal dancers, but ultimately decided against using them due to safety concerns, he said.

The lights can display four colors: red, green, blue and white, which will change and dim depending on the scene in the ballet, Stoianov said. The additional electronics have also added around 2 kilograms of weight to the costumes, proving slightly more challenging for dancers to perform in, he said.

Stoianov added that Grand Kyiv Ballet has a cast of more than 160 dancers and performs across the United States, Europe, Australia, New Zealand,

Japan, China, Latin America and other regions.

Principal ballerina Gillian Smith said all of the travel is one of the highlights of being in the ballet.

"I'm grateful we get to travel to different cities and we get to see a lot of beautiful theaters. And there's a lot of historical theaters that we get to perform in as well," Smith said. "Just the experience of performing and getting to do that almost every day is – I mean it's wonderful. I think almost any dancer can say that, but it's nice to feel that you're connecting with new cities every time that you're performing."

The performance the audience sees is the final step in a much longer process, Smith said. Behind each show are hours of classes, rehearsals, travel and preparation, she said.

"People don't realize how much extra work there is ...," Smith said. "But I think that's the biggest thing that people might not realize when they

come to a performance ... it's not the beginning of our day; it's the very end. The show? There's already been a whole process."

Smith added that this process is part of what makes live performances meaningful.

Whether audiences are long-time ballet enthusiasts or seeing a production for the first time, Smith said she hopes they will appreciate the performance and the new lighting effects.

"I think especially (with the) lights, it's just a new kind of added extra experience they get to have with it ... you'll feel a lot just from this ballet in general," Smith said. "Hopefully they enjoy it and they're entertained and they appreciate the beauty of the ballet."

Tickets to Thursday's performance are \$41-\$57. The Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts is located at 500 Castro St. For tickets and more information, see tinyurl.com/SwanLakeLit.



COURTESY OF THE GRAND KYIV BALLET

Ballerina Nicole Demura takes to the stage in Mountain View for a reimagined performance of "Swan Lake."



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Schools

MVLA board approves higher developer fees



CLARKE CONDÉ/TOWN CRIER

The Mountain View-Los Altos (MVLA) High School District includes Mountain View High School, Los Altos High School and Alta Vista High School.

By Julia Baum

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

New construction in the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District will carry higher school developer fees beginning in November, after the district's board unanimously approved an increase last week.

Under the resolution, approved 5-0 at the Sept. 14 meeting, MVLA will collect \$1.79 per square foot for new residential construction and 29 cents per square foot for new commercial or industrial construction. Mini-storage projects will be charged 3 cents per square foot.

The new rates take effect Nov. 13, 60 days after the board's approval, bringing the district's charges in line with higher limits adopted by the state earlier this year.

Developer fees are charged on certain construction projects to help school districts pay for facilities needed to accommodate growth. In California, the maximum Level I fee is adjusted every two years based on construction-cost inflation. The fees can apply to new residential construction and certain residential reconstruction, as well as new commercial and industrial development.

In January, the State Allocation Board raised that maximum to \$5.38 per square foot for residential construction and 87 cents for commercial and industrial construction.

MVLA splits its share of those fees with the three K-8 districts that feed into its high schools. The feeder districts receive two-thirds of the Level I fee, while

MVLA receives one-third.

Together, the districts cannot collect more than the applicable statewide Level I maximum.

The rates approved last week represent MVLA's one-third share of those new maximums.

District staff also presented a developer fee justification study, which estimates \$188.97 million in school facility modernization needs over the next 25 years for students generated by projected residential development. The study projects about 30.25 million square feet of residential construction during that period, putting the estimated facility cost at \$6.25 per square foot of residential development.

The district's study concludes that the fees are justified because new development will increase demand for school facilities. It says the money will be used for school facility reconstruction and that the fees are reasonably related to the needs created by the development on which they are charged.

Associate Superintendent Mike Mathiesen, who presented the item to the board, said the district completed the study both to document the justification for continuing to levy developer fees and to adjust its rates to the new state limits.

The item had originally been expected to come before the board earlier in the year, Mathiesen said, but the district needed more time to complete the study and meet a legal requirement to publish notice in local newspapers.

The board had no questions or comments before unanimously approving the resolution.

MVLA, LASD report positive year-end financial results

By Julia Baum

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

The Mountain View-Los Altos (MVLA) High School District and Los Altos School District (LASD) reported positive financial results for the 2025-2026 fiscal year during their respective Sept. 14 board meetings, highlighting fund balances, spending and the challenges of managing future operating costs.

The reports provide a preliminary look at the districts' revenues and expenditures during the fiscal year that ended June 30. Both boards unanimously approved the unaudited actuals, which will undergo external audits later this year.

MVLA fund balance increases

MVLA's fund balance increased by approximately \$422,000, according to Fiscal Services Director Elvis Lopez. The district's total fund balance, including restricted and unrestricted funds, was approximately \$1.2 million to \$1.3 million.

Lopez said the increase reflected several factors, including unspent funds carried into the new fiscal year.

The presentation also addressed donation accounts that had previously been held within Associated Student Body accounts at school sites. Those accounts, which included donations for programs such as choir, athletics and AVID classes, were transferred to the district

because they were not student club funds.

According to the district, the transfer contributed to an unusually large increase in restricted fund balances. MVLA plans to account for year-to-date revenues in future years to reduce the impact of the transfer on annual financial figures.

The district also reported spending on field upgrades and other capital projects, while some classroom audiovisual modernization was funded through bond proceeds. Approximately \$197,000 in instructional materials funding was carried forward because textbook deliveries occurred after the fiscal year ended.

Looking ahead, the year-end results will establish the beginning balances for the 2026-2027 budget. The district plans to update revenue projections, staffing costs and health insurance estimates at its first interim budget presentation in December.

