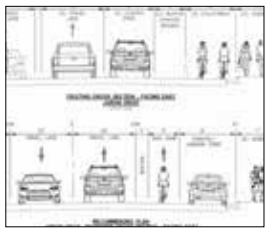


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Los Altos Town Crier

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

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What on Earth?



KARINA ARONSON/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Downtown Los Altos First Friday held an "Earth Month Kickoff Celebration" this past Friday, featuring open table stations and other activities. Activities included a zero-waste cooking demonstration by Ann-Marie Bonneau, above, a native birds nest display, seed planting and Earth Day arts and crafts. Participating groups included GreenTown Los Altos. For more information and images from the event, see Business & Real Estate, page 24.

A 'crazy' tie in local race for Congress

By Jennah Pendleton
Staff Writer/jennahp@latc.com

The race for the 16th Congressional district has become one of the most eyed across the nation. Many political hopefuls laid in wait to succeed Anna Eshoo, who is retiring after 30 years in congress, making for a competitive – and expensive – race.

But the unlikely culmination of this primary is what has really grabbed the attention of local voters and people across the country. After more than 180,000 votes cast, an early lead for Joe Simitian and then weeks of he and Evan Low inching past one another, the Santa Clara and San Mateo counties registrar of voters certified the results of the election: an exact tie for second place between the two. As of right now, Low, Simitian and primary top vote-getter Sam Liccardo will face off in November in an unlikely three-way runoff, the first in Californian history for a congressional seat.



See RACE, Page 4

Tentative agreement has CHAC partnering with Pacific Clinics

By Bruce Barton
Staff Writer/bruceb@latc.com

Leaders with the Community Health Awareness Council (CHAC) have signed a letter of intent to be acquired by Pacific Clinics, a move they say will bolster mental health services and lead to long-term stability.

Both parties signed the letter March 11, putting into motion a due diligence period before the sale becomes official July 1.

"It's the end of an era," noted Anne Ehresman, CHAC's interim executive director.

Gone will be the Joint Powers Agency including the cities and school districts of Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Sunnyvale, a model that has been in effect since the nonprofit group's founding 51 years ago. In its place will be a partnership with the west coast's and California's largest behavioral health provider.

A big piece of CHAC's local impact has been its partnership with nearby schools, particularly the Mountain View Los Altos High School District. MVLA Wellness Coordinator William Blair credits the partnership with CHAC as the leading factor in growing and shaping the district's robust mental health services program into what it is today.

"It's tough work working with young people who are really struggling," Blair told the Town Crier. "It is an essential service within the school system to be able to support these young people. ... CHAC and mental health providers of all sorts are on the ground saving lives and meeting kids when they're in their most vulnerable state. Any organization that does that has my heart."

Blair could not comment on how the acquisition would affect the district but did guarantee that there will be no reduction of wellness and mental health services offered at each high school.

"With CHAC's transition, we don't anticipate any shifts in our ability to serve our students," Blair said.

Looking ahead

According to Ehresman, CHAC will keep the name and its offices at 590 W. El Camino Real in Mountain View – for the time being. A current condition of the agreement is that the offices, if sold, would go to a nonprofit organization.

The alliance comes as CHAC has struggled financially over the past few years. The biggest issue was the nonprofit's drop-in clinic, which accepted all clients regardless of ability to pay. With no infrastructure to accept Medi-Cal payments, the clinic drained CHAC revenues. At one point last year, CHAC faced a $750,000 deficit.

See CHAC, Page 5

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Around Town

Ramadan Iftar celebration draws big crowd

Town Crier Report

A March 31 Iftar – a dinner held after sundown that breaks a day's fast – hosted by Muslims Around Los Altos, drew approximately 300 people to the Los Altos Community Center in observance of Ramadan.

Visitors included several Los Altos civic leaders, including members of the Los Altos City Council.

The event included speeches and socializing amid Middle Eastern cuisine. There also was childcare and Ramadan themed arts and crafts for children.The event was emceed by Los Altos residents Ibrahim Bashir and Amal Khan (founder of MALA).

"The main focus was building bridges between Muslims in Los Altos (and the) broader Peninsula with the broader community (and) leadership," Bashir said.

This was the first such event in Los Altos, he added.



COURTESY OF MALA

"We would like to not only make this an annual event in partnership with the city, but also inspire neighboring cities to do the same," he said. "The feedback from the guests was overwhelming."

Los Altos training set for emergency preparedness volunteers

Town Crier Report

The Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD) will be conducting a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training academy in Los Altos April 16 to May 4. This is one of only four CERT academies held by County Fire in 2024, and the only one to be held in Los Altos.

Approximately 300 Los Altos residents are trained and volunteer with Resilient Los Altos as block action team (BAT) leaders, amateur radio operators (aka hams) and CERTs. Approximately 130 of the volunteers are CERT-trained. Many more trained volunteers will be needed for responding to and recovering from a disaster.

For more information and to register for the CERT academy, see register for CERT training or visit sccfd.org and search "CERT." If you have questions about Resilient Los Altos emergency preparedness programs, visit resilientlosaltos.org or email info@resilientlosaltos.org.

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949 Sherwood Ave., Los Altos | +/- 1,280 SF; 2nd floor office space; 2 private offices/ meeting rooms; open work area with natural light; operable windows; walk to all amenities on El Camino Real.

105 Main Street, Los Altos | +/- 475 SF; Rare 1st floor office on Main Street; Open floor plan with lots of light; Great visibility with signage on Main Street.

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News

Averiett bids farewell

By Christina Casillas
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Los Altos Police Chief Angela Averiett, who will resign from her position April 21, reflected on her accomplishments and spoke about her future during a Los Altos Community Coalition meeting last week.

Averiett served as police chief for 18 months in Los Altos before announcing her resignation. She's set to begin a new role as interim San Leandro Police Chief by the end of the month.

Her departure was not the result of dissatisfaction with her time or position in Los Altos, Averiett said during Friday's meeting. The offer "came out of nowhere."

"I decided to accept the opportunity because my heart felt like I needed to serve another community that is facing many complex challenges," she said.

San Leandro, an East Bay city with more than double the population of Los Altos, has had a yearly increase in crime since 2020, according to city data.

Serving a city with more complex issues has called Averiett for a while, as she noted she applied the previous year for the Oakland Police Chief position.

But over the last year and half, Averiett said she's learned and grown. During her tenure, the city's Automated License Plate Reader program was finetuned and went live March 1. Currently, eight cameras are installed and live; the city initially approved 15 cameras, but the fire on El Camino Real and paperwork with Santa Clara County to get the cameras filming along Foothill Expressway are delaying the installation of the remaining cameras.

Part 1 crimes – which include violent and property crimes including murder, assault, rape, robbery, burglary, vehicle theft, larceny and arson – decreased from 2022 to 2023, and arrests increased.

For the full story, visit tinyurl.com/policechiefresignation.

– Christina Casillas

CSA moves to new Mountain View location

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

Mountain View-based Community Services Agency has temporarily moved from its 204 Stierlin Road location to the former JOANN Fabrics site on San Antonio Road.

The move will allow CSA to renovate its building at Stierlin Road, which it owns. CSA's headquarters in Mountain View was built more than 30 years ago but has issues like cramped quarters and infrastructure problems that prevent the organization from expanding, according to Simone Berkowitz, development director with CSA. The current facility also only fits some of the CSA staff.

"We want the flexibility with our food pantry to be able to move it offsite if that becomes an option, so we're remodeling the building to fix some of these issues and provide flexibility for where the food pantry is in the future in case that changes to office space and just some other fixes to make it more usable in terms of the layout and updating modernizing," Berkowitz said.

The new address at 435 San Antonio Road opened Wednesday, thanks to help from the Los Altos School District, with CSA leasing it from the district for a dollar per year for two years. The entire block of San Antonio is set to become the district's 10th campus and a Mountain View city park by 2027.



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

CSA officials expect food distribution service, above, to continue without interruption.

Services like the Food and Nutrition Center will continue with minimal interruption. The target date for a return to the renovated building is October.

CSA is a nonprofit that provides services to elderly, low-income and homeless residents of Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills. Berkowitz said the location is convenient for staff and has more parking lots at the temporary location than at the permanent one for clients.

"It's well situated where our clients are located," Berkowitz said. "We have a lot of clients in the Castro neighborhood, so that will be super convenient for them to make it over to our site. We will have our food and nutrition center over there and our case management over there. Anything that was in the Stierlin building will be at the JOANN's building."

CSA is receiving $1 million from the city of Mountain View, another $1 million from Google, $1.5 million from California and $850,000 from the federal government for construction now and in future phases. U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo secured the funding as part of a $14 million package aimed at helping 13 projects in the district for housing, infrastructure and service agency facilities.

"The Community Service Agency of Mountain View, Los Altos, and Los Altos Hills is a lifeline for thousands of seniors and is the primary provider of social services, including food and financial assistance, senior case management and housing services in three cities in my congressional district," Eshoo said. "I'm proud to have secured $850,000 in community project funding for CSA. This funding will help upgrade their facilities to accommodate additional staff and continue providing critical support to over 6,000 elderly, low-income, and unhoused members of our community."

RACE

From Page 1

There is still time for a candidate or voter to call for a recount, but that person must also finance one, which could cost more $300,000 in Santa Clara County alone.

Low and Simitian remained remarkably close in many precincts, but one Los Altos precinct represented one of the largest margin between the two candidates in Simitian's favor – garnering 435 votes versus Liccardo's 184 and Low's 93. Los Altos voters generally preferred Simitian, but that preference tapered out in Mountain View, where it became a more equal match between the three.

As of Monday afternoon, there had been no announcement from either the Simitian or Low camp about seeking a recount of ballots.

Los Altos Councilwoman and Simitian supporter Neysa Fligor had her own personal experience with extremely close elections.

She was on the losing end in 2016 when she lost to Councilmember Lynette Lee Eng by six votes.

A 2020 race for Los Altos Hills City Council had Lisa Schmidt beat Jay Sutaria by a mere vote.

In both cases, however, the races involved hundreds of votes. In this latest Congressional race, Simitian and Liccardo tied at exactly 30,249 votes apiece.

"You're talking about a Congressional district that spans two counties, multiple towns and cities, multiple precincts. It's crazy that it came down to a tie," Fligor said.

She doesn't see a particular disadvantage to a three-person race, even against Sam Liccardo. The former San Jose mayor beat Low and Simitian by more than 8,000 votes in the March 5 primary.

"The general election resets the race," she said. "Each candidate will have to run a different campaign."

Fligor cited a potentially larger turnout as well as candidates winning over voters who didn't choose them the first time around.

They're running



MARIA CROWDER/TOWN CRIER

Los Altos Mayor Jonathan Weinberg and Councilmember Sally Meadows held a pop-up event Saturday announcing their candidacy for the Nov. 5 election. Both are seeking a second term on the council. Three seats will be up for grabs in November, including one occupied by Councilmember Lynette Lee Eng. Lee Eng is termed out after serving eight years on the council. Weinberg and Meadows were first elected to the council in 2020.

CHAC

From Page 1

were forced to shut down the clinic last August.

In addition, changes in state law are mandating minimum-wage compensation for interning clinicians. Historically, as many as 50 clinicians worked unpaid internships at CHAC, at any one time, to gain work experience. Ehresman said that number will be much lower going forward.

Both CHAC and Pacific Clinics leaders see a collaboration of like-minded missions and values. Both offer school- and community-based mental health services for children, families and adults. Pacific Clinics, the latest iteration of merged mental health entities going back to 1867, also has an early education component. Under Pacific, CHAC will be able to tap into revenue streams from not only Medi-Cal but from private insurance as well.

"Pacific Clinics are very robust in that area," Ehresman said. "And then there's also some new funding coming to the school districts that will allow school districts to get reimbursed and draw down on medical and private insurance money."

"We've been informal partners with CHAC for many years," said Don Taylor, Pacific Clinic's regional executive director of the Bay Area. "Oftentimes the families that they're serving and their services also crossover and to what we've been providing to families. ... I think we have a pretty good understanding of the importance of each other's work."

Pacific Clinics officials also were lured by CHAC's office location in the north county.

"They have been serving families and children up in north county and those families had to drive down to San Jose for clinic services," Ehresman said. "Pacific Clinics also has a mobile crisis team that has to drive up from San Jose to the north county currently. So part of what they were really interested in is that 590 W. El Camino building, the CHAC building, that will be a great location as the hub for some of these existing services that Pacific Clinics have been providing."

"We're shifting services from what was CHAC contracts to what will now be Pacific Clinics contracts," Taylor said. "Our goal is that (CHAC clients) would continue to receive services. It'll just now be with Pacific Clinics. With the CHAC building over on El Camino Real, we'll provide outpatient services – traditional therapy services with youth and families or child and family team meetings."



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

CHAC acquired its current headquarters in 2013.

The current letter of intent has a provision that the CHAC name would stay on the building for at least five years, then would be rebranded with inclusion of the Pacific Clinics name.

Most likely, the number of interning clinicians will be scaled back.

"This new state law that all healthcare workers are supposed to be paid a minimum wage check had been stifling," Ehresman said. "Our interns are clinicians and training at a pretty low rate of $3,000 a year. I'm really happy and excited for them that they are going to have a minimum-wage rate that will help to support them in their education journey. (But) yes, it impacts the business model significantly."

CHAC is now at a stable point financially as it moves toward a new chapter with Pacific Clinics.

"We did some course corrections last summer to help us have a responsible year," Ehresman said. "We lived within our budget. We did some layoffs. It was very hard. We put the clinic on hiatus."

CHAC also received a $1 million grant last October from the County of Santa Clara, at the behest of Supervisor Joe Simitian.

"We were so grateful to have been awarded that grant," she said. "And the grant was really designed to help us both stabilize and retain our current staff, and then also move us through this process of looking at our sustainability options."

Ehresman said meeting the community's mental health needs remains the ultimate goal.

"I respect the (CHAC) founders. Back in 1973, as moms, they were like, 'We've got to we got to step up,' right?" she said. "This journey has been bumpy. It's been stressful. It's been hard. But ultimately, it's the clients in the community that we have to put first. And that's what we're trying to center on is this pathway for a future for them to have the support they need."

"Pacific Clinics is thrilled to explore a deeper collaboration with CHAC to ensure the availability of services to the local community," said Myeisha Peguero Gamiño, chief communications officer for Pacific Clinics. "We are in the due diligence phase, an exploratory process to ultimately make an informed recommendation on whether to enter into a formal agreement. While the type of transaction is still yet to be determined and requires votes from the boards of directors, the agencies are exploring a non-profit net asset transfer agreement."

Jennah Pendleton contributed to this story.

Disclosure: Town Crier publisher Dennis Young is on CHAC's board of directors.

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Downtown Mtn. View 20% vacant

City staff plans to turn the trend around, Chamber of Commerce president urges action

By John Bricker
Special to the Town Crier

Downtown Mountain View had a 21.34% vacancy rate in this year's first quarter, according to data reported by the city.

More than twice as much commercial office space is vacant than restaurant and retail space, reflecting the trend of tech companies leaving the Bay Area and downtown Mountain View's stock of office space not suiting renters' needs.

During the 2024 city annual update event on March 22 at Hyatt Centric Mountain View, City Manager Kimbra McCarthy said the roughly 20% figure is consistent with nearby cities also struggling with the post-pandemic reality of remote work.

