



Arts & Wine Magazine
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Los Altos Town Crier

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

Vol. 79 No.27 • 50 cents losaltosonline.com WEDNESDAY • July 8, 2026

Demolition begins on Permanente cement plant



CLARKE CONDÉ/TOWN CRIER

Heavy trucks pulling bulk cement hopper trailers move in and out of the Permanente cement plant at a brisk clip on Monday morning.

By Ava Acharya
Town Crier Staff Writer

Heidelberg Materials announced the start of demolition at the Permanente cement plant, located in Cupertino. Demolition is one aspect of a long-term plan to reclaim and restore the area's natural environment after years of pollution and damage due to mining and cement production. "As we begin the first phase in the demolition of the Permanente plant, Heidelberg Materi-

als remains focused on working collaboratively and transparently with the community and other stakeholders," said David Perkins, senior vice president of sustainability and public affairs for Heidelberg Materials North America. The cement plant was owned and operated by Heidelberg Materials, previously known as Lehigh Hanson. It officially closed its doors in 2023, although production at the plant ended in 2020. Brandenburg Industrial Service Company has been con-

tracted to conduct demolition proceedings, which will officially began during the week of June 6 and are expected to finish in 2028. Demolition will include around 40 structures that sit on 123 acres owned by Heidelberg Materials North America. In total, the company owns more than 3,500 acres in the area, spread across three jurisdictions. "We made a commitment to the county ... that the plant See DEMOLITION, Page 5

Local cities bracing for new law banning non-functional turf

By Miranda Huang
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Local city governments and agencies are making plans to comply with a 2024 state law that will soon prohibit the use of clean water for the irrigation of non-functional turf. Starting next year, those overseeing local government properties will need to demonstrate compliance with the law or face penalties of up to \$1,000 for each day a violation occurs. The law will extend to commercial, industrial and institutional properties in 2028 and homeowners associations in 2029. By 2031, government properties in disadvantaged communities will be included as well. In all instances, impacted areas include grass without practi-

cal purpose for human activity or recreation – such as ornamental grass strips along roadways and expansive lawns in corporate parks. Mountain View is in the process of developing a compliance plan that will be reviewed by the City Council later this year, according to chief communications officer Lenka Wright. In Los Altos, California Water Service will be overseeing compliance, according to Yvonne Kingman, Cal Water's director of corporate communications. She added that more information will be added to the agency's website to assist commercial, industrial and institutional water users, as well as homeowners' associations, with compliance. See TURF, Page 4

Utility rates increase in Mountain View

Giovanni Albanese, Jr.
Town Crier Staff Writer

Residents in Mountain View will notice an uptick in their utility bills after the City Council approved increasing the rates at its most recent meeting last month. The City Council in its June 23 council meeting, the final one

before going on summer hiatus, approved the bumped-up rates as part of the 2026-2027 fiscal year, which took effect July 1. Mountain View spokeswoman Lenka Wright said that the approved rates are consistent with the rate framework approved following the Proposition 218 See UTILITY, Page 7

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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Sidewalk talk

What do you like best about the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival?

Interviews and photos by Max Asmar, Town Crier Editorial Intern

This week, we met up with locals at the Los Altos Farmers' Market to ask, What do you like best about the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival?



"I buy a lot of glassware and brass jewelry, so I love finding artists there who do glasswork."
- Hetal, Los Altos



"What I love is how Los Altos comes together as a community and also the variety of the artists and novelty."
- Kristin, left, with Zach, Palo Alto



"Meeting my friends and the local community and supporting local businesses."
- Payal, right, with unidentified partner, Los Altos



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News

Los Altos, Mtn. View ramp up enforcement of Daylighting Law

By Anika Kapasi

Town Crier Editorial Intern

Since California's Daylighting Law took effect a year and a half ago, local law enforcement has pivoted from education to enforcement of legislation aimed at promoting pedestrian safety at intersections.

In an effort to make pedestrians more visible to motorists, the law prohibits parking within 20 feet of an intersection on the approach side of an unmarked or marked crosswalk. That distance is reduced to 15 feet from any crosswalk with a curb extension – whether or not there is a red curb or parking signage.

When Assembly Bill 413 took effect in 2025, Los Altos Police placed informational cards on vehicles parked too close to intersections, Sgt. Michael Taylor said in an email to the Town Crier.

No longer dispensing cards,



RACHEL ARONSON/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Los Altos Police are now enforcing the law more strictly. In 2025, the department issued 30 citations (\$54 fine), according to the department. This year, as of June 22, officers had already issued 38.

"The Los Altos Police Department has been actively en-

forcing the Daylighting Law," Taylor wrote. "We still focus on education of the law, but warnings and citations are also issued when a vehicle is found to be in violation."

Mountain View Police at first engaged in social media outreach and published rel-

evant information in the city newsletter sent semiannually to residents and businesses, wrote Elizabeth Mendez, analyst for the department, in an email to the Town Crier.

In 2025, the department issued 29 citations (\$50 fine), according to Mendez. This year, officers had issued seven as of May 31.

While many people remain unaware of the law, it is not unique to California. Forty other states had already enacted a similar law when AB 413 went into effect. California also isn't alone in not requiring red curbs or signage near these intersections.

Mountain View will not paint or mark all applicable locations because the law does not require it, according to Lenka Wright, the city's chief communications officer.

"As with practices prior to California's Daylighting Law taking effect in 2024, locations

may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if marking other red zones is necessary," Wright said via email.

Los Altos is installing red curbs on either side of the crosswalk whenever it has a capital improvement project and a pedestrian crossing is within the project limits, according to Steven Son, the city's public works manager. This exceeds the minimum requirements under the daylight law, Son wrote an email to the Town Crier.

Approximately three locations in the downtown area have been marked due to the high concentration of crosswalks and pedestrians, according to Son.

As for Los Altos Hills, the city has recorded zero citations since 2025 (\$45 fine), Lt. Shawn Flores of the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office said in an email to the Town Crier. The sheriff's office provides police services for the city.

TURF

From Page 1

"We plan to educate our affected customers over the next few months and work with them to understand the requirements and make any necessary changes to comply with the law," Kingman said in a statement.

According to Cal Water's website, properties will be required to certify adherence to the rules through a self-certification process every three years. California has not yet published a form or method of filing for self-certification.

Known as AB 1572, the law spares single-family homes and what is deemed "functional grass," which includes that at parks, public recreational spaces, sports fields, cemeteries and other regular gathering places.

Sandra Chang, the program lead for water conservation and board member of GreenTown Los Altos, a nonprofit dedicated to increasing sustainable practices in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, said the city of Los Altos needs to educate residents on the law.

"I think AB 1572 is forcing the city of Los Altos to look into its

properties, so it would be wise for us homeowners and company owners to do the same thing, because water is a resource that isn't easily replaced, and during the drought season we had to conserve water," Chang said.

According to Chang, GreenTown Los Altos encourages homeowners and industry owners to develop drought-tolerant landscapes, those that require less water through various design strategies. Although AB 1572 does not mandate development of drought-tolerant landscapes, it encourages the transition to climate-appropriate landscaping.

"For a town like Los Altos, we are mostly residential. So, are we doing enough?" Chang said. "If single-family homes could follow suit, then that would be a better route than just this city, the companies around here and the HOAs (following the regulations)."

Carol Dabb, head of the landscape committee and board member at Creekside Oaks Homeowners Association in Los Altos, said the law should be applied on an individual basis and that her HOA will likely speak to its attorney on the law's constitutionality.

"It seems that nobody knows who's going to be in charge, who's going to judge us, who's going to fine us, who's going to collect the fines," Dabb said. "It's really not a well-organized law at all."

Dabb said that over 50% of Creekside Oaks' turf has been replaced with drought tolerant plants and believes that if somebody came to investigate the property, they would consider the remaining turf functional. Even so, Dabb expressed concern over the law's implications.

"Removal of turf at Creekside Oaks would be deleterious for our home values. Our homes sell for \$3 million upwards because our homes are set in this bucolic park-like setting," Dabb said. "That's why folks want to live here."

According to Dabb, Creekside Oaks could require residents to oversee their own water usage, which would alleviate the HOA's responsibility. At the same time, Dabb acknowledged it might be difficult to get approximately 75 homeowners to agree to these provisions.

AB 1572 does not bar constituents from irrigating non-



COURTESY OF CAROL DABB

Carol Dabb is concerned that the new law may impact areas around her home like this.

functional turf with recycled water. Residents and businesses may pick up this water directly at a truck fill station using a permit obtained through the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant.

Exceptions may be granted if water is used for maintaining tree and plant health, or if ceasing irrigation poses health or safety risks to the public. Properties demonstrating unique hardship with regulation compliance

may qualify for a grace period of up to three additional years.

"As our changing climate has made droughts more frequent and severe in California, Assembly Bill 1572 is one of many steps taken by the state to help conserve water, a natural – yet limited – resource," Cal Water said in a statement.

For more information, see nonfunctionalturfca.org or read the law directly at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

News

LAH residents form nonprofit to help fund community projects

By Curtis Driscoll
Town Crier Staff Writer

Several Los Altos Hills residents have started a new nonprofit called Cherish Los Altos Hills, aimed at raising money to help address issues in town.

The 501(c)(3) organization seeks to fund projects and priorities that are important to residents and currently has a leadership team of President Rajiv Bhateja, who is also the Los Altos Hills mayor, Treasurer Allan Epstein and Secretary Dominique Grau.

"There are a lot of people that love the town, and there are a lot of affluent people in town," Bhateja said. "This is a way for them

to say, hey, I care enough about the town that I'd like to contribute to the welfare of the town."

The organization's priorities include public safety, more private security, wildlife and emergency preparedness, supporting pathways, open space and infrastructure, dealing with rodent problems, and technology modernization. Other priorities like housing are also expected to be

further discussed in the future.

Bhateja said the organization has a more narrow focus than other nonprofits like the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation, with a focus just

we may want to offer that to the city as well."

Bhateja said that in the next two years, the city is currently expecting a budget deficit, with the town already having one of the smaller budgets in the area due to a lack of retail and other taxable commercial spaces. Bhateja said the city only has an approximately \$14 million budget available.

"We have a very limited town budget, hitting our heads against that ceiling, so one of the issues is, how do we fund some of the things we want to do in town?" Bhateja said.

Because Bhateja is on the council, he would have to recuse himself from any council discussions on the organization.

Bhateja noted the organization could also help with projects that residents want to see, like improving the pathways in town.

"One of the things people say is most of the easy pathways have been built, so what's left on the pathways map is the terrain

See CHERISH, Page 6



COURTESY OF RAJIV BHATEJA

The logo of the new organization Cherish Los Altos Hills.

on the town and the well-being of the residents. Bhateja said the organization hopes to have communication with the town around ways to help financially and supplement city priorities.

"There are areas where we can, as a nonprofit, do things cheaper than the city, and there are areas where it makes no difference," Bhateja said. "Where we can do something cheaper,

DEMOLITION

From Page 1

would be permanently shut down and demolished," said Gregory Ronczka, vice president of environmental projects for Heidelberg Materials North America.

Ronczka said that demolition would not have significant negative impacts on the Permanente area. Heidelberg Materials is taking necessary precautions to ensure that demolitions are performed as safely and efficiently as possible, he added.

Ronczka said that all operations are in line with the plan Heidelberg Materials submitted in accordance with county regulations, though this plan is undergoing a revision process.

Ronczka said that these revisions would allow for the use of recycled waste from outside

construction sites in order to fill in the pit at Permanente quarry which was caused by cement production.

Joe Simitian, former county supervisor for Santa Clara County district five, said that Permanente quarry and creek restoration efforts come in response to environmental concerns and violations.

"There have been a host of issues on the site with both the quarry and the cement plant for a very long period of time now. Some deal with air quality, some deal with water quality," Simitian said.

The Permanente site was mined for limestone as early as 1902, but in 1939 production dramatically increased in order to supply cement for the Shasta Dam in Northern California. Since then, it has supplied cement for countless projects in

the Bay Area and beyond.

Simitian supervised the Cupertino area from 2013 through 2025 and dealt with issues surrounding the Permanente area throughout his tenure in office. This included recording 2,100 environmental violations.

He said that addressing the damage done by roughly a century of mining and production is an issue without a quick solution. But demolishing the cement plant is one step toward that ultimate goal, Simitian added.

"My goals were to get the plant closed, to get the quarry activity halted, and to start moving towards the restoration and reclamation of the site, understanding that that last part was a very long-term project," Simitian said.

The full reclamation and restoration plan is available at permanentequarry.com.



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Public safety a priority within Mountain View budget

By Giovanni Albanese, Jr.
Town Crier Staff Writer

Mountain View, at its most recent council meeting last month before taking a hiatus for summer break, announced the city's budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

The council approved the city's plan, which includes a general operating fund with \$207.6 million in planned revenues and \$217.7 million in expenditures.