LASD highlights reserves and operating costs

At LASD, officials reported \$92.4 million in revenue and \$86.9 million in expenditures, including transfers out. The district's net change in fund balance was \$5.4 million, while its unassigned fund balance stood at \$26.5 million.

However, not all of LASD's savings are expected to continue in future years. Contributing factors included unfilled vacancies, lower substitute costs, reduced

contracted services and delayed purchases.

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Erik Walukiewicz also highlighted the use of restricted funds before required deadlines, including \$897,000 in educator effectiveness funding spent during the fiscal year.

Staffing and operating costs were another focus. LASD reported that staffing declined from 467 full-time-equivalent positions in 2022-2023 to 412 in 2025-2026, while enrollment remained relatively stable. The district also added employees to support transitional kindergarten, family engagement and other programs.

Reserves also give the district a financial cushion when expenses come due before property tax revenue arrives, according to Walukiewicz, who said a 1% reserve is approximately \$869,000. Future concerns include rising health insurance premiums, inflation and the ongoing cost of programs such as transitional kindergarten and universal meals.

"We are a community-funded district and we do not receive any additional funds for TK," Walukiewicz said. "We do get a little money back for the universal meals and special education, but it's not fully funded. So that comes out of our general fund."

The year-end figures will now inform the districts' upcoming budget decisions, including revenue projections, staffing costs and other operating expenses.

Contest sets student-poets' words to song

TOWN CRIER STAFF REPORT

The fourth Poetry to Music contest is currently underway to find the right words to sing out from Schola Cantorum.

Following the theme of "Belonging: Finding your place in the world," high school students from across Santa Clara County are invited to submit original works of poetry to be set to choral composition under the direc-

tion of Buddy James.

"Choral music is a potent vehicle to bring people together. I hope we inspire new ideas about choral repertoire and how to reach the community," James said.

Contest submissions will be considered by a panel of judges including Santa Clara County Poet Laureate Yosimar Reyes. From the poems submitted, one will be selected and set to a choral composition in

four parts by composer Maria Thompson Corley. The new composition will then debut on May 23, 2027, at Schola Cantorum's concert, "The Poet Speaks, from Shakespeare to Tomorrow." Awards will be presented to the top three poets: \$600 for first place, \$350 for second place and \$250 for third place.

For more information, see scholacantorum.org/poetry.

California community colleges can offer up to 12 new bachelor's degrees under laws Newsom signed

By Mikhail Zinshteyn
CALMATTERS

This story was originally published by CalMatters.

A set of bills signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom Friday aims to rein in the topsy-turvy expansion of bachelor's degrees at California community colleges.

But the bills themselves caused new friction: In a last-minute shift, the community colleges that were championing these bills came out to formally oppose them after the lawmakers substantially revised the measures a day before a key constitutional deadline.

The two laws – Senate Bill 960 by Sen. Christopher Cabaldon, a Democrat from Napa, and Assembly Bill 2694 by David Alvarez – allow college districts to have anywhere from two to 12 new bachelor's degrees a year starting in 2028. The bills bake in accountability metrics: Districts with higher graduation and transfer rates will be permitted to add more degrees. The new caps do not apply to existing bachelor's degrees at college districts.

Today, 49 colleges either offer or will soon offer 66 bachelor's degrees. Districts would also need to prove that there's a workforce need in their region to justify the creation of a bachelor's degree. The caps apply to all districts, whether they have one campus or nine.

The community colleges opposed tying the number of degrees they can offer to student metrics, arguing that they punish districts that educate low-income students who are less likely to finish their certificates and associate degrees or transfer to a four-year university but would also benefit from more bachelor's degrees offerings that are tied to local labor market needs.

Other community college leaders said the bills' numerous last-minute provisions were unclear.

"We're being asked to ... support a process that is not completely understood or vetted at the last minute, and so that's just not great policymak-

ing," said Larry Galizio, president and chief executive of the Community College League of California, an association representing community college presidents and board leaders, in an interview for a previous story.

The bills directly address the central tension that buffeted relations between the community colleges and the California State University. Since 2022, the community colleges were allowed to introduce no more than 30 bachelor's degrees annually, as long as they didn't duplicate degrees offered by any Cal State or University of California campus. But Cal State routinely objected to the bachelor's degrees community colleges sought. And a few times the colleges went ahead with the degree programs anyway.

Community colleges and influential lawmakers said it was unfair to block the colleges from creating bachelor's degrees that local students and employers wanted, especially if the existing UC or Cal State degree is at a university hundreds of miles away. Some students bemoaned the inability to earn bachelor's degrees close to home. Many are priced out of relocating to those universities.

There are 115 local community colleges in the state, far more than the 31 UC and Cal state campuses offering bachelor's degrees.

The bills Newsom signed Friday allow community colleges to create bachelor's degrees even if a nearby Cal State offers a similar program, but only if that Cal State program rejects more than 25% of applicants from that nearby community college three consecutive years.

The bills also insert a process for handling an impasse between the colleges and Cal State, something missing in past law. A review by the state's secretary of labor siding with the colleges would remove the Cal State system's challenge to the degree. But if the labor secretary sides with Cal State, the district is barred from submitting an application for a similar program for five years.

The Cal State system, which opposed earlier versions of the bills, changed their position to neutral after the latest versions were published.

The community colleges are generally barred from duplicating a degree a UC campus offers, unless they come to a written agreement with the UC.

Newsom vetoed a related

community college bachelor's degree bill – one that he's rejected twice before. For the third year in a row, Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria, a Democrat from Merced, sought a bill to allow students to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing at a community college, something they cannot currently do. Newsom wrote in his veto message Friday that the bill is unneces-

sary because of the two bills by Alvarez and Cabaldon he signed.

