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# Los Altos Town Crier

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

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WEDNESDAY • June 18, 2025

## Juneteenth Festival fun



PHOTOS BY SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

The sixth annual Juneteenth Festival, hosted by the nonprofit Justice Vanguard, drew a strong turnout of visitors Saturday at the Hillview Soccer Field. The festival serves as an entertaining and educational experience steeped in Black culture. It is held in conjunction with the Juneteenth national holiday Thursday, which marks the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

## Los Altos City Council mulls law further restricting e-bike use

By Bruce Barton  
Staff Writer/bruceb@latc.com

The Los Altos City Council last week discussed a proposed ordinance regulating e-bikes and e-scooters, but fell short of introducing it into law. Council members' recommendations included tightening language regarding safety provisions to reduce ambiguity.

The ordinance is scheduled to be re-introduced at the council's June 24 meeting.

Council members were considering an ordinance that is supposed to be more restrictive over what state law allows. This included provisions that e-bike and e-scooter users must wear a helmet; no sidewalk use throughout the city with some exceptions; and a limit of one rider per e-bike unless the ve-

hicle is designed for multiple riders.

The ordinance comes amid complaints, particularly in the downtown, of riders using the sidewalks and driving at unsafe speeds. Complaints also center on riders, mostly young people, without helmets and carrying multiple riders.

E-bikes, powered by an electric motor, have proven extremely popular among local teens. But the potential exists for the bikes to pack a lot of power. E-bikes can go 20-30 mph, and such speed in the hands of inexperienced riders has city leaders concerned.

Class 1 bikes are pedal assist only to trigger the motor, but Class 2 bikes have a throttle. Both Class 1 and Class 2 bikes

See E-BIKES, Page 6

### Online Poll of the Week



What should be included in a new e-bike law? (You can vote for more than one)

- No riding on sidewalks, anywhere
- No sidewalk riding in downtown, only
- Limit use to Class 1 and Class 2 bikes, which go a top speed of 20 mph – Class 3 bikes can go 28 mph
- Riders of all ages must wear helmets
- Riders younger than 18 must wear helmets
- Fines should occur with first infraction
- Warnings should be issued with first infraction

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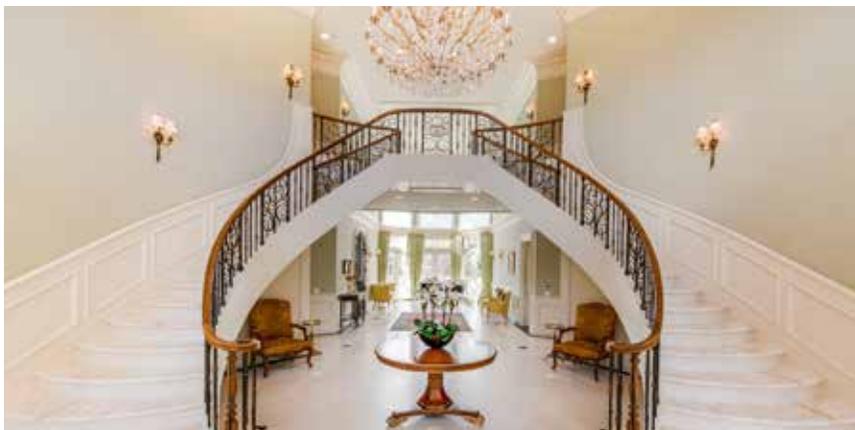
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# Around Town

## New mural is an ode to early Los Altos



BRANDON ROTH/TOWN CRIER

In early May, Los Altos State Street Market debuted a new mural. It was created in a conjoint effort of San Jose artists: Brush House, a branding, sign and murals company and Erin Salazar, a graphic designer. Brush House wrote the titles and Salazar designed the peaches and flowers. A time-lapse video of the mural can be found on State Street Market's Instagram. You can find the mural inside the building near Little Sky Bakery.



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# News

## News Briefs

### Los Altos launches revamped website

The city of Los Altos launched a newly revamped website last week that officials say is more user friendly.

The city revealed its new site June 11. On the homepage, officials went with a decidedly violet look and a prominent photo of the Los Altos Community Center. A series of buttons allow quick access to sought-after city information.

“The new website is a significant milestone for the city in our efforts to provide comprehensive and insightful citywide communications,” said Nick Zornes, assistant city manager.

As with any new site, there will be a learning curve and some additional tweaking, Zornes allowed.

“We are confident that the user experience has increased significantly with this new design and platform,” he said.

The new website cost \$79,000 for the new platform and redesign. The city began work on this project in October 2024.

### Library receives \$300K gift

The Los Altos main library is \$305,000 richer, thanks to a gift from Kerry Swanson of Los Altos Hills. The donation, from Swanson’s living trust established in 2013, was announced at the June 5 North County Library Authority meeting. The gift is intended to augment the library budget.

“We are grateful for the generous gift from Mr. Swanson,” said Rose Baiza, community librarian for Los Altos. “Kerry Swanson was a longtime resident of Los Altos, including Los Altos High School class of 1974. An avid reader and fan of literary and historical classics, his gift is very much appreciated and will be used for enhancements to the public areas of the library. His donation will be put towards benefitting Los Altos residents with an improved patron experience.”

Swanson died last year.

## Weather or poor maintenance? Ailing orchard causes debated

By Bruce Barton  
Staff Writer/bruceb@latc.com

The Los Altos Heritage Orchard has lost more than 100 trees this year to a combination of factors that orchard tenders said was beyond their control.

“For the first time in 124 years, we face the difficult task of removing 92 diseased trees,” said orchard curator Jane Packard in a May 29 blog post from the Los Altos History Museum. Packard is chairperson of the Orchard Commons Committee. The museum oversees the committee, which is responsible for orchard maintenance.

The announcement comes at a time when the apricot trees are beginning to bear fruit. It also comes despite a three-year, \$225,000 maintenance plan and installation of a new drip irrigation system.

Arborist Terrance Welch, in a May 23 report, did note tree problems due to inconsistent or nonexistent watering prior to the installation of the system in 2023.

The city counts 427 tree sites. Another 22 diseased trees were removed in February. The latest 92-tree removal puts the total at 114 orchard trees cited for removal so far in 2025. Most of the trees being removed are newly planted ones that didn’t take, according to museum staff.

Welch pointed to trees suffering from ailments ranging from oak rot to bacterial canker.

“Three years of drought (2020-2022)



SHELLY BOWERS/TOWN CRIER

**The Los Altos Heritage Orchard needs large-scale tree replacement, according to an arborist report.**

likely weakened the root systems of medium-size trees, making them more susceptible to delayed cumulative effects of fungal and bacterial infection,” Welch wrote.

In addition to weather, Welch listed changes in husbandry practices (daily management and care) and a buildup of soil pathogens among contributing factors.

He also noted that tree replacements are nothing new, citing numerous such replacements in the past.

### Not the weather

Preservation League of Los Altos (PALLA), a small group of local residents defending the historical orchard, said the tree destruction is more a lack of proper maintenance than any act of nature.

“Blaming the weather or a sudden-death pest is a deflection,” wrote PALLA member Catherine Nunes. “There’s haphazard maintenance, no treatment records, and

unchecked construction – above and below ground – is extensive and ongoing.”

Nunes is referring to the current conversion of the Los Altos Youth Center into staff offices near the orchard. Experts cite that construction work around fruit trees can lead to soil compaction and root damage. Construction of another project next to the orchard, a courtyard area at the Los Altos main library, is set to begin later this year.

Nunes implied the ongoing construction negatively impacted the growth of the trees, but the arborist did not cite this as a cause.

In a June 9 letter to the city council, PALLA urged the city to take better care of the orchard, which members deemed a “failure.”

City officials don’t think so. Council members have said the orchard is the healthiest it’s been in years.

“If this were really about the trees, PALLA would thank the city for stepping up to care for the orchard in a way that no prior administration ever has,” said Mayor Pete Dailey.

### Sunny solution

PALLA and others contend the trees need to be sprayed with pesticides. But Welch indicated that spraying the trees is not a solution and that the focus should be on allowing the sun to grow resilient roots.

See ORCHARD, Page 5

## Heritage trees take center stage at MV city council meeting

By Christina Casillas  
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Mountain View residents lobbied to lower a proposed increase to a heritage tree removal appeal fee during last week’s city council discussion, but as council and staff discussed the appeal fee, it became clear more data was needed and the discussion was not one of fees – but one of the heritage tree ordinance.

Staff presented proposed modifications to the master fee schedule during the June 10 city council meeting; the fees, which are set to fund services that provide “limited or no direct benefit to the city as a whole,” often include inflationary annual increases.

After an overhaul by staff of the current fees, major changes presented to council included increased water and wastewater charges, increased small-scale project gatekeeper pre-

authorization fees, abandoned shopping cart and adult entertainment/card room/massage business operating fees, reduced safe parking planning fees and child-care and non-profit planning fees, staff noted during the meeting.

What elicited the most discussion – among council and members of the public – was a proposed heritage tree removal appeal fee, which would increase the fee from \$60 to \$650 July 1, and from 10% to 20% by July 2026.

“Every year hundreds of heritage trees are cut down – in 2023, 1,511 heritage trees were cut down, and in 2024, 238 heritage trees were cut down,” Rashmi Sahai, Mountain View resident and GreenSpacesMV member, said during public comment. “Equally concerning, over 90% of the heritage trees that were requested to receive a permit to be removed were approved. As a result, many Mountain View residents

often have to step up and submit an appeal if they want to save a heritage tree.”

She said the increased appeal cost would deter appeals, inhibiting the democratic process. Sahai was one of multiple GreenSpacesMV members to sign an official letter sent to council and members of staff June 10 to reconsider the fee.

Councilmember Lucas Ramirez said that while the community was outraged that the appeal fee would be raised, the majority of what sort of appeals the city receives are not conducive to the environmental agenda they’re hoping to push, as city staff pointed out.

Currently, appeals can apply to both homeowners seeking for heritage trees to not be cut down, or people appealing the city to allow them to cut down a heritage tree after previously being told they couldn’t. The latter makes up the majority of appeals the city considers.

“So what that means is that

if we have a heavily subsidized fee, what you all are saying is that those homeowners should have a chance to remove their heritage tree on their property, because we can’t distinguish between the two,” Ramirez said. “This could actually have the opposite effect of what members of the community have shared with us. So I strongly disagree that this (heritage tree appeal process) has great community value.”

He said that instead, the council and staff should consider increasing the fee for a heritage tree removal – the answer, Ramirez said, being an improved heritage tree ordinance.

Council eventually agreed on holding the fee discussion to when staff presents the Biodiversity and Urban Forestry Plan, while accepting an increase in fees beginning this July to \$325.

That follow-up discussion is set to happen shortly after the new year.



COURTESY OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firefighters snuff out the remnants of a vegetation fire last week in Los Altos Hills.

## Resident's grass trimming sparks Los Altos Hills vegetation fire

By Christina Casillas and Curtis Driscoll  
Staff Writers/editorial@latc.com

Santa Clara County Fire Department crews extinguished a 2.8-acre vegetation fire in the 2700 block of Roble Blanco Court in Los Altos Hills Wednesday afternoon.

The fire destroyed a pool pump house for an outdoor pool, with no other structures damaged and no injuries occurring, according to Erica Ray, a spokesperson with the Santa Clara County Fire Department. Six structures were evacuated by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office due to the fire. The fire started after a property owner was using heavy equipment to trim back grass and hit a rock, causing sparks that spread, Ray said.

The fire had the potential to spread further but didn't because of the relatively low wind gusts and the hardening work on portions of Page Mill Road as part of the Page Mill evacuation route maintenance project completed in May. The project cut tall grass that could be potential fuel, allowing fire crews on Wednesday to position themselves on top of the hill to stop the fire from spreading uphill while the hardening work below – near Page Mill Road – helped slow the fire's progress.

"The quick stop on the fire was really in large part because of that project," Ray said.

Page Mill Road was closed from 3:30-7 p.m. due to the fire. Fire investigators have estimated the damages at around \$40,000, all of which occurred on private property.

The call for the fire was received at 3:31 p.m., with fire crews arriving at 3:41 p.m. Ray recommends that anyone using heavy equipment around grass should do work before 10 a.m., with two people on site and one person acting as a spotter.

Los Altos Hills City Manager Peter Pirnejad noted that the fire grew quickly and occurred at an unexpected time of the year. The city opened communication channels with emergency operations during the fire and issued Nixle emergency updates to residents, informing them that Page Mill Road was closed. Nixle is a text and voice notification system used by Los Altos Hills in emergencies.

"I am happy that we avoided any additional loss," Pirnejad said. "It could have been a lot worse."

A similar vegetation fire occurred a year ago due to the use of construction equipment on a property on Old Ranch Lane in Los Altos Hills.

## ORCHARD

From Page 4

"Remove the dead roots and expose the soil to sunlight as soon and as long as possible," echoed Packard in her blog post. "Shine the light on the bad actors: ring nematodes. These microscopic organisms nibble away at the growing roots and make the small trees vulnerable to the bacterial canker in the winter."

"Urgent action is needed to start soil treatments to reduce

pathogens that have persisted in the orchard for two decades," Welch said in his report. "Recommended treatment is by solar radiation of infected tree sites. Tree roots should be removed by June to allow sunshine to treat the soil, ideally for at least one year. In addition, soil should be removed from sites with indicators of fungal infection."

The heritage orchard's roots, so to speak, go back to 1901, when orchardist J. Gilbert Smith planted the first trees around his property. The land

was sold to the city in 1954 and the current History House property was the original Smith home. The orchard, specializing in the tasty Blenheim apricots, was deemed a historical orchard and registered with the state in 1981.