John Lang, Mountain View economic vitality manager, said Costar, a commercial real estate information database, provided the 21.34% figure and that it reflects a blended average of the vacant office and retail space rates downtown. Vacancy downtown has trended up since 2018, reaching the highest peak so far in the fourth quarter of 2023 with a 21.9% rate.

In downtown Mountain View (bordered by Evelyn Avenue, El Camino Real, Hope Street and Franklin Street), 25% of office space and 8.5% of retail space was vacant as of March, Lang said.

Although East West Bookstore is doing good business on Castro Street and hasn't seen losses directly from increasing vacancy downtown, manager David Gamow said empty storefronts hurt all businesses. Gamow proposed a vacancy fee for owners sitting on empty properties to encourage them to remodel and fill them, but the city does not plan on imposing it, he said.

"It's a political hot potato," he said. "Nobody likes imposing fees."

One reason office space vacancy is trending up especially, Lang said, is because office employees increasingly work hybrid or fully remote. However, downtown's misalignment with the market is also responsible, Lang said, with many small business owners looking for 1,000 to 1,500 square foot office spaces, not the 2,000 to 5,000 square foot spaces available.

This vacancy rate follows the trend of tech companies reducing workforces in Mountain View or leaving the city entirely, with Google laying off 436 Mountain View-based employees in January, according to state filings reported by the San Francisco Chronicle, and Meta terminating its lease at the San Antonio Center in 2022.

Peter Katz, president and CEO of Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, said downtown's high office vacancy rates do not surprise him, especially given the rise of remote work and Meta's move out of Mountain View to consolidate operations in its Menlo Park headquarters.

"This is a Bay Area phenomenon," he said. "Businesses have been pulling back."



JOHN BRICKER/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

A shuttered storefront in downtown Mountain View reflects the current high vacancy rate for office and retail spaces.

Although remote work has changed city life across the Bay Area, downtown Mountain View's vacancy rate is far from identical to other local city centers.

Although he could not access isolated office and retail space vacancy rates for nearby cities and towns, Lang said, he shared downtown Sunnyvale's 29.2% vacancy rate and Palo Alto's Business Improvement District's 16.1% rate. This data puts Mountain View in the middle of the group, Lang said, but he stressed the areas' key differences, including size and kinds of buildings available.

To support activating downtown, the city made a Small Business Outdoor Furnishings Grant of $5,000 available to small business owners activating patios and is launching a grant to help beautify the facades of buildings downtown. Lang's economic development team is amplifying the vacant space downtown to brokers and working on finding a retail consultant to help activate those spaces. This city also supported activation efforts like Wednesday evening live music on Castro Street and beautification improvements like new lighting, flowers and plants, Lang said.

"Downtown is the city's living room," he said. "It's a place where people come to meet friends, meet family, recreate and come together as a community."

What the city has already done and planned to address vacancy downtown has resonated with local businesses, Katz said, but the city needs to put their plans into action.

"It's one thing to have plans and it's another thing to implement them," he said.

Katz also highlighted the city's permitting process as needing attention and reform. Outdated rules and restrictions related to Mountain View's Precise Plan and preserving historic downtown, along with general inefficiency, make it difficult to open and operate a business in Mountain View.

"The permitting process is very complex and costly and not always equitable," he said.

The city has done well by closing Castro Street and

See DOWNTOWN, Page 7

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COURTESY OF JOHN FORELL

The Francia family orchard in Mountain View covers more than 10 acres.

Old orchard represents Mountain View's last connection to its agricultural past

By Brandon Roth
Special to the Town Crier

In between multiple software company parking lots and government buildings lies an untamed 10.3-acre apricot orchard in Mountain View. No signage indicates the property's existence on Middlefield and Whisman roads and there is no fence to prevent trespassers. One may assume it looks like an abandoned field with overgrown weeds and unpruned trees, but there is more significance to this orchard than its appearance.

According to author Eugene T. Sawyer's 1922 publication "History of Santa Clara County, California," there have been family-owned farms in the Santa Clara Valley since the late 1700s. In 1919, there was a total of 91,152 acres of fruit tree orchards, 2,850 acres of vineyards and an additional 86,695 acres of cereals, vegetables and berries.

Pamela Baird, the president of the board of the Mountain View Historical Association, said by the 1950s, there was a rapid change in the region. The city of Mountain View and private companies bought out the agricultural lands and converted them into residential and commercial properties.

"In 1920, Santa Clara County's agricultural output was the largest of any county in the state of California," Baird said. "It was just a huge powerhouse of agriculture. And most people don't even know that."

According to county records, the Francia family owns and lives adjacent to the apricot orchard. Baird said the family patriarch was an immigrant from Italy and worked as an orchardist his whole life. His sons followed in his footsteps and their children, too. The family used to operate other locations such as the Corn Palace on White Oak Lane, but it is now turning into a public park by the city of Sunnyvale.

"A lot of families used to own these lands, but in a couple of generations down, not everyone wants to be in agriculture and there's pressures from tech and housing," Baird said. "That's sort of how the whole United States is developed, where you have industries take over from other things that used to be there."

Francia Orchard is the last farmland in Mountain View, according to the California Department of Conservation. The orchard is protected under the Williamson Act, a contract that entitles landowners to farm on their agriculture parcel. The contract is automatically renewed every year and it guarantees a reduced property tax assessment to enrolled landowners.

John Forell, a native resident of Los Altos, stumbled upon the Francia Orchard through Google Maps and became curious about the site's development. Forell said it was unusual for him to find an orchard of this size within the county. Forell is unsure why the property looks in disarray, but he hopes the landowners and the city can preserve the orchard for future generations.

"It could be a productive orchard," Forell said. "It can have an educational value for people of all ages. The city should really lean into what the neighboring cities have done and how they have chosen to protect their sites. Here's an opportunity that won't come back to the table."

DOWNTOWN

From Page 6

beautifying downtown, Gamow said, but the city needs to keep parking downtown free. He called the idea of charging for parking, even only at peak hours, "penny wise and pound foolish."

Despite the vacancies in office and retail spaces downtown, Lang said he is confident that conditions will improve as the city takes steps to address the trend.

"There are market cycles and we're in one of them right now," he said. "But I think we're in good shape."

A recording of the city's annual's update can be found at youtube.com/watch?v=jrPfbZB9kvQ.

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Comment

Editorial

The power of 1 vote - or lack thereof

Political pundits had never seen anything like it – after more than 180,000 votes cast, a tie in the 16th Congressional District race.

One more vote would have made the difference between going on to compete in the Nov. 5 general election and staying home. But in this lightning strike of an election result, both Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian and state Assemblyman Evan Low will go against the frontrunner, former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo.

How many Low or Simitian supporters are kicking themselves for blowing off the primary? Voter turnout for the March 5 election was less than 40%.

Our area is no stranger to extremely close elections. In 2020, Lisa Schmidt won by one vote over Jay Sutaria in her election to the Los Altos Hills City Council. In 2016, Neysa Fligor lost by six votes to Lynette Lee Eng in the Los Altos City Council race. Fligor recalled the frustration she felt when supporters told her they didn't get around to voting in the election.

Woody Allen once said 90% of success is just showing up. But the majority of registered voters couldn't even do that. Voting is a right and a privilege that comes with living in a democracy. If we pass on that opportunity, we have no one to blame but ourselves for the results.

Nowhere does the phrase, "Every vote counts" ring truer than the 16th Congressional District race. Low and Simitian both finished with 30,249 votes a piece. Just one more person's decision to go to the polls would have determined this dead-heat of a race.

No doubt, Liccardo is in the driver's seat, more than 8,000 votes ahead of either candidate. Having two challengers instead of one will dilute the vote and make it just that much harder to close the gap for either Simitian or Low. Even the expected larger voter turnout in November may not be enough.

A recount is an option, but a costly one that neither campaign appears to be jumping at. So three's a crowd come November. Did the unlikely tie decrease the odds for Low and Simitian? Stay tuned.

Los Altos Town Crier

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Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF THE LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

Members of this American League Little League team sponsored by the Los Altos Nursery pose for their group picture in 1964. Note the orchard behind the scoreboard and fence.

Letters to the Editor

Orchard is our history

I agree with Chip Lion's letter in the March 27 paper: Chipping away at the space and health of the heritage apricot orchard is a terrible idea.

Los Altos was known for the apricot orchards and the sight of bright orange apricots drying in the sun was part of our heritage.

So few other cities in Northern California honor the agricultural past that is part of their history. Los Altos has preserved that little piece of our past, and every year we can watch the trees blossom and grow fruit and enjoy this part of our own history.

We need the people who are the guardians of our city to value the orchard and to see that we need to preserve it, not convert pieces and pieces into other things.

Lion pointed out that the patio for the library could easily be done without taking away from the orchard. Please make that a priority.

Teri Berwick
Los Altos

Underground, yes, but who's going to pay?

In last week's online poll about poles, most respondents called for putting our utilities underground.

How soon, and who's supposed to pay for it?

Online research shows that for cities like Los Altos, the average retrofit cost per customer is well into 5-digit territory.

Suppose the entire revenue from today's electricity bills (generation + transmission, etc.) could be dedicated to an expedited undergrounding program.

At the end of 10 years, we might have made a significant indentation, but the job would be far from complete. Palo Alto's municipal utility has done a series of undergrounding projects, using a few percent of revenue, and over a few decades their needle has moved detectably toward "all done."

Richard Feldman
Los Altos

Enough is enough with these murals

At first it was just one or two but now they are everywhere. We have murals showing up on the side of every building in town. I feel as though I'm in a big city like Philadelphia with graffiti painted on all the buildings.

Our town is supposed to be beautiful. I understand how having one meaningful urban art mural would add character. Instead, it all looks like graffiti, not art.

If art is what people want to see they should go to the museum or art gallery downtown. Or even better, let's have an event where people can show off their artwork. We could call it "Los Altos Art and Wine Festival!"

If someone wants to express their artistic talents, there are other ways. The murals are an eyesore. We need to make this stop before all of downtown is unrecognizable.

Kevin Bull
Los Altos

Letters to the Editor

The Town Crier welcomes letters to the editor on current events pertinent to Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View. Email letters to bruceb@latc.com. Because editorial space is limited, please confine letters to no more than 200 words. Include a phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

Community

The house that Juana built: Wall from adobe to feature in new museum

By Robin Chapman

Juana Briones (1802-1889) was born into the first generation of Spanish-speaking people in California and was widely known and beloved during her lifetime.

Santa Clara Valley Lives







IMAGE AT LEFT COURTESY OF THE POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE ARCHIVES; IMAGES CENTER AND RIGHT COURTESY OF THE PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The only known photo believed to be of Juana Briones, left, turned up in 2007. Center, a vintage photo of the Juana Briones house on Old Adobe Road, Palo Alto. At right, the rescued wall of the Juana Briones house was part of a San Francisco exhibit in 2014.

Born in Santa Cruz, she spent half her life in the Santa Clara Valley as the owner of Rancho La Purísima Concepción, a spread of more than 4,000 acres that included most of what is now Los Altos Hills. The house she built in 1844, on the edge of her property, sat on land that became Old Adobe Road in Palo Alto. And therein hangs this tale.

Juana de la Briones y Tapia de Miranda lived to be 87 years old, a good long life. Her simple home survived even longer, into the 21st century in fact, until, after a long legal battle, its new owners finally got permission to tear it down in 2011.

But like Juana's story, her house, in its own way, has endured.

Local history buffs rescued a few small pieces of the adobe during its demolition and those artifacts were part of a Juana Briones exhibit at the Los Altos History Museum in 2018.

Earlier, an even larger piece of the house – an entire wall, nine feet high, eight feet wide, and six inches deep – was rescued by preservationists and transported up the highway to be part of a 2014 exhibit on Juana at the California Historical Society in San Francisco.

When the San Francisco exhibit ended, the Palo Alto Historical Association acquired the wall and moved it back down the Peninsula to a storage barn at the Foothills Nature Preserve. There, sheathed in plywood, it rested for a decade, bundled up against the hot summers and cool winters of the valley, to which, after the better part of nearly two centuries, it must long have grown accustomed.

Now, the wall is on the move again.

Palo Alto is building a museum, restoring the historic Roth building on Homer Avenue to house the new facility. The board of the museum, under president Rich Green, plans to make the Juana wall a centerpiece of what will become the museum's Legacy Hall.

That's a hulking big piece of history to fit into an old building during its rehabilitation and Green, after consulting with Michael Garavaglia, the project's architect, and Alexander Jackson of Atthowe Fine Art Services, concluded the wall would need to move into the building now, before all the

See JUANA, Page 10

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Dave Barry gives his Morning Forum audience a dose of the best medicine

By Nancy Ginsburg Gill
Special to the Town Crier

After being diagnosed with a life-threatening disease in 1964, Norman Cousins, longtime editor of The Saturday Review, credited the fact that he lived much longer than his doctors predicted he would to a powerful drug: laughter. If Cousins was correct, the 475 people who were treated to Dave Barry's Morning Forum talk on March 19 indeed did add some time – or at least quality time – to their lives. For the laughter never stopped during Barry's delightful 90-minute presentation.

After graduating from Haverford College as an English major, Barry got a job with a local paper covering "dull municipal meetings." In 1983, after he wrote a humorous column about the birth of his son, the Miami Herald hired him to be its humor columnist. He remained there for 22 years and his columns were syndicated in more than 500 papers. In 1988, he received a Pulitzer Prize for Commentary and in 2005 the Walter Cronkite Award for Journalism. He has written dozens of books and still writes occasional features and columns for the Herald.

Barry said that when he moved "from the US" to Florida, "I soon realized how easy it would be to be a humor columnist in my new state."

While a defender of Florida, Barry acknowledged that after the "hanging chad" counting fiasco of 2000, Florida became known as "the stupid state." But in defense of his adopted state, Barry asked rhetorically, "Is it fair to judge a state of 23 million people on the actions of just 19 million?"



Barry

When asked about the source of his humor, Barry said he credits much of it to his family, especially his mother. Unlike other suburban moms, he explained, she had an edge and laughed at everything.

He learned this lesson well as the wide scope of his humor demonstrates; he had his audience laughing at the dynamiting of a washed up dead whale on the beach in Oregon, a bizarre traffic accident that went viral, 75 pounds of cocaine dropping from the sky on the chief of police during a citizens' crime watch meeting, bears on crack and even Lassie.

Barry's self-deprecating humor also generated a lot of laughter.

He admitted he was a terrible reporter, which he illustrated by recounting the time he was covering George H. Bush's second presidential campaign in 1992. He found himself standing next to First Lady Barbara Bush in a photo op but instead of listening to his brain to just stay quiet or ask an appropriate question, he became a "blithering idiot," telling her that he and her son Jeb shopped at the same grocery store, and then observing that her son was quite tall.

The humorist proudly recounted that he had had a sewage lifting station in North Dakota named after him after he wrote a column mocking the state for wanting to change its name to Dakota.

He also poked fun at those close to him – his dogs' blind obedience to routine and even his rock band, The Rock Bottom Remainders, comprised of literary luminaries like Stephen King and Barbara Kingsolver. Bandmate Roy Blount Jr. referred to the band as creating "uneasy listening" because as Barry explained, they didn't rehearse before performing and rarely played in the same key.

Barry described why being the son of a humorist can be humiliating. When his son was 12, an age that children are embarrassed by everything their parents do anyway, the Oscar Mayer company allowed Barry to drive one of its Wienermobiles around town. He admitted that he may have scarred his son for life when he drove the hot dog and bun-shaped vehicle to pick his son up at middle school with all of his classmates watching.