"It is neither necessary nor appropriate to authorize an additional pilot or create an exception to the framework, as this bill proposes," Newsom wrote. "California's public higher education segments should instead focus on implementing this newly created, comprehensive system."

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Los Altos Town Crier

Business & Real Estate

St. Francis student teaches adults about investing and finances

By Celine Zhang

TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Francisco Curiel received his first paycheck at 9 years old, when he was cast in a Walmart commercial with his family. He said the money he earned sparked his interest in finance.

“I didn’t really know what to do with it because I was really young, so that’s how I started learning, and then it kind of spiraled from there,” the St. Francis High School sophomore said.

The Mountain View resident now teaches adults about financial topics such as compound interest and the stock market. He’s presented at events hosted by Harvard Business School and nonprofit SV Links, reaching a total of about 600 people, he said.

Francisco’s interest in investments developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, when he said his parents taught him about investing and managing finances. His father Martin and mother Lulu both have business de-

grees, and Martin works as a financial adviser.

After his friends became interested in learning about finance, Francisco said he and his parents began hosting weekly lessons for elementary and middle school students via Zoom.

“We were teaching income statements and balance sheets, which are very elaborate,” Lulu said. “But little kids are so amazing – they’re sponges. So they were really talking about ‘Amazon has more cash’ or ‘Walmart has more assets,’ and they would use the language of finance.”

The lessons were meant to encourage debate and introduce students to the perspectives of others, Francisco said.

“I really enjoyed watching people work together because we had small groups, and it was just nice to see that so many little kids were interested in investments,” he added.

Francisco was first introduced to investing at age 8, when his father gave him a small amount of money for



PHOTO BY LULU CURIEL

Francisco Curiel presenting at an event hosted by nonprofit SV Links Jan. 19, 2023.

his first portfolio. He said he learned to read the news and track current events to inform his decisions.

“It really taught me to connect the real world with my investments and figure out what to do with that,” Francisco said, adding that one of his favorite moments was making his father proud when he earned a profit.

In 2020, Francisco was invited to speak at an event

hosted by the Avalos Foundation, a nonprofit that provides scholarships to low-income students, about his experience in investing. While he was initially nervous, he said the event helped him view presenting as “second nature, almost.”

“Once I started speaking, it’s less about reading a script,” Francisco said. “It’s more like talking about what I’ve done. I was just telling a

story, and I’m really good at that.”

He begins each presentation by sharing his experience with investing, followed by a lesson on a financial topic. Afterward, participants can approach him with questions.

Francisco started working with the Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation in 2024,

SEE INVESTING, PAGE 24

California is poised to get \$1.4 billion for broadband. But there’s a huge catch

By Khari Johnson

CALMATTERS

This story was originally published by CalMatters.

California utility regulators this week cleared the way for the state to accept more than \$1.4 billion in federal funding to build out broadband in underserved areas.

But there’s a catch: Under terms added by the Trump administration, taking the money means rolling back Californians’ right to what’s known as net neutrality: equally fast connections to every website.

Now open internet access advocates are calling on the

governor to keep the state from signing on to the federal broadband grant until it considers ways to fight those terms, potentially including a lawsuit.

“At any point the governor can say, ‘Hey, you guys that are acting on my delegation of authority, don’t sign it until I have a chance to look at it further,’” said Harold Feld, a lawyer and vice president at Public Knowledge, which advocates on digital issues.

The money would go toward more than 80 equitable internet access projects led by companies including Comcast, Pacific Bell, SpaceX, and Verizon and set to serve more

than 270,000 people.

The commission on Thursday voted to give its staff the authority to “take any ministerial action necessary to implement and effectuate” California’s broadband equity plan, according to the resolution. But open internet advocates argue that Gov. Gavin Newsom, who in 2022 ordered the commission to administer the program and receive the funding, has the authority to intervene before that happens.

They want Newsom to protect a 2018 law that gives California the strongest net neutrality rules in the nation. Without those safeguards, they say, internet providers

could throttle internet speed to first responders in emergencies, threatening public safety. They also believe that stipulations attached to the broadband funding could endanger programs that fund internet access for low-income Californians.

The federal funds come through a 2021 program known as Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment set up by Congress to connect more Americans with high-speed internet, mirroring past initiatives to provide universal telephone and electricity access.

The utilities commission once called the program a

“once in a century” opportunity.

That was before the Trump administration, amid deregulatory pressure from the broadband industry, changed the terms to require states to stop enforcing, in at least some instances, net neutrality or rate regulation laws.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration in July approved California’s broadband funding proposal. An August 31 notice of award gives the state 30 days to accept the money and terms. Spokespeople for Newsom and the state attorney

SEE BROADBAND, PAGE 24

Business & Real Estate

Why a bill to juice condo construction died even though California lawmakers voted for it

By Ben Christopher

CALMATTERS

This story was originally published by CalMatters.

A bill that supporters hoped would kickstart California's moribund condo industry and boost the scarce number of entry-level homeownership opportunities, died under mysterious circumstances at the stroke of midnight on Tuesday after failing to get a final vote before the end of the legislative session.

Assembly Bill 1903 by Oakland Democratic lawmaker Buffy Wicks would have changed the way that disputes between homeowners and builders over purportedly shoddy construction are resolved in a way the bill's author hoped would result in fewer defect lawsuits and less developer skittishness around building condos.

Backed by real estate interests, "Yes In My Backyard" advocates and a bevy of city governments, the bill sailed through the Senate without objection on Aug. 31 after 11:15 p.m.

But in a legislative mystery with weighty implications for California's

dysfunctional housing market, it never made its way back to the Assembly. At midnight, the legislative session officially came to a close. The bill had already passed the Assembly the prior week. But lacking an obligatory "concurrence" vote needed to lock in the final amendments, the bill died quietly without facing a single "no" vote in either chamber.