"All trees should be replaced with the Blenheim variety grafted on resilient root stock," Welch recommended. "Decisions about treatments to reduce pathogens will be influenced by multiple factors on a site-by-site basis. Replacement should occur within 2-3 years."

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# News



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

**High school-age e-bike riders enjoy their ride around the downtown. Local lawmakers, concerned with safety, are working on more restrictive e-bike rules.**

## E-BIKES

From Page 1

can go up to 20 mph. A Class 3 bike can go 28 mph or more.

“If these things are going up to 20 mph, that’s not fair to people who are walking down the sidewalk,” said Councilmember Jonathan Weinberg. “I think it creates a perilous condition.”

### Sidewalk debate

The sidewalk issues drew extensive discussion, with some members wanting to ban all bike sidewalk use.

“I don’t actually feel that bicycles belong on sidewalks,” Councilmember Sally Meadows said. “I do understand that 12 and under, as they’re learning to ride and they’re on a regular bicycle, should potentially be on the sidewalk, but an e-bike, no matter the age ... I would say all e-bikes should be off the sidewalks.”

Taking note of the fact that Los Altos is not big on sidewalks, Meadows noted: “It doesn’t matter how rare or frequent our sidewalks are, a bicycle on a sidewalk is a hazard to pedestrians, which is largely (why) the bicycles have rules of the road like the rest of us.”

Vice Mayor Neysa Fligor noted small children learning to ride bikes should be allowed to use the sidewalk for their safety.

“I would support limiting the restriction to congested areas,” she said, “and we define that as downtown business districts and around schools, because I think that’s where the high risk is.”

Council members went with

a police recommendation to go citywide.

“Staff believes limiting restrictions to downtown would not effectively educate residents on the proper use of e-bikes and e-scooters,” read a staff report on the draft ordinance.

Council members talked of removing the age limit for sidewalk use if a safety hazard forced a cyclist at any age onto a sidewalk. The draft ordinance also made exceptions for instances where roads lack designated bike lanes.

Council members agreed on a recommendation to adopt state law into the city’s ordinance. This would allow police officers the option of issuing a warning versus citing someone under the municipal ordinance.

Ordinance fines were set at \$50 for first offense, \$75 for a second and \$100 for a third.

### Fines for infractions?

Fligor argued for a warning on the first infraction, similar to the city’s gas leaf blower ordinance. She emphasized the educational intent of the ordinance and asked for a six-month period in which the community could be apprised of the regulations.

Other council members liked the idea of the officer making the call. They reasoned that an egregious infraction could warrant a fine, even for the first time.

The council did agree to eliminate a rule relating to riding on playgrounds or school grounds. Members felt the city was crossing over into school jurisdiction, and there were issues with enforcement. They also figured that school grounds

were prime areas for learning to ride.

The helmet regulations drew some debate. Weinberg felt all users, regardless of age, should use helmets. Ultimately, the council agreed with the original draft limiting helmet requirements to those 18 and under.

“I am happy that we have a form of an e-bike ordinance. I think it’s important,” Fligor said. “But I think we need to balance that with being thoughtful about how it’s implemented and what it does to make sure that we achieve the goals we want without causing other issues.”

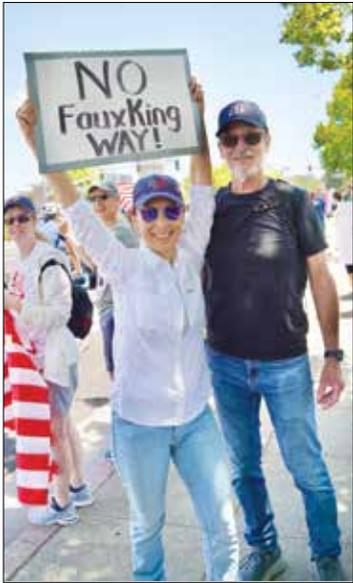
Mayor Pete Dailey favored keeping the ordinance “simple and straightforward. Enforcement is understandable and it’s not kludged up with a lot of other stuff. But some of my colleagues are advocating kludging it up, and I oppose that. I do not want to kludge up the ordinance with instructions to the police on how to use their discretion. I don’t want to kludge up the ordinance with anything about educational programs. I want to keep this ordinance as simple as it is.

“We’re talking about public safety,” the mayor continued. “We’re talking about people getting hurt. ... Just two weeks ago, we had two young people on our streets riding on an e-bike, carrying Starbucks and having their helmets dangling from the handlebars, and a young woman, shortly before graduation, lost all her teeth. Phasing it in means more people are going to get hurt – it’s only a matter of time before there’s a really, really serious accident.”

## Los Altos part of 7-mile-long line of protesters for 'No Kings'

Organizers estimated approximately 20,000 people showing up for a “No Kings” rally this past Saturday. The rally stretched along El Camino Real between the Tesla dealership in Palo Alto to the one in Sunnyvale, and crossing through Los Altos and Mountain View. The event was among numerous rallies across the country protesting what they cite is the current federal government’s embracing of authoritarianism. The array of (often creative) signs seem to suggest that concern, at right and below. The photos were taken along El Camino in Los Altos.

PHOTOS BY SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER, EXCEPT BELOW, SECOND FROM LEFT, BY S.M. LIEU/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER



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# Comment

## Letters to the Editor

### Better uses of funds

In the June 11 issue of the Los Altos Town Crier, it was noteworthy that “Los Altos is enjoying solid finances as council moves to adopt budget.”

It was noted “For business support, the budget includes \$1.7 million for constructing a downtown park on parking plazas 1 and 2.”

How does this support business by removing parking spaces?

Why is this park needed when we have beautiful Lincoln Park so close to downtown?

Please save this money for a more important project like modernizing the police department’s location.

Perhaps there is a hidden agenda which is to make a future downtown theater more palpable? That would just be another unneeded vanity project.

Another possible use could be to modernize the Los Altos Stage Company building which is within easy walking distance to downtown and has ample parking space.

**Lothar Kleiner**  
Los Altos

### Something not right

As I sit here gazing out my window at the driverless car next to me, I realize the light has been red for several minutes, with not one car going through on the green.

Next to me is a car that can travel, on its own, all around town sitting at a signal that doesn’t know how to change to green when there are no cars in sight for miles.

What is wrong with this picture?

**Diane Brauch**  
Los Altos

## Letters to the Editor

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

## Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF THE LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

Who remembers swimming in the first pool at Hidden Villa? This photo of Hidden Villa campers was taken by Betty Estersohn in the 1970s. The old pool was initially used to store water from Adobe Creek to irrigate crops. It was replaced by a “real” pool in the early 1980s.

## A wakeup call on environmental protection

By David Lawrence

When I first learned that I was going on a school service trip to New Orleans (NOLA) to help build houses and assist with hurricane relief, my initial thought was, “Wasn’t Hurricane Katrina more than 20 years ago? Why do they still need help recovering?”

But as I looked deeper, I realized that the city has endured more than just Katrina. Hurricanes Ida (2021), Laura (2020), and Zeta (2020) have all caused severe damage, leaving lasting impacts on homes and infrastructure.

Katrina, the deadliest hurricane in U.S. modern history, caused catastrophic flooding after levee failures, and more recent disasters like the Mississippi River Flood (2011) and the New Orleans Tornado (2017) have further devastated communities.

I arrived with no expectations, only a mindset focused on learning about the local culture and the specific needs of the people. I sought to understand how hurricanes and other disasters have not only their physical impact but also their mental toll, and what steps could be taken to prevent future catastrophes.

Many people question why they still live in an area prone

## Other Voices

to flooding, hurricanes and loss of their homes, especially since much of NOLA is below sea level.

One of the main reasons is economics and location. Since NOLA sits at the mouth of a massive trade route connecting the interior states, there will always be a need for a city there. Secondly, NOLA has deep cultural roots, an identity that can’t simply be uprooted. The food, music and history are uniquely tied to this location, from gumbo and crawfish to the famous French Quarter.

Although major hurricanes are rare, smaller storms can still leave lasting impacts on residents. Not every storm tears roofs off buildings, but the damage still accumulates. One of the biggest issues is mold buildup, which can make a house unlivable long after the hurricane itself has passed.

The organization I worked with, the Saint Bernard Project, helps homeowners who can’t afford to rebuild alone, providing temporary housing and home construction assistance. It also builds houses from scratch for first-time homeowners, which is essential for financial stability and

recovery. Unlike rental properties, where landlords prioritize repairing their own homes first, homeowners can take direct action to rebuild their lives.

We also worked with a couple of local teens, showing that rebuilding is a shared effort between residents and volunteers.

Our chaperone’s experience illustrated the long-term impact of rebuilding. On his trip 10 years ago, he had helped build a house, and we were able to visit it, still standing.

He pointed out the individual parts he worked on, explaining how a family now lives there.

Seeing that house still standing after all these years made me realize that rebuilding is more than just construction; it’s about restoring communities, preserving culture and ensuring NOLA can continue to thrive despite the challenges it faces. Every nail hammered and every wall raised is a testament to the resilience of the people who refuse to let their city disappear.

*David Lawrence is a rising senior at Saint Francis High School. He participated in a school immersion trip to New Orleans earlier this month. He and other students helped with hurricane recovery and housing efforts.*



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Serving the Greater Los Altos Community since 1947

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(650) 948-9000 | [losaltosonline.com](http://losaltosonline.com) | SUBSCRIPTIONS: [howardb@latc.com](mailto:howardb@latc.com)

### Administration

#### Chief Executive Officer, Publisher:

Dennis Young (650) 397-5065, [dennisy@latc.com](mailto:dennisy@latc.com)

#### Chief Operating Officer, Associate Publisher:

Howard Bischoff (650) 397-5213, [howardb@latc.com](mailto:howardb@latc.com)

#### Editor-in-Chief:

Bruce Barton (650) 397-5482, [bruceb@latc.com](mailto:bruceb@latc.com)

#### Managing Editor:

Christina Casillas (650) 397-5714, [christinac@latc.com](mailto:christinac@latc.com)

#### Reporters:

Christina Casillas (650) 397-5714, [christinac@latc.com](mailto:christinac@latc.com)

Curtis Driscoll (650) 397-5717, [curtisdr@latc.com](mailto:curtisdr@latc.com)

Brandon Roth (650) 397-5035, [brandonr@latc.com](mailto:brandonr@latc.com)

#### Copy Editors:

Vanessa Connell, Mary Larsen

#### Magazines Designer:

Michel Y. Echeverria (650) 397-5706, [mikee@latc.com](mailto:mikee@latc.com)

Lucy Chen (650) 397-5726, [lucyc@latc.com](mailto:lucyc@latc.com)

#### Contributing Photographers:

Shelly Bowers, S.M. Lieu, T. Mallie Brathwaite

Interns: Sahana Anamika, Rachel Aronson,

Ananya Chaudhary, Shaona Das, Maya Dutt,

Annabelle Eaton, Zoe Friedman, Oscar Johnson,

Mckayla Kao, Matthew Lee-Asiong, Lara Leon,

Prisha Mohapatra, Keara Morrow, Michael Shtrom,

Dorie Xie, Amelia Yuan

### Intern manager:

Pete Borello (650) 397-5495, [peteb@latc.com](mailto:peteb@latc.com)

### Print/Media Ad Sales

#### Real Estate Advertising:

Linda Monterrey (650) 397-5487,

[lindam@latc.com](mailto:lindam@latc.com)

#### Ad Sales:

Maria Crowder (650) 397-5097, [maricac@latc.com](mailto:maricac@latc.com)

Janice Fabella (650) 397-5066, [janicef@latc.com](mailto:janicef@latc.com)

Danielle Amaral (650) 397-5738,

[daniellea@latc.com](mailto:daniellea@latc.com)

#### Ad Services:

#### Production Manager:

Melissa Rodriguez (650) 397-5208,

[melissar@latc.com](mailto:melissar@latc.com)

#### Lead Graphic Designer:

Michel Y. Echeverria (650) 397-5706,

[mikee@latc.com](mailto:mikee@latc.com)

#### Graphic Designer:

Lucy Chen (650) 397-5726, [lucyc@latc.com](mailto:lucyc@latc.com)

Classified: [classifieds@latc.com](mailto:classifieds@latc.com)

Legal: [legals@latc.com](mailto:legals@latc.com)

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# Community

## Isabel Merriman's story takes center stage at History Museum

Town Crier Report

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

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

“Isabel didn’t have Sarah’s fortune or a 160-room mansion,” said Amy Ellison, the museum’s curator and director of exhibitions, “but she used what she had



COURTESY OF THE LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

### Isabel Merriman

– her home, her voice and her determination – to fight for causes she believed in, from animal welfare to child protection.” A complex figure, Isabel didn’t back down from conflict – even reportedly “trouncing” a man on a train who disagreed with her politics.

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

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

One key moment in the exhibition tracks how the arrival of the railroad altered Isabel’s life and land, and marked the founding of Los Altos.