Barry said that when on a tour of Russia, he showed a film of him picking up his son in the Wienermobile; he was sure his audience was thinking, "How did we lose the cold war to these idiots?"

Looking out at his largely gray and white haired audience, the 76-year-old humorist shared what he views as the upsides and the downsides of aging. He identified having grandchildren as a positive but then addressed the downside – "they always want to play with you on the floor." He compared this prospect with a trip to North Korea – "you don't want to go there and are even more worried about how you'll get back."

It's safe to say that after Barry's talk, those in his audience had renewed respect for the old adage "laughter is the best medicine" and understood why The New York Times once called Dave Barry "the funniest man in America."

The Morning Forum of Los Altos speaker series is held at the Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave.

For more information, visit morningforum.org.





JUANA

From Page 9

doors and windows are framed up by Vance Brown Builders. And the wall would have to be put on wheels so it could be shifted around as the finishing work inside the building is completed.

The move, in late March, took several days for setup and another day for the fragile adobe wall to be hauled, very carefully, the 7.7 miles between barn and museum. Just this one operation cost $22,000 and more funds will need to be raised for the unpacking, restoration and curation.

There is some debate, by the way, about whether this piece of Juana's house is an example of the "rammed earth" method of early California construction or something called "post adobe," but that will be settled by the historians and curators. We do know the wooden posts of the artifact carry the hand-forged, square nails of the 19th century – beautiful remnants of a time gone by.

Juana herself rests within the grounds of the Holy Cross Cemetery in Menlo Park, while her wall, for now, continues its journey.

Former Palo Alto mayor Karen Holman is helping to raise funds for the museum, now scheduled to open in January. As she puts it: "Let's not leave learning about our history to chance."

Robin Chapman is a journalist, author and Los Altos native. She spoke at the Los Altos History Museum April 7, celebrating "The Valley of Heart's Delight."

ReCycle drives fixing old bikes for new users

Town Crier Report

The ReCycle Bike Drive is celebrating its 25th year refurbishing gently used bicycles for kids in need. GreenTown Los Altos members are looking for volunteers and bike donations for the bike drive scheduled 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday (April 13) at Los Altos High School.

GreenTown accepts gently used bikes that are gathering dust in a garage (or worse, headed to the landfill), then volunteers dust them off, clean them up, fix them and donate them to kids in local communities who otherwise wouldn't have access to a bike.

Los Altos Hills resident Kathleen Santora started the bike drive with friends more than two decades ago at St. Nicholas School. In 2012, with GreenTown's help, the event was extended to the broader community. Partnerships with Los Altos High School and Bicycle Exchange have further improved the bike drive and its ability to get bikes into the hands of students and others who need them.

"We just love this event," said GreenTown bike drive coordinator Margie Suozzo. "It combines reducing waste, reusing and recycling, with clean transportation and giving back to the community. And we couldn't do it without the generous contributions – both bike donations and volunteer time – from the local community."

Volunteers at the bike drive will be on hand to accept donations. Bikes of all sizes are accepted. Students who receive bikes will also get a bike helmet and lock to keep both their bikes and noggins safe.



COURTESY OF GREENTOWN LOS ALTOS

A crack team of bike repair enthusiasts greet donors at a previous year's ReCycle Bike Drive event at Los Altos High School. The GreenTown Los Altos-hosted event fixes old bikes and matches them with new owners in need of some two-wheeled transportation.

Bike drive partners Los Altos High School and Silicon Valley Bicycle Exchange (bikex.org), as well as local school officials, are key to identifying students and others in need and in managing bike placement.

Bicycle intake guidelines

GreenTown welcomes donations but wants to make sure the bikes it gives away are like a new gift to the recipients, so consider the following questions before donating:

- Was your bike stored outside?
- Has the bike been in a crash?
- Is there significant rust on the frame (sections larger than a dime) or on the chain/cogs?

If yes, GreenTown probably can't accept your bike, but others may. Try Community Cycles or Good Karma Bikes in San Jose.

If you answered no, then bring it to the ReCycle Bike Drive on April 13.

To volunteer, visit greentownlosaltos.org or sign up at GTLA-recycle-bike-drive-2024.eventbrite.com.

"Together with our volunteers, donors and partners, GreenTown helps kids experience the joys of commuting to school by bike – a clean, efficient and fun way to get around," Suozzo said. "Plus, we hope all this bike fixing will get folks excited about tuning up their own bikes so they can fully participate in Los Altos Bike Month in May."

Los Altos Bike Month

The ReCycle Bike Drive helps to kick-off the second annual Los Altos Bike Month, a full month of activities to get Los Altos residents on their bikes.

"We're excited to offer Los Altos Bike Month again this year," said Andre-Anne Cadeaux, the city's Safe Routes to School coordinator. "We hope to get even more participation: the more people we have biking in Los Altos, the safer the streets will become."

Bike Month includes activities like "Family Bike Day" on May 4, where families can get to know Los Altos' secret cut-throughs on an easy guided bike ride, and "Bike 'n Dine" on May 17, where the first 50 bicyclists to pre-register and check-in at the event will get a swag bag with dining discounts.

For more information on Los Altos Bike Month, visit bikelosaltos.com.

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Rotary club's work highlighted at museum

Town Crier Report

What do the Veterans Community Plaza, the fountain in front of the Los Altos library and the annual Fine Art in the Park have in common? They were all initiatives of the Rotary Club of Los Altos. The history of this local branch of the international service organization takes center stage in Los Altos History Museum's upcoming exhibit, "Rotary Club of Los Altos: 75 Years of 'Service Above Self.'" The exhibit will be on display in the J. Gilbert Smith House Gallery from April 18 to August 4.

The Rotary Club of Los Altos, a nonpolitical and nonsectarian fellowship of more than 160 dedicated business, professional and community leaders, upholds high ethical standards and the principle of "Service Above Self." Through projects guided by mantras such as "People of Action" and "Helping People to Help Themselves," Rotarians foster friendships and positive change locally and globally, often collaborating with other Rotary clubs.

Encapsulating 75 years of the club's impactful history was no small feat for guest curator Jeanine Valadez, a dedicated Rotarian. "Instead of simply cataloging our extensive list of projects since our charter in 1949, we aim to illuminate the purpose and significance behind a curated selection; we intend to demonstrate how steadfast devotion to service and amity has grown our club and moved us forward despite differing opinions or ideologies," Valadez explained.

The exhibit will showcase a diverse array of projects, many of which directly contribute to the advancement of Los Altos, spanning from infrastructure to artistic endeavors. Others have left a lasting impression on underserved communities in neighboring areas. Additionally, the exhibit will shine a spotlight on the international reach of the local Rotary's service projects.

With over 46,000 clubs worldwide, the Rotary movement focuses on seven key areas of service: promoting cross-cultural peace, combating diseases such as Polio, AIDS and Malaria, ensuring access to clean water and sanitation, supporting maternal and child health, advancing education and literacy, fostering economic growth in impoverished communities, and safeguarding the environment.

Visitors will have the opportunity to explore photographs, narratives and audio-visual presentations designed by local graphic designer Alexander Atkins. The intimate exhibit space invites guests to immerse themselves in the material and engage with knowledgeable history docents.

The exhibit demonstrates the profound influence that individuals, regardless of age or background, can exert both locally and globally. "Of course, we hope community members join our club, but you don't have to be a member to participate in Rotary service projects," stressed Valadez. "And for those with busy schedules, supporting our projects financially can yield remarkable results, benefiting underserved communities worldwide."



COURTESY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF LOS ALTOS

Rotarian Marge Bruno reads to a child in this undated photo. Rotary started a mentoring and tutoring nonprofit, now called Mentor Tutor Connection.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum will host "The Los Altos Story: The Impact of the Rotary AIDS Project," featuring a screening of the Peabody Award-winning film "The Los Altos Story" 5:30-7 p.m. April 18.

The documentary explores how three local Rotarians tackled the challenge of sharing their secret during the AIDS crisis, ultimately changing the world. The screening will be followed by a discussion with panelists Mary Prochnow, Dick Henning, Wyatt Allen and Rich Casey, covering production challenges, the impact on everyone involved, the mission and the film's role in sparking a movement.

Admission is $15 per person, free to museum members. Registration is required at losaltoshistory.org/LosAltosStory.

The Rotary Club of Los Altos sponsors the Museum's ongoing exhibition, "From Earthquakes to Epidemics: How Disasters Transform California's People and Places," currently on display in the Main Gallery until May 12.

For more information on the Rotary Club exhibit, visit losaltoshistory.org/Rotary75.

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Los Altos DAR hosts talk on city's heritage orchard

Town Crier Report

The Los Altos Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has scheduled a talk on the historic Los Altos Heritage Orchard noon to 1 p.m. April 19. Dr. Jane Packard will give a presentation titled "Preservation of the Los Altos Heritage Orchard Historical Landmark." The Los Altos DAR will also present Community Service Awards to Silja Paymer for her work developing the native plant garden at Cuesta Park Annex and to Jennifer Dirking for her Wildflower Ambassadors program.

The meeting, open to all, will be held in the Apricot Room of the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave. Register at bit.ly/orchard19.

Productive farms have long been the backbone of our nation. The Los Altos Heritage Orchard preserves the memories of the rural heritage of our local community. In her talk, Packard will address three questions about rehabilitation of this historical landmark: what, how and why.

She will invite discussion about what it means to preserve a productive working orchard in the context of a changing environment.

Packard is chairperson of the volunteer Orchard Commons Committee at the Los Altos History Museum. The rehabilitation of the Los Altos Heritage Orchard landmark has been her retirement service project since returning to her birthplace to care for her father in 2017. After graduating from Gunn High School during the environmental movement and Civil Rights Movement, her parents encouraged her to broaden her perspectives at a college on the East Coast. At Swarthmore College, her love of science was sparked by an internship in Germany. As the third-generation Ph.D. in her family, in 1980 she completed her doctorate in ecology and behavioral biology at the University of Minnesota, followed by a postdoc at University of Florida. Her academic career as director of the Biodiversity Stewardship Lab at Texas A&M University was energized by exploring the challenges faced by local communities in protecting nature.

She brings home lessons learned abroad to integrate the old and the new in care for the heritage of the community.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Community Service Award recognizes individuals or organizations for outstanding voluntary service, including unpaid achievements in cultural, educational, humanitarian, patriotic, historical, citizenship or environmental conservation endeavors.



COURTESY OF JANE PACKARD

Jane Packard, chair of the Orchard Commons Committee of the Los Altos History Museum, will speak at the April 19 DAR meeting.

The Los Altos DAR chose Paymer and Dirking for their commitment to gardening for habitat and planting for birds and pollinators.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a nonprofit, nonpolitical women's service organization founded in 1890 to preserve the memory and spirit of those who contributed to securing American independence.

Any woman 18 years or older is eligible to join if she can prove lineal descent from a supporter of the American Revolution (through military service, financial donations, food supplies, or other support).

The Los Altos Chapter focuses on local historic preservation projects, genealogy research, fundraising for a Foothill College scholarship fund, environmental conservation, service to veterans and other community projects.

To learn more about the Los Altos Chapter and today's DAR, email LosAltosDAR@gmail.com or visit losaltos.californiadar.org.

Discussion series aims to enhance interpersonal, community understanding

Town Crier Report

A three-part discussion series based on the book "How To Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others and Being Deeply Seen," by David Brooks, continues 7-8:30 p.m. April 16 and 30. These two sessions will be held at a new location: the Garden House at Shoup Park, 400 University Ave.

The New York Times-bestselling book is described as a "practical, heartfelt guide to the art of truly knowing another person in order to foster deeper connections at home, at work and throughout our lives."

As David Brooks observes, "There is one skill that lies at the heart of any healthy person, family, school, community organization, or society: the ability to see someone else deeply and make them feel seen – to accurately know another person, to let them feel valued, heard and understood."

The series is facilitated by David Green, minister of Foothills Congregational Church in Los Altos, and librarian Molly Anderson.

"We all crave human connection, and anyone benefits from learning how to be a better listener and communicator; to truly know what matters to another person," Green said. "But in a larger sense, as we've seen social and political divisions dissolve friendships, injure families, and wreak havoc on common civility, it's essential we relearn how to hold constructive, respectful conversations.

"In a world where we often disagree, we all profit from enhancing our ability to understand each other. David Brooks' book provides a hopeful and practical roadmap for achieving that. In this community conversation series we walk participants through practicing those steps."

There is no registration or cost for the series.

Space is limited and participants are encouraged to arrive early.

For more information, visit foothills-church.org/community-conversation.

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M-F: 8 am, 12:10 pm
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Schools

New Jardin Drive design chosen, but controversy continues

By Jennah Pendleton
Staff Writer/jennahp@latc.com

After months of controversy, city of Los Altos staff have settled on a new design for Jardin Drive, but residents are still not happy. However, the issue has become much bigger than just the traffic pattern along the street. The fiasco has incited discussion of transportation and parking surrounding the school, a sore topic where it has been historically difficult to please everyone.

In an online public forum, Los Altos City Council members and Mountain View Los Altos High School District trustees heard from city staff and concerned residents about how to proceed with designs for Jardin Drive.

Anger over the most recent redesign, which was completed in the summer of 2023, has been mounting as residents watch confused motorists traverse the narrow street. City officials and residents agree that the current design tries to do too much in not enough space; it attempts to fit a shared westbound travel lane, an eastbound lane for motorists, a loading zone, a five-foot buffer for drop off and a cycle track.

"The design didn't fit the road," City Manager Gabriel Engeland told the Town Crier.

The newest design recommended by the Complete Streets Commission does away with a cycle track, opting for two separate bike lanes and a parking/loading zone closest to the sidewalk along the south side of the street.

However, many agree there's another issue. Residents and students alike are concerned about how cars going eastbound must cross over the bike lane to reach the parking and loading zone, which can put cyclists at risk.

Resident David Sauerhaft has been one of the most vocal and organized advocates to change Jardin. He reasons that the street is not one where cyclists usually travel – he has observed that students typically ride along cross streets Los Ninos Way or Casita Way to reach entrances to the school and not along Jardin Drive. He argues that the best solution is to promote bicycle entrance from the side streets and combine the motorist and bicycle lanes into a shared traffic lane going each way.

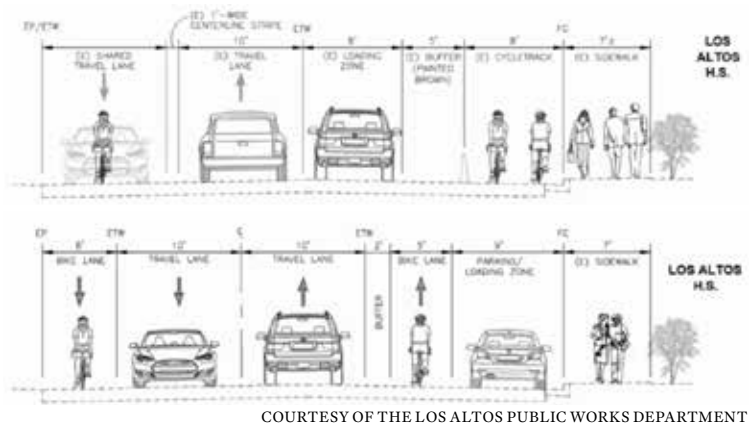
"That way we can avoid having bicycles crossing cars back and forth with parking and bike lanes," Sauerhaft said in a public comment. "It's just nonsensical and very dangerous. I don't think we want to be here after something bad happens."