In a statement released on Sept. 1 in the afternoon, Wicks said that she was "incredibly disappointed and frustrated" that the bill "was ultimately held by the Senate."

"We put hundreds of hours, months of negotiations, and endless stakeholders engagement and coalition building," she said. "Ultimately I had a bill Friday morning that I truly believe would have unlocked condo construction to serve our working class families desperate for homeownership opportunities."

A spokesperson for Senate President Pro Tem Monique Limón, a Santa Barbara Democrat, did not respond to a request for comment.

The bill was closely watched by pro-development advocates, who championed it as a key to unlocking the type of naturally affordable for-sale construction

that the state so desperately needs.

But the bill had been opposed throughout the year by the politically powerful Consumer Attorneys of California, a lobbying group representing civil trial lawyers, along with many homeowners associations. Both argued that the bill would make it unduly hard for homeowners to take irresponsible builders to court over legitimately defective construction.

Those groups stopped fighting the bill when Wicks agreed to water it down over the weekend. Stripping out language that would have specified the types of defects ripe for litigation and placed new restrictions on how defects can be identified, the final bill simply required homeowners to clearly document the defects before filing suit, to give the builder a chance to repair them first and, if those repairs were made complete, to absolve the builder of future liability.

But it was too late. Wicks, in her statement, said she was confident the backers of the bill could "bring back something even stronger" in future sessions.

A spokesperson for the Consumer Attorneys of California did not respond to an interview request before this story was published.

Transactions

Los Altos

1 West Edith Avenue #D125, Hallee Living Trust to Wolden Living Trust for \$1,600,000

900 Loyola Drive, Revive Norcal LLC to Api Pacific LLC for \$3,375,000

484 Aspen Way, Peterson Living Trust to X. & J. Su for \$4,750,000

Los Altos Hills

12800 Dianne Drive, Zheng-Cao Family Trust to S. & T. Yang for \$4,850,000

12882 Viscaino Road, Chiu Family Trust to A. & K. Gladstone for \$6,250,000

14170 Baleri Ranch Road, Arey Trust to D. & H. Pottash for \$9,350,000

Mountain View

108 Bryant Street #36, Y. & R. Tanouchi to Djh Realty LLC for \$1,040,000

1993 Plymouth Street #4, Combs 2000 Family Trust to R. Luo for \$1,107,000

123 Easy Street, Orange Tree LLC to V. Alonso for \$1,700,000

1935 Amalfi Way, K. & R. Walker to W. Lee for \$1,700,000

Transaction information is obtained from public county records and provided by CalREsource.



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Business & Real Estate

INVESTING

FROM PAGE 22

teaching finance and investment to farmworkers. The experience helped him connect with his family's farm-working background, he said.

"As much as I try to relate to them, I'll never know how life was actually like, and it's always good to give back to the people that really need it," he said.

Francisco added that he was surprised by how many adults had never learned basic finance or investing.

"When I was young, I would always assume adults knew everything, and then I realized it was a less common topic," he said. "That was really surprising because I thought everybody should know this, and it's very essential in life."

For adults, Francisco serves as "an example of what's possible," Lulu said.

"From a mother's perspective, I see him feeling agency and feeling empowered that he can articulate something really simple ... to an adult that goes, 'I never knew what that was,'" she said.

For Lulu, the presentations are a chance to support Francisco in helping others.

"If he had paid attention to his age, he would never do this," she said. "But we encourage him and say, 'You can do it. Doesn't matter. Forget your age. Go ahead,' and I hope others can look at him and go, 'Well, if he can do it, then I can, too.'"

"When I was young, I would always assume adults knew everything, and then I realized (basic finance and investing) was a less common topic. That was really surprising because I thought everybody should know this, and it's very essential in life."

Francisco Curiel, Sophomore,
St. Francis High School

In the future, Francisco said he plans to study finance and eventually attend business school. He hopes to continue helping the community through his work.

"It's only been seven years, but then I realize that's (almost) half my lifetime," Francisco said. "It just helps me notice, 'Oh, this is what I've done, and then this is how I can give back to people.'"

BROADBAND

FROM PAGE 22

ney general's office did not respond to questions about whether they plan to challenge the broadband program's terms. The commission requested an extension of the acceptance deadline but it's unclear if the federal agency granted it.

California is one of the last states to decide whether to take the money.

The California Alliance for Digital Equity and 27 other organizations sent Newsom, the state attorney general, and president of the utilities commission a letter earlier this week, saying that accepting the money "would set a dangerous precedent for the federal government to use federal funding as a cudgel that forces states in line with its agenda."

Barbara van Schewick, a Stanford Law School professor who helped pass the 2018 state net neutrality law, said it's essential that the state challenge the

federal program's conditions in court before accepting the funding. She said the federal government's terms would endanger a 2019 law created after an incident in which firefighters had to revert to using their personal devices while fighting a wildfire after Verizon reduced connection speeds. The federal program can also take back grant money to enforce its conditions.

"You don't want to fight it out in court whether Verizon has a right to throttle firefighters. When fires are raging, you want Verizon to know they can't do that, not sort that out a year from now," she said.

Van Schewick and other advocates say that, beyond giving up net neutrality and risking public safety, accepting the federal funds also would stop low-cost internet programs that could save Californians more than \$5 billion in the years ahead.

"The idea that you would give all that up for \$1.4 billion is mind boggling," van Schewick said.