The gap of \$10.3 million will be covered by a staff vacancy factor, according to the city report. By the end of the fiscal year, the city projects it will have a remaining operating balance of \$150,000.

The report says they've reached a budget that "reflects a continued trend of modestly positive but slowing economic conditions, driven by uncertainty in key economic indicators and limited growth in major revenue sources, including property tax,

sales tax and other local taxes."

The city's major revenues, about 81% of which come from property taxes, sales taxes, use of money and property (lease revenue) and other local taxes (business license, transient occupancy and utility users), have generally remained strong, benefiting in part from inflationary pressures and higher interest rates, the city notes in the staff report.

That said, growth has moderated and is no longer at the pace experienced in prior years. City staff says it continues to closely monitor revenues and expenditures throughout the year.

"Despite incorporating the most current available data into projections, significant uncertainty remains regarding future economic conditions," the city said in its report.

The city has agreed to dole

out roughly half of the general operating expenditure budget, 46% to be exact, to public safety. Part of that will also be used to replace fire station flooring from carpet to hard flooring, make improvements to the diesel exhaust extrication system and increase mental and physical health wellness efforts.

Separate from the budget, the council at the same meeting approved the plan for a five-year capital improvement project, broken up into three packages, that intends to renovate the police and fire administration on its current site, beginning with phase one in the fall that includes selective demolition, site preparation and utility coordination. Phase one is expected to conclude in the spring of next year, with phase two to commence in the fall of 2027 and run through

2030. The final phase will run through the summer of 2031.

Due to the nature of the project, some 40 heritage trees and 35 non-heritage trees will be removed. The Urban Forestry Board recommended council approve the staff recommendation to mitigate the removal of 40 heritage trees at a 2:1 ratio with 24-inch box trees and to substitute four Regal Prince Oaks on Villa Street with appropriate native trees. In total, by the conclusion of the project, 118 new trees will be planted on the renovated site.

This roughly \$189 million project will be funded primarily by long-term bonds (\$135 million), as well as local property transfer tax funds created through Measure G and profits generated from the city's ground lease with the Ameswell Hotel, according to the city.

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CHERISH

From Page 5

that's harder to build, where you might need a retaining wall... We might supplement something like that," Bhateja said.

Bhateja said there are several ways to contribute, like donating for a specific purpose, like the maintenance of Westwind Community Barn or a new town

facility. Another way is a general donation with no specific use, with the organization then conducting surveys of residents to gauge priorities and best use of the money. How much money the organization raises will also determine what they focus on and how much community support it gets. Bhateja said there is currently \$100,000 in donations promised so far, with contribu-

tions tax-deductible. The three volunteer organizers, who are not compensated, are also looking for a founding board for Cherish Los Altos Hills to advise on priorities and get feedback on resident priorities. Once feedback is received, the organization can plan and execute projects.

For more information, see cherishlah.org.

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Cal Water releases water quality report for Los Altos area

Town Crier Staff Report

Cal Water last week released its annual water quality report for customers, including those in Los Altos, noting that the water provided met every primary and secondary federal and state water quality standard.

“Delivering safe, clean, reliable drinking water is our top priority,” Cal Water Vice President of Water Quality Sophie James said in a news release. “We treat and test the water to meet regulatory standards and monitor emerging requirements, so customers can have confidence in the water they use every day.”

As part of the quality report for 2025, Cal Water conducted 13,657 tests on 2,040 water samples for 225 constituents and found “no significant is-

suues” in the water system. To that end, Cal Water has no recommended action items for its Los Altos customers. In 2024, Cal Water conducted 15,568 tests on 2,172 water samples for 219 constituents, meeting every primary and secondary federal and state water quality standard.

Cal Water has serviced the Los Altos Suburban area since 1931. The water is a combination of local groundwater and purchased water from Valley Water retrieved from Valley Water reservoirs and the San Joaquin-Sacramento River Delta. The Los Altos Suburban water system includes 297 miles of main, 65 booster pumps and 46 storage tanks, according to Cal Water.

The entire 2025 water quality report can be found at tinyurl.com/LosAltosWaterReport.

UTILITY

From Page 1

public hearing held in June 2024. At the time, the city approved adjustments to utility rates effective fiscal year 2024-2025 through the 2028-2029 fiscal year.

“The 2024 action established the methodology for setting utility rates,” Wright said, “while the 2026 action approved the specific rates using updated cost-of-service and financial information.”

The city had sent out a notice to residents in late May informing them of the increases in water, sewer and trash service rates, noting that “In general, the city’s rates are comparable to or lower than those of our neighboring cities.”

For water, the city noted that the rate increases are needed “to support adequate funding for water system operations and high-priority capital improvements to the city’s aging water system.”

For Fiscal Year 2026-2027, the water rates will have a roughly 5.75% increase based on the cost of service study performed during fiscal year 2023-2024 to fund

water system and capital improvement needs, according to the city’s notice.

“The weighted average increase in the wholesale cost of water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and Santa Clara Valley Water District per hundred cubic foot combined with the 2.5% February 2026 Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers in the San Francisco Metropolitan area results in an approximate 5.75% increase, or a \$0.67 increase per ccf,” the city said. “However, the pass-through increase is being reduced by 2.25% due to (the) city’s minimum water purchase requirement reduction.”

The wastewater rate increases of 6.3% are needed to fund projected operating and maintenance expenses, fund treatment expenses at the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant, meet debt service funding requirements and provide adequate funding for high-priority capital improvements, according to the city.

“The weighted average increase for the City of Palo Alto

Treatment Plant budget for fiscal year 2026-27 combined with the 2.5% February 2026 CPI for all urban consumers in the San Francisco Metropolitan area or successor index results in an approximate 7.8% increase,” the city said. “However, the pass-through increase is being reduced by 3.8% within the pass-through approved on June 25, 2024, as there is sufficient available balance in the fund.”

For trash, recycling and organic service, operated by Recology, the increase is 6.5% year-over-year. The city said rate adjustments are needed to fund projected operating and maintenance expenses, meet debt service funding requirements and provide adequate funding for high-priority capital improvements.

“In total, single-family rates are increasing 6.5%, multi-family/commercial rates are increasing 2.0%, and debris box rates are increasing 4.0%,” the city said in its notice.

The new, increased utility rates will remain through at least June 30, 2027.



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Comment

Letters to the Editor

Bothered by building

I've been out of town for a short while and when I returned, I was shocked to see the monster building at the gateway to our town. It is totally obnoxious. I know permission was granted to build it, but I can't believe anyone envisioned how inappropriate it is. I hope this isn't the beginning of the destruction of this special place we call

home. Up until now, we are so lucky Los Altos has preserved such great small-town character. I hope this isn't the beginning of the end.

Barbara Lessing
Los Altos

Editor's note: The Town Crier's publisher is a minor investor in the project mentioned.



Letters to the Editor

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

Correction

In the article "Subaru Outback Limited is boxy, rugged, Icapable" published July 1, we inadvertently published photographs of a Subaru with a different trim package than the one described. Please see latc.com to view the correct vehicle.

Peek into the past: 1988



COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

The Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival has grown from a small summer festival in 1980 to one of the largest on the Peninsula. The Peninsula Times Tribune published this photo of Sunnyvale resident Mark Bakalor entertaining the crowd with his talented juggling and sharp wit at the 1988 festival.

Our schools are well funded. Our community still has work to do.

By Crysta Krames, CEO

Los Altos Mountain View
Community Foundation

A new report from Joint Venture Silicon Valley confirms something many of us already know: our public schools are among the best funded in California. At nearly \$29,000 per student, Silicon Valley districts outpace the state and national averages, and Los Altos is one of just seven districts recognized for combining high per-pupil funding with low student poverty rates.

That's worth celebrating. But the report left me with a different question: if our schools are doing so well, why do so many important community needs still fall through the cracks?

The answer is simple: school funding was never meant to solve every chal-

lenge a community faces.

Anyone who has staffed a PTA booth or bid at a school auction knows that families across Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View show up for one another in remarkable ways. Year after year, that generosity fills gaps district budgets can't reach: field trips, art programs, classroom supplies.

But some challenges go further than any auction can reach.

School funding wasn't built to keep a beloved teacher in the classroom when their rent doubles and Sacramento starts to look affordable. That's not a failure of our schools. It's a community challenge, and community challenges require community solutions. That's why LAMVCF created the Mountain View Housing Partnership Fund, helping expand

pathways to housing stability for the people who keep our communities running.

The most important challenges don't fit neatly within a single institution's mission. Schools educate our children. Cities provide essential services. Community foundations connect generous people with practical, local solutions that might otherwise never happen.

Strong averages can co-exist with very real needs. Behind every encouraging statistic are teachers searching for affordable housing, students working toward college, and neighbors quietly helping neighbors. That's where local philanthropy does its best work: not replacing public institutions, but strengthening the community around them.

For more information, see LAMVCF.org



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The Los Altos Town Crier, ISSN 87504585, is published weekly every Wednesday by LATC Media Inc., 138 Main St., Los Altos 94022. Periodicals Postage Paid at Palo Alto, CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Los Altos Town Crier, 138 Main St., Los Altos, CA 94022. The Los Altos Town Crier is an adjudicated newspaper of general circulation for Santa Clara County: Decree No. 328150. Yearly subscription rates in advance: within county: \$70; seniors: \$60; out of county: \$80.

Community

Computer history museum wraps up 'Power On' campaign

By Ava Acharya
Town Crier Staff Writer

Last week, the Computer History Museum wrapped up its "Power On" fundraising campaign after reaching the campaign's \$100 million goal.

Museum CEO Marc Etkind said that this campaign is just the beginning. The museum still needs community support.

"We are incredibly proud of this campaign. It has allowed us to do new things," Etkind said. "On the other hand, we have a long way to go. It is challenging to run a cultural institution right now."

"Power On: Decoding the Past, Igniting the Future" launched in 2019 with the main goal of expanding and enhancing the museum's reach and

exhibits. It officially ended on June 30.

"The goal is to build the museum and ensure its health for generations to come, and the campaign has allowed us to open the museum's collection to a global audience," Etkind said.

Etkind gave special thanks to the Moore Foundation. Its donation allowed the museum to create what they call Open CHM, a digital copy of the museum's collections.

He also said that the campaign donations have allowed the museum to create several new permanent and rotating exhibits, expanding the museum's reach and educational potential.

Etkind feels that this expansion and continued education is vital as technology continues

to evolve.

"We really have the opportunity to help people navigate this really fast-moving world," Etkind said. "We are the place where people can turn to and get really trusted, authentic information."

Etkind added that understanding the past informs the present. And this understanding is crucial for current and future tech developers.

He described an instance when the owner of an up-and-coming tech hardware company brought all 60 company employees to the museum.

"He wanted his team to see the history of computing, see the challenges that people before him had faced, the places where they went wrong, the places where they went right, how they solved different prob-



COURTESY OF MARK RICHARDS

The Apple-1 computer is the first-ever personal laptop produced by Apple. This model is on display at the Computer History Museum.

lems," Etkind said. "We are the place to go to understand that past."

But the Computer History Museum is not just for adults already working in the tech

industry. Etkind said that the museum does not charge visiting school groups, in order to encourage kids to learn about

See COMPUTER, Page 13

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Simultaneous nationwide readings of the Declaration of Independence aim to capture the 'Spirit of America'

By Ava Acharya
Town Crier Staff Writer

The Los Altos chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is hosting the first-ever nationwide simultaneous reading of the Declaration of Independence.

The event, titled "Sharing the Spirit of America," will be held at 2:45 p.m. today (July 8) at Veterans Community Plaza. This date commemorates the first time that the Declaration of Independence was read aloud to the American people on July 8, 1776.

The reading will feature several local leaders reciting portions of

the Declaration of Independence aloud. These readers include Los Altos Mayor Sally Meadows and Los Altos Hills Mayor Rajiv Bhateja, alongside many other prominent community members.

This is one of many similar events across the United States. Cities in all 50 states and several U.S. territories will be hosting readings. All events will begin at the same time, adjusted for time differences.

The first time the Declaration of Independence was read aloud, the United States was much smaller, so a single reading in Boston could address most of the American public, said Ann Hep-

enstal, regent of the Los Altos chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Now, the United States is much larger so it will take several readings to create the same effect.

"We're trying to capture that spirit of the first time it's read to the public," Hepenstal said.

"Sharing the Spirit of America" was initiated by the Hawai'i America 250 commission, but on a local level the event was planned by the Los Altos Daughters of the American Revolution.

"We are organizing (this event) in the spirit of patriotism, historic

See **READING**, Page 15

Pet of the Week



COURTESY OF PETS IN NEED

Meet Raya, a one-year-old, 60-pound bundle of sweetness who is ready to go home. She lives for pets, chin scratches and showing off how nicely she sits for a treat. Her wiggly little butt is guaranteed to put a smile on your face, and her playful, silly side shines through the moment you meet her.