The larger issue at the center of this is between residents who worry that reducing parking along the street will push students to park in the surrounding neighborhood and members of the Los Altos High community who want to promote alternative forms of transportation to campus other than driving. Residents argue that the school should take responsibility for this issue and provide more parking spaces.

Others argue that providing more parking induces demand and does not prepare the school or the neighborhood for a climate-, cyclist- and pedestrian-friendly future. Los Altos High senior and transit advocate Samuel Cousins argues that "the reality is that we'll never build enough parking."

"We (could pave over the school) until the world's end but we would not solve the foundational issues of transportation or community," he said in a public comment.

MVLA Board of Trustees president Sanjay Dave told the Town Crier that he plans to bring this issue to the board at their Tuesday meeting to discuss how to address the issue.



COURTESY OF THE LOS ALTOS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The above illustration depicts the cross section view of the current Jardin Drive configuration while the below illustration depicts the new design the city is moving forward with.

AAUW branches fund local student leaders to attend national conference

Town Crier Report

The Silicon Valley branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) announces fellowships for two Foothill College students to attend the AAUW-sponsored National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, to be held May 30 through June 1 at the University of Maryland in College Park, just outside of Washington, DC.

Each year, the conference brings together hundreds of college women from around the country for three days of leadership training, inspiration and networking. This year's event will include sessions on career development, mentorship, financial literacy, racial-justice activism and more. Participants will have an opportunity to explore post-graduate programs, careers in a variety of disciplines and other opportunities for their future.

The awardees are Amit Freikorn, vice president of activities at the Associated Students of Foothill College, and Nicole Nguyen, student trustee on the Foothill College board of trustees.

Freikorn moved to Sunnyvale two years ago from Israel and chose Foothill because it was too late to try for a four-year school. She has enjoyed Foothill's small classes, which made it easier for her to adjust to American campus life. She is particularly intrigued by the conference workshop "Elevating Eldest Daughters: Navigating Expectations and Finding Healing as the First in our Families."

"As an eldest daughter myself, I am really interested in seeing what this workshop includes and seeing the perspectives of eldest daughters in less developed countries or struggling families," she said.

Nicole Nguyen's family came to California from Vietnam, and she has grown up in San Jose. She admits to having been a poor student in high school, and chose a community college to improve her skills.

Both women hope to transfer to one of the UC campuses after their time at Foothill. Freikorn plans to major in economics with an eye toward a legal career, while Nguyen plans to follow her interest in minority rights and diversity issues with a major in sociology.

The AAUW fellowships include room and board as well as attendance at all conference meetings. The Foothill-De Anza Community College District is providing airfare for the two awardees.

For more information about AAUW, visit aauw.org or siliconvalley-ca.aauw.net for the local branch.




COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Amit Freikorn, left, and Nicole Nguyen, right, were awarded scholarships to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

Schools Briefs

CMS hosts e-waste collection

Cupertino Middle School has scheduled a free e-waste collection event 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 27, 1650 S Bernardo Ave. in Sunnyvale.

Volunteers will be on-site in the front parking lot to accept recyclable electronics, including wires, TVs, laptops, power tools, printers, monitors, vehicle batteries, cameras, kitchen appliances and more. Items that will not be accepted include microwaves, ovens, printer cartridges, copiers, light bulbs and fluorescent tubes, among others.

A portion of the proceeds from resale of the items supports the students of Cupertino Middle School.

For a list of accepted items and more information, email HemaLakhani@intero.com.

Company recruits crossing guards

All City Management Services, a company that provides crossing guards and safety resources at local schools, has immediate openings.

School crossing guards work a shift in the morning before school and in the afternoon after school, protecting local children as they cross busy streets.

See BRIEFS, Page 15

The changing faces of MVLA leadership:
Board president Dave will not run for re-election in 2024

By Jennah Pendleton
Staff Writer/jennahp@latc.com



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTOS

Mountain View Los Altos High School Ditrict Superintendent Nellie Meyer, left, will retire this summer and board of trustees president Sanjay Dave, center, will not run for reelection. Phil Fallaice, right, has not yet decided whether he will run for another term.

Nellie Meyer, superintendent of Mountain View Los Altos High School District, is not the only familiar face to leave the district. Sanjay Dave, current MVLA Board of Trustees president, told the Town Crier that he will not be running for re-election this fall. This frees up at least one spot for a new trustee on the board next year.

Dave, who was first elected in 2016, is retiring due to mounting responsibilities in his professional life.

"I've done my time, and I've got other priorities that have come up in my life," he told the Town Crier. "I want to be able to spend more time with the school, but it deserves more attention than I think I can provide after next year."

Phil Faillace, who was first elected in 1996, is the other trustee whose term expires at the end of this year. Faillace, the longest serving member of the board by far, told the Town Crier that he has not yet decided whether he will run in November for another term.

In 2022, two new faces joined the school board – Esmeralda Ortiz and Thida Cornes, who replaced the retiring Debbie Torok and Fiona Walter, who had served on the board for 12 and eight years respectively. That year, incumbent trustee Catherine Vonnegut was re-elected for another four-year term.

With three spots up for grabs and just one incumbent last go around, the MVLA community saw a competitive campaign with six candidates. Dave said that he hopes there are many good candidates for his spot on the board and that the district deserves good critical thinkers who will serve the community well.

Meyer retires

The last few years have marked a period of great change for the district on the administrative side of things. Most recently, Meyer announced her retirement, prompting the board of trustees to commence an "expedited" search for a new superintendent.

Trustees held a special meeting Friday with Julie Haff, Dian Siri and Carolyn McKennan of Hazard Young Attea Associates to discuss the timeline for the process. The consultants described the candidate search as already well underway, with the job listing now public and accepting applications. Trustees will interview candidates at the beginning of May, with the hopes of securing a contract and introducing the new superintendent by the May 20 board meeting.

Meyer has not yet set an exact date for her departure, but said that she will be there to aid the new administrator in the beginning.

"I plan on working into the summer to make sure that the new super has all of the info that they need to continue to support MVLA," she said. "I want to make sure that I'm available for any questions that need to be answered and to be able to make the transition as smooth as possible."

Changing faces

The high school district has seen its fair share of major change in the last several years – each school principal has been in the role for less than two years.

In 2022, longtime Alta Vista principal Bill Pierce retired and was succeeded by Suzanne Woolfolk, previously a Los Altos High assistant principal. At the same time, Kip Glazer replaced the retiring Mike Jimenez at Mountain View High. And last school year marked the final year for Wynne Satterwhite as principal of Los Altos High, who served in the role for 19 years and spent 38 years with the district. Tracey Runeare took the post in fall 2023.

BRIEFS
From Page 14

Local school crossing guards typically work fewer than two hours per day, divided into a morning and afternoon shift, but are paid for three hours if they work both shifts. Compensation is $20.50 per hour or $61.50 for the whole day. The work is outdoors and on school days only – no nights, weekends or holidays.

Crossing guards are also needed in Mountain View, where the hourly rate is $19.50, or $57.50 for the whole day.

For more information, visit acmssafety.com/careers.

Seeking Student Voices columns

Are you a student with strong opinions on local issues? Or have you had a unique, impactful experience that you think people should know about?

The Town Crier has a long history of inviting high school students to write from a personal perspective for the Schools section. Past topics have included the importance of student journalism, experiences in local extracurricular activities and critiques of local government.

Submit pitches for a Student Voices column to Schools section editor Jennah Pendleton at jennahp@latc.com

To read past Student Voices columns, visit tinyurl.com/TC-studentvoices.

SPEAKING VOLUMES

A GLIMPSE INTO A CONTROLLED NATION
Observations from North Korea
Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Avenue – Grand Oak Room

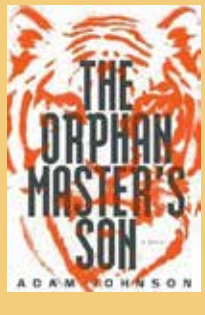
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Admission Free



Adam Johnson, The Orphan Master's Son

The Los Altos Library Endowment is pleased to announce that our award-winning speaker this year is Adam Johnson, one of America's most provocative and powerful authors. Adam is an American novelist and short story writer. He won the Pulitzer Prize for his 2012 novel, The Orphan Master's Son." He went on to win the National Book Award for his 2015 story collection "Fortune Smiles" and is currently working on a new book to be announced shortly. He is a professor of English at Stanford University with a focus on creative writing.

Adam's presentation is titled: "*A Glimpse into a Controlled Nation: Observations from North Korea*." Clashes between democracy and dictatorships continue across the globe. From events in Russia, Ukraine, and Iran to ongoing oppression across North Korea and other countries, it is important to seek to understand how it feels to those living in these countries and the broader global implications.



We are pleased to bring this presentation to the Los Altos Community in cooperation with the City of Los Altos.
Please join us. Save the date today.

Speaking Volumes is an annual community event sponsored by the Los Altos Library Endowment (LALE).
For more information about LALE, visit lalendow.org.

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INSIDE
Sports
Stepping Out
Business & Real Estate

Spring recipes for all weather conditions

By Christine Moore

In years past, the season change from winter to spring has brought about a bumpy dinner routine transition for me. Committed to my winter set of recipes, I've been known to serve heavy soups on days far too bright and balmy for the meal. This year is all the more perplexing given the changeable weather. There seems to be glorious sunshine one day, torrential rain the next.

Silicon Valley Sips

I'm leaning into our current climate conundrum with recipes that brighten the dinner table regardless of the conditions outside. These take advantage of in-season produce and come together quickly. They allow me to spring into action (forgive the pun) based on the day's skies.

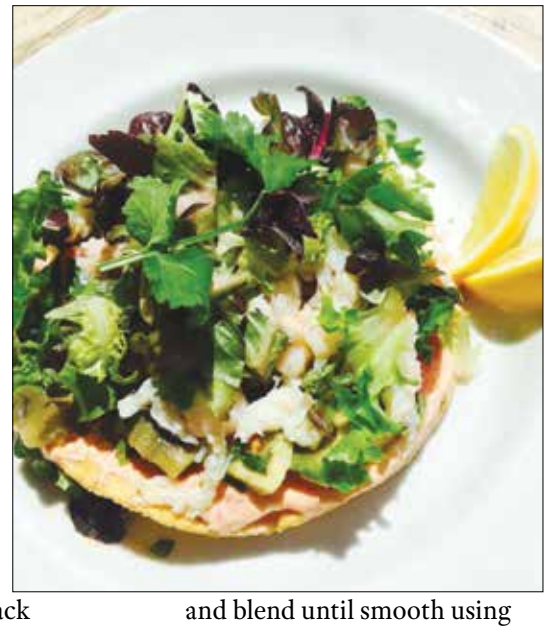
Watercress and leek soup

As I write this article, it is absolutely teeming down with rain. Tomorrow is meant to be warm and sunny. This reality has earned my soup recipe top billing in this piece of spring favorites.

If you're reading the article on a warm day, consider saving the dish for the next time we have a weather flip. I suspect we're in for a few more this April. After all, isn't it the showers of this month that bring May's flowers?

Watercress season has just begun. I like to toss the bright and nutrient-packed green into salads, because the vegetable's peppery attributes provide a bright punch. But I believe watercress really shines in this soup.





COURTESY OF CHRISTINE MOORE

From a tasty soup to tostadas and lemonade, these spring-inspired recipes are bright, fresh and perfect for whatever weather the season may bring.

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon grapeseed oil
- 3 small leeks, cleaned well and diced
- 1 bunch watercress, washed and rough chopped
- 2 Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 small zucchini squash, washed and diced
- 4 cups chicken stock ideally homemade or best quality store-bought
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon Irish grey salt
- Fresh ground black pepper (I grind the mill 25 times because we're big black pepper fans)

In a large soup pot or Dutch oven, heat the oil and butter over medium. Once butter fully melts, add leeks and sweat for 5 minutes. Add watercress, potatoes, zucchini, thyme, salt and pepper and cook for 5-7 minutes more. Pour stock over vegetables and bring to boil. Simmer covered until all vegetables very soft – about 20 minutes. Remove from heat and blend until smooth using immersion blender. Serve immediately or can be made up to two days ahead and reheated.

Make a meal by serving heaping bowls of the soup beside your favorite wholegrain bread topped with butter, smoked salmon and capers.

Seafood tostadas with spicy crema

Welcoming spring with gusto is easy thanks to my super simple seafood tostada recipe.

See SPRING, Page 18

Warmer days call for baking a mile-high fresh strawberry pie

By Blanche Sheehan

After a long soggy winter, the first warm weather fruit that welcomes us into spring is the strawberry. These bright, heart-shaped gems bursting with sweet and tangy flavor eagerly beckon us from farmer's markets and grocery shelves to mark a fresh new season.

Feast in the Middle East

To choose the best strawberries, look for a deep red color, shiny smooth exterior, vibrant green stems and medium firmness with taut skin. For maximum flavor, buying locally is essential. Berries from local orchards are picked at peak ripeness compared to those sitting on trucks and traveling long distances.

To celebrate the start of spring, one ritual my family and I have enjoyed for years is strawberry picking in Watsonville. The floral scent fills up the car on the ride home, as we anticipate the myriad of ways to serve these freshly picked treasures. Once we get home we can't wait to incorporate the berries into creamy Greek yogurt drizzled with honey and walnuts, sprinkled onto pancakes, or tossed into salads.

But one tradition the family particularly enjoys is this dramatic mile high strawberry pie. The strawberries are mounted into a golden baked pie crust like a floral arrangement, showcasing this fruit's vivid color and luscious flavor. By using fresh berries in peak season, there is no need to add much sugar. You can use a ready made crust to save you time in the kitchen, or make your own. Just shape the crust into any pie pan of choice, bake, then fill with the strawberry filling. Crown with fresh whipped cream if you desire.

Strawberry Filling

- 3 pounds fresh strawberries
- 1/3 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons (15 ml) lemon juice
- 1/3 cup cornstarch
- 1 sheet refrigerated pie crust or 1 recipe for homemade pie crust below
- 1 egg, whisked with 1 tablespoon of water or milk as an egg wash

For a store-bought or homemade crust: Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Unroll the crust into a 9-inch pie plate. Trim the edge. Line the crust with heavy-duty foil or parchment paper. Fill with pie weights (you can also use beans or rice). Bake for 15 minutes. Remove from the oven then remove foil and pie weights. Brush the crust with egg wash if you want a glossy finish.

Prick the crust with a fork, then bake 15 minutes longer. Reduce the heat to 375 degrees and bake 10 minutes more. Set the crust aside.

Wash, destem and slice the fresh strawberries in half



COURTESY OF BLANCHE SHEEHAN

or quarters. Reserve half of the berries in a mixing bowl for later. Place the remaining half of the strawberries in a blender or food processor. Blend until fully puréed. Pour the strawberry purée, cornstarch, lemon juice and sugar into a sauce pan. Whisk well to combine. Heat over medium-high heat to a gentle boil, then reduce to low-medium heat until thickened. This takes about 10 minutes. To test, dip a spoon into the strawberry glaze, if the back remains coated in the glaze, it is ready.

Pour the strawberry glaze over the fresh berries,

See PIE, Page 18

SPRING

From Page 17

It's also quick to prepare.