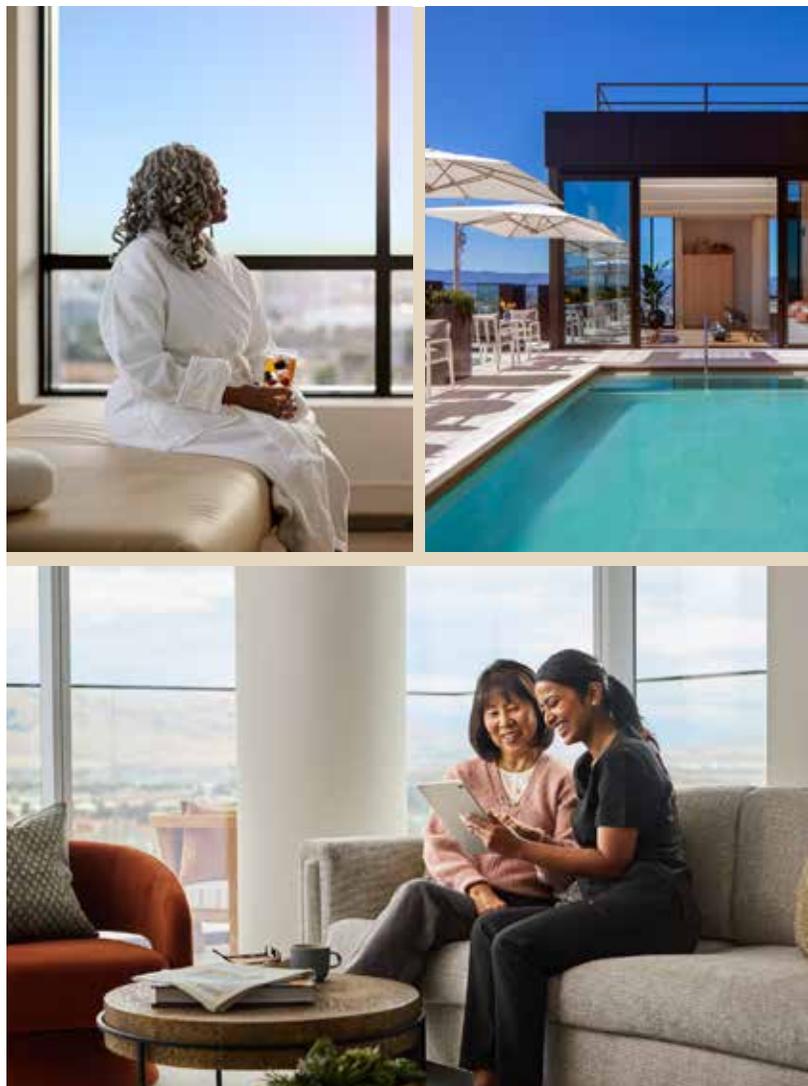
Until recently, Isabel’s grave in Alta Mesa Cemetery was unmarked. A new

headstone, placed with help from the Winchester Mystery House, now honors her legacy. “This exhibition is another way of giving her name back,” Ellison said.

### Related programs:

- The Pardee Sisters: An Interview with Mary Jo Ignoffo and Robin Chapman, Wednesday, July 16, 5:30-7 p.m.
- Isabel’s Scavenger Hunt, in the museum’s garden, Saturday, Aug. 9, noon to 4 p.m. Free admission.
- Sarah and Isabel: Two Sisters and their “Dream Houses,” with Winchester Mystery House historian Janan Boehme, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 5:30-7 p.m.
- A Winchester Mystery in the Valley of Heart’s Delight, with author Robin Chapman, Wednesday, Oct. 15, 5:30-7 p.m.

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



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# Community

## First Presbyterian of Mtn. View hosting simulcast of leadership summit

Town Crier Report

The Global Leadership Summit, an annual leadership event, is coming to Silicon Valley via simulcast on Aug. 7-8, hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View (FPCMV).

With this year's theme, "Lead Where You Are," the summit is intended to inspire and equip individuals to lead with purpose – regardless of their role or setting. Organizers said Global Leadership Summit is ideal for business professionals, nonprofit leaders, educators, students, entrepreneurs, church staff and volunteers – anyone who wants to develop leadership skills, stamina and integrity to lead positive change.

Pastor Kim Dorr-Tilley, who participated in the summit while leading the Bel Air Church in Los Angeles, attests to its effectiveness. Her former church hosted past summits, where she witnessed its

impact firsthand.

Dorr-Tilley, celebrating her first year at First Presbyterian, would like to spread the word of the summit locally.

"This is truly one of the best, if not the premier (event) for leadership training," she said. "I saw no one (participating) in our South Bay. We really want to focus on the Bay Area, and particularly Silicon Valley. Every area has influential leaders, but I can't think of a more influential place at this point in time than the Silicon Valley."

The two-day event will feature talks from experts on leadership topics such as vision, digital communication, purpose and sustainable high performance. The 2025 Summit will be co-hosted by Emmy-winning journalist Paula Faris and broadcast from the Chicago area.

Among the 15 speakers are:

- Tasha Eurich, organizational psy-

chologist, will share how to become "shatterproof" when resilience isn't enough.

- James Hewitt, human performance scientist, will explore how to sustain peak performance without sacrificing well-being.

- Thasunda Brown Duckett, president and CEO of TIAA and one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People, will share how she creates spaces where others can thrive.

- Bradley Rapiere, award-winning choreographer, will challenge traditional boundaries and approaches to employee engagement.

- Erica Dhawan, a leading authority on 21st century teamwork, will speak on "Unleashing Connection Through Digital Body Language."

- Craig Groeschel, founding and senior pastor of Life Church, will discuss

mastering the actions that drive progress over time.

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

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

FPCMV is located at the corner of Cuesta Drive and Miramonte Avenue in Mountain View. The church features dynamic sermons, varied musical groups, Bible studies, fellowship events and mission outreach to the community and world.

The Global Leadership Network believes in leadership with a higher purpose. For 30 years, the nonprofit organization has provided leadership experiences for people of all backgrounds. It also offers opportunities for under-sourced leaders.



City of **LOS ALTOS**

### CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

June 24, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.

In Person

Note- This is not the Final Agenda

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

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

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Interceptor Hybrid Patrol Vehicles as part of the vehicle replacement program for City owned fleet vehicles
2. Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. ("Axon") for the purchase and deployment of public safety technology and equipment, in an amount not to exceed \$394,875 over a 5-year contract

#### PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

3. Zoning Code Amendments - Design Review

Three actions for Council consideration:

Hold Public Hearing, Waive First Reading and Introduce the draft ordinances and consider the Planning Commissions June 5th, 2025, recommendations for the adoption of the proposed ordinances which include:

- A. An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Los Altos Adding Chapter 14.77 (Design Review) to the Los Altos Municipal Code; and
- B. An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Los Altos Repealing in its Entirety Chapter 14.76 and Chapter 14.78 for Existing Design Review Regulations; and
- C. An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Los Altos Amending Chapter 14.01 (Administration of Zoning) to the Los Altos Municipal Code; and

Find that the proposed amendments are exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines

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

## Garden Club hosts speaker on 'Working With Color in Landscape and Floral Design'

Town Crier Report

"Working With Color in Landscape and Floral Design" is the program topic for the June 24 meeting of The Garden Club of Los Altos.

The program speaker, Kathryn Vast, grew up on the Peninsula and has always had a love for plants and gardening. She attended Foothill College, where she studied horticulture, art and music.

Vast moved to Seattle and worked at the famed Swanson's Nursery. When she met her musical husband, she moved to Sonoma County and found herself back at the cello, growing a career in music with her string quartet.

Vast continued taking jobs in nurseries, doing landscape projects, formed a succulent design business and pursued floristry through the Santa Rosa Junior College program. She worked part time in a flower shop until her own freelance floral business got off the ground.

Vast has used more than 20 years of music connections to build her flower business, primarily focusing on winery event work in Napa and Sonoma counties.

Her work with flowers is akin to landscape design, using many of the same principles: color, form and balance. In



FROM VASTMUSIC.COM

Cellist Kathryn Vast will be putting on her floral hat for a Garden Club of Los Altos meeting appearance.

working with color, Vast refers to her early art education of the color wheel as a beginning basis for all design projects. She will bring the color wheel to life through pictures of plants and her own floral table designs.

The Garden Club of Los Altos meets at the Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte Ave., on the fourth Tuesday of each month except July, November and December.

The meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. and the program begins at approximately 1:30 p.m. There is a \$10 fee for guests.

For more garden club information and membership details, visit [thegardencluboflosaltos.org](http://thegardencluboflosaltos.org).

## Sci-fi films screen at Los Altos Community Center

By Annabelle Eaton  
Town Crier Editorial Intern

When film professor and sci-fi enthusiast Noah Stern moved to Los Altos from Los Angeles, he also moved away from the regular film screenings his family loved. This summer, he plans to change that.

“Since coming out here, we’ve just been disappointed by the lack of this type of media,” Stern said. “So, I thought, why not do something for film like the outdoor concerts that are free.”

Stern has organized a series of weekly film screenings, which began June 11 and run through the end of the month. Each free screening is set for 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Los Altos Community Center.

“I approached the community center, and we started spitballing some ideas,” Stern said. “And I thought a film series is a way to raise the consciousness of the art form in the community – and if nothing else, we’ve had a good time.”

According to Stern, his discussions with community members about movies inspired him to organize the event.

“All these people who work for Google or Apple ask me what I do,” Stern said. “And I realized everyone wants to talk about movies.”

Stern found that many of the people he talked to had not seen some of the movies he described – something they had in

common with his own students.

“Then I realized, that’s OK, because that’s why I’m there – I’m there to teach,” Stern said. “And it’s the same thing for the community.”

According to Stern, the series is not only about exposing Los Altos to new films – it’s also about showing films that the community can relate to. The series is called “Uncertain Futures” – a reference to the theme of technological disruption shared by all three movies.

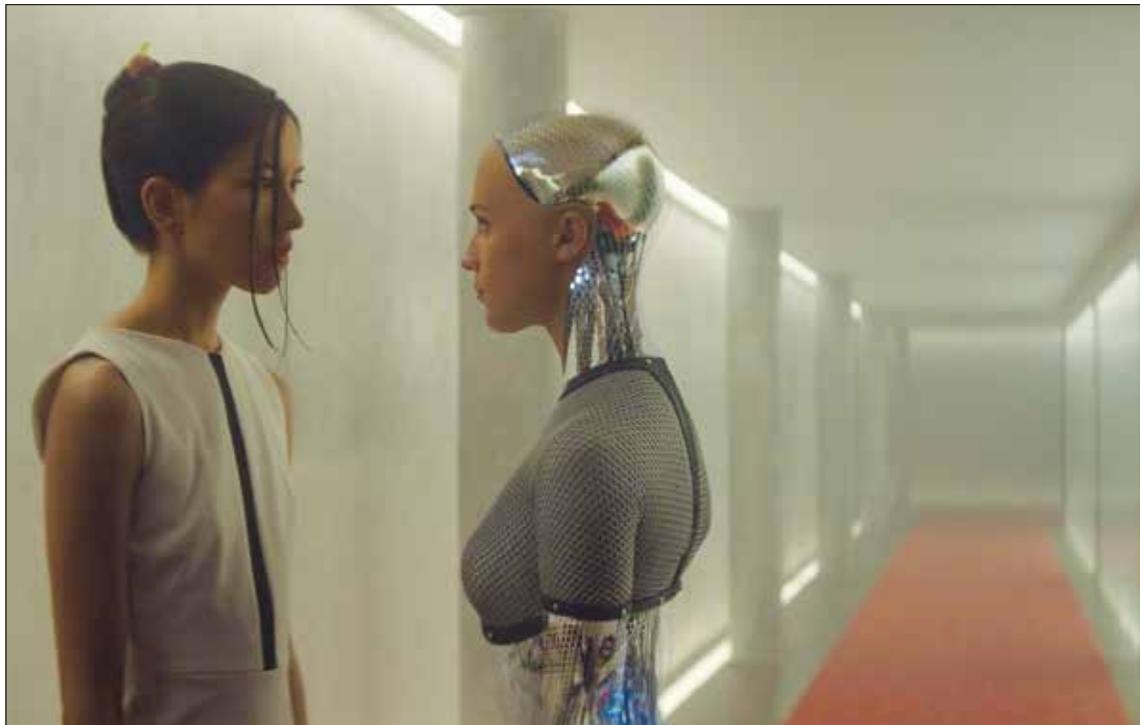
“I called it ‘Uncertain Futures’ because, with (artificial intelligence), the world we’re facing is both promising and terrifying,” Stern said. “Filmmakers have been looking at this for years, and (the series) is a great way to begin that discussion.”

The series’ kick-off film, last week’s “Ex-Machina,” is about a young programmer who must determine whether a humanoid AI robot can be distinguished from human intelligence.

“I saw the premiere of it in Washington, D.C.,” Stern said. “The filmmaker Eric Alex Garland who wrote and directed it presented it as his first film. I got to hear him speak, and it made a big impression on me.”

In hopes of giving viewers a similar experience, Stern scheduled a presentation from Stanford University AI expert and neuroscientist David Eagleman, who has invented a test for distinguishing between AI and humans.

In stark contrast to the technological theme of the first



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A new Los Altos-based sci-fi film festival opened with “Ex-Machina” from 2014.

film, this week’s film, “Flow,” is animated with no dialogue. It is about a group of animals that must survive a world damaged by climate change.

“It’s this wonderful film that just nobody has seen, partially because, in our community, the movie theaters are all shut down right now,” Stern said. “It can make us think a little about our environmental policy, ecol-

ogy and global warming – all the things that we’re enduring.”

Finally, the third film, “After Yang,” depicts a futuristic world in which a family must deal with loss after their robot brother breaks down. The June 25 screening will feature a presentation from Stanford anesthesiologist Boris Heifetz, who Stern said will delve into the themes of memory touched on

in the film.

“We’ll see if people respond to it and if people want more,” Stern said. “Maybe next, I’ll teach a filmmaking course, or I’ll be able to teach a writing course.”

Walk-ins are welcome, but those who want to reserve a seat at any of the screenings can visit [tinyurl.com/UncertainFutures](http://tinyurl.com/UncertainFutures).