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Come visit her at the Pets in Need Palo Alto shelter (open daily, 12:30 to 6 p.m.) and see if she's the perfect match you've been looking for!

For more information, see petsinneed.org/pet/raya.



City of
LOS ALTOS

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

JULY 14, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.
In Person

Note- This is not the Final Agenda

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute amendment No. 1 to the ADP Workforce Now Comprehensive Services Agreement extending the agreement three (3) years with a term through April 25, 2029 and related implementation documents necessary to implement Workforce Manager services, in a form approved by the City Attorney and subject to available appropriations
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the contract renewal, totaling \$75,000 annually, for orchard maintenance with the Los Altos History Museum
3. Adoption of Resolution - Appropriation of funds as part of annexation into the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District
4. Adopt a resolution that identifies list of projects that will be funded by SB1
5. Adoption of Resolution - Weed Abatement Assessment Report

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Comprehensive General Plan Update - Draft General Plan Vision and Guiding Principles

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

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Apricot STEM Fair 2026: When kids are the stars



PHOTO BY S.M. LIEU

Kids learning about robotics at the 2026 Apricot STEM Fair.

By Neerja Raman
Los Altos resident

Supported by the Los Altos Kiwanis, powered by Explorabox, founded by longtime Los Altos resident Saroj Pathak and organized by the Los Altos History Museum, the Apricot STEM Fair 2026 drew an estimated 450 enthusiastic visitors. The fair also featured related exhibits like the living classroom, robotics, HAM radio and a book signing organized by the Los Altos Library.

The theme this year was Intelligence: Artificial and Biological. The target audience was children aged 4-10 years. About nine hands-on activity booths, designed and administered entirely by volunteers from Kiwanis and Explorabox, presented various STEM concepts.

At the Demystifying AI booth, Dr. Alka Jarvis and I had prepared five to six activities. We had no idea how it would go, but we knew we were in good company when we saw other booths with activities like: Photon Express: Have you ever wondered how a USB thumb drive or a smartphone remembers your favorite pho-

tos and games even when the battery dies? Or DNA Extraction: Have you ever wondered what a living recipe looks like?

The Demystifying AI activities were designed to support a learning arc. It began with machine learning through pattern

recognition, then transitioned to algorithmic thinking. To understand how computers require step-by-step instructions to solve complex problems, children were asked to break

See STEM, Page 14

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If you have questions regarding eligibility, feel free to e-mail
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Community

The Repair Café fixes all kinds of broken stuff

By Anika Kapasi
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Repair Café Silicon Valley will bring its services to Los Altos for the first time when it sets up shop Saturday, July 11 at the Los Altos Library. The nonprofit invites community members to bring small appliances and items in need of repair; volunteers will fix them for free.

Repair Café has volunteers experienced in repairing an array of items, including electronics, jewelry, bikes, household goods, clothing and small appliances, at monthly events across Santa Clara County.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“It’s always a shame when somebody has to throw out an item because a small part of it is broken, they just don’t know how to fix it or they don’t have the resources to fix it,” said Jon Freilich, event organizer and volunteer for Repair Café. “That’s why I love supporting these events where we can help people with these kind fixes and keep the items out of the landfill.”

Freilich said in recent months the demand has been larger than volunteers can support. Events have drawn around 130 community members and upwards of 30 volunteers.

With the high volume of items, volunteers often have to start turning people away at check-in near the end of the events, Freilich said.

He added that volunteers are able to fix 50% of items on the spot. For 15% to 20% of items, the volunteer understands the problem, but the solution requires an additional part for a complete fix.

Jesse Kornblum, another event organizer and volunteer, said Repair Café visitors range from those motivated by reuse to those who need repairs out of necessity. He highlighted a hair-stylist who recently brought in a hair dryer she depended on for work for repair.

Kornblum said one of the most unique items he has seen was a hypnosis machine. A volunteer found that it had workings similar to a fan, and was able to repair it during the event.

Common items attendees



COURTESY OF ESTEE CHENG

Juli Arnold, left, watches as volunteers Wubing Ye, center, and Tisha Liem, right, work to repair her vacuum cleaner at a Repair Café event in San Jose.

bring in, according to Kornblum, include floor lamps, coffee makers, fans, bikes, clothing that needs patches or zippers and clothing irons.

Anyone can volunteer as a fixer for these events.

“This is Silicon Valley and so we are pretty lucky that a lot of people coming through the door are very skilled in technology,” Kornblum said.

When fixers join the organization, Kornblum said they are paired with a volunteer with more experience to assess their skills and help them learn how to manage customers – making sure to not overpromise and work with others effectively.

The organization also encourages clients to ask questions of the volunteers while they work to repair the items.

“I’ve seen all walks of life – engineers, retirees, mechanics,” said Estee Cheng, volunteer and Los Altos resident. “I love that, a lot of times, old people who are retired or just (people) who are really good at fixing or tinkering things come together to help out the community.”

Cheng has been volunteering at Repair Café for the past year. Her role involves greeting clients, directing them to the right repair station and weighing items to determine how many pounds the café diverts from the landfill.

The nonprofit has a home-grown tracking system to record how many items visitors bring in, how many are repaired and how much waste is diverted from landfills, Freilich said.

Cheng said that a lot of items

that individuals decide to throw away because they do not know how to fix are actually low-cost, simple repairs.

“We end up throwing the whole thing away and that’s storing a lot of plastics, precious metals or semiprecious metals ... into the landfill,” she said. “I get very excited when I see that a small fix will now allow an item to be in use for much longer.”

Repair Café is part of a global movement that began in Amsterdam in 2009 to reduce waste, conserve resources and preserve repair knowledge.

The nonprofit also offers an apprenticeship opportunity, pairing students over 16 with experienced fixers for experience in electronics and mechanical repairs.

“It’s a mindset that (apprentices) are learning ... the mindset that no matter what this is, it’s just a machine,” Kornblum said. “You can open it up, look at the parts, figure out how they fit together and how they’re supposed to work, and then put it back into order.”

Kornblum said this fix-it mindset and work on small, everyday items translates to working on complex machines, such as cars and kitchen appliances, later on.

“I find that, so often in our culture, we just buy something, use it and toss it when it breaks,” Cheng said. “(Repair Café) gives young people a chance to learn these important skills that they could also pass on to the next generation as well.”

See CAFÉ, Page 14

Community

Red, white and blue and Thin Mints, too



COURTESY OF DANIELLA QUINONES

Junior Girl Scouts Eva F., April S. and Victoria G. from local Troop 60344 in the town of Los Altos Hills, marching in the 4th of July parade with Mayor Bhateja and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Cheers to America's 250th!



COURTESY OF MARK RICHARDS

ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator And Computer) is the first large-scale computer to run at electronic speed without being slowed by any mechanical parts. It was built between 1943-45 and is on display at the Computer History Museum.

COMPUTER

From Page 9

technology.

"That's the kind of thing that we do at the museum. We bring together generations, we bring together people of all skill levels to really help them understand this very complicated world," he said.

Now that the "Power On" campaign has ended, Etkind has big plans on how to build on this momentum and boost the museum's status as a cultural institution.

"I have very ambitious plans for the future," he said. "We are

often known as a hidden gem, and I just want to be a gem."

But Etkind said that this continued growth requires continued community support. He added that people frequently assume that the museum is funded by the Silicon Valley tech industry, but this is untrue.

"We are reliant on the generosity of our supporters and our members, and I am thankful our members and supporters have been very generous and have helped grow this museum and make it the world-class institution that it is today," he said.



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Los Altos Town Crier

County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters' Office
NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **November 3, 2026**, governing board elections will be held in the County of Santa Clara, specifically including the districts named below and the offices for which candidates may be nominated.

Pursuant to Education Code Section 5342 and Elections Code Section 10400, such elections may be either completely or partially consolidated.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES

School district candidates must reside in the respective district for which they intend to run for office and are voted on at-large or by trustee area voters.

School District Governing Board Member General Qualifications: Any person, regardless of sex, who is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the state, a resident of the school district, a registered voter, and who is not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding a civil office, is eligible to be elected or appointed a member of a governing board of a school district without further qualifications. An employee of a school district may not be sworn into office as an elected or appointed member of that school district's governing board unless and until he or she resigns as an employee. If the employee does not resign, the employment will automatically terminate upon being sworn into office. (Education Code § 35107)

County Board of Education Member General Qualifications: Any registered voter is eligible to be a member of the county board of education except the county superintendent of schools, any member of his or her staff, or any employee of a school district. Each member of the board shall be an elector of the trustee area which he or she represents and shall be elected by the electors of the trustee area. (Education Code §§ 1000, 1006(a))

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Cambrian	Three (3)	AL	FT	
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Cupertino Union	Three (3)	AL	FT	
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Los Altos	Three (3)	AL	FT	
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Mountain View Whisman	Two (2)	AL	FT	
Mt Pleasant	Three (3)	AL	FT	
North County Joint Union	Two (2)	AL	FT	San Benito
Oak Grove	Three (3)	TAs 2, 3 & 6	FT	
Orchard	Three (3)	AL	FT	
Saratoga Union	Three (3)	AL	FT	
Sunnyvale	Three (3)	TAs 1, 3 & 6	FT	
Union	Three (3)	AL	FT	
HIGH SCHOOLS				
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East Side Union	One (1) Two (2)	TA 1 TAs 2 & 4	ST FT	
Fremont Union	Three (3)	TAs 1, 3 & 4	FT	
Los Gatos-Saratoga Union	Three (3)	TAs 2, 3 & 4	FT	Santa Cruz (TAs 2 & 3 only)
Mountain View-Los Altos Union	Three (3)	TAs 1, 2 & 3	FT	
UNIFIED SCHOOLS				
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Milpitas	Three (3)	AL	FT	
Morgan Hill	Four (4)	TAs 1, 2, 3 & 4	FT	
Palo Alto	Two (2)	AL	FT	
Patterson Joint	One (1)	TA 2	FT	Stanislaus
San José	Two (2)	TAs 2 & 4	FT	
Santa Clara	Four (4)	TAs 1, 3, 4 & 6	FT	
COMMUNITY COLLEGES				
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Gavilan Joint	Two (2)	TAs 1 & 3	FT	
San José-Evergreen	Three (3)	TAs 2, 4 & 6	FT	
West Valley-Mission	Three (3)	TAs 3, 5 & 7	FT	Santa Cruz (TAs 5 & 7 only)
Yosemite	One (1)	TA 4	FT	Merced, San Joaquin & Stanislaus
BOARDS OF EDUCATION				
Santa Clara County	Three (3)	TAs 2, 6 & 7	FT	Santa Cruz (TA 2 only)
Stanislaus County	One (1)	TA 5	FT	Stanislaus

SANTA CLARA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICT OFFICES

Special district candidates must reside in the respective district/ward for which they intend to run for office and are voted on at-large or by district/ward voters.

Special District Director/Commissioner General Qualifications: Candidates must be a resident and qualified elector of the district. Unless otherwise noted below, candidacy signature requirements are subject to Elections Code Section 8082(3); candidates must also obtain and file all required nomination forms with the Office of the Registrar of Voters located at 1555 Berger Drive, Building #2, San José, CA 95112. Specific eligibility requirements for certain special districts are also listed below, in alphabetical order of special district, including the location of where to file nomination documents.

* See additional special district director qualifications below.

Cupertino Sanitary	Two (2)	AL	FT	
El Camino Healthcare	Two (2)	AL	FT	
Lion's Gate Community Services *	One (1) Two (2)	AL AL	FT ST	
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Authority *	Three (3)	Wds 1, 2 and 5	FT	San Mateo (W 5 only)
Purissima Hills Water	Two (2)	AL	FT	
Rancho Rinconada Recreation & Park	Two (2)	AL	FT	
San Martin County Water *	Two (2)	AL	FT	
Santa Clara Valley Water *	Four (4)	Ds 1, 4, 6 & 7	FT	
Saratoga Fire Protection	One (1)	AL	FT	
Silver Creek Valley Country Club GHAD *	Three (3)	AL	ST	
South Santa Clara Valley Memorial *	Two (2)	AL	FT	
West Bay Sanitary	Two (2)	AL	FT	San Mateo

Additional Special District Director Qualifications:

Lion's Gate Community Services District

A candidate for Lion's Gate Community Services District must also be a property owner in the district. You must file a form stating that you are a property owner in the district. You may obtain an example form from the Office of the Registrar of Voters.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Candidates must obtain and file all required nomination forms with the district located at 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos, CA 94022. Candidates must meet the eligibility requirements. Candidates are also required to file a Nomination Petition with a minimum of 50 valid signatures of registered voters who live within the Ward in which the candidate is to be voted on.

San Martin County Water District

A candidate for the San Martin County Water District must be a resident of the district or a property owner in the district. If you are filing as a landowner, you must file a form stating that you are a property owner in the district. You may obtain an example form from the Office of the Registrar of Voters.