I can get this dinner on the table in 30 minutes.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cup Mexican Crema, such as El Mexicana Brand
- 2 tablespoons prepared red harrisa
- 1 pound cooked seafood (I like a combo of lump crab and shrimp-meat)
- 1 avocado, diced
- 2 tomatoes, diced
- 3 spring onions, diced
- 2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
- 1 lime
- 1 lemon (1/2 for dinner squeezing)
- 8 tostada shells
- Chopped lettuce for serving
- 1/2 cup shredded cotija cheese for serving

Heat oven to 375 degrees

Prepare spicy crema by combining Mexican Crema, harissa and the juice of 1/2 lime (for non-spicy version, omit harissa)

In a medium bowl, combine avocado, tomatoes, spring onions and cilantro. Add salt and pepper to taste. Mix and set aside.

Place crab and shrimp into a medium serving bowl and squeeze the juice of 1/2 lime and 1/2 lemon over top. Mix and set aside.

Heat tostadas in oven for 3-5 minutes.

I put everything on the table and let the family assemble their own.

Spring Clean Lemonade

Regardless of weather conditions, April is a great time of year to declutter. After a morning of spring cleaning indoors or out, this adult-only lemonade is ideal for toasting your efforts.

My abundant Meyer lemon tree is brightening up our backyard in all its yellow citrus glory. Pouring some of the happy hue into our glasses is equally welcome on a soup or tostada evening.

Ingredients

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup sugar
- 10 lemons, preferrable Meyer
- 8 cups cold water
- 1 cup Cointreau
- 1 cup vodka

In a small saucepan, make a simple syrup by simmering 1 cup water and 1 cup sugar until sugar is fully dissolved. Cool to room temperature.

Juice lemons directly into a pitcher. Then, add cooled syrup, cold water, Cointreau and vodka. Stir with vigor. Add lots of ice to the pitcher and serve.

For a family-friendly version, omit alcohol from lemonade and instead add two additional cups of cold water. When serving, add 1 ounce of Cointreau and 1 ounce of vodka to each "grown-up glass."

Christine Moore is a Mountain View resident. To read her blog, visit writeyum.com.

PIE

From Page 17

combine gently until the berries are fully coated. Cool to room temperature. Fill the pie crust with the glazed strawberries once cooled, then serve.

Pie Dough

- 1 stick unsalted butter, cut into small pieces and frozen for 15 minutes
- 1 1/2 cups unbleached all purpose flour, plus more for dusting
- 1/4 teasspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 cup ice water

In a large mixing bowl, add the flour and chilled butter, and toss to coat. Use your fingers to rub the flour and butter together until there are pea-sized, flattened bits of butter in the flour. Sprinkle in the salt and sugar and toss with your fingers to combine. Add the water and use a plastic scraper to fold the dough until it begins to clump together. The dough should be lumpy and sandy.

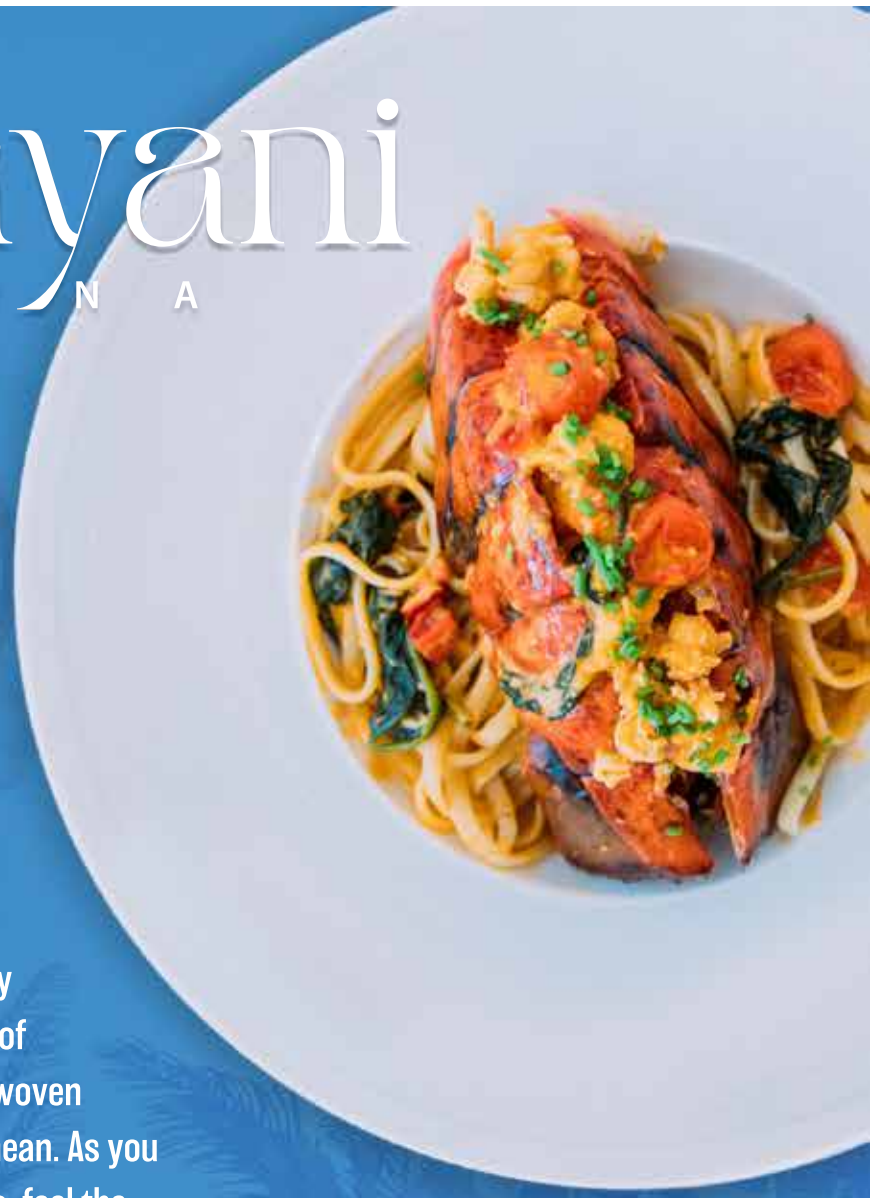
Dust a clean work surface with flour. Pat out the dough into a flat disk about 1 inch thick. Fold the dough in on itself and pat in the edges until the dough holds together and is no longer sandy. Once the dough starts to come together, fold the dough in half, turn a quarter turn, and pat it out flat again to an inch thick. Repeat about 5 more times. Flatten the dough into a disk and wrap tightly with plastic wrap and refrigerate for a least 30 minutes to overnight before rolling out. Butter should still be visible in the dough, as that will give it a flaky texture.

Blanche Shaheen is a television correspondent for the NBC show "California Live," host of the YouTube cooking show "Feast in the Middle East" and author. For authentic and classical Middle Eastern recipes and to purchase her cookbook: "Feast in the Middle East, A Personal Journey of Family and Cuisine," visit FeastInTheMiddleEast.com. For cooking video tutorials and other recipes, follow Blanche on YouTube at youtube.com/user/BlancheTV.



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Sports

LA girls lacrosse gets watershed moment for program

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

After three years in charge of the Los Altos girls lacrosse team, head coach Christina Sabin believes the program is at a turning point following Wednesday's season sweep of rival Mountain View.

Standing on the sidelines, Sabin watched the Eagles beat the visiting Spartans 13-7, propelling Los Altos to third place in the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League De Anza Division and eyeing a CCS playoff birth.

"We are now in a really good spot to have the best season overall that we have ever had as a program," Sabin said after the game.

Mountain View (2-8) has swept the Eagles (5-4) the previous three seasons and made the CCS playoffs all three years during that time, but the Spartans are having a down year at 2-5 in league play, with Los Altos filling the vacancy thanks to a strong crop of juniors. The Eagles are 4-2 in league play and chasing first-place Los Gatos (5-0 in league) and second-place Gunn (5-1 in league) for playoff spots. Sabin credited the turnaround to the rising crop of juniors that provide depth and athleticism across the board. Los Altos has 13 juniors on the team who all play a variety of positions, including goalie and the entire starting midfield.

"They are very strong, very athletic, and they have great heads on their shoulders, and they've done wonders for the program," Sabin said.

Junior captain Natalie Barton is one of the players most responsible for the exponential change in how the team operates. The midfielder has played varsity lacrosse and basketball all three years since she arrived and has been a driving force in moving the team upfield and into scoring positions. Sabin coached Barton before she came to Los Altos and praised her for being a clear communicator on defense and doing a fantastic job on draws and transitions for the team. Barton also scored in the first three quarters against the Spartans.

"She's just a solid player," Sabin said. "She gives 100%, is always there and always commits herself to being there for her teammates."

Sabin noted there has also been a leveling of talent across the league that has increased competitively. Teams like Los Gatos and Gunn have dominated in previous seasons, but Sabin says Los Altos is getting closer to the pair. Los Altos lost 8-7 against Gunn this year and only by three to Los Gatos, the reigning champions, with the Eagles playing both again April 17 and 24. Sabin's expectations are for the girls to go to CCS playoffs at least once in the next two years, but she wasn't initially expecting this year to be a real possibility until last week

See LACROSSE, Page 21



MCKAYLA KAO/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Los Altos' Natalie Barton, a captain and junior on the lacrosse team, looks to pass during the win against Mountain View Wednesday that earned the team a season sweep of the Spartans.

Los Altos baseball undefeated in league after Cupertino sweep

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

The Los Altos baseball team continued its undefeated start in SCVAL De Anza Division play by beating Cupertino Wednesday and Friday.

Los Altos (8-7) is now 6-0 in the league and took control of Wednesday's 9-2 win thanks to junior outfielder Aaron Baum's two triples and a home run. Baum started off the first inning with a triple to the left-centerfield fence and scored after Kai MacQuiddy hit him in with a single for the first run of the game. Baum followed it up with a triple in the second inning over the centerfielder's head and his third home run of the season over the left field fence in the fifth inning.

"I think it was a great day; just relieved mental stress today," Baum said. "Just playing more free was key to my success today."

Baum was up 2-0 in the count during his home run plate appearance and waited on a pitch he wanted after getting curveballs, focusing on sitting back and waiting to see the ball and drive it.

"I was feeling pretty good after the two triples, so first-pitch curveball in the dirt and then second pitch curveball again and not close, so on the third pitch I sat fastball, and he threw it right down the middle," Baum said.

Los Altos head coach Gabe Stewart noted that the team prepared well and knew Cupertino throws mostly off-speed pitches. Several players, like Baum, stayed calm and composed while looking for pitches to hit.

"Even if they got fooled and got out in front on one pitch, they made the adjustment and stayed back," Stewart said. "I think you can look at any of Aaron Baum's at-bats and see that."

Los Altos opened the first inning with three runs, with Brennon Holleb and Enrique Nicolas getting RBI singles to add to MacQuiddy's opening RBI. The Los Altos lineup consistently got hits and runs, scoring in every inning except the third and six players getting RBIs. MacQuiddy got his second RBI in the second inning, with Channing Hautop adding an RBI double to make it 5-0. Cupertino bounced back with two runs in the third before Emmett Heath had a two-run RBI single in the fourth to make it 7-2. The Eagles added a run in the fifth and sixth innings and finished with 12 hits. Los Altos starter Sly Cash pitched five innings and had seven strikeouts while giving up two runs. Baum said the team improved its intensity after an opening season slump when it went 1-6. The Eagles have picked it up in league play since, winning five of its last six games.



MCKAYLA KAO/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Los Altos infielder Channing Hautop bats during a game early in the season.

"Feeling pretty good, some little things to clean up but solid overall," Baum said of the game.

Despite the win, Stewart believes the team can and should be doing better, noting a need for more consistency in at-bats, pitching execution and making plays. Stewart thought the team lacked an edge but got a good result Wednesday, noting the team lost against Menlo-Atherton the previous week, which was a similar performance that produced several errors.

"You could look at the book score and think, wow, this was a clean, decisive victory, but

See BASEBALL, Page 21

Los Altos football gets championship rings

Town Crier Report

The Los Altos football team had its championship ring presentation Wednesday for winning the Peninsula Athletic League El Camino Division in the fall.

The team was presented with the rings made by Baron Rings from Los Altos head coach Mike Garitty and includes the number and name of each player and the year on it.

"I think the kids really deserve them," Garitty said. "They earned them. The least we could do is get them these rings that signify their run but also their hard work and dedication to playing football."

Los Altos was an outright champion for the first time since 2010 when the Eagles went 6-0 in the El Camino Division and finished the season at 8-2-1 overall. The 2023 team beat Woodside 35-7 in its final league game Oct. 27 to clinch the division with a 4-1 record. The Woodside game had high stakes, with both teams tied for first in the division at 3-1 and Fremont also at 3-1. The Eagles' victory and Fremont's loss to Carlmont the same day ensured the outright league title.

Los Altos finished the season 5-6 overall and were the No. 5 seed in the Central Coast Section Division V playoffs, losing in the first round against Santa Teresa 37-15.



MCKAYLA KAO/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

The 2023 Los Altos football team celebrated its Peninsula Athletic League El Camino Division championship title with a ring presentation Wednesday commemorating the season. The team won its first outright title since 2010.

LACROSSE

From Page 20

when she realized how close the team is to finishing first or second in the league. SCVAL champions are guaranteed a spot in the CCS playoffs, while second place usually gets in.

"I wasn't really expecting it this year because we have a lot of young talent coming in and being developed, but they have really come out like a storm and really taken over," Sabin said.

The CCS lacrosse playoffs have also been expanded to 16 teams this year, giving the second and third-place teams a better chance of being invited.

"I'm really hopeful," Sabin said of the team's playoff chances. "These girls have really done the work to get to that point where we can get to that next level. It's really up to them if they want it."

The Eagles outscored the Spartans 4-3, 5-2 and 3-1 in the first three quarters Wednesday, with Lola Bacchi, Keira Reilly and Cami Burnham adding goals for the Eagles. Sabin was proud of the team for having the mentality to be consistent each quarter in a very competitive rivalry game. Los Altos has finished near the bottom of league play in recent years and lost most of its previous games against Mountain View. Los Altos beat Mountain View away 12-7 March 13.

"We are finally neck and neck with them, and beating them twice in a season is amazing," Sabin said of the rivalry game. "It's a really good feeling."



MCKAYLA KAO/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Los Altos' Lola Bacchi, No. 10, during the Mountain View game.

BASEBALL

From Page 20

I know we can play better, and that's where my frustration comes from," Stewart said.

While Stewart was happy about the result, he is holding the team to a higher standard to bring out a consistent mental focus and physicality. Stewart feels the team must improve to achieve its goals in the playoffs. Stewart noted the team's best stretch came in a two-game series against Palo Alto in March and against Leland when Los Altos was focused and brought energy.

"I still think we can do better, and we have to keep trying to move the standard up because that's the only way we are going to beat some of the teams later in the season," Stewart said.

The team has put itself in a good position in league play but will face tougher tests in the back half of the league season. Los Altos will play Mountain View on April 17 and 19, then second-place Wilcox in late April and reigning De Anza champions Los Gatos in May.

"This is great," Stewart said. "Good start in the league. Once we get on the other side of spring break, we're going to find out a lot because we have Mountain View, Wilcox, Homestead and Los Gatos."