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# Community

## Pet of the Week



COURTESY OF PETS IN NEED

Little Zion is available for adoption through Pets In Need. The 2.5-pound kitty is described by Pets In Need as having a big personality. Only nine weeks old, Zion likes to explore his new world. Reps said Zion likes to chase and pounce, but he also "loves to snuggle up and purr like a little engine." You can find Zion at the Pets In Need shelter in Palo Alto. For more information, visit [petsinneed.org](http://petsinneed.org).

## Save the Date

Downtown Los Altos Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m. every Thursday along State Street, through Oct. 9. Information: [downtownlosaltos.org](http://downtownlosaltos.org).

Festival, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 12-13, downtown Los Altos. Information: [downtownlosaltos.org](http://downtownlosaltos.org).

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

Rotary Club of Los Altos' 50th Fine Art in the Park, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Aug. 9 and 10, Lincoln Park, Los Altos. Information: [rotaryartshow.com](http://rotaryartshow.com).

Mountain View Arts Festival, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 6, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 7, Castro Street, downtown Mountain View. Information: [mviewarts.com](http://mviewarts.com).

Information: [losaltosca.gov/325/2025-Summer-Concert-Series](http://losaltosca.gov/325/2025-Summer-Concert-Series).

Downtown Los Altos Festival of Lights Parade, 6 p.m. Nov. 30. Information: [losaltosparade.org](http://losaltosparade.org).

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## Gallery 9 painters offer indoor, outdoor approaches in summer exhibitions

From 'Room and bloom' to impressionistic landscapes

Town Crier Report

Longtime local artist Jan Meyer continues her exhibition of "Symphony of Color & Joy" at Gallery 9 through the end of June,

The exhibition's works represents Meyer's patterned approach to painting lively interiors.

"I imagine most artists want to form a connection with their audience," Meyer said. "I truly believe my paintings, with their vivid color and subject matter, form a bond of warmth and playfulness with the observer."

Influenced by the Fauve artists, Matisse, Derain, Bonnard and Hockney, Meyer delights in working with color, shapes and pattern.

Geometrics, florals, stripes and polka dots are combined with intense color, creating "rooms and blooms," the subject of her paintings. The work is done on canvas, in acrylics, that dries quickly and let the artist move easily from one pattern of color to another.

Meyer first exhibited in Gallery 9 in 1979 and has had many solo exhibitions at Gallery 9 over the last 46 years. She is also well known for painting murals throughout Silicon Valley. Samples of her murals adorn many exterior walls

throughout Los Altos.

### Zhang to show in July

Abby Zhang, a member of Gallery 9 of Los Altos, follows Meyer with her exhibit, "California in Brushstrokes: Impressionistic Landscapes of the Bay Area and Beyond," opening July 1.

Zhang is featuring plein air paintings of beloved local natural spaces such as Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve, the Baylands, Pescadero, and San Gregorio Beach.

The artist's opening reception is 1:30-5 p.m. July 12.

"My work blends classical training from the Russian Academy of Arts with impressionistic techniques and Eastern aesthetic principles, focusing on capturing the emotional essence of our region's landscapes rather than mere documentation," Zhang said. "I'm a member of the California Art Club and have exhibited in national juried shows including the Oil Painters of America National Exhibition."

Zhang's show runs through July 27.

Gallery 9, located at 143 Main St., is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, visit [gallery9losaltos.com](http://gallery9losaltos.com).



IMAGE ABOVE COURTESY OF JAN MEYER; IMAGE BELOW COURTESY OF ABBY ZHANG

Gallery 9 will be featuring the work of Jan Meyer, above, this month, followed by works from plein air painter Abby Zhang, below. Gallery 9 is located in downtown Los Altos.



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# Community

## Garden Club of Los Altos announces 2025 \$1,500 scholarship winners

Town Crier Report

The Garden Club of Los Altos awarded three \$1,500 scholarships to impressive and worthy students at Foothill College Horticulture Department this spring. The recipients are Dana Wood, Lizette Castaneda and Andres Ortoro.

Wood is majoring in environmental horticulture and design at Foothill with the goal of attending Cal Poly to earn a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture.

Wood said, "My goal is to balance my passion for design and creativity with my love for logic and structure through landscape architecture."

Castaneda is working toward a degree in environmental horticulture. Her passion is to be part of the movement that integrates sustainable and beautiful native habitats in urban spaces – landscapes that benefit both people and the planet. Her goal is to develop gardens and restore native habitats, with a focus on creating solutions that are accessible to all communities, especially those that have historically been underserved.

Oroto has grown up working in his father's

landscaping business with the goal of taking over from his father who has suffered injuries in recent years. Oroto, 19 years old, plans to achieve the landscape technician certificate and an Environmental Horticulture and Design degree at Foothill. His long-term goal is the C27 license to become a licensed contractor.

The Garden Club of Los Altos meets at the Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte Ave., on the fourth Tuesday of each month except July, November and December. The meeting begins at 12:30.

*For Garden Club of Los Altos membership details, email [GCLAmembership@gmail.com](mailto:GCLAmembership@gmail.com). For more information about the club and its activities, visit [thegardencluboflosaltos.org](http://thegardencluboflosaltos.org).*

**Read both print and online editions of the Town Crier**

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COURTESY OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF LOS ALTOS

Pictured from left are Robin Latta, assistant director, Foothill-De Anza Foundation; Dana Wood, scholarship recipient; and Sally Warren, Garden Club of Los Altos scholarship chairwoman. Not shown are recipients Lizette Castaneda and Andres Ortoro.



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# Stepping Out

## Palo Alto Players' 'Sweat' hits the stage this weekend

By Amelia Yuan

Town Crier Editorial Intern

Los Palo Alto Players is bringing the 2017 Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Sweat" to life for 10 performances, starting this weekend. The production previews Friday, opens Saturday and runs through June in Palo Alto.

Written by Lynn Nottage, "Sweat" debuted Off-Broadway in 2016 and made its way to Broadway a year later. The comedic drama follows a parole officer, two ex-convicts and three friends who once worked in a steel factory. Mostly set in a bar in Reading, Pennsylvania, the group recalls their time working together. The production, which runs approximately two hours and 30 minutes, shifts back and forth between 2000 and 2008 while exploring themes of friendship and economic hardships through the stories of working-class people laid off during the deindustrialization of their city.

"The two main characters, Cynthia and Tracey, have been friends for 25 years plus, and the script itself explores who they are now and what they've been," said Kimberly Ridgeway, who plays Cynthia in "Sweat."

Ridgeway added that there's complexities in the relationships between the main characters and their exploration of loyalty to their friendship versus professional progress

in a time of economic hardship in the 2008 housing crisis and recession.

"There's so many layers to the story itself and also to each one of these characters and the journey each one of them take," Ridgeway said. "Whether it be something positive or negative. Most of them end up in not a place in their lives that they had planned to be."

ShawnJ West, the director of "Sweat," said he's trying to bring out the realism of Nottage's script. West said he was chosen to direct the show when Patrick Klein, Palo Alto Players' artistic director, reached out after seeing his previous work on the one-man show "Aren't You...?" performed by Fred Pitts.

"I always go for authenticity and relationships and realism," West said. "The setting is real. The people are real, their conflict is real, and their situation is real. So, I approach it from my perspective as a Black man in America, and how some of the experiences that I've had inform how I direct some things and how I want characters to interact."

West added that authenticity is in Nottage's writing. During the rehearsal process, he and the actors had to excavate the author's meaning to bring the production to life.

"There's the written word and there's also what is between the lines on the page,"



COURTESY OF SCOTT LASKY

From left, Tracey (Amy Meyers) and Cynthia (Kimberly Ridgeway) in "Sweat," the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Lynn Nottage that tells the story of a group of friends who have spent their lives sharing drinks, secrets and laughs while working together on the factory floor in industrial Pennsylvania.

West said. "Those are the parts that I really love. It doesn't always just mean one thing. Often one line can have so many meanings and so many layers."

West wants the audience to come to the show and experience his and the actors' approach to the material.

"I want people to experience it, as opposed to observing it," West said. "I want them to feel some semblance of what they've gone through, someone else has gone through, or it's something that is new to them. But they're experiencing it in a way that helps them open themselves up."

Performances of "Sweat" are set for 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays through June, along with 2 p.m. Saturday, June 21, at the Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road. After Friday's pick-your-price preview, tickets are \$20-\$63. Due to adult content, the play isn't recommended for children.

For tickets and more information visit [paplayers.org](http://paplayers.org), 22.



COURTESY OF SCOTT LASKY

From left, Stan (Scott Solomon) and Oscar (Aaron Edejer) in "Sweat." The play is expected to run until June 29.



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# Schools

## Local LGBTQ+ students get new state protections this year

By Brandon Roth  
Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

While Pride Month celebrates the contributions and civil rights of the LGBTQ+ community, many young people continue to face backlash for being themselves because of fears their school environment isn't safe or able to provide them with the support they need.

Nationally, LGBTQ+ students are also facing discrimination. U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon declared last week that the administration will call June "Title IX" month, stating that this month will highlight the equal rights of women. McMahon said that the support is based on the protection of women in single-sex spaces from trans women.

But local school districts including the Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District show their commitment to LGBTQ+ awareness by providing resources including various specialists, help lines and safe spaces on gender identity and access.

Esmeralda Ortiz, the Moun-

tain View Los Altos Union School District Board of Trustees president, said in an email to the Town Crier that the district has many LGBTQ+ clubs and access to trained counselors who are "knowledgeable in LGBTQ+ issues." She said the district on May 19 passed a resolution to proclaim June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Pride Month. The board said they will commit to flying the rainbow flag as their way to support their students throughout June, adopt a curriculum that is accurate with the LGBTQ+ community and to address the harassment and physical violence that they still experience. She said it is the goal of the board to celebrate the diversity within the district and offer students a supportive background where they are seen and respected throughout their educational journey.

"One of the initiatives I'm most proud of is our district's focus on wellness in recent years," she said. "It is great to offer our students wellness centers at our comprehensive high schools and additional outlets like the Spartan Pause and Ea-



COURTESY OF SIMON PENNINGTON

Although our national institutions are obstructing the recognition of the LGBTQ+ community, state and local resources are creating policies and innovative resources to protect the rights, security and sense of belonging for the community. Most recently, Foothill College opened its new PRIDE Center to address the community's feeling of disconnection to the campus.

gle Escape activities to express themselves. This not only empowers the students to prioritize their well-being, but it also sends a strong message that everyone has a voice and a place in

our community."

MVLA's Gender Identity policy (BP5157) ensures that students have a "safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment" while also protect-

ing the equal opportunities of transgender people and gender-diverse students. It also ensures "corrective action" against

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## Kiwanis Scholarship luncheon awards community-driven students

By Brandon Roth  
Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

Every year, the Los Altos Kiwanis Club celebrates the merits and accomplishments of local students and honors them with scholarships based on how they will use their higher education degrees to make positive changes in their local community.

On June 10, the club held its annual scholarship luncheon at Don Giovanni in Mountain View with more than 12 student recipients. It was an intimate ceremony where students, family members, friends and Kiwanis members socialized with one another. Students discussed the many career paths they are interested in working in such as becoming a teacher or working in medicine and were called up one at a time to receive their certificate.

Robert Henely, the Los Al-

tos Kiwanis scholarship chair, said this year they had more than 113 applicants across the various school sites. He said each scholarship is approximately \$2,500, which will contribute to four of the students attending community colleges and the other eight are going to four-year universities.

He said the qualifications for the scholarship are based on one's accomplishments, desire and academic history. They are also ranked and chosen based on their family's income, their involvement with the Key Club and the Scouts or if they mentioned they wanted to do an essential service career.

"Most of our recipients this year were from Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District," he said. "The one exception is that we're giving one to a Pinewood School student. Otherwise, it's open to any of the



BRANDON ROTH/TOWN CRIER

The 2025 Kiwanis' Scholarship recipients pictured are back row from left, Melissa Leon, Gloria Vazquez, Yocelin Cristal Rojas, Eveana Gonzalez Ruiz, Isabella Moreno Bravo, Pedro Aladaco Amaya. Front row to left are Meera Mathew, Cintia Galicia De Dios and Araceli Villatoro-Bautista. Recipients not shown are Elsa Pecora, Osvaldo Valenzuela and Ana Mauro Perez.

schools in the area."

Pedro Aladaco Amaya, a Pinewood School gradu-

ate who will be moving to Connecticut for college for a pre-medicine track, said

that he has spent the last year

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# Schools

## RESOURCES

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alleged discrimination or harassment.

She said some areas the district can work on are supporting the mental health and wellness of all students through peer counseling, providing more access to mental health professionals, or programs designed to build resilience in students who face social or emotional challenges. She said LGBTQ+ students face more mental health concerns – such as anxiety and depression – due to their feelings of being marginalized or misunderstood.

“I think it’s important to recognize that many LGBTQ+ students still experience insecurity due to ongoing societal stigma, bullying or a lack of understanding in certain parts of the community,” she said. “While we’re proud of the progress we’ve made, we also know there’s work to be done in creating a truly supportive environment for all. We want to continue educating students, teachers and staff about gender identity and sexual orientation to reduce ignorance, bias and

prejudice.”

After the implementation of the Support Academic Futures and Equality for Today’s Youth Act, Assembly Bill 1955, signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom last July and implemented on Jan. 1, schools are required to uphold LGBTQ+ protections. It also requires local education authorities to crack down on discrimination against transgender youth.

The act describes that school districts should not forcibly “out” students of their identities or sexuality, requiring schools to create policies to establish their resources and support for students and protecting employees from their support of a student’s sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

In the last two years, Foothill College has also been preparing to address the needs of LGBTQ+ students post-pandemic through its new Pride Center. The center opened six months ago, but it held its grand opening on June 4. The center was previously a conference room that was repurposed and remodeled as a social space for students and administrators to

learn from each other.