Santa Clara Valley Water District

A candidate for the Santa Clara Valley Water District must be a resident of the district and sub-district, a registered voter, and otherwise qualified to vote for the office. Candidates are required to file a Nomination Petition with a minimum of 20 valid signatures of registered voters who live within the sub-district in which the candidate is to be voted on.

Silver Creek Valley Country Club Geologic Hazard Abatement District (GHAD)

A candidate for the Silver Creek Valley Country Club Geologic Hazard Abatement District must also be a landowner or an agent of a landowner to be eligible for office. An agent of a landowner must provide the ROW with written authorization from the landowner designating the agent. You may obtain an example form for either a landowner or an agent of a landowner from the Office of the Registrar of Voters.

The Silver Creek Valley Country Club Geologic Hazard Abatement District Bylaws, Section 5, states: "Each director, or the entity on behalf of which he or she acts, shall own land within the GHAD and shall possess such other qualifications as imposed or required under the GHAD Law, the Election Law, and other applicable law. Directors are not required, however, to be residents of the district."

South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District

A candidate for the South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District may be a veteran or non-veteran pursuant

to **Military & Veterans Code § 1197**. The majority of the board members (i.e., a minimum of 3 members and up to all 5 members) must have veteran status, while up to 2 members may have non-veteran status. Candidates must be registered voters in the district and are voted on by District voters. Proof of veteran status can be satisfied by filing a copy of **Discharge Certificate Form DD214** or providing inactive Veteran ID to the ROW at the time of filing nomination documents.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Declaration of Candidacy for eligible candidates desiring to file for elective office may be obtained from the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters' Office, 1555 Berger Drive, Building #2, Candidate Services Division, 3rd Floor, San José, California, 95112. The Declaration of Candidacy will be available on July 13, 2026 and must be filed with the Registrar of Voters at the above noted address no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2026.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Declaration of Candidacy for eligible candidates desiring to file for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District elective office may be obtained from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos, CA, 94022-1530. The Declaration of Candidacy will be available on July 13, 2026 and must be filed with the Midpeninsula Regional Office Space District at the above noted address no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2026.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that appointment to each elective office will be made in the event there are no nominees or an insufficient number of nominees for each office and a petition for the election, signed by ten percent (10%) of the voters or 50 voters, whichever is the smaller number in the district, has not been filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 12, 2026.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all active registered voters will automatically be mailed a Vote-by-Mail ballot package beginning on October 5, 2026; the Vote Centers for said election will be open starting on October 24, 2026, through November 3, 2026, for varying hours of operations. Please see our List of Vote Centers hours of operation posted on our website at <https://www.sccvote.org/>. The Vote Centers will be open on Election Day, November 3, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. All ballots cast in said Election will be counted centrally at the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters' Office, 1555 Berger Drive, Building #2, San José, California, 95112.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to Elections Code Section 15101(b), as amended by AB 980, Vote-by-Mail ballots can be opened and processed for counting beginning on October 5, 2026, at the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters' Office, 1555 Berger Drive, Building #2, San José, California, 95112.

Dated: July 1, 2026

Matt McCrees
Registrar of Voters

CNSD # 4058484

Community

STEM

From Page 11

down the process of drawing a circle, from picking up the pen and paper to executing the drawing. The arc concluded with a lesson on ethics and AI, emphasizing the critical need for human oversight to ensure ethical outcomes.

Around 11 a.m., families started strolling into the beautiful Los Altos History House garden and by noon all the booths had kids enthusiastically involved in the activities.

While the atmosphere was joyful all around, the kids were the absolute stars of the show. I have never seen so many excited faces, heard so many eager questions or realized just how remarkably open children are to new ideas.

At the Apricot STEM Fair, Dr. Jarvis and I learned that young kids are fearless when it comes to technology. While adults hesitate, worried they might break a device, or press the wrong button, or they just don't trust technology, children dive in with pure curiosity. They see it as a fun tool to master. And at our booth, they saw AI as a digital playground waiting to be explored. Truly, at the fair, kids were the stars.

Scientist, author and educator Neerja Raman is a longtime Los Altos resident. The article is written in gratitude to our city and community.

CAFÉ

From Page 12

Since this is the first time Repair Café is hosting an event in Los Altos, Kornblum hopes the event meets community members' expectations. First events can be unpredictable in terms of crowd size, he said, so Kornblum hopes nobody waits too long, people get their items fixed or are offered redirection where they can get help.

"I think having this service brings the community together – gives people a sense of purpose," Cheng said. "I find that just by volunteering at the Repair Café, I have changed how I deal with broken things that I would have easily tossed out historically. Now I actually put in a lot of effort to repair them successfully as well."

For more information on this free event, see repaircafesv.org.

Los Altos chef ranks in top 10 at World Pizza Championships

By Ava Acharya
Town Crier Staff Writer

This year's Campionato Mondiale del Pizzaiuolo, or World Pizza Championship, in Naples, Italy, featured a familiar face.

Lars Smith, a Los Altos chef and co-owner of State of Mind Public House and Pizzeria, placed within the top 10 in three separate categories.

"It's wonderful, and I've been really blessed to do well in a lot of pizza competitions over the last 10 to 15 years, but I'm never not surprised (by placing). I work really hard, but so does everybody else," Smith said.

Smith placed sixth in the Americana (American) category, fifth in the pizza in teglia (pizza in pan) category and third in the pizza alla pala (pizza cooked with paddle) category.

Smith has been making pizza since 2002, and competing since 2013. This is the third year in a row that he placed at Campionato Mondiale del Pizzaiuolo in Naples.

"It's always pretty incredible, since (Naples) is the birthplace of pizza and they take it pretty seriously. It's quite an adventure," Smith said.

But the competition in Naples has a unique appreciation for American-style pizza. This is part of what drew Smith to the competition.

"It's one of the only places in Italy that they are highlighting American-style pizza," Smith said. "That's what got me there originally."

Smith found inspiration in California ingredients and culinary style for his submissions in Italy.

"In the Bay Area in California, we really do have limitless



CLARKE CONDÉ/TOWN CRIER

Lars Smith prepares a pie at State of Mind Public House and Pizzeria in Los Altos.

creativity with pizza," Smith said. "People are pretty accepting in the Bay Area. We can be experimental and try different flavor combinations, and all of that with pizza."

Smith's pizza alla pala submission featured peaches and

anchovy garum in order to create a savory and umami final product.

The freedom and creative expression that competition brings is a big part of why Smith enters these competitions.

"I find great joy in doing

these competitions. For one, having exposure to other people and other pizza chefs from all over the world, but also the lead-up. Pushing myself to experiment and try new things that I haven't tried before to become a better chef," Smith said.

READING

From Page 10

preservation and honoring the people that stood up and said 'no, we're going to fight,' Hepenstal said.

Hepenstal said that early American revolutionaries risked their lives in order to fight against tyranny. And, although there are many negative aspects of American history, it is important to remember the risks taken by this

country's founders, she added.

"They were very aware that they were risking their lives, and that they could be hanged for treason," Hepenstal said. "They pledged to each other that they were going to work together to

further the cause of an independent United States."

Hepenstal noted that a big aspect of the Declaration of Independence focuses on the people's grievances with King George III, and reading it aloud to the Ameri-

can public acted as a call to arms.

"It's important to remember what it was that caused the colonists to say, nope, we've had enough," Hepenstal said. "What it took to get them to stand up and change."



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Schools

MVLA approves budget

By Julia Baum
Town Crier Staff Writer

The Mountain View-Los Altos High School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved the district's 2026–2027 budget last month, adopting a nearly \$160 million spending plan projected to keep reserves near target levels despite slowing revenue growth.

Presenting the budget on June 15, Associate Superintendent of Business Services Mike Mathiesen said it translates the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) into funding for programs and staffing. "The budget is what supports all those programs and people that staff it," he said.

The budget projects just under \$160 million in revenue and just over \$157 million in expenditures, resulting in an estimated \$2.75 million increase in the district's overall fund balance. Reserves are expected to remain near the board's 17% target.

Total revenue is projected to grow by only 1.7% next year, significantly lower than in recent years. As a community-funded district, local property taxes remain the district's primary source of revenue and are expected to increase by about 4%.

The district also expects about \$900,000 less in revenue from its Shoreline Regional Park agreement with the City of Mountain View because of declining com-

mercial property values. That reduction will be partially offset by increased special education funding and approximately \$3.96 million in one-time state funding, which has been included in projected revenue but has not yet been allocated for specific expenditures.

Personnel costs account for roughly 83% of the budget, including a 2% salary increase for certificated and classified employees. Staffing adjustments will be based on program and student needs rather than across-the-board reductions, with targeted changes in areas such as Middle College and special education. Mathiesen said the average certificated employee costs about \$260,000 annually in salary and benefits.

Although enrollment has remained relatively flat, Mathiesen said it has little effect on district revenue. "Our funding is not based upon student enrollment," he said. "Our funding is based upon property taxes." Stable enrollment, he added, allows staffing levels to remain generally unchanged.

Changes to how donation funds will be reported were also highlighted. Instead of recording donated funds as expenditures before they are spent, those funds will remain in restricted fund balances until they are used. Fiscal Services Director Elvis Lopez said the revised accounting method will record expenditures only when donated funds are actually spent,

Los Altos Kiwanis awards \$30,000 in scholarships at annual dinner



COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS KIWANIS CLUB

Twelve local high school students were each awarded \$2,500 scholarships at the Los Altos Kiwanis Club dinner at Don Giovanni's. "You represent the next generation of leaders," Robert Henely, Los Altos Kiwanis Scholarship Chairman, told the assembled. "We are proud to play a small part in your future."

Scholarship recipients, from the left, Jordan Landaverde Alarcon, Mountain View High School; Andrei Segubiense, Los Altos High School; Aditya Rajesh, Los Altos High School; Abisha Kamea Cayanan, Los Altos High School; Soveen Agarwal, Mountain View High School; Ashley Lucatero Juarez, Los Altos High School; Kaylee Asuncion, Los Altos High School; Chrystal Sesni-Bautista, Los Altos High School; Itzel Villa Garcia, Los Altos High School. Not pictured: Dacari Newman, Los Altos High School; Elaine Choi, Foothill Middle College; Theo Santos, Los Altos High School.

reducing confusing year-to-year fluctuations and providing a clearer picture of the district's financial position.

During board discussion, Trustee Catherine Vonnegut asked whether future increases in retirement costs could affect the district's long-term outlook.

Mathiesen said those costs are updated regularly and incorporated into the district's multi-year projections. Vonnegut also sought clarification on the revised accounting treatment for donation funds.

The district's multi-year projections assume property tax

growth of 3.5% in 2027–2028 and 3% thereafter, along with annual salary increases and inflationary growth in operating costs. Mathiesen said the assumptions are intentionally conservative and will be updated as new financial information becomes available.

Foothill-De Anza launches five-year basic aid strategic plan

By Julia Baum
Town Crier Staff Writer

The Foothill-De Anza Community College District has begun laying the groundwork for a five-year strategic planning process following its transition into one of California's newest "basic aid" community college districts.

During a June 24 study session, the Board of Trustees, district administrators, faculty and staff began discussing priorities that will guide the district under the new funding model. Administrators said the shift reflects greater financial stability and allows the district to focus on long-term planning rather than

annual enrollment targets.

Under California's basic aid funding model, community college districts whose local property tax revenues exceed what they would receive under the state funding formula are allowed to retain those revenues. Foothill-De Anza recently became one of just nine community college districts in California operating under that model.

The planning effort comes as the district faces demographic shifts. District data show the population age 65 and older within its service area has grown 29% since 2014, while the population under 18 has declined 15% because of falling birth rates and high housing costs affecting the

local student pipeline.

A central question throughout the discussion was how the district should define its mission under basic aid. Trustees and administrators debated how to balance responsibility to local taxpayers with Foothill-De Anza's long-standing regional role in education and workforce training. Although funded through local property taxes, roughly two-thirds of students come from outside district boundaries.

Rather than setting enrollment targets or deciding whether the district should become larger or smaller, trustees said those questions should flow from broader strategic priorities. Board members repeatedly

returned to whether Foothill-De Anza should continue serving a broad regional population with a wide array of programs or focus its resources more intentionally on a smaller set of priorities.

Director of Institutional Research and Planning Elaine Kuo urged trustees to measure success beyond enrollment or geography.

"How does our district add to the engine of economic mobility?" Kuo asked.

Faculty and staff representatives echoed that theme, arguing that decisions about enrollment or district size should follow – not drive – the district's priorities. They also cautioned that employees are already managing

heavy workloads and stressed the importance of transparent communication as the planning process moves forward.

Trustees also discussed expanding outreach to adult learners, older adults and workers seeking career retraining, citing demographic changes and shifts in the technology workforce as opportunities to strengthen workforce education and community engagement.

By the end of the meeting, trustees broadly endorsed the proposed five-year planning horizon, and administrators said they would return with a more detailed planning framework reflecting the discussion and future stakeholder input.