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Stepping Out

Los Altos Stage Company takes a different approach with 'Skin of Our Teeth'

By Ruby Dowling
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Los Altos Stage Company plans to bring a metatheatrical immersive experience to community theater with its production of "The Skin of Our Teeth," scheduled to preview Thursday, open Friday and run through May 5 at the Bus Barn Theater.

According to Chris Reber, the show's director, the sound and set design will work to immerse the audience in the play and make the small venue feel larger than it is. He said the set includes screens projecting TikTok and "TMZ-like" videos, as well as "ambient video" to play in the background of the performance.

Although Bus Barn is an intimate venue, Reber said the small space helps engage the audience in the grandiose metatheatrical story of "The Skin of Our Teeth."

"The nice thing about the smaller space is that it doesn't matter how big the play is, you always feel like you're right here," Reber said. "I think it's what I love about the Bus Barn Theater. You never feel outside the action."

Reber said he took inspiration from the historical context of the play, which was written during World War II, while applying his interpretation of a modern-day "crisis." The Redwood City resident said the videos woven into the performance are meant to reflect a growing fear of AI.

But Los Altos Stage Company education director Kristin Walter, who will play the role of the maid Sabina, said her approach to the play is a little different.

"I am an optimist at heart," said Walter, who this reporter had as a drama teacher in middle school. "It does help me to know that we've been through all of this before, and somehow managed to rebuild and thrive and do it particularly with a sense of humor."

Walter's son, Max Mahle, is also a part of the cast. And according to Walter, the production – their third together – opens on Mahle's 26th birthday.

"Doing a play like this with my adult son, who is just an extraordinary actor in his own right, is so much fun for me to do," she said.



CHRISTIAN PIZZIRANI /SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Max Mahle and Emily Krayn as Henry and Gladys in Los Altos Stage Company's production of "The Skin of Our Teeth." The show officially opens Friday and will run through May 5.

Performances are scheduled 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday for the first two weeks, then 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday through May 5 at the Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave.

Tickets are $22-$45 after the pick-your-price preview night.

For tickets and more information, call (650) 941-0551 or visit losaltosstage.org.



Theater Briefs

'Jesus' blesses Sunnyvale

Sunnyvale Community Players are scheduled to perform "Jesus Christ Superstar," the first musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice to be produced for the professional stage.

A timeless work, the rock opera is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary and universally known series of events but seen, unusually, through the eyes of Judas Iscariot. Loosely based on the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, "Superstar" follows the last week of Jesus Christ's life. The story, told entirely through song, explores the personal relationships and struggles between Jesus, Judas, Mary Magdalene, his disciples, his followers and the Roman Empire.

Performances are scheduled Friday to May 5 at the Sunnyvale Theatre, 550 East Remington.

Tickets are $44.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit sunnyvaleplayers.org.

Pear offers pair of plays

The Pear Theatre continues its 22nd season with 'The Chinese Lady' by Lloyd Suh performing in repertory with 'Love Letters' by A.R. Gurney; two potently poignant, lyrical and playful stories chronicling personal and powerful journeys over time, examining love, loss, resilience, identity and actual historical events.

The two plays explore the wonders and complexities of the human spirit through rarely examined historical eras, and immerses the audience in narratives brimming with humor, passion, struggle and romance.

Performances of 'The Chinese Lady' run April 20 through May 12 while 'Love Letters' runs April 19 through May 11, both at the Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Suite A, Mountain View.

Tickets are $38 for students and seniors and $40 for general audiences.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit thepear.vbotickets.com/events.

Business & Real Estate

Mountain View resident launches startup that sells users' unwanted items

By Janavi Ramde
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Outdated electronics, well-worn toys, dusty books; these and many other unused items taking up valuable space in your home are the catalysts for a new startup in Mountain View.

Jason Zheng is behind FreeSpaceNow, which collects and sells unwanted items for those who don't want to do it themselves.

"We wanted to come up with a solution for households to manage their spare valuable items," the Mountain View resident said. "This could be especially difficult when moving out of a home and needing to get rid of things people don't want anymore."

Like with most conveniences, this one comes at a price. Along with charging a pickup fee (starting at $9.99) and an item resell processing fee ($1.99), the company takes a 35% commission on each item sold.

Before starting FreeSpaceNow in early 2024, Zheng spent five years at DoorDash, Inc. He served as a data scientist tasked with finding ways to improve and expand the food delivery service.

During this time, Zheng said he would occasionally pitch a new start-up idea to his 8-year-old daughter. He was following a similar philosophy of Steve Jobs, who Zheng said believed that an idea could be successful only if a little kid could understand the pitch.

However, Zheng said his idea to start FreeSpaceNow came years before pitching the concept to this daughter. He was in his 20s and visiting a friend in Japan, who told him he could find a buyer and make some commission from simply selling his left shoe. Zheng, completely unconvinced, was in disbelief when his friend said he could find a buyer.

"That story has been on my mind for a long time," Zheng said. "I spoke to the buyer from the Japanese market, and he said it was actually pretty common for people in Japan to sell their random items and that he actually had a very high chance of finding the other shoe of a pair from a separate buyer."

Zheng hopes that a similar mindset catches on here. Instead of immediately trashing an item they don't want, he encourages people to offer it to the community – and not only for the money.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON ZHENG

Jason Zheng (left), Mountain View resident and founder of FreeSpaceNow, poses with Ricky Yang, FreeSpaceNow Chief Technology Officer, after helping a client.

"It's about how you care about the environment," he said. "It's about how you use a resource."

Los Altos resident Rui Zhao was among the first clients of FreeSpaceNow, which launched just three months

See FREESPACENOW, Page 25

R.I.P. Daniel Kahneman: pioneer of behavioral economics field of study

By Artie Green

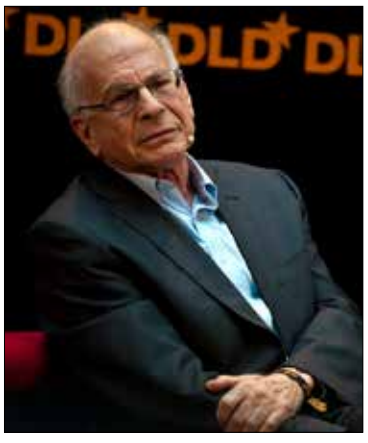
Daniel Kahneman (Danny to his friends) died last month at the age of 90. He was a psychologist and researcher who applied psychology to economic analysis with his close friend and collaborator Amos Tversky. The resultant field of behavioral economics has grown over the years to become an integral part of good financial planning.

Nest Egg Briefs

Kahneman was best known publicly for his groundbreaking 2011 book "Thinking Fast and Slow," in which he identified two discrete modes of human thinking: one rational and deliberative (slow), and the other emotional and instinctive (fast). He demonstrated through numerous studies how our decision-making is frequently sub-optimal as a result of inherent emotional human biases.

He was born in Tel Aviv and graduated with a psychology degree from Hebrew University in Jerusalem. After being drafted into the Israeli Defense Forces, Kahneman was given the job of assessing how well the military identified candidates for officer training. He discovered just how badly their performance predictions turned out to be. In the process he identified a cognitive bias (overconfidence in one's expertise) that permeated the army's approach to the problem.

As a financial planner, time and time again I run across many of the biases that Kahneman and Tversky have documented. One of the most common is loss aversion (they called it Prospect Theory). Simply put, we are more willing to avoid the pain of a loss than to choose the pleasure of an equivalent gain. When a new client joins our firm, one of the first things we do is evaluate their investment portfolio. Frequently we discover funds or securities that are likely to underperform their particular asset class (e.g. because of cost) or that are weighted inappropriately in the portfolio based on the client's financial goals. If the position is currently sitting at a loss, many clients resist selling it because they don't



NRKBETA/VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Daniel Kahneman in 2009.

See KAHNEMAN, Page 24

Transactions

Los Altos

889 North San Antonio Road #2030, A. Zhu to Li-Ming Trust for $1,800,000

941 Terrace Drive, R. & F. Oramas to Patil Trust for $3,005,000

917 Linda Vista Way, Obriant 1997 Trust to H. & L. Zhu for $3,412,500

1060 Rosemont Avenue, Kumra Trust to S. Lee for $4,700,000

Los Altos Hills

25285 La Loma Drive, Grinstead Trust to J. Mayer for $4,400,000

27866 Via Corita Way, D. Leff to Tessel-Sneh Family Trust for $7,700,000

Mountain View

505 Cypress Point Drive #299, J. Talios to R. & C. Ellks for $585,000

1033 Crestview Drive #312, Ndeira Trust to E. & S. Orr for $630,000

241 Horizon Avenue, A. Gueniot to E. & J. Rosario for $1,301,000

1642 Morgan Street, M. & A. Pasagui to R. Zhu for $1,520,000

1139 Katie Court, M. Zimmers to H. & J. Kim for $2,250,000

570 Mountain View Avenue, Warren Family Trust to X. & S. Timofeev for $2,720,000

999 Solana Court, Prentice Trust to W. & Z. Yu for $3,500,000

Cupertino

22330 Homestead Road #120, Y. & E. Kang to Tang Family Trust for $1,028,000

10038 Peninsula Avenue, E. Razo to 10038 Peninsula Corp for $1,600,000

10660 Minette Drive, Conrad Living Trust to A. Mulay for $1,910,000

644 Stendhal Lane, D. Lantz to J. & B. Li for

See TRANSACTIONS, Page 25

It's easy being green: First Friday highlights sustainability







Downtown Los Altos' First Friday April event – held during earth month – brought local sustainability organizations and arts and crafts to State Street. Among other activities, locals could plant their own seeds in repurposed or biodegradable pots, above, learn about their local wildlife, above right, or purchase seeds and starter plants from Luna Vez Farm, right, a Los Altos-based farm that partners with small farmers to deliver organic vegetable boxes.

KARINA ARONSON/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

KAHNEMAN

From Page 23

want to incur the loss. "I'd rather wait until the price comes back to what I paid for it," they'd typically say. Behavioral economics suggests that the decision can be reframed to: "Well, would you buy more of that fund today?"

If the answer is "no," it can be more easily explained how the decision to keep the security is identical to the decision to buy it today. Thanks to Kahneman's research we are able to help many clients overcome their cognitive biases and make more rational financial decisions.

Kahneman won the Nobel Prize in 2002 for his work, and would undoubtedly have shared it with Tversky had the latter not died in 1996. His lifelong quest, according to Robert Hershey in the New York Times, was to understand how the human mind works. I'm pleased to see that Danny Kahneman is getting the recognition he so richly deserves.

Los Altos resident Artie Green founded Cognizant Wealth Advisors (DBA: Perigon Wealth Management, LLC, a registered investment advisor). For more information, visit cognizantwealth.com.







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TRANSACTIONS

From Page 23

$2,388,000

22316 Janice Avenue, D. Hansen to Wu & Huang Family Trust for $2,546,000

7911 Festival Court, Green Family Trust to S. & J. Luo for $2,710,000

10285 Farallone Drive, Sepulveda Trust to S. & Y. Jo for $2,760,000

21611 Columbus Avenue, Wu Family Trust to Q. & F. Xu for $2,960,000

10531 North Portal Avenue, Amazing Ventures LLC to Y. & D. Park for $3,200,000

21190 Canyon Oak Way, Morgan Trust to L. & M. Qayyum for $4,700,000

Total sales

Los Altos

Total sales: 4
Lowest sale: $1,800,000
Highest sale: $4,700,000
Average sale: $3,229,400

Los Altos Hills

Total sales: 2
Lowest sale: $4,400,000
Highest sale: $7,700,000
Average sale: $6,050,000

Mountain View

Total sales: 7
Lowest sale: $585,000
Highest sale: $3,500,000
Average sale: $1,786,600

Cupertino

Total sales: 10
Lowest sale: $1,028,000
Highest sale: $4,700,000
Average sale: $2,580,200

– CalREsource

FREESPACENOW

From Page 23

ago.

"I didn't have the time or energy to sell things alone," Zhao said. "So, I turned to FreeSpaceNow for help. I thought the process was very smooth, and I didn't have to deal with the logistics of finding a buyer and scheduling a time to meet."

Customers can schedule a pickup time on the FreeSpaceNow website. The company starts by having its users sign contracts, verifying that their items work and are still of good quality. From there, the FreeSpaceNow team will take photos of the items, then use an automated information system to scan them and gather their descriptions.

"It is an excellent opportunity for Los Altos and Bay Area residents because it's safe and convenient," Zhao said. "I trust Jason because he's local, and we share the same community."

AI is critical to FreeSpaceNow's success, according to Zheng, because it uses computers to search for potential customers and also to negotiate and set prices. FreeSpaceNow holds items in its warehouse for 30 days; if they aren't purchased by then, clients can either donate the items to a nonprofit or have them returned for a fee ($1.99).

"So far, most charities have been very open to us, giving clear guidance on what they can and cannot take," Zheng said. "If we cannot find a buyer, we will categorize the items and establish a very clear stream of where things can go."

FreeSpaceNow only services Mountain View and Los Altos at this time, but Zheng's short-term goal is to expand to more nearby Bay Area cities. In the long run, Zheng hopes to expand outside California and even globally.

For more information or to schedule a pickup, visit freespacenow.com.

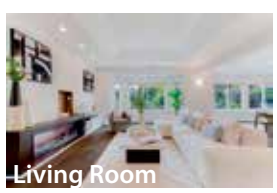
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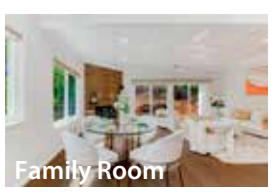




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Q1 2024 Los Altos Market Report



Single Family Homes	Jan.2024	Feb.2024	March
No. Of Sales	4	13	18
Median Sales Price	$4.25M	$4.45M	$4.20M
Sales Price To List Price Ratio	101.0%	105.8%	107.8%
Average Days To Sell	16	15	14
Months Of Inventory	2.8	1.7	1.1

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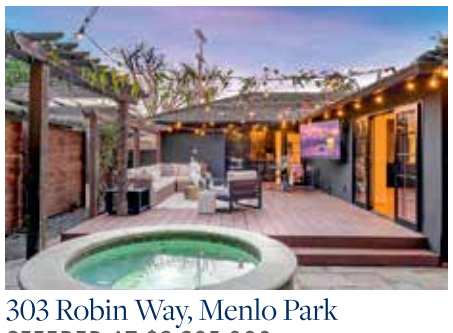
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650.539.5674 LICENSE# 01883566



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DULCY FREEMAN
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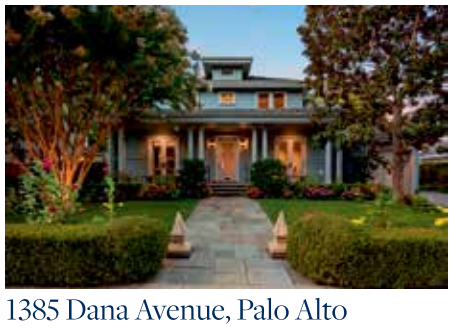
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Discover the perfect fusion of luxury and comfort in this modern Craftsman masterpiece, built in 2018 with nearly 5,000 square feet of living space. Exceptional construction quality, premium materials, and impeccable finishes combine to create a deluxe ambiance from the instant you step inside. Immerse yourself in a thoughtfully designed three-level floorplan tailored for contemporary living, offering spacious gathering areas ideal for entertaining, a chef's kitchen with high-end appliances, numerous en suite bedrooms, including the primary suite with a spa-inspired bathroom, as well as an office, theater, wine cellar, and more. A wall of glass doors creates a seamless connection to the serene, private backyard where you can experience a true California indoor/outdoor lifestyle. And this exceptional location puts you in close proximity to everything the area has to offer – walk to beautiful Eleanor Pardee Park and the Edgewood Shopping Center, take a short drive to the vibrant shops and restaurants along University Avenue, and enjoy convenient access to Stanford University, US-101, and top-ranked Palo Alto schools including Duveneck Elementary just a half-mile away (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE

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

538Rhodes.com

Offered at $6,988,000

Notice to Buyers:

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

Listed by the DeLeon Team

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

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848 NASH ROAD
LOS ALTOS









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Exquisite details, luxurious interiors, and incredible privacy create a superlative living experience in this 5-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom home, extensively renovated and expanded in 2019 and set on more than four-tenths of an acre. Glide through over 3,900 square feet of space and enjoy an ambiance that is opulent and inviting all at once, with stunning pieces from renowned artists, top-of-the-line materials and appliances at every turn, rustic and modern finishes, plush bedrooms, an office, and plenty of space for both entertaining and everyday living. Vibrant grounds encircle the home and provide exhilarating venues to enjoy a true California indoor/outdoor lifestyle, while the 3-car garage offers automobile enthusiasts the potential to add lifts for additional vehicle storage. And though this home feels amazingly secluded on a peaceful cul-de-sac, you will still be within ~5 minutes or less of the Los Altos Village, Rancho Shopping Center, Interstate 280, and top-ranked schools such as Covington Elementary and Los Altos High (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

848NashRd.com
Offered at $5,995,000

Notice to Buyers:

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

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764 PARMA WAY
LOS ALTOS

SOLD FOR
$4,200,000
RECEIVED 24 OFFERS
SOLD FOR $1.2M+ OVER ASKING
ONLY $10K PAID TO BUYER'S AGENT



40 SANTA MARIA AVE
PORTOLA VALLEY

SOLD FOR
$4,000,000
RECEIVED 6 OFFERS
SOLD FOR $500K+OVER ASKING
1% PAID TO BUYER'S AGENT



963 VAN AUKEN CIRCLE
PALO ALTO

SOLD FOR
$2,700,000
RECEIVED 17 OFFERS
SOLD FOR $700K+ OVER ASKING
ONLY $10K PAID TO BUYER'S AGENT

deleon REALTY

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 |
650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com
中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274
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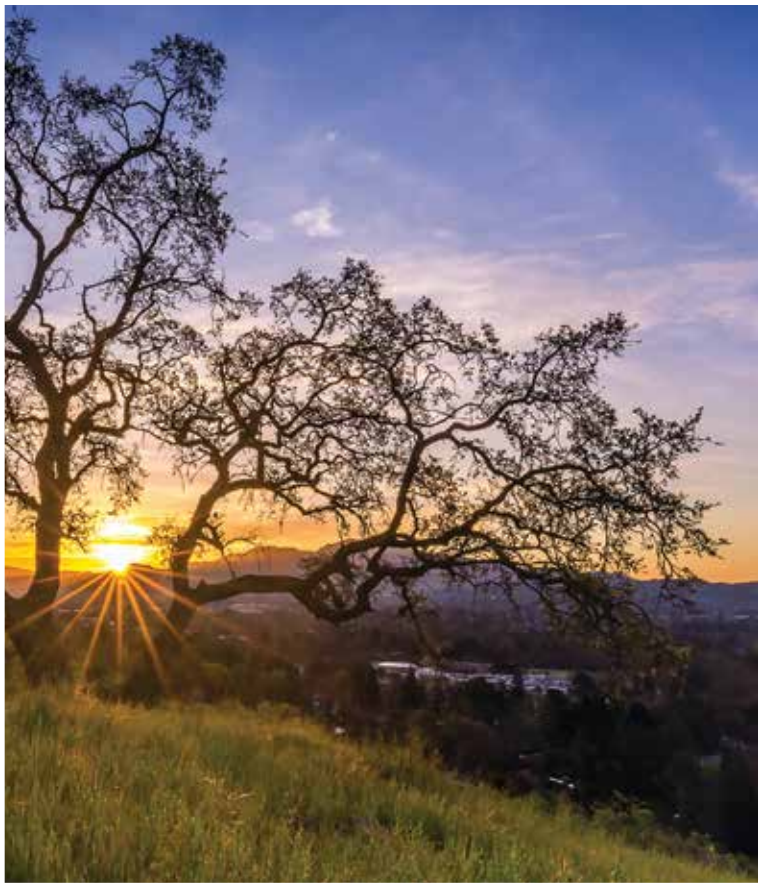


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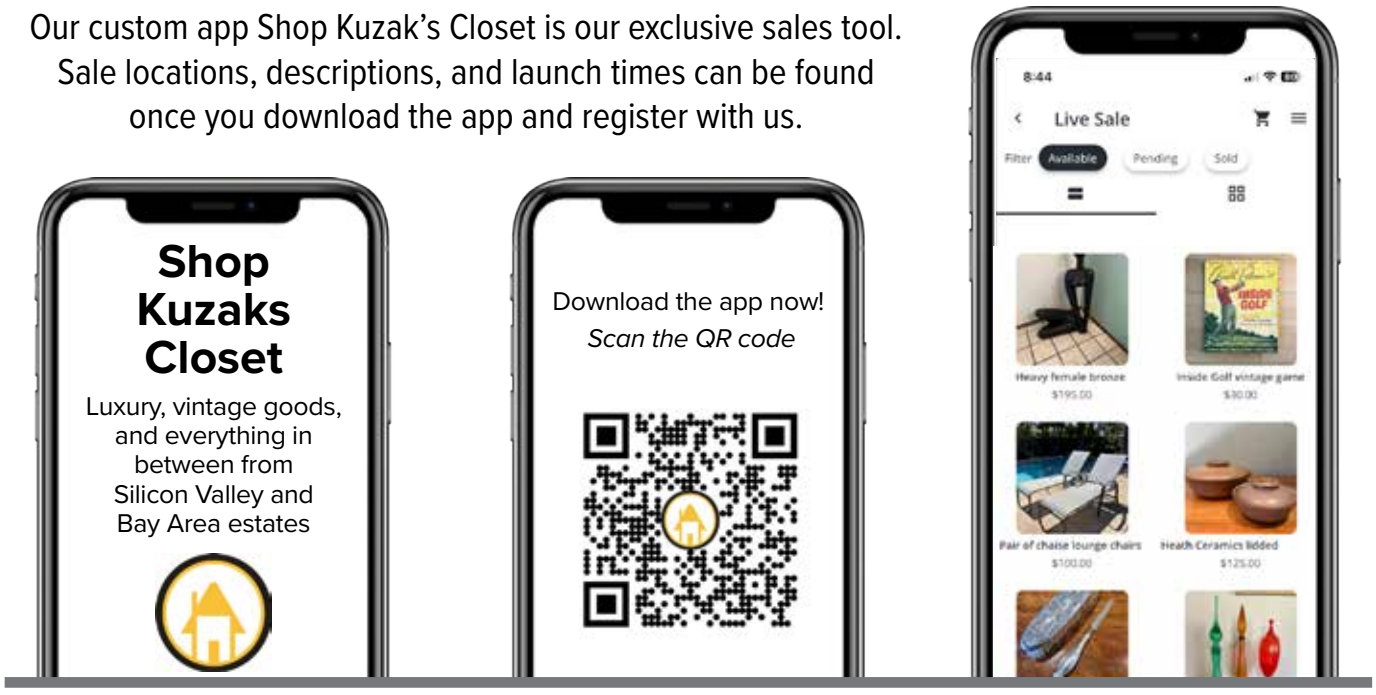
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- April 11th **Los Altos Hills**
- April 16th **Los Altos**
- April 18th **Atherton**
- April 22nd **Los Altos Hills**
- April 23rd **Los Altos**
- April 25th **San Carlos**
- April 30th **Los Altos Hills**



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Public Notices

ALPHACLAIM
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN704690

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) ALPHACLAIM, (2) ALPHACLAIM AI, (3) ALPHA CLAIM, (4) ALPHA CLAIM AI, 225 Mount Hamilton Ave, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): PRICEWIRE, INC., 225 Mount Hamilton Ave, Los Altos, CA, 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 04/01/2024. /S/ Suresh Krishna / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 04/02/2024. (04-10,17,24-24,05-01-24)

100-T

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

COMMUNITY CENTER WASHER DRYER HOOK-UPS
PROJECT NUMBER CF-01051

CITY OF LOS ALTOS
SANTA CLARA COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

1. Description of Work: The City of Los Altos, Santa Clara County, California, invites sealed bids for furnishing labor, material and equipment required to complete the project in the 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 generally includes providing all utility connections required for a standard washer and dryer system at the Los Altos Community Center, including electricity, hot and cold water, sanitary sewer, and dryer vent. The improvements will require drywall, stucco, and paint touch-ups.

2. Location of Work: 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022

3. Contract Documents: Bids must be submitted on the City's bid forms. A copy of the plans (half-size) and specifications may be obtained from the Project Manager at 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, California, 94022 for a non-refundable fee of $50 or visit City website to download the PDF file(s) (http://bids.losaltosca.gov). Copies may also be inspected at the Los Altos Community Center. To the extent required by Public Contract Code section 20103.7, the City will also make the Contract Documents available for review at one or more plan rooms.

4. Labor Compliance. 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 Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and Site Walk will be held at **97 Hillview Avenue on April 24, 2024 at 10:00am.** Each and every Bidder should attend the Pre-Bid Conference and Site Walk. Prospective Bidders may not visit the Project Site without making arrangements through the Project Manager. Bids will 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 Class-B General Building Contractor license for this work. All bidders shall be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California to do the type of work contemplated in the project.

7. Bid Bond: Bids must be accompanied by cash, a certified or cashier's check, or a Bid Bond in favor of the City in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the submitted Total Bid Price.

8. Location of Bid Submittal and Date and Time of Opening: Said sealed bids shall be delivered to the Project Manager of said City on or before

May 01, 2024; 2:00pm

at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California. Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time. Bids received after this time will be returned unopened. Bids shall be valid for sixty (60) calendar days after the Bid opening date.

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 Base 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 **Thirty (30) 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 and directed to the Project Manager, City of Los Altos, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022.

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

Dated: April 10, 2024

/s/Scott Reeves
Project Manager
(04-10,17-24)

099-T

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

The following person(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. CROME YELLOW PRESS, 2055 Junction Ave, Suite 100, San Jose, CA 95131 Filed in Santa Clara County on: 12/06/2022 Under File No. FBN690715 Full Name of Registrant(s): Minjic LLC, 2055 Junction Ave, Suite 100, San Jose, CA 95131 This business was conducted by: a limited liability company This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Santa Clara County on Apr. 02, 2024. Regina Alcomendras County Clerk-Recorder Santa Clara County File No. FBN704676 (04-10,17,24-24,05-01-24)

098-T

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
PETITION OF BAHAREH KHANMOHAMMAD
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
24CV433685

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

Proposed Name:
a. Bahareh Young

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 06/04/2024 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: 03/22/2024
/s/ LE Jacqueline Duong
Judge of the Superior Court
(04-10,17,24-24,05-01-24)

097-T

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

T.S. No. 23-30835-JP-CA Title No. 230575519-CA-VOI A.P.N. 158-35-057 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 01/03/2019. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, (cashier's check(s) must be made payable to National Default Servicing Corporation), 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; will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made in an "as is" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Anthony Jerome Intravaia an unmarried individual Duly Appointed Trustee: National Default Servicing Corporation Recorded 01/16/2019 as Instrument No. 24099067 (or Book, Page) of the Official Records of Santa Clara County, California. Date of Sale: : 05/08/2024 at 10:00 AM Place of Sale: At the Gated North Market Street entrance to the Superior Courthouse, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $94,676.16 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 234 Houghton Street, Mountain View, CA 94041-1318 A.P.N.: 158-35-057 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The requirements of California Civil Code Section 2923.5(b)/2923.55(c) were fulfilled when the Notice of Default was recorded. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 714-730-2727 or visit this internet website www.ndscorp.com/sales, using the file number assigned to this case 23-30835-JP-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 website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT*: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are a "representative of all eligible tenant buyers" you may be able to 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 888-264-4010, or visit this internet website www.ndscorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 23-30835-JP-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 a "representative of all eligible tenant buyers" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. *Pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code, the potential rights described herein shall apply only to public auctions taking place on or after January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2025, unless later extended. Date: 04/01/2024 National Default Servicing Corporation c/o Tiffany and Bosco, P.A., its agent, 1455 Frazee Road, Suite 820 San Diego, CA 92108 Toll Free Phone: 888-264-4010 Sales Line 714-730-2727; Sales Website: www.ndscorp.com Connie Hernandez, Trustee Sales Representative A-4813904 04/10/2024, 04/17/2024, 04/24/2024 (04-10,17,24-24,05-01-24)

096-T

Cacao Space
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN704415

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Cacao Space, 325 Main Street, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Glaze LLC, 325 Main Street, Los Altos, CA, 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/10/2024. /S/ Kseniia Arapova / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/25/2024. (04-10,17,24-24,05-01-24)

095-T

PRESTON SKIN CENTER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN704552

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PRESTON SKIN CENTER, 4930 New Compton Ct., San Jose, CA, 95136, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Douglas Preston Easley, 4930 New Compton Ct., San Jose, CA, 95136. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 04/01/2015. /S/ Douglas Preston Easley / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/27/2024. (04-10,17,24-24,05-01-24)

094-T

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

STRUCTURAL REACH REPLACEMENT
PROJECT WW01002

CITY OF LOS ALTOS
SANTA CLARA COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

1. Description of Work: The City of Los Altos, Santa Clara County, California, invites sealed bids 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, but is not limited to, the removal and replacement of existing 6-inch and 8-inch VCP with 8-inch HDPE sewer mains using pipe reaming/ horizontal directional drilling (HDD) pipe replacement construction methods, sewer lateral reconnections, sewer manhole reconnections, surface restoration, traffic control, mobilization, stormwater control, utility coordination, sewage bypassing, video inspection of the segments, removal of outside drop pipe system, existing sewer main abandonment in place, survey referencing of existing survey monuments, reinstallation of existing survey monuments if disturbed during construction, and all other work as shown on the Plans and as called for in the Project Specifications and as directed by the Engineer.

2. Location of Work: All of said work is to be done within 8 locations consisting of 8 sewer segments: 1) Nandell Lane (Easement), Sewer Segments: J4S-414_J4S-407 2) Plateau Avenue, Sewer Segments: J3S-513_J3S-512 3) Country Club Drive, Sewer Segment: K4S-202_K4S-207 4) Whitham Avenue, Sewer Segment: K3S-309_K3S-307 5) Esberg Road (Easement), Sewer Segment: K4S-503_K4S-502 6) Mora Court (Easement), Sewer Segment: K4S-602_K4S-603 7) Oakridge Drive, Sewer Segment: L4S-107_K4S-411 8) Fairway Drive, Sewer Segment: J3S-604_J3S-605

3. Contract Documents: Bids must be submitted on the City's bid forms. A copy of the plans (half-size) and specifications shall be obtained from the office of the City Engineer, City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California, 94022 for a non-refundable fee of **$60.00** or visit City website to download the PDF file(s) (http://bids.losaltosca.gov). Copies may also be inspected at the office of the City Engineer. To the extent required by Public Contract Code section 20103.7, the City will also make the

Contract Documents available for review at one or more plan rooms.