Have a comment or idea? Reach out

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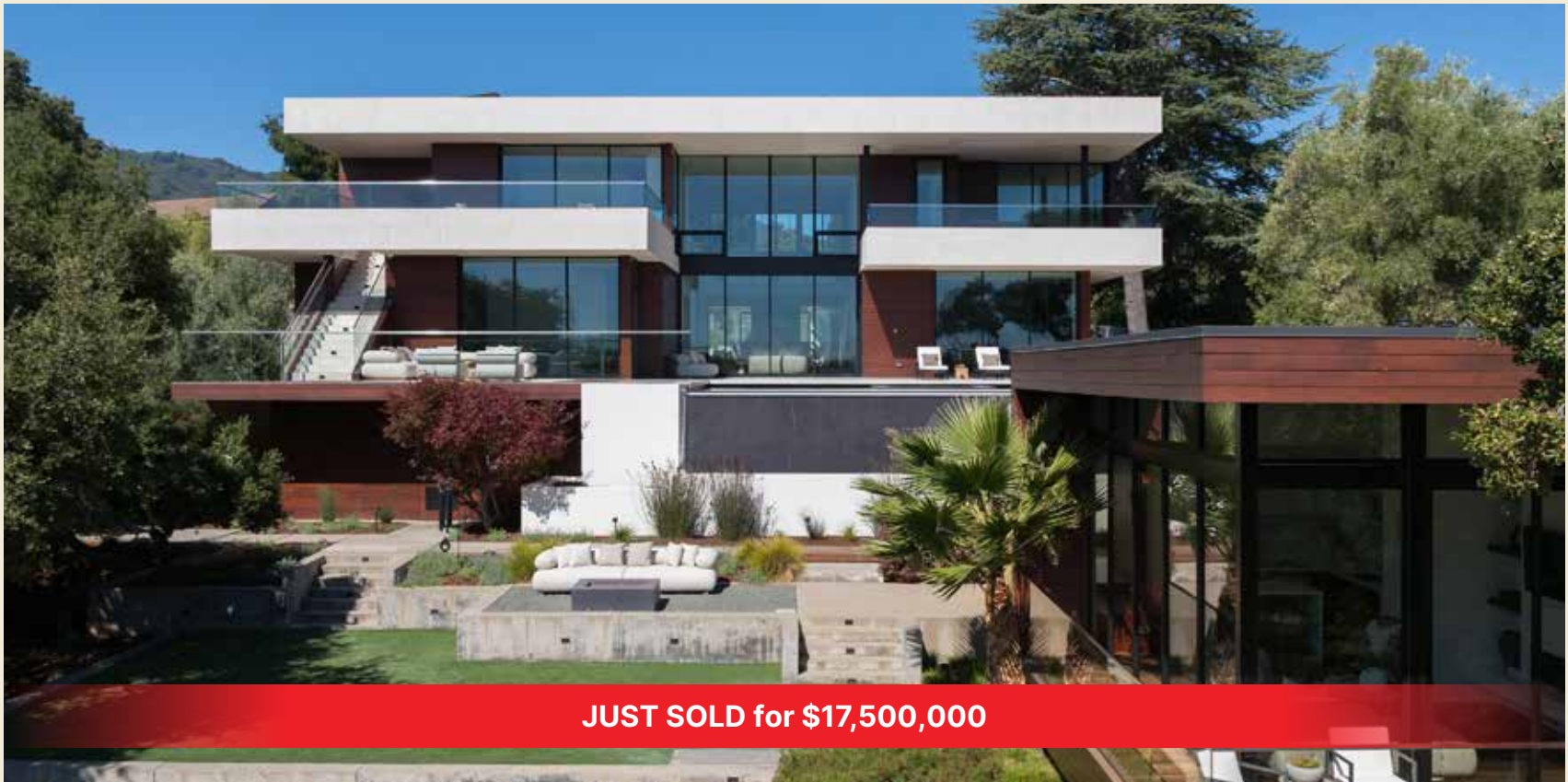
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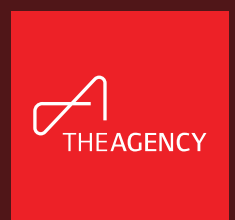


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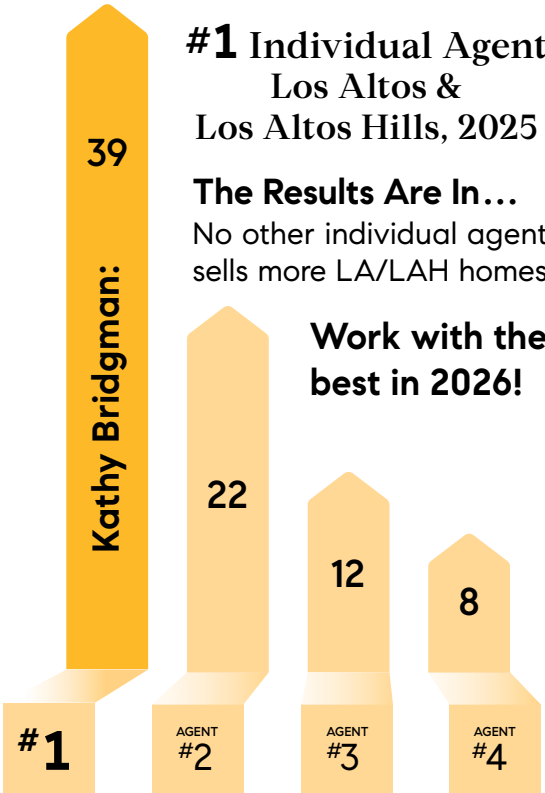
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Situated at the end of a peaceful cul-de-sac, this inviting home enjoys an expansive lot and a welcoming sense of privacy. Inside, approximately 3,000 square feet unfold over two levels, where hardwood floors, high ceilings, and abundant natural light create a bright and comfortable setting. The living and dining areas gather around a fireplace, with three sliding glass doors creating a seamless outdoor connection, while the adjoining eat-in kitchen is finished with Wolf, Bosch, and Sub-Zero appliances. Beyond, the family room opens directly to the grounds and centers around a second fireplace. Four bedrooms are thoughtfully arranged across both levels, including a primary suite on each. The backyard feels like a natural extension of the home, with a broad deck, built-in Wolf grill, patio, mature trees, and plenty of greenery creating room to relax, dine, and enjoy the outdoors. With air conditioning, a two-car garage, and a location just moments from shopping and dining at The Village at San Antonio Center, the home also offers easy access to downtown Los Altos, Rengstorff Park, and Highway 85, all served by acclaimed Los Altos schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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287Marich.com
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Public Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF BETTY JANE COSTALES CASE NO. 26PR202924