Sports

Los Altos native chosen for USGA's Pathways Launch

By Skye Casem
Town Crier Editorial Intern

More than 1,000 college-age people applied to the United States Golf Association's Pathways Launch career development program this year – and Los Altos native Stella Abodeely was among the 24 selected.

"I was very shocked and super happy," the St. Francis High School graduate said. "I knew it was a very selective process, so I was very grateful that throughout all the interviews and in-person recruiting at USGA headquarters, my passion for the game and my previous experiences showed I was qualified."

Abodeely played golf at St. Francis, then joined the crew team at Indiana University. As a junior last fall, she transferred to New York University to study sports management and will serve as president of NYU's Sports Business Society this coming school year.

Abodeely's summer internship with the USGA began in early June in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she works as an assistant buyer for the merchandising team at Dick's Sporting Goods/Golf Galaxy.

"Understanding how our buying decisions impact developers and the business as a whole has also been great ... working cross-functionally and gaining exposure to other teams (the USGA works with)," she said.

If it weren't for what she described as an "overuse-related" injury as a senior that forced Abodeely to cut her golf career at St. Francis short, she might be

doing something vastly different this summer.

"Being injured, as much as that was hard for me to have to take a step back from playing, I would have never had this experience and maybe would have been pursuing a completely different path..." she said. "...Yeah, so just that everything happens for a reason and it's all meant to be."

Abodeely noted that St. Francis' golf coaches encouraged her love for the game and taught her life skills which prepared her for the internship.

"The St. Francis coaching staff's support and patience helping us learn was definitely a big part of making golf a fun space rather than just competitive," Abodeely said. "Athletics are meant to build your character rather than just winning for me."

During that time, she also received mentorship from LPGA Class A Member Casey Hall.

"She was an influential figure in my golf development, and helped develop me as a person rather than only as an athlete," Abodeely said.

When Abodeely got to Indiana, she took up rowing – a sport she had never tried.

"It was definitely a big learning experience as a (coxswain)," she said, "and you're basically like the coach in the boat, and kind of leading everyone through practice."

Soon after transferring to NYU, Abodeely applied for the USGA's Pathways Launch program. The paid three-month internship is aimed at college



PHOTO COURTESY OF USGA

Los Altos native Stella Abodeely is part of the USGA's Pathways Launch program.

students and college grads who aspire to work in the golf industry. The class of 24 interns kicked off their summer at the inaugural event June 4-7 at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades. They took professional development workshops and attended panels with Women of the USGA and MNML Golf.

"I want them all to take away the fact that there is a place and a space for them in the golf industry," said Kamille Ramos, the USGA's director of DEI, culture and community. "That it's not just talk, but that these opportunities are truly there and at their disposal. "There is so much power in their network and their relationships. There are people who are genuinely rooting for them in the golf industry."

Ramos noted that Abodeely's background and eagerness to learn helped her stand out as an applicant for the program.

"We were thinking about what would make a great applicant and it was someone who was teachable, engaged and had an internal drive that you can't necessarily teach," Ramos said. "She had an aptitude to be teachable and just showcased a real excitement for this opportunity and to pursue a career in these spaces."

Abodeely said she plans to pursue a career in sports management.

"My dream is to be CCO of a major sports organization, particularly in golf," she said.

For more information, see tinyurl.com/GolfLaunch.

Fun and World Cup football on Castro Street

By Curtis Driscoll
Town Crier Staff Writer

Soccer fans of all sorts congregated on Castro Street in Mountain View for the World Cup Round of 32 July 1 matchup between the United States men's national team and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Thousands of fans packed bars and restaurants inside and out of downtown Mountain View to see the game, with standing room only available outside for some as they stationed themselves near televisions set up outside in various locations on Castro Street. The United States played close by in Santa Clara

and secured a 2-0 victory over Bosnia and Herzegovina and advanced to the Round of 16 against Belgium Monday (after the Town Crier print deadline).

The city is also planning a weekend of watch parties for the final July 18-19, with a July 18 6 p.m. watch party for the third place game and a finals watch party July 19 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Downtown will have music, business specials, family-friendly games and activities and entertainment zone festivities, according to organizers.

For more information, see mountainview.gov/whats-happening/events.



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Fans on Castro Street July 1 watching the World Cup.

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Stepping Out

TheatreWorks debuts Silicon Valley-set comedy

By Meghna Dixit
Town Crier Editorial Intern

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley kicks off its 56th season with the world premiere of Geetha Reddy's "The Employee Dharma Handbook." The comedy previews today through Friday (July 8-10), opens Saturday and runs through Aug. 2 at the Lucie Stern Theater in Palo Alto.

"Handbook" takes place in a Silicon Valley aerospace company, where HR executive Val investigates a potential act of sexism between the lead engineers: One of them, Baasu, gets promoted over another, Leela. As Val navigates through this conflict, she grapples with rising tension between Indian immigrant employees surrounding the company's ancient origins – a dispute that threatens to jeopardize the company's upcoming rocket launch.

"What I love about this play is that it deals with serious topics and themes, but Geetha is able to refract it through a lens of comedy, allowing us to get perspective through laughter about what the situation is and what the stakes are," director Snehal Desai said. "It's inspired by something that happened at Cisco and Google, and so for folks who are living in Silicon Valley – where right now there are so many questions about technology and how it intersects in the workplace and how it intersects with identity – it's going to feel very resonant."

The cast comprises professional actors hailing from the Bay Area, Los Angeles and New York, many of whom are making their TheatreWorks debut. "Handbook" features Megan Suri (as Leela), Kapil Talwalkar (Krish), Kunal Dudheker (Baasu), Kathryn Smith-McGlynn (Val) and Ranjita Chakravarty (CK).

Los Angeles native Dudheker said Baasu is a "very silly yet nuanced character," which makes it an enjoyable part to play.

"He's incredibly smart, but he's a bit oblivious when it comes to social interactions and personal relationships, and essentially how to conduct himself in public, so there's a bit of ineptitude in that sense



TRACY MARTIN

Kunal Dudheker, Megan Suri and Kathryn Smith-McGlynn are featured in TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's world premiere of "The Employee Dharma Handbook," performing July 8-Aug. 2.

of his life," Dudheker said. "It's my job as an actor to juggle all those things, but all in figuring out what I want as the character while still having these challenges that I have to deal with in terms of how I interact with people."

Desai added that he agreed to come to the Bay Area to direct this production because he loved the script and the diverse themes explored. He worked directly with Reddy to cast and direct the play to fulfil her artistic vision.

Reddy has been developing the play with TheatreWorks since its 22nd annual New Works Festival last summer. A final workshop was held in April to get final feedback before kicking off casting and full production. Rehearsals began in early June.

"Theater is such a collaborative art form," Desai said. "The happy discoveries we make in the room have been very fun. What Geetha and I really enjoy is bits where we've discovered something, and she makes changes and it makes its way into the script. We're all shaping the play together at this stage of the process, and you know it's a really good group that likes to laugh."

Dudheker agreed that the community built during the production has been the most fulfilling part of rehearsals.

"When you have a new cast and you're away from home, getting to know each other is really fun," Dudheker said. "It's

almost like being at camp together, where we spend all this time together and work things out. They're all really great people and fun to work with, so I really cherish those friendships."

Since the play explores aspects of Indian identity, Desai stressed the importance of collaborating with others to cultivate a team that can enhance the authenticity of the cultural elements included.

"It's a predominantly South Asian cast and creative team," Desai said. "We have a cultural consultant and a Telugu consultant among others. We've been talking to different folks in different sectors about their experiences with South Asian identity and aerospace engineering. In that first week, and also in the workshop, we spent a lot of time having conversations around what the themes of the play are, and the dialog that we hope that the play will create."

Dudheker added that the play should especially resonate with those familiar with Silicon Valley corporate culture but be enjoyable for all.

"The play is super smart, hilarious and thought provoking; you will learn a lot between the laughs," Dudheker said. "Like any great script, it is truly about the characters who you will love and hate. As they navigate through the circumstances, you'll really get attached to them on the journey."

For more information, see theatreworks.org.

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Food & Wine

From pitch to plate: A meal that celebrates herbs and interconnectedness

By Christine Moore

What's your summer's soundtrack? You know, the tones and reverberations explicit to your home. Sure, there are perennial tunes to the season: the ice cream trucks' melodic tones, the sizzle of a grill. But each July has a unique timbre too. Young kids, visiting family, travels abroad all set the specific symphony of a given summer.

In my own little corner of the world, the vibrations of summer 2026 span quite a sonorous spectrum. From the infectious enthusiasm of Telemundo commentator's "Goooooooooal!", to the seemingly synchronized World Cup cheering from homes on alternating blocks, to the gentle, barely audible buzzing of bees gathering around my vegetable boxes.

The two ends of the continuum have more in common than they might seem. Bees and footballers are both phenomenal athletes, traversing fields with relentlessness and grace. Both are team players, where every member has a critical role.

As for the commonality between pollinators and the international soccer tournament we're all glued to, both are evidence of how interconnected we are. I have family members who attended the Jordan vs. Algeria game. Neither had an allegiance to either team, yet they couldn't imagine a more joyful event. While we root specific countries on, there is also a palpable "we are one" vibe. It's a timely reminder of an irrefutable truth – we are, indeed, united in all the most important ways. We're inextricably linked to bees, too. In fact, roughly one out of every three bites we eat are the result of our hard-working, buzzing food-chain midfielders.

Personally, watching The Beautiful Game teaches me so much about what I need to know to improve my home farming skills: patience, perseverance and adaptability are a must. You see, I have developed quite a track record for failed harvests. This is not a proud fact in my life – I grew up on a farm. This past spring, I sought the advice of my Sonoma County hobby farmer friend, Brian Wil-

liams, whose vegetable garden is always a thing of great abundance and beauty.

A short conversation and Brian knew what my issue was. No pollinators equals no produce. I needed bees and butterflies. I was determined to create a welcoming place for them. I won't be the first to break the news that we have a shortage of bees buzzing the world over. But it didn't occur to me that I'd needed to invest in attracting them to my own back garden.

I installed a bee motel and placed bee puddlers in shady spots around the yard. Most importantly: I've included more herbs and edible flowers in my boxes. I read that letting herbs such as oregano, sage, basil and chive to flower does wonders for enticing pollinators. And once flitting around and these budding herbs, they'll buzz into my squash, melon and cucumber blooms too.

The plan is working. I have a bee-vibrant garden with the side benefit of a bumper crop of herbs.

Herbs pack a powerful nutritional punch. For years, health experts have advocated for using herbs more abundantly in our cooking. This meal celebrates all things herbaceous and is a delight to eat on your lap while cheering for your team or for the game itself.

Focaccia two ways

Did you get into bread baking during the pandemic? I dropped the habit a number of years ago. The long stretch of the soccer pitch and the commitment to watching a game to the last second – who knows what will happen in the 92nd minute – brought back my desire to make something that takes a little time. This recipe relies heavily on time. It is best if you can let it sit in a fridge for two to three days.

- 4 cups of bread flour
- 2-3 teaspoons sea salt
- 2 teaspoons active yeast
- 2 cups of warm water (mix 1/2 cup boiling water with 1 1/2 cups of cold water)
- A lot of olive oil (see below)
- Flake salt, such as Maldon
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 cup halved cherry tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons torn fresh basil



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE MOORE

Rosemary and caprese focaccia rely heavily on time.

- 4 slices fresh mozzarella, cut into 1/2 inch pieces

Sprinkle yeast on top of warm water and allow to sit for 15 minutes so that the yeast gets frothy on top of the water.

Add the bread flour and sea salt to a large bowl and mix. Make a well in the center of the flour mixture and add the water. Using a rubber spatula, mix the flour and water together until just combined. You don't want to over mix. The dough will be a bit of a shaggy mess, but that's OK.

Cover and leave on the counter for 30 minutes. After the 30 minutes of rest time, wet hands and, leaving dough in bowl, pull dough up on the edges and into the center. Do this 8-10 times until a smooth ball is formed. Pour a good amount of olive oil over the dough – this is important to prevent dough from drying out. Cover well, ideally with a lid, and place in the refrigerator for 48-72 hours.

While resting in the fridge, the dough will double in size. Four hours before baking, pull dough from the fridge. Using two forks, split dough in half. Butter two 9-inch pie or cake pans and place one dough ball in the center of each. Drizzle more olive oil on top and let rest, uncovered for four hours. The dough will expand to the size of the baking dish.

Preheat oven to 425F degrees.

Rosemary focaccia

Drizzle olive oil on top of dough. Use your fingers to press indentations all over the dough. Sprinkle with chopped rosemary and a good amount of flake salt.

Caprese focaccia

Drizzle olive oil on top of dough. Use your fingers to press indentations all over the dough. Press to-

mato halves and mozzarella into the dough. Sprinkle with torn basil and a good amount of flake salt.

Bake both focaccia breads for 20-25 minutes. Remove from oven, serve right away or allow to cool.