Laura Scolari, the vice president of student services at Foothill College, said they sent out a couple of surveys and learned from LGBTQ+ students who felt a lack of belonging on campus. She said it was clear that they did not feel comfortable and it was important for them to have a safe space where students could express their identities and explore various options of support if they were nervous about coming out or facing backlash from their families. It also allows allies to express their support and learn about the community.

“We focus on, especially now, to be bold and brave,” she said. “We are communicating to our college community, to say that this is a time to recognize that there are differing opinions at every place. We want to embrace the fact that colleges and universities are places for expression of all the different various views and so we keep that in mind often.”

She said the campus is doubling down on the “disproportionately impacted communities” that are affected by the rhetoric of the presidential ad-

ministration and will continue to promote freedom of speech and expression for all students. She said many students’ basic human rights are being impacted and many of them deserve to be seen and heard.

“We want to normalize that a Pride Center exists on campus, and normalize that this community is not only accepted but embraced at our

college,” she said. “In California, in addition to all the sort of things that are happening from the federal government, now, what I’m seeing mostly is that folks are, you know, speaking up as best they can to show their support for all the various communities that are being impacted negatively by the executive orders by the administration.”

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## KIWANIS

From Page 16

working in various medical programs and spent three weeks last summer at the University of Texas at Austin at a medical internship. He said that he would like to go into family medicine. Taking care of his sibling prompted his desire to practice medicine.

“I’m first generation, so my parents didn’t go to college, but they’re super supportive through all my decisions,” he said. “I’m moving to Connecticut soon and leaving them, but they are still supporting me. My mom’s super nervous, but I’m excited and I am looking forward to being on my own, figuring out what works well for me.”

Cintia Galicia De Dios, a Los Altos High School graduate, will be attending the University of California Merced to become a teacher. She found out about the scholarship through her school’s

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) tutor program where she taught student of minority, rural and low-income backgrounds to be interested in learning and ask questions.

Araceli Villatoro-Bautista, Cintia’s friend from AVID and a fellow scholarship recipient, added that working in the tutoring center helped her support English language development students. She hopes to continue her appreciation for supporting her community by studying kinesiology at California State University, Fullerton. She hopes to work in the nursing and occupational therapy fields.

“In AVID, we did a lot of career research,” Villatoro-Bautista said. “I think throughout high school, I always wanted to do something different, and I was never really sure, until senior year, that I had to pick something now. I realized that I always wanted to help people and I felt like

the best way I can do that is through rehabilitation services.”

Gloria Vazquez Mendoza, a Mountain View High School graduate, said that she was active with the tutoring program which inspired her to look at different career paths. She has a strong interest in graphic design and even took courses in digital media and design courses at Freestyle Academy. Despite her interest in the arts, she wants to work in the healthcare industry and become a speech-language pathologist.

“I want to be a part of my community, put myself more out there and bring out my confidence,” she said. “I want to become a leader and I think that my skills will show a lot more once I grow into my career in the future.”

To learn about Los Altos Kiwanis, how to donate to the club’s scholarship program or volunteer, visit [losaltoskiwanis.org](http://losaltoskiwanis.org).



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Brandon Roth at [brandonr@latc.com](mailto:brandonr@latc.com).

# Sports

## CIF recognizes St. Francis runner for leadership and sportsmanship

By Amelia Yuan  
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Honored for his sportsmanship and leadership, St. Francis High School senior Riley Clarke was recently named a fall recipient of the California Interscholastic Federation Spirit of Sport Award.

The Mountain View resident joined five other winners of the statewide award, handed out annually by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF).

“When I heard that I received the award, I think I was just maybe a little in shock, but just proud that I was able to represent our community and show the impact of St. Francis cross-country and how strong our family is within that team on the state level,” Clarke said.

Clarke serves as captain of the cross-country team in the fall and runs distance in track and field in the spring.

According to Rebecca Brutlag, CIF director of media, the CIF Spirit of Sport Award

recognizes student-athletes for their sportsmanship and school leadership, regardless of their athletic ability.

When considering applicants, the CIF looks out for student athletes who are “positive role models within their schools and their community at large,” Brutlag said. The winners demonstrate they “have integrity, fairness, character, respect, good sportsmanship, and they’ve learned from being part of education-based athletics,” she added.

Clarke and the other winners will each receive a \$2,500 scholarship for college. They were recognized at a luncheon last month in Oakland.

Every school in the CIF, which governs the state’s high school sports, can nominate a male and female athlete each season for the award, according to Brutlag. Clarke said Matt Maguire, St. Francis’ interim director of athletics, recommended him for the award.

Clarke said he started cross-

country his freshman year “mainly as a way just to meet some people going into high school.” He made varsity as a sophomore and then joined the track team that spring.

As the youngest member of the varsity cross-country team that year, Clarke said he embarked on his journey to becoming a leader.

“I got to know a lot of the juniors and seniors on the team who became close mentors to me and were really like team leaders that I looked up to,” he said.

Philip Pompei, Clarke’s cross-country coach, characterized him as someone who “leads by example.”

“People really look up to him,” Pompei said. “He’s really found his routine and has had a lot of success, and so that just sort of breeds success and confidence around him. When people see Riley doing his thing, they step up and shape up in order to follow suit.”

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COURTESY OF RILEY CLARKE

St. Francis runner Riley Clarke during a meet this cross country season. Clarke recently won the CIF Spirit of Sport award given for sportsmanship and leadership.

## Royals win the Little League Minors AAA division championship



COURTESY OF LORI MCKINNEY

The Royals, above, won the Los Altos Little League Minors AAA division championship game May 27 over the Phillies by a score of 10-4. Back row from left: coach Brian Rieben, coach Jeff Chung, manager Ashton Grewal, coach Sunil Poonen. Middle row: Micah Poonen, Jack Kersey, Zeke Rieben, Ford Grewal, Jake Tarr, Veer Bhatia, Connor Chung and Matthew Mendizabal. Front Row: Rob Sobota, Jackson Paff, Max Hanken and Tyler Zwijsen.



COURTESY OF LORI MCKINNEY

The Phillies team was the runner up in the Los Altos Little League Minors AAA division championship game. Back row from left: Joseph Lee, Lincoln Afarian, Miles Gomez, Grayson French, Matthew Chen, Owen McCoy and Brody Marshall. Front row: coach Mark McCoy, team parent Melissa French, Edison Gomez, Brandon Nguyen, Ziggy Van Buer, Will Wu and manager Herb Marshall.

# Sports

## Padres win Los Altos Little League Majors division title



COURTESY OF LORI MCKINNEY

The Padres won the Los Altos Little League Majors division championship game May 17 by a score of 6-2 over the Phillies. Front row from left: Liam Goodger, Quinlan Schlough, Joey Cannon, Colten Yonekura, Ethan Hsieh, Rocco Cappellazzo, Anthony Sgroi, Freddy Wilms, Yuta Koseki and Hugo Namiki. Second row: Nolan Chang, Brendan Vernal, Cooper Wu, Conor Kuykendall, Dylan Lee, Derek Galensky, Ojas Pathak, Colton Siebel and Vihaan Anand. Third row: coach HJ Kim, coach Glen Yonekura, (player) Zane Bernhardt, coach Bill Schlough, manager Gary Galensky, (player) Colin Kim, manager Dean Cappellazzo, coach Mike Sgroi, coach Brian McDermott and coach Jerome Lee.

## CIF

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Although cross-country may seem like an individual sport, Clarke said his experience on the team has been filled with close bonding and teamwork.

“We’re out there running sometimes up to 50 miles a week with each other, and you’re racing at your physical max with each other, and ... you naturally bond in that way,” he said. “I found such a close-knit family within the cross-country program that we’re all out there sacrificing for each other to see the team progress, and there’s just so much support on the team and excitement about how we can move forward together.”

Pompei noted that Clarke’s commitment to the sport stands out on the team.

“We really see that commit-

ment in the summertime and the wintertime, when we’re technically in the off season,” Pompei said. “Riley is one of the guys who is there on the hottest days, on the rainiest, grossest days, getting his work in, showing up on time, taking care of business, checking in on teammates, and that type of consistency is rarer and rarer these days, especially in high school boys.”

Throughout his four years on the cross-country team, Clarke has grown to realize that growth isn’t based solely on improving with each race.

“I’ve learned that progress doesn’t have to mean running faster or beating someone else,” he said, “but it can be more about how I grow as a person and how I can help the team grow, and just being able to find that drive within myself to work hard, to learn, to inspire others to work hard, bringing younger teammates

along with me who are able to develop into faster runners.”

Clarke has also demonstrated leadership beyond athletics at St. Francis. He is the Associated Student Body Spirit Commissioner and co-director of TEDxSaintFrancisHS. In addition, he is involved with the Athletic Directors Council, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Pride Student Union Board, the Affinity Council and the Saint Francis President’s Circle.

Clarke said his experience as an athlete has helped shape his ability to lead in those other roles.

“It’s mostly learning to be tough and willing to pivot,” he said. “No matter if it’s in sports or in different extracurricular activities, not everything ever goes (according) to plan. So, I think we all kind of balance each other, and I learn how to like, take a hit, get back up again and find a new solution.”

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

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## Your Health

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**INSIDE**  
Puzzles  
Business & Real Estate  
Datebook

## LAHS grad stresses importance of bone marrow donation

By Dorie Xie  
Town Crier Editorial Intern

After receiving a high-risk bone marrow transplant last year and still on the road to recovery from leukemia, Los Altos High School graduate Rohan Maghrajh is now raising awareness for bone marrow donation and representation in healthcare.

“I’m working with the Leukemia Lymphoma Society and volunteering at Stanford Hospital, raising awareness about equity issues within healthcare and about donating to the National Bone Marrow Registry,” the Mountain View resident said. “All you would have to do is a cheek swab, and you really could be saving someone’s life just by donating your blood.”

Maghrajh was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in December 2023, just before his 28th birthday. The 2014 LAHS grad had visited his doctor for a routine health checkup to prepare for the holidays but was called back with a diagnosis that changed his life.

“Her voice was so much more stern than it was an hour ago in the office, where we



From left, Rohan Maghrajh’s father, Suresh Maghrajh, mother, Reema Maghrajh, Rohan, and his sister Pryanka Maghrajh, smile as Rohan receives treatment at Stanford Hospital.

COURTESY OF ROHAN MAGHRAJH

were talking about the holiday jokes, and we were very cheerful,” Maghrajh said of his visit to the Palo Alto Medical Foundation. “So, I did go to Stanford Hospital, and I was diagnosed with AML, an aggressive blood cancer.”

As a patient with South African Indian roots, Maghrajh

struggled to find a bone marrow match on the National Bone Marrow Registry.

At first, Maghrajh said he and his doctors considered transplanting a mismatch – an almost-match – since he reached a remission in January 2024, meaning the cancer was undetectable. But while wait-

ing for that match to work, he relapsed.

“Had I been a different race, then I would not have relapsed,” Maghrajh said. “While waiting for a donor, I essentially missed my window. So, my doctors decided that I would go through a last-ditch effort called a cord blood transplant.

This is typically used for people of color without a full match, with a donated umbilical cord.”

Maghrajh underwent the procedure in July 2024, requiring total body radiation and extra chemotherapy.

“Rohan is incredibly resilient – he conquered a difficult leukemia and a tough transplant,” said Dr. Lori Muffly, Maghrajh’s transplant surgeon at Stanford. “He and his family were incredible, and thanks to science, we are doing better than ever with curing cancer.”

Throughout his treatment and recovery, he was surrounded by friends and family.

“It was a much harder treatment process, and fortunately, I survived,” Maghrajh said. “I had so much support from my old friends from LAHS and my community, and even some of my old teachers from elementary school came to visit me.”

Those friends included LAHS classmate Jennifer Dexter, who flew from the Midwest to visit Maghrajh in the hospital.

“Rohan has been my best friend since fifth grade, and I consider his family my own,” Dexter said. “So when Rohan

See AWARENESS, Page 22

## Self-care is the antidote for burnout many are looking for

By Susie Driscoll

How many times do we hear people say, “You’re working too hard. You need to slow down and take care of yourself?”

But taking care of ourselves can feel nearly impossible. In modern society, “grind culture” is pervasive and workplaces and schools often emphasize productivity over a healthy life balance. Some people work two or three jobs to afford basic necessities. When you are trying to survive, taking a break often feels like a luxury you can’t afford.

However, not taking breaks

can create consequences.

When people work hard without enough rest, it leads to burnout, which the Canada-based Centre for Addiction and Mental Health defines as “a state of emotional, physical and mental exhaustion caused by excessive and prolonged stress.” Burnout is correlated with a lower quality of life, insomnia, cardiovascular disease and diabetes, according to a scholarly article (Khammissa et al., 2022).

Burnout can happen to anyone at any time. I’ve had clients in their 20s whose hair fell out. I’ve seen people work 14 days in a row before taking time off

### Authentically You

to recover from illness because stress weakened their immune system. It’s no surprise that high schoolers who are doing sports, internships and trying to get straight As in honors and AP classes are also burning out.

Fortunately, there are methods for managing and preventing burnout. One of the most effective methods is self-care. Many people associate self-care with bubble baths and skin-

care regimens. Others imagine procrastinating and shirking responsibilities. But self-care is not limited to spa days, nor is it irresponsibility.

Self-care is an ongoing practice of doing things that restore energy, promote health and manage stress. There are five types of self-care: physical, psychological/emotional, educational/occupational, religious/spiritual and social self-care.