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: BETTY JANE COSTALES A Petition for Probate has been filed by JAMES B. COSTALES in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. The Petition for Probate requests that JAMES B. COSTALES be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court on 10/23/2026 at 9:01AM in Dept. 13 located at 191 NORTH FIRST STREET, SAN JOSE, CA 95113. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: MARINA MODLIN, 800 W. EL CAMINO REAL, STE. 180, MOUNTAIN VIEW CA 94040, Telephone: (800) 991-3070 9 / 2 3 , 9 / 3 0 , 1 0 / 7 / 2 6 C N S - 4 0 7 9 6 6 4 # LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER (09-23,30-26,10-07,14-26)

239-T



F77METALWORKS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN730229

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: F77METALWORKS, 131 Saratoga Ave. 3309, Santa Clara, CA, 95051, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): FRANCUZ 77 L.L.C., 131 Saratoga Ave. 3309, Santa Clara, CA 95051. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/24/2026. /S/ Elena Sologubova / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/10/2026. (09-23,30-26,10-07,14-26)

237-T

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY (CCP 701.540) 21CV391414

Hanson Bridgett, LLP
ATTN: Wiemond Wu, SBN 322154
425 Market Street, 26th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(4 1 5) 7 7 7 - 3 2 0 0
Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office
File Number: 26002028

UNDER A WRIT OF EXECUTION, issued out of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara on 02/18/2026, on a judgment rendered on 12/23/2022, in favor of City of Los Altos and against Satish Ramachandran for the sum of \$441,941.73, plus interest and costs accrued after 02/18/2026; I HAVE LEVIED upon all the right, title, and claim of interest of the judgment debtor, Satish Ramachandran in the real property, in the County of Santa Clara, described as follows:

889 Santa Rita Avenue, City of Los Altos, County of Santa Clara, State of CA 94022 (APN 167-18-060) P A R C E L 1 : Beginning at the intersection of the center line of Santa Rita Avenue with the center line of Los Altos Avenue (formerly Valora Avenue); thence along the center line of Santa Rita Avenue North 89° 33' West 29.48 feet to a Northwesterly corner of that certain Parcel of land conveyed by Alfred Cadwallader, et ux, to Bernard Parrine, et ux, by Deed dated February 24, 1944 and recorded February 24, 1944 in Book 1190 of Official Records Page 67; thence along the Westerly line of said Parcel of land South 0° 15' West 152.04 feet to the Southwesterly corner thereof; thence along the Southerly line of said Parcel of land South 89° 57' East 64 feet; thence leaving said Southerly line and running parallel with the Westerly line of said Parcel of land and the Northerly prolongation thereof, North 0° 16' East 172 feet, more or less, to the Northerly line of Los Altos Avenue, thence along said line of Los Altos Avenue North 89° 33' West 34.52 feet to the center line of Santa Rita Avenue; thence along the center line of Santa Rita Avenue South 0° 15' West 20 feet to the point of beginning, and being a part of Section 19, Township 6 South, Range 2 West, M.D.B. & M. P A R C E L 2 : Beginning at a point in the center line of Los Altos Avenue (formerly Valora Avenue) (40 ft. wide) distant along said center line and prolonga-

tion thereof N. 0° 16' 00" E. 563.15 ft.; from the point of intersection of said center line with the center line of Portola Avenue 40 ft. wide; thence N. 89° 57' 00" W. 41.22 ft. to the true point of beginning; thence N. 89° 57' 00" W. 58.78 ft.; thence N. 0° 16' 00" W. 132.02 ft.; thence S. 89° 18' 00" E. 5.15 ft.; thence S. 33° 35' 24" E. 9.00 ft. to the beginning of a curve to the right, concave to the West, with a central angle of 24° 59' 13"; a radius of 308.46 ft.; thence on and along said curve 134.52 ft. to the true point of beginning and being a portion of Section 19, Township 6 South, Range 2 West, M.D.B. & M.

Per CCP 701.620, the minimum bid for this sale is \$3,870,000.00.

Prospective Bidders should refer to sections 701.510 to 701.680, inclusive, of the Code of Civil Procedure for provisions governing the terms, conditions, and effect of the sale and the liability of default bidders.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will proceed to sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash in lawful money of the United States, all rights, title and interest of said judgment debtor in the above-described property to satisfy said execution, with accrued interest and costs on:

OCTOBER 28th 2026 at 2:00 PM Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office 55 West Younger Avenue San Jose California 95110 DOORS OPEN AT 12:00 PM. ALL PERSONS MUST COMPLETE PRE-QUALIFICATION PROCESS NO LATER THAN 1:45 PM. Directions to the property location can be obtained from the levying officer upon oral or written request.

Liens may be present which may or may not survive this levy.