Meyer lemon and herb grilled chicken

In my 20s a friend's husband was a sous chef at Chez Panisse. He was kind enough to give me cooking lessons. This is the first chicken recipe we made together. He taught me knife skills by breaking down a whole chicken and preparing different cuts uniquely. For busier evenings, I purchase chicken breasts for the dish. It is a delight for the taste buds and a preparation I tend to use year-round.

- 2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 3 tablespoons fresh oregano
- 3 tablespoons fresh chives
- 2 tablespoons fresh rosemary
- 3 peeled and crushed garlic cloves
- Zest and juice of one Meyer lemon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Fresh ground pepper

Place herbs, garlic and lemon zest on a cutting board in a small pile. Add salt. Using a chef's knife, chop herbs, garlic, lemon zest and salt together to make something of a paste.

Place chicken breasts in a resealable plastic bag. Add herb paste to bag, drizzle with olive oil and squeeze lemon juice into the bag too. Seal the bag and use your hands to massage herb mixture all over the meat. Using a meat tenderizer, pound chicken breasts in the bag until very thin – about one-quarter-inch thickness.

Heat grill very hot. Add chicken breast and sear for three minutes.

Lower temperature, flip chicken and cook for an additional 3-4 minutes.

Serve hot or at room temperature with lemon slices.

Herb, cucumber and edamame salad

I'm a huge fan of Yotam Ottolenghi's recipes. They are approachable and totally unique. His novel approach to salad making – always coming up with something slightly unexpected – inspired this simple, herb-heavy side.

- 3 Persian cucumbers, halved lengthwise, seeds removed and cut into half-inch slices
- 1/4 cup fresh mint leaves, loosely chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh Italian parsley leaves, loosely chopped
- 1/2 cup cooked edamame beans
- 1 ripe avocado, cut into half-inch pieces
- Olive oil
- Juice of one-half Meyer lemon
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Manchego cheese, for garnish

Add the cucumber, herbs, edamame and avocado to a bowl. Drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle salt and pepper to taste and squeeze one half of a lemon over the salad. Toss lightly. Using a vegetable peeler, garnish with strips of Manchego cheese. Serve immediately.

I won't soon forget the uproarious sounds of The World Cup, and I'll miss it when the tournament comes to an end. Football or no football, I will continue to foster the melodic garden buzz that makes my next meal possible.

Christine Moore is a Mountain View resident. To read more food and drink tips from her, see writelyum.com.

Crowds speak for themselves: The Breakfast Club at Midtown

By Maria Crowder
Town Crier Food Critic

The San Antonio Center has a new breakfast contender! The Breakfast Club at Midtown has moved into the space next to the always-popular Il Fornaio, and judging by the crowds, this place is already the neighborhood's newest breakfast obsession.

If you're planning a weekend visit, pack your patience. We arrived on a sunny Sunday late morning and waited about 30 minutes for a table for two – which honestly wasn't bad considering the line.

The only hiccup? The wait-

ing area. "Cozy" would be a generous description. It's more of a game of breakfast Tetris as everyone squeezes together just to get their name on the list. There isn't much room to wait outside either, unless you count the tiny wrought-iron bench baking in the sun. It was so hot you probably could have cooked your pancakes on it!

Walking into the dining room, I immediately recognized traces of the former Asian restaurant. The space is large but very simple, with banquettes along one wall, booths along the other, and a mix-and-match collection of tables and chairs in the middle. It actually reminded me of the camp dining hall at Trojans Ranch in Gold Hill, Colorado, where my twin and I spent summers as kids. Nostalgic? Yes. Fancy? Not exactly.

One pleasant surprise was the bar. I suspect it's the same one from the previous restaurant, but the bright pink bar stools give it a fun, cheerful personality that livens up the room.

Now, let's get to the important part – the food.

The menu is extensive, featuring everything from classic egg dishes to gourmet pancakes, waffles, French toast,

sandwiches, burgers and salads. Whether you're craving breakfast or lunch, there's something for everyone.

As busy as the restaurant was, the service understandably felt stretched.

I ordered one of the house specialties: brisket hash topped with poached eggs and hollandaise. I requested my eggs poached medium, but they arrived decidedly overcooked. Why is a perfectly medium-poached egg still such an elusive culinary achievement? I may need to start offering weekend workshops for breakfast chefs!

Meanwhile, my husband – my longtime breakfast partner in crime – ordered two eggs over easy with crispy bacon. His eggs were cooked perfectly and the bacon was exactly as ordered. Clearly, there may be more than one egg chef in that kitchen!

Despite my egg disappointment, it's easy to see why this place is already a hit. The crowds speak for themselves, the menu has broad appeal and once they smooth out a few details, The Breakfast Club at Midtown looks poised to become a regular stop for Mountain View breakfast lovers.

For more information, see bcmidtown.com.



PHOTOS BY CLARKE CONDÉ

The Breakfast Club's salmon avocado toast, with cream cheese, arugula and a poached egg, is an option worth exploring.

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Business & Real Estate

Consumer Sentiment Index dips to lowest ever

By Artie Green

The Consumer Sentiment Index (CSI) recently fell to one of its lowest readings on record. What does that mean?

Nest Egg Briefs

In case you're not aware of it, the CSI is an indicator of how optimistic or pessimistic consumers are about the economy and their own personal financial situation. Created by the University of Michigan in the late 1940s, it is calculated monthly based on surveys of approximately 500-1,000 American households designed to be representative of the broader population. Scores above 100 generally indicate relatively strong consumer confidence, while lower readings indicate weaker sentiment.

Why is it considered important? Changes in consumer sentiment may provide insight into future consumer

spending trends and broader economic conditions. When consumers feel confident, they are generally more willing to spend, while rising costs for necessities such as food and fuel can weigh on spending decisions. Consumer spending accounts for approximately two-thirds of U.S. gross domestic product, making it a significant driver of economic activity.

The graph at right from the University of Michigan shows the CSI since 1980. The index fell to 44.8 last month, among the lowest readings ever recorded and below the previous trough reached during the inflation surge of 2022.

You can see that there has been a decline in consumer sentiment during each recession (the shaded areas on the graph). However, sentiment has not always served as a leading indicator of recessions, and significant declines have also occurred during periods that were not officially classified as recessions, including 2012 and 2022.

What are some of the causes? As with investment returns, many factors may influence consumer sentiment.



This graph depicting the CSI since 1980 shows that the index fell to 44.8 last month, among the lowest readings ever recorded.

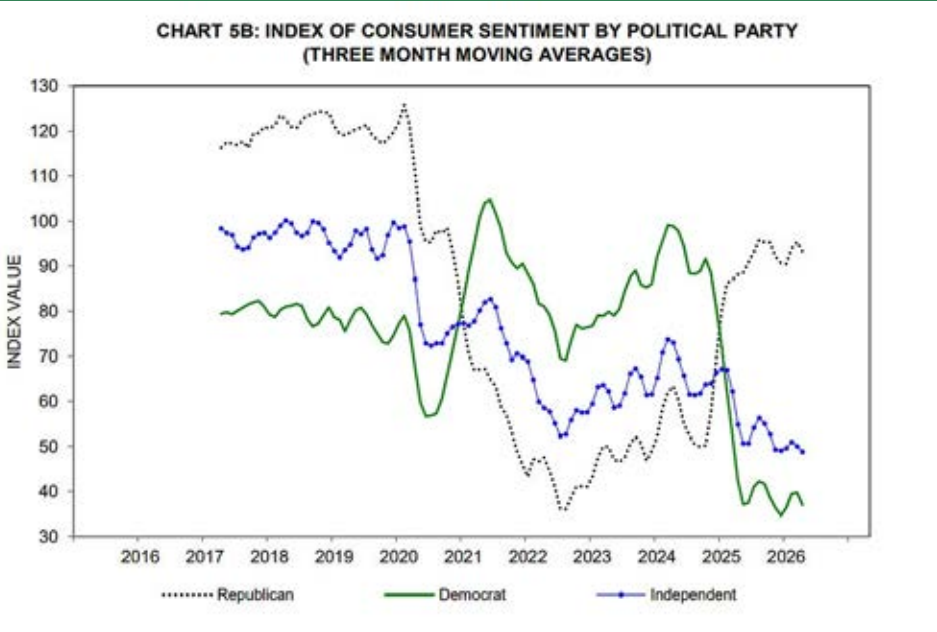
Elevated inflation is a likely contributor, given similar declines during previous periods of high inflation, including the early 1980s and 2022. Political affiliation may also play a role. The St. Louis Federal Reserve publishes sentiment data segmented by political party, with available data extending back to 2017.

Supporters of the political party in power have generally reported higher levels of confidence in economic conditions than supporters of the opposing party. However, recent data shows historically low confidence levels among Democrats and Independents, while Republican sentiment has remained

below the optimistic range seen during portions of 2017–2020.

In any case, if consumer spending were to decline significantly, it could contribute to slower economic growth or a recession and potentially lead to increased market volatility. However, the timing, magnitude and duration of any such developments remain uncertain. This is one of many factors contributing to uncertainty in the capital markets today.

Artie Green is the founder of Cognizant Wealth Advisors dba Perigon Wealth Management, LLC, a registered investment advisor. For more information, see cognizantwealth.com.



Recent data from the St. Louis Federal Reserve shows historically low confidence levels among Democrats and Independents, while Republican sentiment has remained below the optimistic range seen during portions of 2017–2020.



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Drawn2Art studios celebrates company's 40th anniversary

By Amalia Tormala
Town Crier Editorial Intern

The family-founded and family-run fine art education studio Drawn2Art is celebrating its 40-year anniversary. Opening in 1986, the studio has 17 locations throughout the country – including one in Los Altos that opened more than two decades ago.

The organization's marketing director, Keesha Wilson, said in an email to the Town Crier that Drawn2Art was founded to provide an education in the arts that, at the time, was not being offered by schools.

"Four decades later, we are still independently run by the founder's family, and our mission remains the same: small classes, hands-on teaching and real skill development in drawing and painting," Wilson said.

Robin Sulic, director of the Los Altos location, said Drawn2Art offers an ongoing program for students of all ages that includes one class per week. Students ages 4-6 go to an hour-long class, while 7-year-olds through adults attend 90-minute sessions. Each student attends the same class every week.

"It's calendar month to calendar

month, so you can go for a few months, or you can go for a few years," Sulic said. "It depends on what your schedule looks like, and it's all drawing and painting, learning to draw what you see by using shapes."

The entire curriculum is worked on using shapes to build a picture, Sulic said, and students work at their own pace. Teachers also offer different kinds of media, allowing those who have mastered their drawing foundation to move into watercolor and acrylic painting – even for the younger students, who work with chalk pastels, oil pastels and watercolor crayons.

"All of these things that they might not have exposure to in their kindergarten class, they get to do here," Sulic said.

Drawn2Art was founded for the purpose of adding extra art education to individuals' lives. The parents of the company's current owner, Anna Sheklow, started it. Prior to launching the company, Sheklow said her parents were teachers at a private school in Los Feliz, where her father taught art and created murals on the side.

One of the parents whose kids were taught by Sheklow's father "convinced" him to teach classes after school, Sheklow said, which led to the creation of a



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBIN SULIC

Students working on projects at Drawn2Art in Los Altos.

small afterschool program at the school her parents taught at.

"Then, someone kind of came up with the idea that they should really open a studio, and my parents were like, 'Why not?'" Sheklow said.

Sheklow added that when the program opened – then called KidsArt – Sheklow's mom was not an artist, so she

handled the business end of the joint operation; Sheklow's dad did the art and curriculum, which he fine-tuned for nearly 35 years until his passing.

"They borrowed money from my grandma, and they opened the first studio ever in Los Feliz, and within the

See ART, Page 23

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ART
From Page 22

first five years they opened five studios,” Sheklow said.

Sheklow has worked at the company for 31 years. She spends most of her time in Los Angeles, visiting other locations – including the Los Altos location – when possible. Robin Sulic, the director of said location, was pulled to Los Altos for several reasons: Her sister lives in the Bay Area and Los Altos has an art focus.

“At the time when we came up here, there was art everywhere, art banners up and no art schools for kids that we could find anywhere, which is ideal for us,” Sulic said. “So, we kind of got in early. Now, there are a bunch of art studios, and we have even more art galleries ... downtown.”

Drawn2Art continues to expand through word of mouth, according to Sulic.

Sheklow said that when she envisions Drawn2Art’s future, she hopes the company will persist with a focus on tactile drawing and painting skills –

despite the age of AI.

“People really do see the value of learning how to actually draw and paint, and they don’t get that anywhere else,” Sheklow said. “The schools don’t teach it. It’s part of the reason my parents started (Drawn2Art), because even 40 years ago, there was not an area of time to teach art in the schools.”

From teaching all ages to helping people discover that just like cooking, anyone can learn to draw, Drawn2Art has maintained its founding ethos for four decades – and Sheklow said it will continue to do so.