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

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

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

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

6. Contractor's License: The Contractor is required to have a **Class A General Engineering or C-34 Pipeline** for this work. All bidders shall be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California to do the type of work contemplated in the project.

7. Bid Bond: Bids must be accompanied by cash, a certified or cashier's check, or a Bid Bond in favor of the City in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the submitted Total Bid Price.

8. Location of Bid Submittal and Date and Time of Opening: Said sealed bids shall be delivered to the City Engineer of said City on or before

Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 2 PM

at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California. Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time. Bids received after this time will be returned unopened. Bids shall be valid for sixty (60) calendar days after the Bid opening date.

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 **Eighty (80) 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 and directed to the City Engineer, City of Los Altos, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022.

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

Dated: March 27, 2024

/s/ Thanh T. Nguyen, P.E.
Senior Civil Engineer
(04-10,17-24)

093-T

RAINBOW ACUPUNCTURE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN704539

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: RAINBOW ACUPUNCTURE, 5150 Graves Ave Ste 8D, San Jose, CA, 95129, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Sandy Wong, 440 Salmar Ave, Campbell, CA, 95008. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 03/27/2024. /S/ Sandy Wong / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/27/2024. (04-10,17,24-24,05-01-24)

092-T

BEAUTIFUL WORLD TWO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN704560

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BEAUTIFUL WORLD TWO, 488 East Saint John 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): Xuxia Lai, 488 East Saint John Street, San Jose, CA, 95112. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 03/27/2024. /S/ Xuxia Lai / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/27/2024. (04-10,17,24-24,05-01-24)

091-T

TS No: CA08001564-23-1 APN: 170-43-009 TO No: 2970300
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED April 19, 2019. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On May 22, 2024 at 10:00 AM, at the Gated North Market Street entrance of the Superior Courthouse, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust recorded on April 25, 2019 as Instrument No. 24164000, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Santa Clara County, California, executed by LEON BENDER AND CAROL ANN BENDER, HUSBAND AND WIFE, A COMMUNITY PROPERTY WITH RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, as Trustor(s), in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., as Beneficiary, as nominee for FINANCE OF AMERICA REVERSE LLC as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 175 BEVERLY LANE, LOS ALTOS, CA 94022 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $2,144,338.23 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a 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 California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call Nationwide Posting & Publication at 916.939.0772 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Website www.nationwideposting.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA08001564-23-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice to Tenant NOTICE TO TENANT FOR FORECLOSURES AFTER 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 916.939.0772, or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case CA08001564-23-1 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: March 22, 2024 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No. CA08001564-23-1 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 Phone: 949-252-8300 TDD: 711 949.252.8300 By: Bernardo Sotelo, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT www.nationwideposting.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: Nationwide Posting & Publication AT 916.939.0772 NPP0458597 To: LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER 04/03/2024, 04/10/2024, 04/17/2024 (04-03,10,17-24)

089-T

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

SANITARY SEWER VIDEO INSPECTION
PROJECT WW01011

CITY OF LOS ALTOS
SANTA CLARA COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

1. Description of Work: The City of Los Altos, Santa Clara County, California, invites sealed bids for furnishing labor, material and equipment required to complete the project in the 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, but is not limited to, performing cleaning and television inspection of various sanitary sewer lines located throughout the southeastern part of Los Altos. The base bid for the project includes approximately 108,242 linear feet of sewer lines and the add alternative bid includes approximately 8,722 linear feet of sewer lines. The various sanitary sewer lines range in size from 6 inches to 24 inches diameter.

2. Location of Work: All of said work is to be done at the places indicated in the specifications for the project as shown in Exhibits A & B included herewith.

3. Contract Documents: Bids must be submitted on the City's bid forms. A copy of the plans (half-size) and specifications shall be obtained from the office of the City Engineer, City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California, 94022 for a non-refundable fee of $60 or visit City website to download the PDF file(s) (http://bids.losaltosca.gov). Copies may also be inspected at the office of the City Engineer. To the extent required by Public Contract Code section 20103.7, the City will also make the Contract Documents available for review at one or more plan rooms.

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

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

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

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

6. Contractor's License: The Contractor is required to have a class A General Engineering, Class C-34 Pipeline, class C-36 Plumbing, or class C-42 Sanitation Systems license for this work. All bidders shall be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California to do the type of work contemplated in the project.

7. Bid Bond: Bids must be accompanied by cash, a certified or cashier's check, or a Bid Bond in favor of the City in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the submitted Total Bid Price.

8. Location of Bid Submittal and Date and Time of Opening: Said sealed bids shall be delivered to the City Engineer of said City on or before

Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 2 PM

at City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California. Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time. Bids received after this time will be returned unopened. Bids shall be valid for sixty (60) calendar days after the Bid opening date.

9. Payment & Performance Bonds: The successful Bidder will be required to furnish the City with a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each equal to 100% of the successful Bid, prior to execution of the Contract. All bonds are to be secured from a surety that meets all of the State of California bonding requirements, as defined in Code of Civil Procedure Section 995.120, and is admitted by the State of California. The cost of said bonds shall be included in the Bid amount.

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

11. Time of Completion of Work: The work shall be completed and ready for full use within **one hundred and eighty (180) 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 and directed to the City Engineer, City of Los Altos, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022.

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

/s/ Thanh Nguyen P.E.
Senior Civil Engineer
Dated: March 25, 2024
(04-03,10-24)

088-T

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

Purissima Hills Water District
26375 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022-2624

Sealed PROPOSALS for the CHRIS-

Public Notices

TOPHER'S LN/GERTH LN/LIDDICOAT DR/ARASTRADERO RD WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS whether mailed or personally delivered, must be received by the Purissima Hills Water District (PHWD) staff by 2:00 P.M., Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at the District's administrative offices located at 26375 Fremont Road, CA 94022. PROPOSALS will then be publicly opened and read aloud at the administrative offices.

PROPOSALS received after 2:00 P.M. will not be accepted. PROPOSALS will not be accepted if they are delivered by fax, telephone or other electronic means. Bidders dropping a PROPOSAL in the District's mail slot are advised to confirm receipt by District staff via e-mail. BIDDER can contact William Lai, P.E., at (925) 224-7717 with any questions.

The project consists of installing approximately 1,900 LF of 12" DIP, 3,400 LF of 8" DIP, and 125 LF of 6" DIP replace existing cast iron and asbestos cement pipe, cathodic protection of newly installed water main, installation of 5 combination air valves, 15 fire hydrants, 35 service connections of varying sizes, existing water main/appurtenance abandonments, various surface restorations including slurry seal (~120,000 SF), restriping, among other appurtenance work as identified in the bid schedule.

The project is located in the Town of Los Altos Hills, County of Santa Clara, California. The work will be done for the Purissima Hills Water District (i.e., referred to herein as the "Owner" or as the "District").

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following location:

Pakpour Consulting Group
6601 Owens Drive, Ste 230
Pleasanton, CA 94588
(925) 224-7717
(925) 224-7726 Fax

San Francisco Builders Exchange
850 South Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 282-8220

Builders Exchange of Santa Clara
400 Reed Street
Santa Clara, CA 95050
(408) 727-4000
(408) 727-2779 Fax

Bay Area Builders Exchange
3055 Alvarado Street
San Leandro, CA 94577
(510) 483-8880
(510) 352-1509 Fax

If a BIDDER wishes to review a set of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS at Pakpour Consulting Group, the bidder must contact William Lai, P.E. at (925) 224-7717 to schedule a date and a time.

To bid the project, potential BIDDER must purchase the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS from the District. Plan houses and Bidders who purchased the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will receive copies of the addendums and updates.

Electronic copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained upon payment of $50.00. Hard copies will not be provided. Make checks payable to "Purissima Hills Water District." The payment is nonrefundable.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting and tour is tentatively scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 1:00 P.M at PHWD's office located at 26375 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. Please contact William Lai, P.E. at (925) 224-7717 to verify the date, time, and location and to receive further updates on this project. BIDDER must have purchased a copy of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS and complete the mandatory pre-bid meeting to be considered eligible to bid the project. PROPOSALS submitted by parties not attending the pre-bid meeting will be rejected.

The BIDDER must possess a valid Class A Contractor's license in the State of California at the time of CONTRACT award and throughout the CONTRACT term. The Contractor must have performed work on three (3) DIP water main installation projects over the last five (5) years. In addition, the project foreman must verify that he/she was in charge of at least five (5) previous projects, three (3) of which are exclusively DIP water main installation projects.

This project includes public works as defined by California Labor Code section 1720. The successful BIDDER shall be responsible for the payment of prevailing wage rates, the training of apprentices and compliance with other related requirements. The prevailing wage rates for the Contract include the California Department of Industrial Relations' General Prevailing Wage Determinations: 2024-1. Prevailing wage rates may be viewed online at http://www.dir.ca.gov/OPRL/DPreWageDetermination.htm.

Contractors and subcontractors must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) at the time of bid, or else the bid may be rejected as non-responsive. (See Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1771.1.) Each BIDDER must submit proof of Contractor registration with DIR (e.g. a hard copy of the relevant page of the DIR's database found at: https://efiling.dir.ca.gov/PWCR/Search). This Contract is subject to monitoring and enforcement by the DIR pursuant to Labor Code Section 1771.4.

Pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 22300, the successful BIDDER may submit certain securities in lieu of the Owner retaining a portion of progress payments during the Project. The successful BIDDER will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, both in the amounts not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price.

/S/ Joubin Pakpour
District Representative Signature
Date: 3/21/2024
(04-03,10-24)

087-T

Independence Storage
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN704008

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Independence Storage, 877 Independence Ave, Mountain View, CA, 94043, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a trust. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Mariam L. Chu, Trustee, 585 Oak St, Mountain View, CA, 94041. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/31/1999. /S/ Mariam L. Chu, Trustee / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/12/2024. (04-03,10,17,24-24)

086-T

FARHAD REALTY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN704293

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: FARHAD REALTY, 904 Old Town Court, Cupertino, CA, 95014, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): AMERICHOICE INC, 904 Old Town Court, Cupertino, CA, 95014. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Farhad Ettehad / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/20/2024. (03-27-24,04-03,10,17-24)

085-T

FARHAD REALTY TEAM
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN704292

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: FARHAD REALTY TEAM, 904 Old Town Court, Cupertino, CA, 95014, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): AMERICHOICE INC, 904 Old Town Court, Cupertino, CA, 95014. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Farhad Ettehad / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/20/2024. (03-27-24,04-03,10,17-24)

084-T

SILHOUETTE DANCE STUDIO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN702939

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SILHOUETTE DANCE STUDIO, 3025 Kaiser Dr Unit H, Santa Clara, CA, 95051, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Irina Mantel, 3025 Kaiser Dr Unit H, Santa Clara, CA, 95051. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/06/2024. /S/ Irina Mantel / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/06/2024. (03-27-24,04-03,10,17-24)

083-T

PALO ALTO SWIM AND SPORT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN704226

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PALO ALTO SWIM AND SPORT, 777 Embarcadero Rd, Palo Alto, CA, 94303, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): TEAM SHEEPER INC, 501 Laurel St, Menlo Park, CA, 94025. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/01/2012. /S/ Carole Hayworth / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/19/2024. (03-27-24,04-03,10,17-24)

082-T

GOLDEN EYE LIMOUSINE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN704153

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: GOLDEN EYE LIMOUSINE, 870 E El Camino Real Apt 427, Sunnyvale, CA, 94087, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): G R ENTERPRISES INC, 870 E El Camino Real, Sunnyvale, CA, 94087. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Gopi Chowdary Ravipati / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/18/2024. (03-27-24,04-03,10,17-24)

081-T

Villa Toscana, A Memory Care Community
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN703928

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Villa Toscana, A Memory Care Community, 939 West El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA, 94040, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): MV Memory Care, LLC, 1282 Hammerwood Ave, Sunnyvale, CA, 94089. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ John D'Ambrosio / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 03/08/2024. (03-27-24,04-03,10,17-24)

080-T

BETH WOLFF COUNSELING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN703171

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BETH WOLFF COUNSELING, 164 Main St. Ste 200, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Beth Wolff, 164 Main Street. Ste 200, Los Altos, CA, 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/12/2024. /S/ Beth Wolff / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/13/2024. (03-20,27-24,04-03,10-24)

079-T

Escobitas Cleaning Services
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN703485

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Escobitas Cleaning Services, 426 Escuela Ave. #1, Mountain View, CA, 94040, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Mary Carmen Prado, 426 Escuela Ave. #1, Mountain View, CA, 94040. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/23/2024. /S/ Mary Carmen Prado / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/23/2024. (03-20,27-24,04-03,10-24)

077-T

$40

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

Email legals@latc.com by 2pm on Thursday



Datebook

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

EVENTS

Los Altos Main Library. All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, unless otherwise indicated. **Monday Meditation & Mindfulness,** 10:30 a.m. Mondays, 10:30 a.m. Los Altos Main Library, 7 p.m., Woodland Library, 1975 Grant Road. **Gardener talk**, "Now is the Time for Homegrown Tomatoes," featuring UC master gardener Bob Bowe, 7 p.m. April 17. **Astronomy lecture,** "Edison and the Eclipse that Enlightened America," by David Baron, author, chairman in astrobiology at the Library of Congress and avid eclipse chaser. 7 p.m., April 18. Information: sccld.org.

Friends of the Los Altos Library Used Book Sale. A large selection of fiction and non-fiction in many categories, plus media, puzzles and graphic novels. 6:30-9 p.m. Friday, May 3, members only preview sale (join at the door for $10); 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 4; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, May 5, $5 bag sale (bags are provided. Location: Los Altos Community Center (in cooperation with the city of Los Altos), 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Proceeds benefit Los Altos libraries. Information: losaltoslibraryfriends.org.

Spring Plant Exchange. Bring your healthy extra plants, seedlings, cuttings, bulbs, small trees or shrubs and take home something new in exchange. Plants must be labeled. No privets or invasive plants. Sponsored by the Garden Club of Los Altos and the Los Altos Recreation Department with support from the Los Altos History Museum. Free (but must bring labeled plants) 10 a.m. to noon April 27. Rain or shine. Los Altos Community Center parking lot, 97 Hillview Ave. Information: betlee59@gmail.com.

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Fitness Boot Camp. Sixty sessions of exercise. 6-7 a.m. weekdays or just Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Shower facilities available. Foothill College, 12345 S. El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Less than $5 per class. Registration: foothill.augusoft.net.

Morning Flow Yoga. Led by Duanni Hurd. 7-8 a.m. Saturdays. Yoga of Los Altos, 377 First St. $13.50-$18; Proceeds benefit the Alzheimer's Association. (650) 600-8108.

Retreats. Weekend of reflection, prayer and discernment. The Jesuit Retreat Center, 300 Manresa Way, Los Altos. $280/weekend. jrclosaltos.org.

CLUBS/GROUPS

InSpirit Healing Rooms. Healing service for those battling an illness or injury, or feeling discouraged. 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Union Church campus, 858 University Ave., Los Altos. Information: InSpiritPrayer@yahoo.com.

Amazing New Price! New Construction Under $850 per Square Foot – Wow!

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4 HOMES | 7,054 SQUARE FEET | 10,702 SQ FT LOT | 13 BEDROOMS | 12 BATHROOMS

- New construction, completed February 2024
- Approximately 10,702 sq ft lot
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- All electric and solar-powered
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