Physical self-care is taking care of the body, including exercising, eating a healthy diet and visiting the doctor. Psychological self-care involves activities that take care of

someone’s mental health like journaling or receiving therapy. Educational/occupational self-care means taking regular breaks, or doing projects that are interesting and rewarding at work or in school. Religious or spiritual self-care feeds the soul, which can look different for each person. For some, that might mean attending religious services. For others, it might look like meditating, listening to music or being out in nature. Lastly, social self-care refers to devoting time to important relationships, like spending time with friends or having a

See SELF-CARE, Page 22

# Your Health

## AWARENESS

From Page 21

told me what was going on, it hit very close to home. I knew I would be there for him, just like he was there for my dad and me during uncertain times.”

Growing up in Los Altos and Mountain View, Maghrajh attended Bubbs Elementary School, Graham Middle School and LAHS. Since many of his middle school friends attended Mountain View High School, he wasn't always sure where he fit in at Los Altos.

“It was a little difficult because a lot of my friends went to Mountain View, and I had to make a lot of new friends,” Maghrajh said. “I felt very outcasted.”

But former LAHS Principal Wynne Satterwhite helped him make the most of his time there.

“I spent a lot of time in Satterwhite's office talking about what my future would look like and how high school is really difficult,” Maghrajh said. “And she gave me some really good advice: Making every moment count, because later in life, I would look back and maybe regret not enjoying my prom and homecoming, or not playing a sport.”

As a result, art became one of his lifelines in high school.



COURTESY OF ROHAN MAGHRAJH

**Rohan Maghrajh stands with Dr. Tian Zhang, his hematologist at Stanford.**

“Rohan stood out in AP Studio Art for his creativity, openness and quiet strength,” said Christine An, Maghrajh's art teacher at LAHS. “His work often reflected a deep appreciation for nature, and he was the kind of student who lifted others – empathetic, funny and genuine. It means a lot to know that art and the friendships he built here supported him through his leukemia journey.”

After graduating from LAHS, Maghrajh studied communications at Foothill College and transferred to UC Berkeley to finish his bachelor's degree. After working for a few years, he attended graduate school at the University of Southern California and earned his master's degree in 2022.

“I wanted to make a difference with my communication, because that is the pillar

of business,” Maghrajh said.

Now, instead of using his communication skills in e-commerce and operations like many years ago, Maghrajh communicates to the community about the importance of bone marrow donation. From giving speeches at local hospitals to partnering with national organizations to encourage local involvement, he encourages everybody to give if they're able to do so.

“I already have support from Stanford Hospital, because they went through cutting-edge treatment to save my life, along with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society,” Maghrajh said. “And we just really need people to really join the National Registry, because we are so underrepresented, specifically us people of color.”

In December, Maghrajh attended his 10-year LAHS reunion. Although he was hesitant to share his story, he felt it was too important to omit.

“I wasn't sure how to present myself – do I tell people that this happened to me and what would the judgment be?” Maghrajh said. “But I decided to share the story and to really advocate for the inequalities in healthcare, because ultimately, everyone should have equity when they get sick and have the dignity to have equal access to healthcare.”

## SELF-CARE

From Page 21

date night.

A healthy balance of the five types of self-care can help manage burnout and promote mental health. However, it is not necessary to do every type of self-care daily. Instead, I recommend prioritizing one to two types of self-care per day.

When I explain self-care to clients, a common response I receive is, “I don't have time.” To this, I respond in a likely annoying but genuine way – “so then make time.” When clients have the least amount of time is when they need self-care the most. But self-care does not have to take long. Someone can take a hot shower for 10 minutes or do a five-minute meditation in the car before starting work. Often, people free up their schedule and become more productive by doing self-care because they minimize time wasted on being preoccupied or paralyzed by stress.

So consider your self-care practice. How well do you take care of yourself? We do a service to ourselves and others around us when we are refreshed and present. Developing better habits takes time and practice but can make quite the difference.

*Susie Driscoll, LMFT, is a licensed psychotherapist. For information on her practice, email [susie@kindwithincounseling.com](mailto:susie@kindwithincounseling.com).*

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# Puzzles Page

## Town Crier Crossword

By Myles Mellor

### Across

1. Halt in one's tracks
5. African caffeine-containing nut
9. Baseball game official, abbr.
12. Hawaiian island
13. Reference footnote abbreviation
14. Actress Long of "Boyz n the Hood"
15. Messy food waste
16. Eggs breakfast dish
18. Pleasantly plump
20. Autumn month, abbr.
21. Pub beverage
22. Holiday drinks with eggs
25. Breakfast appliance
29. Spiced rice dish
- 30. Controversial transportation in Los Altos**
- 31. Downtown tours of these held monthly**
32. Cultural customs
33. Northern lights displays
34. Animal skin
35. GPS offering, abbr.
36. Winter coat

38. Sicilian volcano, 2 words
42. Cheerful friendliness
45. Canvas painting mediums
47. Miracle response
48. Poetic "never"
49. Busy working, 2 words
50. Last year's jr.
51. Cheeky backtalk
52. Former Russian ruler

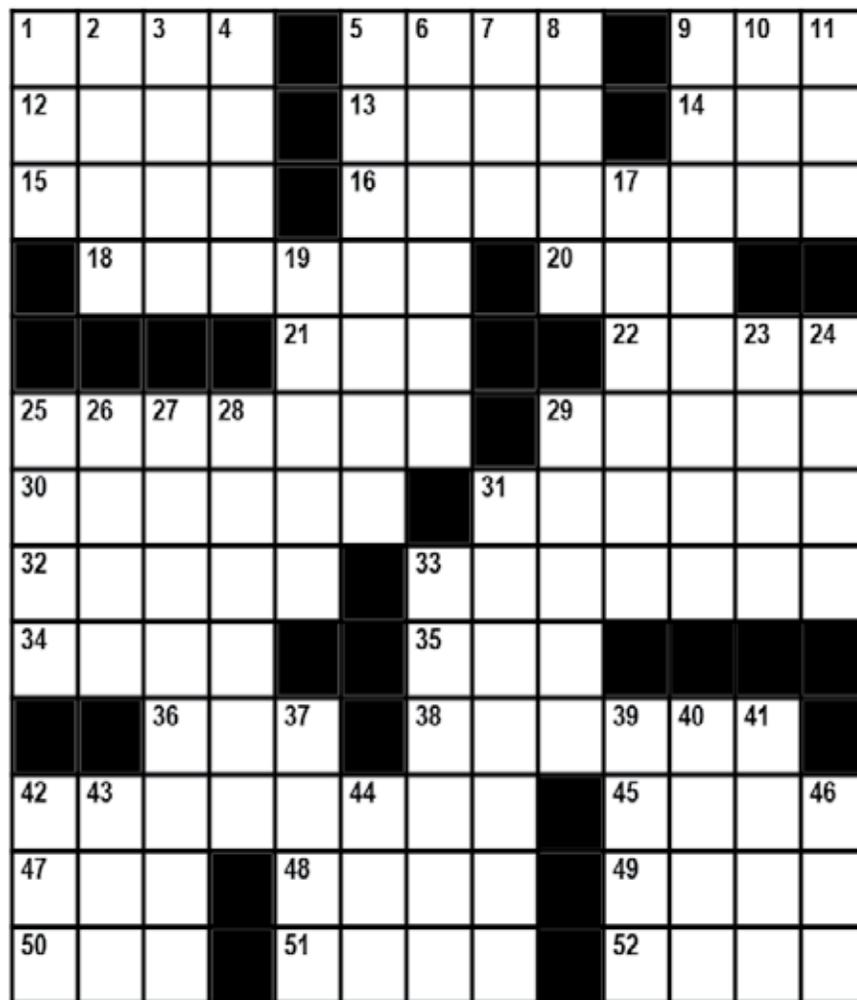
### Down

1. Distress signal
2. Baby's bottom reliever
3. Cry of excitement, 2 words
4. Hawaiian appetizer platter
5. Dry pet food bits
6. One who follows commands
7. Playwright Miranda of "Hamilton"
8. Fruit drinks, for short
9. DC electric generator type
10. Sound amplifier, abbr.
11. Gentle tap
17. Co-star in "The Good

- Shepherd" (last name)
19. Oscar winner, Kathy
23. Fancy celebration
24. Figure out, informally
25. Short-term worker, abbr.
26. Woodwind instrument
27. Commercial flying vehicle
28. Quick drawing
29. Blended food mixture
31. Speaks indistinctly
33. Military forces
37. Extremely long periods
39. Perfectly, 3 words
40. Eggs of a parasite
41. Inter \_\_\_\_ (Latin phrase for among other things)
42. Degrees, abbr.
43. Possess
44. "\_\_\_\_ culpa" (my fault)
46. Bering, e.g.: abbr.

- Los Altos clues bolded

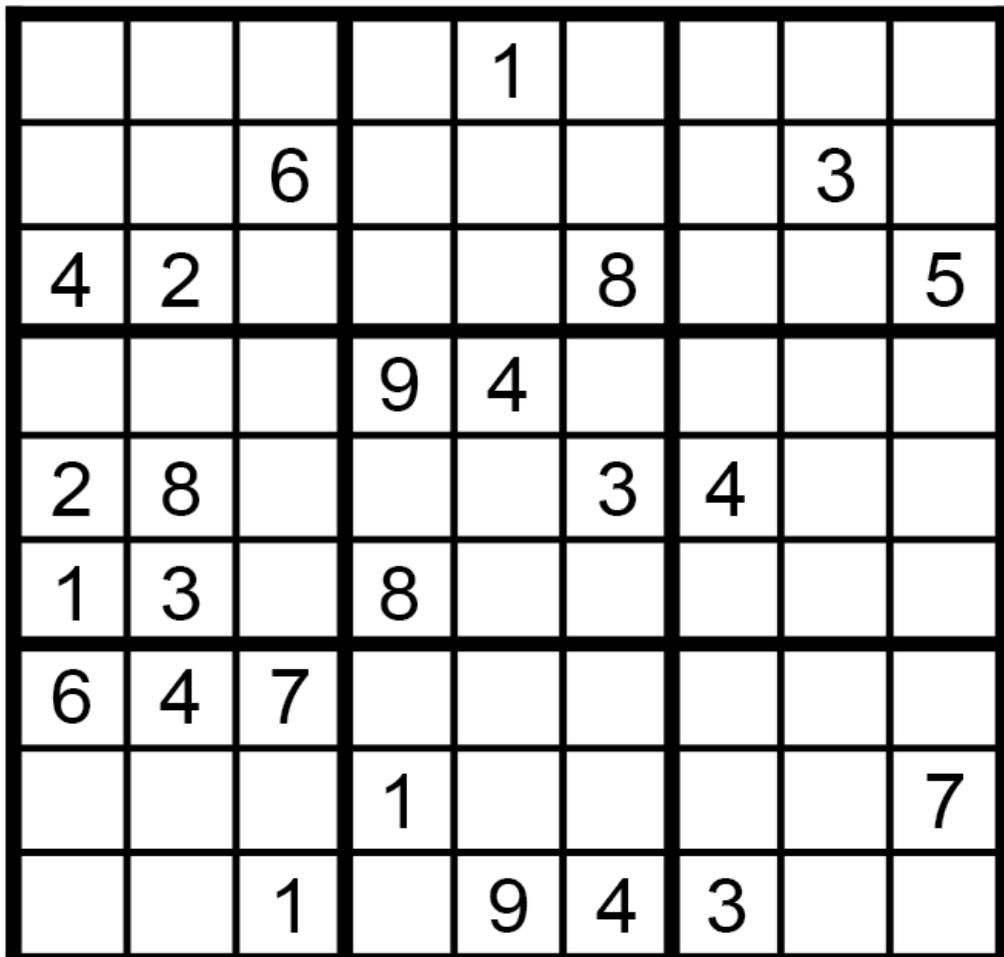
**Answers on Page 34**



## Sudoku

By Myles Mellor and Susan Flanagan

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9X9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3X3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult. Level: Medium



## Find A Word



Fifteen big birds are listed by this puzzle. They may go across, up and down or diagonally in the puzzle. Circle each one when you find it.

- |           |          |           |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Albatross | Egret    | Penguin   |
| Bustard   | Flamingo | Rhea      |
| Cassowary | Goose    | Spoonbill |
| Condor    | Ostrich  | Turkey    |
| Crane     | Pelican  | Vulture   |

# Business & Real Estate

## Right On! Refillery merges with local shop Ethos

Businesses are 'learning from each other's successes'

By Christina Casillas

Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Emily Ting, owner and founder of Los Altos-based Right On! Refillery, opened the low-waste lifestyle shop a few years after she visited Capitola-based Ethos, one of the first low-waste, sustainable lifestyle stores in the country.

Now, Ethos and Right On! Refillery are merging in what Ting and Ethos founder and owner Meredith Keet described as a synergetic decision to better share the low-waste lifestyle.

Right On! Refillery has made strides since its pop-up debut more than two years ago on State Street. Initially based in the former playroom of Alkalign Studios at 249 First St., the shop was small and Ting had dreams of opening in a roomier brick-and-mortar space in Los Altos. Shortly after, Right On! Refillery found a home at 300 State St.

### Too much waste

Ting's decision to open the refillery came after she realized just how much waste she and her family were creating during coronavirus pandemic shutdowns, but she saw the need for a sustainable living store in Los Altos and the surrounding areas before she decided to open her own.

When Ting visited the Ethos flagship store shortly after the pandemic began, she said the shop felt like a lifeline in the midst of her fight against waste creation. After a search led her to dead ends, she realized that there were no close refilleries or sustainable lifestyle stores. Naturally, that's when she sent Keet a direct message.