“Over the years, I’ve had people reach out from across the world wanting to franchise, and we won’t franchise because we want to keep the quality of our program,” she said. “We could do a million other artistic things, and we could make some money off of it, but that’s not our goal. Our goal is to stay true to who we are, and we’ve done that for 40 years.”

For more information, see drawn2artstudios.com/los-altos.

Transactions

Los Altos

- 1070 Mercedes Avenue #1, M. Qian to N. & V. Chawla for \$960,000
- 73 Cuesta Drive, R. & D. Moratti to Roman Family Trust for \$1,450,000
- 1711 William Henry Court, H. Peruru to J. & Q. Chen for \$3,960,000
- 730 Berry Avenue, Leann Trust to Patel Family Trust for \$4,090,000
- 327 Hawthorne Avenue, Rogers Family Trust to Gonzalez Family Trust for \$4,450,000
- 124 Jardin Drive, Stangenes Trust to F. Gao for \$4,750,000
- 526 Pinecrest Drive, Kelson Family Trust to J. & P. Chen for \$5,150,000
- 198 Pine Lane, Kinne Living Trust to Lo Trust for \$5,300,000

- 1487 Fallen Leaf Lane, J. & R. Weyers to R. & A. Kumaravel for \$5,335,000
- 10340 West Loyola Drive, Earl & Conrad Trust to Ljs & Rmo Community Trust for \$8,228,000
- 338 Verano Drive, Oram Living Trust to Sabz Trust for \$8,701,000

Los Altos Hills

- 14278 Amherst Court, McIntyre Trust to Quan-Kwei Trust for \$3,998,000
- 27240 Altamont Road, Ruder Trust to Moore Trust for \$4,085,000
- 24855 Prospect Avenue, Young Living Trust to M. & M. Rawat for \$5,950,000
- 28500 Matadero Creek Lane, S. Purnama to Anderson Family

Trust for \$9,089,000

Mountain View

- 1101 West El Camino Real #417, Jain Living Trust to T. Dastmalchi for \$750,000
- 2071 Plymouth Street #J, J. Jircitano to C. & Y. Chu for \$990,000
- 1912 Montecito Avenue #2, Ljungberg Trust to Davidson Trust for \$1,195,000
- 492 Kahlo Street, K. Wang to N. Ying for \$1,648,000
- 361 Pacific Drive, Griha LLC to T. & A. Clark for \$1,700,000
- 317 Tyrella Avenue, Hirota Trust to H. & A. Shyr for \$2,630,000
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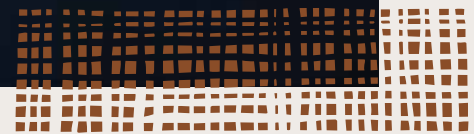
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1. Description of Work: The City of Los Altos, Santa Clara County, California, invites sealed electronic bids for furnishing labor, material and equipment required to complete the project in the particular locations, of the forms, sizes and dimensions and of the materials and to the lines and grades and at the elevations as shown and delineated upon the plans and specifications made therefor. 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 the replacement of the back-up generators for the Police Department, City Hall, and Municipal Services Center.

2. Location of Work: 1 N. San Antonio Road (PD & CH), 707 Fremont Avenue (MSC)

3. Contract Documents: Bids must be submitted on the City's bid forms. Visit the City's bids and vendor management portal hosted by PlanetBids to download the PDF file(s) (<https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/71685/portal-home>).

4. 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 mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and Site Walk will be held first at 1 N. San Antonio Rd. and then 707 Fremont Ave. immediately after on the following date(s) and time(s):
Thursday, July 23rd, 2026 @ 9:00AM

Each and every Bidder must

attend the Pre-Bid Conference and Site Walks. Bids will not be accepted from any Bidder who did not attend the Pre-Bid Conference and Site Walk.

6. Contractor's License: The Contractor is required to have a C-10 contractor license for this work. Due to the predominant electrical nature of this project, **a licensed C-10 contractor must be the contractor responsible to pull the project permit and perform the scope of 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: A bid bond that can be verified as authentic pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 995.311 is required.

a. Amount of Bid Bond. The bid bond shall be ten percent (10%) of the submitted Total Bid Price.

b. Delivery date. The Bid bond shall be submitted to the City before the latest date and time for Bid submittal.

c. Form of Bid Bond. Bid Bonds shall be submitted to the City in cash, a certified or cashier's check, an ORIGINAL paper bid bond, or an Electronic Bid Bond (e-Bond) executed and verified by an admitted surety in favor of the City. Send original paper bid bond or hand deliver physical bid bonds to 97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022, ATTN: Tyler Botkin.

The bid bond must be **physically received** and on file with the City of Los Altos at or before the bid deadline for the bid package to be considered complete. **Scanned copies of bid bonds are not acceptable and will not be considered responsive.**

d. E-bond platforms requirements. In the event the Bidder elects to submit an Electronic Bid Bond (e-Bond), a bid will be considered complete only if the applicant:
i. Obtains an E-Bonds issued by Surety2000 <http://www.surety2000.com> or Tinubu <https://www.tinubu.com/ebonding> platforms; and,
ii. Proof of E-Bond in pdf form from either of the two approved e-Bond companies must be included with the bid package uploaded onto the PlanetBids portal.

E-Bonds from other e-Bond platforms will not be accepted. 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 (i) Surety2000 or Tinubu acts or omissions; (ii) the completeness or timely verification of the authenticity of the issued e-Bond; or (iii) any other errors by third parties in the issuance of the e-Bond.

e. Purpose of Bid Bond. In the event that the successful Bidder fails or refuses to enter into the Contract awarded to it, the bid bond shall be retained by the City and applied to any damages sustained by the City.

8. Location of Bid Submittal and Date and Time of Opening: The City will only accept electronic bid submissions. 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

Thursday, August 13th, 2026 @ 2:00 PM

The PlanetBids contract ID for this project is (CF-01011). 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 **Four Hundred and Fifty (450) calendar days**, the first day of which shall be the date specified in the City Engineer'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 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 submitted through the PlanetBids portal no later than:

Thursday, July 30th, 2026 @ 3:00 PM

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

Dated: July 1st, 2026

/s/ **Fred Padron**
Project Manager
(07-08,15-26)

170-T

**MANAFESTHEALTH
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN727641**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: MANAFESTHEALTH, 3115 Irlanda Way, San Jose, CA, 95124, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): LAL-DE-SIGNS LLC, 455 Market St, Ste 1940, San Francisco, CA 94105. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/07/2026. /S/ Lawrence Lorenzano / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/11/2026. (07-08,15,22,29-26)

169-T

**VECTOR PHYSICAL THERAPY:
RETURN TO SPORT TESTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN728104**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: VECTOR PHYSICAL THERAPY: RETURN TO SPORT TESTING, 3536 Lake Front Circle, Stockton, CA, 95209, San Joaquin County. The principal place of business is in San Joaquin County and a current Fictitious Business Name Statement is on file at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office of Said County. This business is owned by: a corporation. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): PHYSICAL THERAPY 110, INC., 3536 Lake Front Circle, Stockton, CA 95209. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Alexis Sepulveda / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/26/2026. (07-08,15,22,29-26)

168-T

**Virtuous Real Estate
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN728124**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Virtuous Real Estate, 662 Mariposa Ave #2, 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): Mark Francis Taylor, 662 Mariposa Ave #2, Mountain View, CA 94041. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/08/2011. /S/ Mark Francis Taylor / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/29/2026. (07-08,15,22,29-26)

167-T

**KMVT 15 Silicon Valley
Community Media
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN728098**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: KMVT 15 Silicon Valley Community Media, 2500 Old Middlefield Way Ste F, Mountain View, CA, 94043, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Mountain View Community Television, 2500 Old Middlefield Way Ste F, Mountain View, CA 94043. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2003. /S/ Alex Doherty / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/26/2026. (07-08,15,22,29-26)

166-T

**Conscious Impact
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN727892**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Conscious Impact, 353 Costello Dr., 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): Monica Tran, 353 Costello Dr, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 04/19/2021. /S/ Monica Tran / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/18/2026. (07-08,15,22,29-26)

165-T

**FOREST AND WEBSTER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN728084**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: FOREST AND WEBSTER, PO Box 3302, 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): Gregory Eitzmann, PO Box 3302, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Gregory Eitzmann / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/25/2026. (07-08,15,22,29-26)

164-T

**NUVOTIDE RESEARCH
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN727230**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: NUVOTIDE RESEARCH, 1177 Branham Ln #1018, San Jose, CA, 95118, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): RYMON VENTURES LLC, 1177 Branham Ln #1018, San Jose, CA 95118.

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/20/2026. /S/ Aremon Habibi / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 05/28/2026. (07-01,08,15,22-26)

162-T

**Selah Therapy
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN727955**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Selah Therapy, 20289 Stevens Creek Blvd, #1127, Cupertino, CA, 95014, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Selah Marriage and Family Therapy, Prof. Corp., 21771 Stevens Creek Blvd Ste 200A, Cupertino, CA 95014. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/22/2026. /S/ Ganlin Chen / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/22/2026. (07-01,08,15,22-26)

159-T

**EMBODIED RECOVERY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN727951**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: EMBODIED RECOVERY, 910 Campisi Way, 2C, Campbell, CA, 95008, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): EMBODIED RECOVERY LLC, 910 Campisi Way, 2C, Campbell, CA 95008. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/10/2019. /S/ Michael Nolan / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/22/2026. (07-01,08,15,22-26)

158-T

**MUSIC WITH ERICA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN727932**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: MUSIC WITH ERICA, 265 Cambridge Avenue Suite 60602, Palo Alto, CA, 94306, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Erica Waxer Steinberger, 265 Cambridge Avenue Suite 60602, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2014. /S/ Erica Waxer Steinberger / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/22/2026. (07-01,08,15,22-26)

157-T



**T.S. No. 107068-CA APN:
150-34-020 NOTICE OF
TRUSTEE'S SALE**

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 7/12/2017. 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 On 7/22/2026 at 10:00 AM, CLEAR RECON CORP, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 7/13/2017 as Instrument No. 23696830 of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Santa Clara County, State of CALIFORNIA executed by: SLAVA MILNER A SINGLE MAN WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS ASSOCIATION, OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE; AT THE GATED NORTH MARKET STREET ENTRANCE, SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE, 191 N. 1st Street, San Jose, CA 95113 all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: MORE FULLY DESCRIBED ON SAID DEED OF TRUST The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 436 SIERRA VISTA AVE 6, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94043-2954 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$1,206,176.63 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. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned or its predecessor caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder

Public Notices

at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (855) 313-3319 or visit this Internet website www.clearreconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 107068-CA. 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: Effective January 1, 2021, you may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855) 313-3319, or visit this internet website www.clearreconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 107068-CA 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. FOR SALES INFORMATION: (855) 313-3319 CLEAR RECON CORP 3333 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 225 San Diego, California 92108 (07-01,08,15-26)

156-T

SARATOGA SGD TOFU HOUSE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN727881

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SARATOGA SGD TOFU HOUSE, 491 Saratoga Ave, San Jose, CA, 95129, Santa Clara County. The business is owned

by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): SGD TOFU HOUSE INC, 491 Saratoga Ave, San Jose, CA 95129. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2011. /S/ Cherrina Yoon / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/18/2026. (06-24-26,07-01,08,15-26)

155-T

LIGHTER COFFEE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN727849

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: LIGHTER COFFEE, 491 Saratoga Ave, San Jose, CA, 95129, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): SGD TOFU HOUSE INC, 491 Saratoga Ave, San Jose, CA 95129. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Cherrina Yoon / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/17/2026. (06-24-26,07-01,08,15-26)

154-T

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

The following person(s) / registrant(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business name statement that was filed at the County Clerk's office. (1) ROBIN'S LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS, (2) LANDSCAPES BY ROBIN, 1525 Canna Court, Mountain View, CA 94043 Filed in Santa Clara County on: 11/07/2022 Under File No. FBN690064 Full Name of Registrant(s): Robin Laurie Dosskey, 1525 Canna Court, Mountain View, CA 94043 This business was conducted by: an individual This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Santa Clara County on June 15, 2026. Louis Chiaramonte County Clerk-Recorder Santa Clara County File No. FBN727776 (06-24-26,07-01,08,15-26)

153-T

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: PAUL A. KUCKEIN (aka PAUL AUGUST KUCKEIN) CASE NO. 26PR202801

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of PAUL A. KUCKEIN, PAUL AUGUST KUCKEIN. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by KURT L. KUCKEIN in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that KURT L. KUCKEIN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 07/29/2026 at 9:01AM in Dept. 13 located at 191 NORTH FIRST ST., SAN JOSE, CA 95113 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner Shirley M. White 4300 Black Ave. #125 Pleasanton, CA 94566 PHONE (510) 796-4779 (06-24-26,07-01,08-26)

REFRIGERATOR MOMS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN727468

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: REFRIGERATOR MOMS, 1762 Technology Dr #128, San Jose, CA, 95110, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: joint venture. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Julianna Scott Fein, 1161 El Solvo Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008, Kelley Jensen, 1762 Technology Dr #128, San Jose, CA 95110. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/05/2026. /S/ Julianna Scott Fein / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/05/2026. (06-24-26,07-01,08,15-26)

150-T

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PETITION OF MIN XIE ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 26CV495059

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioner: Min Xie filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: a. Min Xie

Proposed Name: a. Michael Xie

2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING 08/25/2026 at 8:45 a.m. Room: Probate (b) The address of the court is: 191 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

3. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Altos Town Crier Date: 06/09/2026 /s/ Charles F. Adams Judge of the Superior Court (06-17,24-26,07-01,08-26)

149-T

LOWRIDER FEVER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN727453

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) LOWRIDER FEVER, (2) LOWRIDER HISTORY MUSEUM, 536 N 12th Street, San Jose, CA, 95112, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is

(are): Ricardo Cortez, PO Box 18505, San Jose, CA 95158. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/01/2026. /S/ Ricardo Cortez / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/05/2026. (06-17,24-26,07-01,08-26)

148-T

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

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

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

Datebook

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

EVENTS

Los Altos Main Library. All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, unless otherwise indicated. All programs are free and open to the public. No registration necessary.