Robert Jansen, Sheriff
M. Harper #2161, Sheriffs authorized agent
Date of Notice: 09/23/2026
(09-23,30-26,10-07-26)

236-T

1855 HAMILTON PARTNERS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN730157

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1855 HAMILTON PARTNERS, 6037 Meridian Avenue, San Jose, CA, 95120, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a general partnership. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Jon Wakimoto, 221 Main Street Unit 154, Los Altos, CA 94023, Janice Wakimoto, 6037 Meridian Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/12/2004. /S/ Jon Wakimoto / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/08/2026. (09-16,23,30-26,10-07-26)

235-T

UNCONDITIONAL DOG FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729759

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: UNCONDITIONAL DOG, 1534 Wil-

lowmont Ave, San Jose, CA, 95118, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): UNCONDITIONAL DOG LLC, 1534 Willowmont Ave, San Jose, CA 95118. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/24/2026. /S/ Bethany Gardner / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/24/2026. (09-16,23,30-26,10-07-26)

234-T

PIRTEK REDWOOD CITY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729945

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PIRTEK REDWOOD CITY, 21723 Regnart Ct, Cupertino, CA, 95014, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): CUPER-TINO HYDRAULICS LLC, 21723 Regnart Ct, Cupertino, CA 95014. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/01/2025. /S/ Matthew Wever / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/28/2026. (09-16,23,30-26,10-07-26)

233-T

Busch Cognitive Systems FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729983

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Busch Cognitive Systems, 11530 Upland Way, Cupertino, CA, 95014, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Kevin Ryan Busch, 11530 Upland Way, Cupertino, CA 95014. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/23/2026. /S/ Kevin Ryan Busch / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/01/2026. (09-16,23,30-26,10-07-26)

232-T

Islamic Beliefs FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729700

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Islamic Beliefs, 4415 Fortran Ct, San Jose, CA, 95134, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a corporation. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Imamia Education Center, 4415 Fortran Ct, San Jose, CA 95134. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/06/2021. /S/ Amir Mithani / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/21/2026. (09-16,23,30-26,10-07-26)

231-T

Brodie Club FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729318

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Brodie Club, 4546 El Camino Real B10 #910, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Longfellow Creative, LLC, 4546 El Camino Real B10 #910, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/06/2026. /S/ David Nurse / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/07/2026. (09-16,23,30-26,10-07-26)

230-T

Huang Wellness Consulting FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729367

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Huang Wellness Consulting, 148 W Alma Av, San Jose, CA, 95110, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Wei Huang, 729 Coakley Dr, San Jose, CA 95117. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/01/2026. /S/ Wei Huang / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/11/2026. (09-16,23,30-26,10-07-26)

229-T

PARKPAWS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729944

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PARKPAWS, 302 Toyon Ave, San Jose, CA, 95127, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): BAY ROOTS LLC, 302 Toyon Ave, San Jose, CA 95127. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/28/2026. /S/ Sergio Castillo-Curiel / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/28/2026. (09-09,16,23,30-26)

226-T

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Stephen Finn, an individual

YOU ARE BEING
SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO EST DEMANDAN-
DO EL DEMANDANTE):
Richard Avelar & Associates

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The courts lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida

mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA 191 NORTH FIRST STREET, SAN JOSE, CA 95113 CASE NUMBER: (Número del Caso): 25CV475023

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiffs attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): William L. Coggs Hall (619) 696-6700 Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP 101 W. Broadway, Ste. 2000, San Diego, CA 92101 DATE: 9/11/2025 3:47 PM (Fecha) L. Quach-Marcellana, Clerk of the Court, Deputy (Secretario) (Adjunto) (09-09,16,23,30-26)

224-T

IKIGAI GYLD FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729886

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: IKIGAI GYLD, 500 Benvenue Avenue, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): IKIGAI GYLD, LLC, 500 Benvenue Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Tami Shidawara / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/27/2026. (09-02,09,16,23-26)

223-T

Gold Standard FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729512

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Gold Standard, 2601 Nuestra Cas-tillo St Apt 6177, San Jose, CA, 95127, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Aracelys Rodriguez Flores, 2601 Nuestra Castillo Ct apt 6177, San Jose, CA 95127. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/14/2026. /S/ Aracelys Rodriguez Flores / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/14/2026. (09-02,09,16,23-26)

220-T

SUN-NET CONSULTING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729584

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) SUN-NET CONSULTING, (2)

Public Notices

SUN-NET INC, (3) SUN-NET INTERNATIONAL LLC, (4) SUN-NET INTERNATIONAL, 2150 North First St, Suite 550, San Jose, CA, 95131, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a corporation. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): DANIEL L. SUN INC., 2150 North First St, Suite 550, San Jose, CA 95131. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/13/2016. / S / Joanna Sun / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/18/2026. (09-02,09,16,23-26)

217-T

Do you need to have a Legal or Public Notice published? Then look no further than the Los Altos Town Crier. The Town Crier's unmatched service can take care of your Fictitious Business Name Statement, Notice of Probate, Name Change and much more.

For more information, contact Melissa at 650-397-5208, or email legals@latc.com

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 avaa@latc.com and include a contact name, phone number and fee to participate (if applicable).

EVENTS

K-Pop Dance Night. Oct. 2, 7 p.m. Peterson Middle School, Sunnyvale. A space to connect in person, perform, and celebrate Korean pop culture together. While many students in the Bay Area share an interest in K-pop, there are not always many local opportunities for them to gather, dance, and express themselves as a community. The event will include live dance performances, a random play dance, and free K-pop merch raffles sponsored by KCloud. Attendance is free.

"The Sky's the Limit," presented by Peninsula Harmony Chorus. Oct. 3, 2 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church, 3149 Waverly St., Palo Alto. Based in Los Altos with members from throughout the Bay Area, Peninsula Harmony Chorus is a "no audition" chorus that has been singing together for over 25 years – pop, jazz, folk and more. There will be a sing-along and free light refreshments will be available. Attendance is \$15. For more information, visit peninsulaharmony.org.