"I remember messaging Meredith and saying, 'Meredith, I really think you should open a store in Los Altos,' and Meredith saying, 'I'm really busy.'" Ting said. "I didn't even know who she was at the time. I just found her name on the website, and she said she's really busy."

Busy, because Keet had opened Ethos about a year prior and the pandemic had just started. She opened Ethos – a name she chose because it reflected the values of sustainability that the store and customers shared – shortly after she realized the gravity of the plastic waste people produce every year after traveling the world.

"It didn't matter, you know, developed, undeveloped – it just was plastic

everywhere," Keet said.

At the time, Ethos just had the location in Capitola. Since then, Ethos expanded to Los Gatos and – with the merging of Right On! Refillery – a location in Los Altos.

The busy feeling Keet felt when she opened Ethos is something many refillery owners feel, Ting said. Refillery owners from Sonoma to Morgan Hill meet up about once a month by Zoom and in person to discuss challenges, raise awareness and problem-solve, and one of the main issues many of them voice is the feeling of being too busy with day-to-day operations to fully share the importance of sustainability with their local communities.

Ting was facing those challenges while also feeling she was spread too thin while running a business and being the mother of young children.

"I also have three young kids, so owning the store for two years, I've realized I really have limited bandwidth with my family," Ting said. "So all of that kind of brought me to the point where I thought, you know, if (Keet) was interested in growing her business, maybe it would be a great way for us to kind of collaborate and that would free my time up to be able to do more things in this community and in Santa Clara County in general, related to reuse and waste reduction, and also kind of expand the whole refill concept."

And Keet was interested – the timing for a collaboration was "serendipitous," she said.

"When (Ting) approached me, it just was kind of like, right time, right place," she said. "My kids are older, graduating high school, kind of moving on. (The opportunity of) having us work together was perfect."

### Merging

Currently, bestsellers at Right On! Refillery include soaps (laundry, dish, etc.) and hair care, Ting noted. Some customers have expressed concern about their favorite products being discontinued when the full rebrand happens, and while Right On! Refillery's name may be changing, Keet said they're being diligent about what changes during the merger.

"We're trying to approach it very intentionally. We're looking at what brands we share, what our prices are, what our shared values are, are there ways that between our two shops, if we can decrease our plastic even further," Keet said. "We're not planning on just going in and like putting all the Ethos



EMILY TING/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

From Left, Meredith Keet, Ethos owner, and Emily Ting, Right On! Refillery owner, stand in the location of Right On! Refillery on State Street in Los Altos. Ethos and Right On! Refillery are merging.

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See MERGING, Page 26

## All or nothing: Navigating a finicky market

By **Nicholas French**  
Special to the Town Crier

**F**inicky. That's the best way to describe the current market climate. And it really shouldn't be a surprise – after the current presidential administration abruptly dumped outrageous global tariffs on the rest of the world only to yo-yo back and forth, sensible people are showing caution.

People are cautious, and there's a lot of fear, uncertainty and doubt. In real estate, we're still seeing strong activity – busy open houses, motivated buyers and stand-out sales. Several of my listings this year have far exceeded historical sale peaks. But remember that cautiousness I mentioned earlier? It's also showing up.

Not every home is attracting the same level of attention. Why? Buyers become less willing to compromise. If a property checks every box – location, layout and condition – they'll move fast and go all in. But if it falls short in a key area (like being on a busy street or having highway noise), buyers are walking away. It's all or nothing in this market.

In a typical market, buyers evaluate how much they're willing to compromise. Right now, most are more critical and selective. Homes with no apologies are commanding peak prices – even with higher interest rates and global uncertainty – while the others are sitting longer. And it's not due to a sudden flood of inventory – volume has remained relatively consistent over the past few years – still low by historical standards.

The good news: We live in an area that consistently has more buyers than sellers. That means we experience seller's market dynamics more often than not. But whether it's technically a buyer's or seller's market often comes down to the individual property. The key is a solid strategy.

It's important to know where you are willing to compromise and when to act. Here's what I'm hearing right now from both sides of the table.

### **Seller uncertainty**

"Is now the right time to sell?" I hear this question often, and the honest

answer is it depends. The right timing varies by client.

Some clients are ready to seize a strong market moment, while others are weighing longer-term life changes. What is recommended changes case-by-case.

Our local market does have seasonality so if you have the flexibility to time your sale strategically, we'll explore what window offers the best advantage. But even when timing isn't optional – whether due to a job relocation, life change or financial decision – there are ways to prepare your home and position it to achieve a strong outcome.

Whether you're planning well in advance or navigating a more urgent situation, having a solid plan is essential – and it starts with understanding your "why."

In our area, it's standard to vacate the home before listing it. To maximize your sale price, we typically prep, update and stage the home – so moving out is a must. That means you'll need a plan in place before listing. Ponder the following:

- Are you retiring? It's time to travel and explore where you want to go.
- Thinking about assisted living? Start touring communities.
- Hoping to stay in the area but upgrade? Bridge loans allow you to buy before you sell. Once your home is sold, there's no going back, so it's critical to explore your options and build a plan before hitting the market. I help sellers navigate all of this, so they feel confident and clear about their next steps.

"Am I buying at the right time?" Is one of the most common questions I get – and for good reason. Buying a home is the largest financial decision most people will ever make, so naturally, you want to get the timing right. The truth? There's never a perfect time for everyone, but there are always opportunities. In fact, I've seen several smart buys in just the last 30–60 days.

What makes the difference is preparation. Tour houses and dial in your must-haves and ideal location – then track the market each week so when the right home appears, you're ready to act swiftly. In this market, opportunities move fast: open house on the weekend, offers by Wednes-

day.

### **Interest rates**

Rates are higher than they were a few years ago – but they've actually come down this year and continue to hover in the 5% range. That's better than most buyers expect, and there's a chance they'll improve further before year's end. The bigger question is: what's your long-term plan? If it makes sense to buy now and refinance later, you may still come out ahead.

What about all the national uncertainty? It's true – there's a lot of macro-level noise right now, from political tension to economic shifts. But here in Silicon Valley, we tend to operate on our own track. New companies are launching, families are relocating for opportunity, and the rental market is red hot. The energy is real.

### **A finicky market**

It's easy to tell someone to make a spreadsheet of pros and cons and let reason lead the way. But the truth is, emotions almost always play a role in real estate decisions. And they should – this is your home, your future, your money.

That said, I've seen clients gain real clarity by laying out the facts first:

- Should we sell now?
- Should we make an offer on this home?
- What's our long-term plan?

The challenge comes when outside noise creeps in – headlines, hearsay or anecdotal advice from a well-meaning friend. Suddenly, what felt clear gets cloudy. But if you believe, as I do, that our local market tends to favor sellers – and that well-positioned homes and serious buyers still create strong results – then you already have the tools to spot opportunity when it shows up.

One of the first lessons I learned in real estate? Paralysis by analysis is real. Yes, make a smart, informed decision – but don't overthink yourself out of the right one.

*Nicholas French is a real estate agent based in Los Altos. He specializes in helping local families maximize their home sale outcomes through strategic preparation and market insight. For more information, visit [realtornickfrench.com](http://realtornickfrench.com).*

## MERGING

From Page 25

products in."

Ting will continue working at the location while also focusing on what she's passionate about – community outreach locally and across the county. Keet and Ting plan to be at the Los Altos location at least once a week, and staff will remain the same, in addition to the other Ethos location employees.

Keet noted there will also be things from Right On! Refillery's model that Ethos will be integrating into its own.

"We're learning from each other's successes," Keet said. "And it's just kind of melding. It's gonna make everything, everything better."

Rebranding of the location will happen sometime this summer, and a grand opening is yet to be determined.

Right On! Refillery is closed Monday, open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5p.m. Sunday.

*For more on Right On! Refillery, visit [rightonrefillery.com](http://rightonrefillery.com). For more on Ethos, visit [ethos-santacruz.com](http://ethos-santacruz.com).*

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

## IV. The Right to Maximum Exposure

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

## V. The Right to Print and Digital Visibility

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

## VI. The Right to Guided Preparation

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

## VII. The Right to Complimentary Staging

DeLeon sellers will never pay for staging – ever.

## VIII. The Right to Covered Inspections

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

## IX. The Right to Flexibility

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

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

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

---

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

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



# YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS



DeLeonRealty\_USA



300 LOWELL AVENUE  
PALO ALTO

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



850 ARROYO COURT  
PALO ALTO

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



176 ENCINAL AVENUE  
ATHERTON

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



3751 EL CENTRO STREET  
PALO ALTO

\$5,300,000 | 5 Bd | 7 Bth  
3751ElCentro.com



86 RITTENHOUSE AVE  
ATHERTON

\$4,888,000 | 5 Bd | 3 Bth  
86Rittenhouse.com



590 MILITARY WAY  
PALO ALTO

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



128 CORNELL ROAD  
MENLO PARK

\$3,988,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth  
128Cornell.com



5 OAK FOREST COURT  
PORTOLA VALLEY

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

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

Michael Repka (DRE #01854880) **650.488.7325**

中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun (DRE #01933274) **650.785.5822**

DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224 | Equal Housing Opportunity

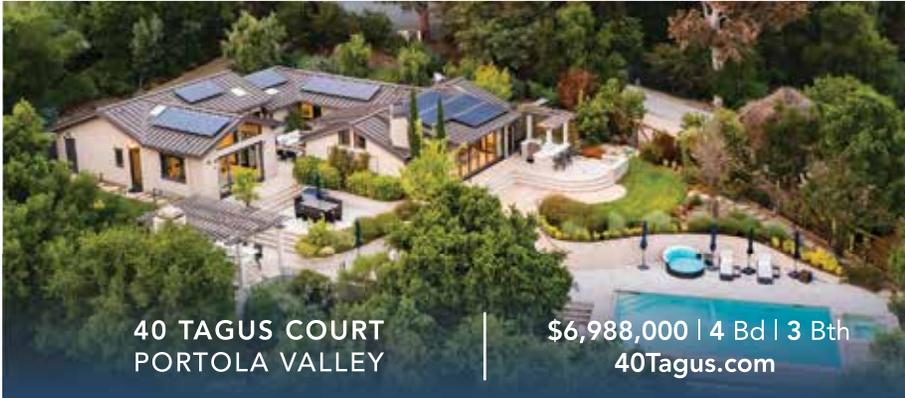




# YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS



DeLeonRealty\_USA



40 TAGUS COURT  
PORTOLA VALLEY

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



835 LA HONDA ROAD  
WOODSIDE

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



695 N CALIFORNIA AVE  
PALO ALTO

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



8 REYNA PLACE  
MENLO PARK

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



1932 EMERSON STREET  
PALO ALTO

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



1948 EDGEWOOD DRIVE  
PALO ALTO

\$3,250,000 | 5 Bd | 3 Bth  
1948Edgewood.com



2350 HARVARD STREET  
PALO ALTO

\$2,488,000 | 3 Bd | 2 Bth  
2350Harvard.com



28500 MATADERO CREEK LN  
LOS ALTOS HILLS

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



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



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



# A CENTURY OF MEMORIES ON 2+ ACRES

Built by a sea captain, later home to a Stanford physicist – a legacy of science, art, and family



**OPEN SAT & SUN, JUNE 21 & 22, 1:30 – 4:30 PM**

- Approximately 2.173 acres
- Pristine Dutch Colonial, circa early 1900s
- 6 bedrooms, office, and 3 baths
- Approximately 6,770 total square feet
- Views of the western and East Bay hills
- Just one-half mile from The Village
- Excellent Los Altos schools

## 25671 CHAPIN ROAD LOS ALTOS HILLS

Built in the early 1900s and held by one family for the past 70+ years, this beloved home has played host to renowned scientists and generations of family milestones. A rare and irreplaceable offering, original details like redwood shingles, hand-floated glass, and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century lighting – all on 2.17 acres. Timeless, storied, and steeped in Stanford legacy, this is more than a home. It's a living chapter of California history awaiting its next vision.

**Offered at \$5,500,000**

**25671Chapin.com**



## PATRICE HORVATH

Top 1% Nationally  
per *RealTrends*, 2025

M : 650.520.7675  
E : patrice@illuminateproperties.com  
W : illuminateproperties.com  
@ : illuminateproperties  
Lic : 01708418



#1  
IN LOS ALTOS/LOS ALTOS HILLS

#20  
IN CALIFORNIA

#54  
IN THE UNITED STATES

*“Thank you to my valued clients for propelling me to this milestone!”*

Per *RealTrends*, June 2025  
As an Individual Agent based on Sales Volume

650.868.7677 | Lic#01189798 | [kathybridgman.com](http://kathybridgman.com)

COMPASS

2024 Sales Shown  
\*Represented Buyer  
\*\*Represented Buyer & Seller

# Public Notices

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

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

158-T

## SHEERSARCASM FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717087

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

157-T

## NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

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

CITY OF LOS ALTOS  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY,  
CALIFORNIA

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

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

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

**3. Contract Documents:** Bids must be submitted on the City's bid forms. A copy of the plans (half-size) and specifications shall be obtained from the office of the City

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dated: June 10, 2025

/s/ Steven Son, P.E.