Sharing the Spirit of America – the nationwide, simultaneous reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8 at 3 p.m. at Veterans Community Plaza. Mayor Sally Meadows and Mayor Rajiv Bhateja will both read sections, as will other local officials including Councilmember Linda Swan, County Assessor Neysa Fligor, Los Altos Police Chief Lagergren and LAHCFD General Manager J Logan as well as representatives of community groups (Kiwanis, LAM-VCF, LAVA, GreenTown Los Altos, AAUW, and more).

Entering Their World: Ways to Relate with Compassion to the Family Member with Dementia - Wednesday, July 8, 7 p.m. Join us for a practical, evidence-informed session on transforming dementia care through a shift in perspective. Through real-life case examples, participants will learn how to respond to challenging situations with greater empathy, patience, and confidence. Attendees will learn how to foster meaningful connections with their family members, apply practical approaches to everyday activities and implement healthy boundaries to reduce stress and stay emotionally grounded. Presented by Commonwealth Club World Affairs, Peninsula Chapter, with Vanessa Valerio, Registered Nurse, Certified Care Manager (CMC), Gerontologist, and Certified Home Care Administrator (CHCA).

Trivia Night - Courtyard Long Bar and Bistro is hosting trivia night July 9 and 23 at 6 p.m. Enjoy happy hour prices during the game.

Unlock Your Ancestors' Military Records - Friday, July 10, 1 p.m. Discover the stories behind your ancestors' military records! This seminar shows how U.S. military records can enrich genealogy research by revealing an ancestor's life, service, and character. You will learn how to access records through powerful resources, interpret the records, and create a lasting memorial page to honor your ancestor's service and sacrifice. This talk will be given by Ron Chan, a published genealogy author and Co-Founder of the Chinese American GI Project, which works to ensure that veteran legacies are not lost, forgotten, or ignored.

Repair Cafe - Toss it? No way! - Saturday, July 11, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. Repair Café Silicon Valley will offer free repairs and repair advice on a first come, first served basis. Repair Cafe will bring tools, materials, and volunteer experts to help you make any repairs you need on clothes, furniture, small appliances, bicycles, crockery, electronics, lamps, toys and more. To cut down on unnecessary waiting times during busy periods, one broken item per person will be examined. After that, you can join the back of the line if you have a second item for repair.

See DATEBOOK, Page 31

47th Annual Arts & Wine Festival
- July 11-12, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Get ready to experience the ultimate blend of art, music, wine and spirits at the 47th edition of the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival beautiful Downtown Los Altos. Enjoy a fun-filled weekend with your family and friends as you indulge in a variety of art exhibits, live music performances, and delicious food and drinks. Even become an artist yourself at the Community Collage sponsored by Arts Los Altos.

Quilting as a Witness to History
- July 15, 5:30 - 7 p.m. Los Altos History Museum will hold a program titled American Patchwork: The Making of the People's Bicentennial Quilt, featuring historian and author Connie Young Yu. The program explores the origins of a 1974 community-created quilt designed by a diverse group of women seeking to present a more inclusive view of American history during the Bicentennial era. Yu will discuss the stories behind the quilt's 45 stitched panels and reflect on its continuing relevance today.

Summer 2026: Plant a Seed, Read – Growing Cool Season Vegetables Beginning in Late Summer, Wednesday, July 15, 7 p.m. Come learn what you can grow over the cool season with UC Master Gardener Laura Westley. She'll go over the basics such as soil, water and fertilizing requirements, and show all the different plants that do great in Santa Clara County!

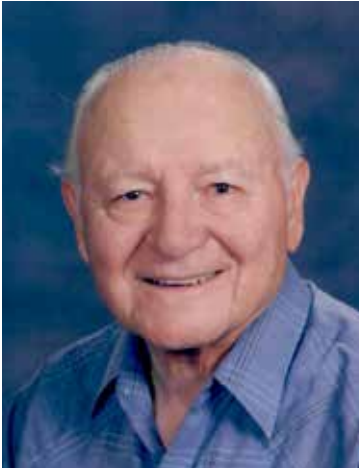
The Martians – The True Story of an Alien Craze that Captured Turn-of-the-Century America. Thursday, July 16, 7 p.m. A century ago, many people genuinely believed Mars was inhabited, inspired by supposed sightings and even radio signals thought to come from the planet. In his illustrated talk, author David Baron explores how this widespread Martian craze reflected human susceptibility to belief and helped spark both science fiction and early interest in space exploration. Baron, an acclaimed science writer and former NPR correspondent, draws on years of research to tell this remarkable cultural story.

Jazz Night - Courtyard Long Bar and Bistro is hosting Jazz Night July 19 at 5 p.m.

Bohemian Fiber Art Wall Decor - Tuesday, July 21, 6:30 p.m. Join sustainable, local artist Gigi Farmer and learn how to make your very own wall-hanging decor art piece to take home with you! All materials, including driftwood, will be provided. The program is designed for adults and teens.

Wednesday Travel Nights Hiking the Camino de Santiago: The Easy Way, Wednesday, July 22, 7 p.m. Come experience trekking the last 100 km of the Camino de Santiago along the French Way in northern Spain with traveler and photographer Ann Resch. Join her for the uphill and downhill; through forests, pastures, and villages; and along serene streams all while experiencing the allure of this iconic hike. Don't forget the Band-Aids!

GEORGE KONTON



*November 1, 1928 –
June 9, 2026*

With heavy hearts and deep gratitude for a life lived with generosity, curiosity, and unwavering love, we share the passing of George Konton—a cherished father, brother, uncle, godfather, and friend. George passed away peacefully at his home in Los Altos on June 9, 2026, at the age of 97, with his daughter by his side.

Born on November 1, 1928, on the picturesque island of Nisyros, Greece, George was the youngest child of Nikitas and Kaliope (Konstantinidis) Samos. From an early age, he displayed a vibrant spirit and an enduring curiosity about the world—qualities that would carry him across continents and shape a remarkable life story.

In 1946, after completing his education in Greece, George bravely immigrated to the United States, where he later served his adopted country in the U.S. Army. His life changed forever in San Francisco, where he met Maryann, the love of his life. Their paths first crossed on the soccer field—George playing for the Greek-American team and Maryann's father coaching for the Maltese-American team. Their love story officially began on October 3, 1953, when they married on what they fondly remembered as the hottest day of the year.

George and Maryann began their married life in East Palo Alto before settling in Los Altos, where they created a warm and welcoming home that became the heart of their family. Their union, which spanned nearly seven

decades until Maryann's passing in March 2023, was a testament to their devotion, resilience, and shared adventures.

For 33 years, George worked at Hewlett-Packard Company as a Quality Assurance Technician. His meticulous nature, strong work ethic, and quiet integrity earned him the respect of colleagues and friends alike. Beyond his professional life, George was committed to his community. He was an active member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in San Jose and proudly participated in the Order of AHEPA and the Palo Alto Elks Lodge #1471. In his later years, he found joy in visiting the Los Altos Senior Center each day for spirited games of Bridge and time spent working on the community puzzle.

A lifelong sports enthusiast, George delighted in cheering for the San Francisco 49ers and attending Giants games with his wife and children. A treasured family memory was the night he and Maryann appeared on the Giants' scoreboard during the beloved "Kiss Cam" segment. Together, they explored the beauty and diversity of the continental United States, Canada, and Mexico in their cherished motorhome, creating memories that became part of their family's legacy.

George is predeceased by his parents, Nikitas and Kaliope Samos, and his beloved wife, Maryann (Sherry) Konton. He leaves behind a legacy of love in his surviving family: his son, Joseph Konton of Mountain View; his daughter, Mary Jayne of Los Altos; his sister, Mina Masters of Sunnyvale; and his sister-in-law, Joan Sherry of Palm Harbor, Florida. He is also lovingly remembered by his 10 nieces and nephews and five godchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister-in-law, Virginia (Sherry) Busuttil, and his brothers-in-law, Michael Masters, Dominic Busuttil, and John Sherry.

The family extends heartfelt appreciation to Stanford Hospital, The Terraces at Los Altos, Bristol Hospice, and Annie Stephanos for their compassionate care and support during George's final days.

Services were arranged by Spangler Mortuary in Los Altos. George is interred at Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery in Los Altos Hills. Those wishing to

honor his memory may consider a donation to Takis Animal Shelter on the island of Crete, Greece: <https://takissshelter.org/donate>

George will be remembered always for his warm smile, his boundless curiosity, and his steadfast devotion to family and friends. His memory will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know and love him.



CROWNIE KURIAN BILLIK



*September 5, 1930 –
June 24, 2026*

Crownie Kurian Billik, beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, mentor, and tireless champion of civic engagement, passed away peacefully at the age of 95 in the home she so loved.

Born on September 5, 1930, in Detroit, Michigan, to Roy and Ethel Kurian, Crownie was one of five remarkable sisters. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 62 years, Martin, and by her sisters Gloria, Nanette, and Marion. She is survived by her daughters, Tammara and Shoshana; her sister, Lucille; her grandsons, Eli and Ben; and many treasured nieces and nephews.

Crownie earned her undergraduate degree in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in Social Work from Wayne State University. Early in her career, she devoted herself to helping young people and families in St. Paul, Minnesota, serving as Teen Director at the Jewish Community Center before becoming Regional Director for the B'nai B'rith Youth

Organization in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

While living in Cambridge, she met Martin, who was in a mathematics PhD program at MIT. After his graduation, they married in 1959 and shortly thereafter moved to the Bay Area, settling in Los Altos. For more than five decades, Crownie dedicated herself to strengthening civic participation through the League of Women Voters. She held numerous leadership positions at both the local and state levels, but her greatest joy came from mentoring others. She trained and encouraged generations of League leaders throughout California, believing that informed citizens and engaged volunteers were the foundation of a healthy democracy. She often said that what she loved most was helping others grow into leaders themselves.

Her decades of service were recognized in 2015 when she received the John Gardner Award from the Los Altos Community Foundation for her outstanding contributions to her local community. Friends and colleagues admired her thoughtful leadership, gentle manner, and remarkable ability to encourage others to discover strengths they didn't know they possessed.

She was an accomplished ceramic artist, a deep-water running enthusiast, an avid tea drinker, and a gifted and creative chef who published *The Brunch Cookbook* in the 1970s. Crownie's famous apple strudel and scones were loved by all. World travel was another great passion, and she and Martin explored many countries and cultures together throughout their years together. Crownie loved entertaining friends and family in her home; creating beautiful and sometimes quirky ceramic works; and approaching life with curiosity, positivity, and enthusiasm.

Above all, Crownie cherished her family time. She was a devoted and loving mother, grandmother, and sister who took genuine interest in the lives of others. Her kindness, quiet wisdom, generosity, patience, and enduring optimism will be profoundly missed by us all.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to the League of Women Voters of Mountain View-Los Altos, 2370 Walsh Avenue, Suite F, Santa Clara, CA 95051.





JUST SOLD, REPRESENTED BUYER

1117 CHESTERTON AVE,
REDWOOD CITY 4 BEDS | 2 BATHS



JUST SOLD, REPRESENTED BUYER

3733 WEBSTER STREET,
SAN FRANCISCO 2 BEDS | 2 BATHS

To Jenny, buying and selling a home is far more than a transaction — *it's a sacred process she feels honored to guide her clients through.*

Jenny enjoys connecting people in community where her roots run deep — from the right preschool to high school to senior center, with local activities and like-minded friends along the way. It is with deep satisfaction that Jenny has been able over her now 30+ year career to help multiple generations buy real estate so they can build their family legacy in this Bay Area she so dearly loves.



Jenny Pollock

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