FabMo 15th Annual Artisans Market. Oct. 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave. The event will showcase the work of nearly 40 local makers offering uniquely beautiful, sustainably-handcrafted fine art, fashion accessories, home decor items, jewelry, toys, gifts, holiday items and even pet accessories. All of the items sold will be crafted from the roughly 70 tons of discarded designer textiles, leather, wood and other materials FabMo diverts from the landfill each year.

Backroads and Crossroads – Community School of Music and Art Fall Concert series. Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Local duo Bagwell & Troy present a lively program of foundational blues and country music by musicians such as Elmore James and Johnny Cash, as well as their own stirring, original songs. Reserve tickets at arts4all.org/events.

Colors of Sound: And Evening of Piano Imagery – Community School of Music and Art Fall Concert series. Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Naoko Kasai transforms the piano into a storyteller, revealing the distinct voices of four composers: Haydn, Beethoven, Debussy, Chopin. Through them, she explores the full spectrum of human emotion – joy, sorrow, passion and comfort. Reserve tickets at arts4all.org/events.

The Davin-Levin Duo – Community School of Music and Art Fall Concert series. Nov. 15 at 3:30 p.m. Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Emily Levin, Principal Harp of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and Colin Davin, Director of Guitar Studio at Shenandoah Conservatory, present a unique instru-

ment combination in a memorable and dynamic chamber music experience. Reserve tickets at arts4all.org/events.

CSMA Merit Scholars Winter Concert – Community School of Music and Art Fall Concert series. Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. CSMA Merit Scholar student ensembles and soloists perform favorite selections in the popular annual event. Join us to experience the joy of music from these outstanding rising stars. Reserve tickets at arts4all.org/events.

Coffee Together. First Tuesday of every month, 1:30 p.m. Red Berry Coffee, 145 Main St. Group for widowed and divorced folks over the age of 60. Combat the loneliness epidemic by taking a small step in connection. Meet others navigating life after 60 without a partner. For more information, check out [instagram.com/coffeetogetherlosaltos](https://www.instagram.com/coffeetogetherlosaltos).

The Community Women's Chorus. Mondays starting Sept. 14, noon to 2:15 p.m. Mountain View Community Center, Cedar Room, 201 S. Rengstoff Ave. The Community Women's Chorus is looking for new singers! We are a non-audition chorus, sponsored by the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation's Local Impact Collective. Tuition for the fall quarter is \$210. New singers should arrive 15 minutes early. Come try us out to see if we are a good fit for you. For more information, see community-womenschorus.org.

Los Altos Main Library. All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road.

Kira Hooks Music Performance. Oct. 3, 2 p.m. Join us for a live music performance by Kira Hooks to celebrate Filipino American History Month. Her music blends elements of soul, jazz, R&B, and folk, characterized by a rich, fluid vocal style and emotionally resonant songwriting.

Bookmark Stories. Oct. 4, 4:30 p.m. Bookmark Stories is a community art project sponsored by Stanford School of Medicine that invites people to share their immigration journeys, whether their own or their family's – through a simple, powerful medium: a bookmark. By writing or drawing on a small piece of paper, participants capture moments of transition, memory, and identity. Each contribution adds to a larger narrative of movement and belonging, reminding us that while every story is unique, the experience of transition connects us all. Your bookmark will join the community collection displayed at the Stanford Health Library, Hoover Pavilion (privacy and anonymity respected for all participants).

Obituary Notice

DIANE BUZZELL



*July 10, 1939 –
September 7, 2026*

Diane Best Buzzell passed away peacefully on September 7, 2026.

Diane was born and raised in Palo Alto. She graduated from "Paly" high and attended Foothill College where she met her husband, Jerry Buzzell. Diane and Jerry were married in 1962 and made Los Altos their home in 1966 where they raised their four children, Angela Buzzell Los Altos CA, Laurel Johnson Asheville, NC, Roger Buzzell El Dorado Hills CA, and Chris Buzzell San Jose, CA. Diane was devoted to her 6 Grandchildren and 4 Great Grandchildren and is survived as well by her sister, Lynne Best of Mill Valley, CA.

Diane was a member of the Peninsula Story Guild and would happily volunteer telling stories to many children over the years including her volunteer work in the local elementary school classrooms.

Diane loved hiking at Rancho San Antonio. She cherished her Golden Retrievers and Siamese cats and loved cheering for the San Francisco Giants as well as attending Giants games with her family. Diane was a longtime member of the Los Altos Christian Science Church and served as the church clerk for many years.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later time.

If you would like to submit an obituary to run in the Town Crier, please email obits@latc.com.

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

Resort-Inspired Two-Acre Private Estate

PRESENTING A TRULY EXCEPTIONAL PRIVATE ESTATE, quietly concealed behind two gated entrances and enveloped by mature greenery. Spanning more than two acres across two separate parcels, the property offers an extraordinary combination of privacy, scale, elegance, and long-term flexibility.

With the main house crafted by renowned Rick Bell Builders, celebrated for creating some of the area's most distinguished residences, the beautifully appointed home reflects a refined, understated elegance where architecture, landscape, and setting come together seamlessly. The second parcel presents an exceptional opportunity as an additional residence, a private guest compound, or expanded recreational amenities, this is an estate of enduring distinction and endless possibilities.

- An expanded estate on two parcels for 2.25 +/- acres
- Main house with 6,646 +/- sf of living space
- 6 en suite bedrooms plus an office
- Guest house with 964 +/- sf
- Pool and pool house with 777 +/- sf
- Attached 3-car garage with motor court and second detached 2-car garage



10271 West Loyola Drive | Los Altos Hills | \$14,998,000 | 10271WestLoyolaDrive.com



JUDY & CINDY



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THE AGENCY

THE BOGARD-TANIGAMI TEAM

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