**Transportation Manager**  
(06-18,25-25)

156-T

## INNOVATEACH FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717069

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

155-T

## THE F1RST TAKE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717059

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: THE F1RST TAKE, 76 E Santa Clara St, San Jose, CA, 95113, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): KAFFEINEX LLC, 2469 Renfield Way, San Jose, CA 95148. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/03/2025. /S/ Celine Truong / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/10/2025. (06-18,25-25,07-02,09-25)

154-T

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

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: VERY BLESSED CHOCOLATES, 2310 Homestead Road, Ste. C1-308, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): VICTORY FINANCE INC, 2310 Homestead Road, Ste. C1-308, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/11/2018. /S/ Weihong Victoria Bracha / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 05/16/2025. (06-18,25-25,07-02,09-25)

153-T

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

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

152-T

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

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

151-T

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

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: TEQSCALE SOLUTIONS, 1400 Coleman Ave Ste C13-2, Santa Clara, CA, 95050, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): G R Enterprises Inc, 1400 Coleman Ave Ste C13-2, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Registrant began transact-

ing business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/03/2025. /S/ Gopi Chowdry Ravipati / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/03/2025. (06-11,18,25-25,07-02-25)

150-T

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

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ALTO PLASTIC SURGERY, 171 Main St, Suite 404, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Sean Hashemi, M.D. Inc, 171 Main Street, Suite 404, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Sean Hashemi / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/02/2025. (06-11,18,25-25,07-02-25)

149-T

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

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

148-T

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

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

147-T

## NOXENEMIES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN715990

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: NOXENEMIES, 4450 Alex Drive, San Jose, CA, 95130, Santa Clara County.

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

146-T

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

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED NOVEMBER 29, 2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. The property described heretofore is being sold "as is". The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor(s): BHARAT B. BEHAN Duly Appointed Trustee: Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, & Crane, LLP DEED OF TRUST Recorded on December 08, 2004 at Instrument No 18135722 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of SANTA CLARA County, California Sale Date: 7/9/2025 Sale Time: 10:00 AM Sale Location: At the Gated North Market Street entrance of the Superior Courthouse, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$248,484.72 (Estimated) Street Address or other common designation of real property: 695 WALTHAM STREET, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040. See Legal Description - Exhibit "A" attached here to and made a part hereof. LEGAL DESCRIPTION - EXHIBIT A LOT 16 OF TRACT NO. 8131, ACCORDING TO THE MAP THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD ON 19 AUGUST 1988 IN BOOK 590 OF MAPS, AT PAGE(S)

# Public Notices

23, 24, 25, 26 AND 27, SANTA CLARA COUNTY RECORDS. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDER(S): If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER(S): The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (866-684-2727) or visit the website <http://www.servicelinkasap.com>, using the file number assigned to this case 25-268768. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT(S): Effective January 1, 2021, you may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to California Civil Code Section 2924m. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48-hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (866-684-2727) or visit the website <http://www.servicelinkasap.com>, using the file number assigned to this case 25-268768 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place

a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15-days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45-days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder", you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid & Crane, LLP By: Marisol Nagata, Esq. Authorized Signatory 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Phone: 858-997-1304 SALE INFORMATION CAN [HTTP://WWW.SERVICELINKASAP.COM](http://WWW.SERVICELINKASAP.COM). PLEASE CALL (866-684-2727). BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION, The above-named trustee may be acting as a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained may be used for that purpose. CA DPFI Debt Collection License # 11461-99; NMLS ID 2591653. To the extent your original obligation was discharged or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code, this notice is for compliance and/or informational purposes only and does not constitute an attempt to collect a debt or to impose personal liability for such obligation. However, a secured party retains rights under its security instrument, including the right to foreclose its lien. A-4844130 06/11/2025, 06/18/2025, 06/25/2025 (06-11,18,25-25)

145-T

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

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

142-T

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

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

141-T

## HW ARCHITECTURE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN716380

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: HW ARCHITECTURE, 205 Rayos Del Sol Dr, San Jose, CA, 95116, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Hao Wang, 205 Rayos Del Sol Dr, San Jose, CA 95116. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/19/2025. /S/ Hao Wang / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 05/19/2025. (05-28-25,06-04,11,18-25)

138-T

## Unify Center FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN716358

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Unify Center, 765 Story Road, Ste 200, San Jose, CA, 95122, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Lisa Lam Paterson, 1230 Montclair Way, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 09/11/2003. /S/ Lisa Patterson / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 05/16/2025. (05-28-25,06-04,11,18-25)

136-T

## JAG TAX PREPARATION & BOOKKEEPING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN716229

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: JAG TAX PREPARATION & BOOKKEEPING, 900 N San Antonio Red, Suite 106, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): JAG TAX & BOOKKEEPING, INC., 900 N San Antonio Rd, Suite 106, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/01/2022. /S/ Juanita A. Gonzales / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 05/13/2025. (05-28-25,06-04,11,18-25)

135-T

## BBMCKEE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN716332

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BBMCKEE, 419 Offenbach Place, Sunnyvale, CA, 94087, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Beth Miller Bo, 419 Offenbach

Place, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 04/08/2025. /S/ Beth Miller Bo / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 05/16/2025. (05-28-25,06-04,11,18-25)

134-T

**Do you need  
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the Los Altos  
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The Town  
Crier's  
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service can  
take care of  
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Change and  
much more.**

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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 [bruceb@latc.com](mailto:bruceb@latc.com) and include a contact name, phone number and fee to participate (if applicable).*

## EVENTS

**Los Altos Main Library.** All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, unless otherwise indicated. **Monday Meditation & Mindfulness**, 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Los Altos Main Library, 7 p.m., Woodland Library, 1975 Grant Road. **Poetry Community Hour Open Mic**, 7 p.m., first Monday of every month; **Bay Area Games Day**, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., third Saturday of every month. Other events: **Sound Bath Meditation**, 7 p.m. today (June 18). Experience the melodies and tones of world instruments such as singing bowls, gongs, flutes, rattles and drums. **Wednesday Travel Nights: Death Valley Hot Spots**, 7 p.m. June 25. Join presenter John Trudeau for a photographic tour of the "hot spots" in Death Valley. Highlights include a visit to Furnace Creek, site of the hottest-ever recorded temperature on Earth, Dante's View. **No Fuss Meal Prep**, 4 p.m. June 29. A guest chef will offer practical solutions for busy individuals and families. Discover the joy of having delicious, ready-to-eat meals at your fingertips. **Indian Dance Performance by Pagrav Dance Studio**, 1 p.m. June 29. Live Indian music and dance performance by Pagrav Dance Studio, led by Purvi Jejurkar. Programs are free and open to the public. Information: (650) 948-7683, [scclld.org](http://scclld.org).

## REUNIONS

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

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

## CLUBS/GROUPS

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

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

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

**Peninsula Harmony Chorus.** A cappella chorus centered in Los Altos. Performs "doo-wop" music from the 1950s and 1960s. Rehearsals Monday evenings at 7:15 p.m. at Los Altos Lutheran Church. Information: [peninsulaharmony.org](http://peninsulaharmony.org).

## EXHIBITS

**Gallery 9 Los Altos.** "Symphony of Color & Joy" by Jan Meyer. Through June 29. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Located 143 Main St., Los Altos. Information: [gallery9losaltos.com](http://gallery9losaltos.com).

**Viewpoints Gallery.** "Explorations in Oil & Cold Wax," a new collection of paintings by Mountain View artist, Kaaren Marquez. Through June 29. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Information: [viewpointsgallery.com](http://viewpointsgallery.com).

**MADSEN LLC gallery.** Featuring summer artists through Aug. 30. Hours are noon to 3 p.m. Thursday, noon to 3 p.m. Friday (by appointment only) and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. Information: [apmadsen.com](http://apmadsen.com).



# OBITUARY NOTICE

## PAUL HAU



*February 25, 1917 – May 20, 2025*

Paul Pei-Jen Hau led a remarkable life. Books have been written about his background and his art.

Paul Hau (Hou Beiren), artist, diplomat, scholar, author and teacher, passed away at age 108 in his Los Altos home on May 20, 2025. Paul was born in Haicheng, Liaoning Province, China in 1917, moved to Hong Kong in 1949 and came to California in 1956 with his family.

After attending college in China, Paul received a full scholarship to the Imperial Kyushu University in Japan. After graduating in 1943, he fled back to China to join the war effort in Chongqing, the temporary national capital, eventually joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1946, he was elected as a legislator in the National Assembly and moved to Nanjing. He was a signer of the 1947 Chinese Constitution, a copy of which can today be seen at the Stanford Library. In the same year, Paul married Mary Zhang (Zhang Yunqin), resigned from the National Assembly, and moved with Mary to Beijing. Paul and Mary remained married for almost 80 years until her passing in 2023.

In 1949, with the fall of the nationalist government, Paul was faced with the choice between remaining in China, where he would have been welcomed into the new government, or leaving China. He chose to go to Hong Kong, with Mary following some months later. In Hong Kong, he worked as a journalist and authored textbooks to support his family which had grown to include son Louis and daughter Rose.

Life in Hong Kong was not easy, and in 1956 Paul was able

to emigrate with his family to the United States under the Far East Refugee Program and with the sponsorship of the Catholic Relief Services. Originally intending to move to St. Louis to be with relatives, Paul arrived in San Francisco and found the vibrant Chinese community to be very welcoming. After stays in San Francisco and Menlo Park, in 1961 Paul built a home for his family in Los Altos, later naming the home "Old Apricot Hall," and remained in that home for more than 60 years until his passing.

From the age of five, Paul had a strong interest in painting and calligraphy. Before the War, Paul had studied Chinese brush painting with masters Li Zhongchang and Huang Binhong and later with Zheng Shiqiao in Hong Kong. When in Chongqing, he met and exhibited with Fu Baoshi, another artist who influenced him. While his opportunities to pursue painting in China and Hong Kong were limited by the chaos of the times, coming to California opened the door for Paul to become one of the most significant Chinese artists of the second half of the twentieth century. He is viewed as one of the early practitioners of Chinese "Ink Splash Painting," as established by his friend and colleague, Zhang Daqian, while pioneering his own unique style. He spent the last six decades integrating his style with Western contemporary art influences, bridging the two countries. Amid the hardships and strife in his life, art was a constant source of comfort.

Starting in 1956, the year he arrived in the US, Paul had a series of Exhibitions in the

San Francisco Bay Area and beyond at venues including UC Berkeley, the University of Santa Clara, Villa Montalvo, and many others. Notably, in 1963 he had a solo exhibition of his work at the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco, and in 1964 at the New Orleans Art Museum. In 1980, a 25-year retrospective of his work was presented at the San Jose Art Museum. With the opening of China in 1979, Paul was able to return to the home of his birth where, in his honor, the Hou Beiren Art Museum was opened in Kunshan, China in 2004, and the Hou Beiren and Zhang Yunqin Gallery was opened at the Liaoning Museum in Shenyang, China in 2015. Both museums have significant collections of Paul's paintings and calligraphy, and the Hou Beiren Museum also displays works from Paul's donated collection of Chinese masters. Paul and Mary traveled back to China often where they were always warmly welcomed by dignitaries in the art world and beyond. Dignitaries from China would often visit them at their home in Los Altos.

While Paul has had uncountable solo and joint exhibitions of his work in the US, China, and Europe over the years, his work with local students was always very close to his heart. He taught Chinese Brush painting at the Palo Alto Art League beginning in 1956 with a fifty-year retrospective of his work in 2015. In 1979, when China and the United States established diplomatic relations, he founded the American Society for the Advancement of Chinese Arts (ASACA) with a group of his students. Paul's role in promoting cultural exchanges between China and the West is notable. He used the brush to connect the two worlds.

For 35 years, he along with his wife Mary owned the Chinese Fine Arts Gallery located in Los Altos. With his easy unassuming manner, he made friends easily locally and abroad.

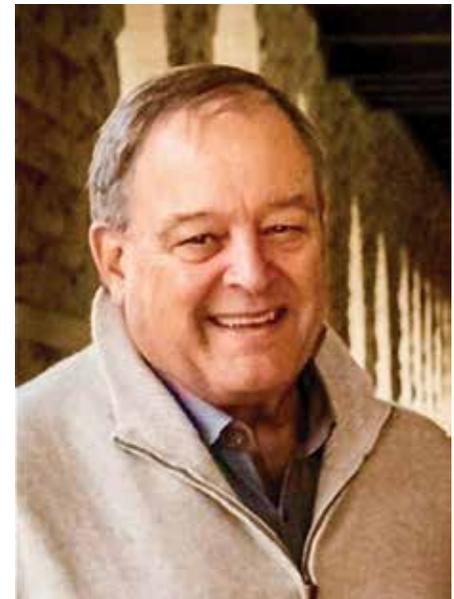
He continued to paint well into the age of 107.

Paul is survived by son Louis (Liz), daughter Rose (Jim), grandchildren Philip, (Maybelene), Alison, Sarah, and Ann, and great grandchildren Alex and Zack.

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# IN MEMORIAM

## DANIEL GERARD BRIDGES



*November 9, 1954-  
June 18, 2024*

Dan passed away suddenly, at the age of 69 on June 18, 2024, at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, CA surrounded by his loved ones.

Dan was born in San Francisco on November 9, 1954 then raised in Los Altos to his parents Edwin David Bridges and Eleanor Marie Bridges.

Dan's love for woodworking led him to open his own business, Innovative Casework, Inc., which he has successfully and passionately built up for the past 35 years. As a car enthusiast, Dan was proud of his cars he meticulously kept and restored over the years. Dan and friends created many fond memories riding their cars, visiting wineries and playing golf.

He was by nature, a family man and treasured the time spent with his family the most. He was always a generous man with the most giving heart, and we hope to continue his legacy moving forward.

Dan is survived by his loving wife of 43 years Valerie, his children Blake (Nicole), Craig and Todd. He leaves behind his grandchildren who he adored, Kainoa, Leilani and Makoa. His father, Dave; Brother Ross; sister Pamela; nieces, extended family members and lifelong friends. Dan was laid to rest on Saturday June 29, 2024 at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. He was preceded in death by his mother, Eleanor.

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