



Community

Trolling the grounds of a Peninsula mansion
Page 9



Schools

Local teen places second in National History Day contest
Page 14



Senior Lifestyles

Getting older comes with perks
Page 19

Los Altos Town Crier

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

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STEMing from apricots



PHOTOS BY S.M. LIEU/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Families enjoy activities at Saturday's Apricot STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Fair at the Los Altos History Museum. The event explores the history and culture of the Santa Clara Valley, particularly its agricultural past focused on apricots. Activities ranged from robotics, above and top left, to beekeeping and apricot cutting, top right.

Construction to start on controversial project at 40 Main St.

Town Crier Report

Demolition crews last week took down a 1920s-era, single-story office building at 40 Main St. in downtown Los Altos. In its place will be something far bigger.

Construction is expected to begin this week on a five-story, mixed-use building totaling nearly 35,000 square feet and 66 feet tall, a project that developers Ted and Jerry Sorensen were cleared to build after successfully suing the city in 2019.

The city council at that time had rejected the project as too big, but new state housing laws – specifically Senate Bill 35 – allowed for the added density as long as the Sorensens included housing in the project.

Its website (40main.com) touts “approvals via SB 35 for a shovel ready 34,807 square-



HOWARD BISCHOFF/TOWN CRIER

Crews begin demolishing the old office building at 40 Main St. in downtown Los Altos.

foot, mixed-use building with 15 residential units and 3,193 square feet of ground floor commercial space on 6,997

See 40 MAIN, Page 4

Online Poll of the Week



Here are the results of the latest poll: What part of this year's Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival did you enjoy the most?

- The artists and the variety of quality art – 21.4%
- The entertainment – enjoyed the bands – 17.9%
- The food and drink – 10.7%
- All of it – loved the lively atmosphere – 25%
- I didn't enjoy any of it – 25%

Watch for more polls at losaltosonline.com.

ALSO INSIDE – JULY 23, 2025

Business & Real Estate . . . 22	Other Voices 8	Senior Lifestyles 19
Comment 8	News 4	Sports 16
Community 9	Public Notices 29	Stepping Out 13
Datebook 30, 31	Schools 14	



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Around Town

Still running for their lives



BRUCE BARTON/TOWN CRIER

A small group of walkers meets Friday in downtown Los Altos, as they have every Friday since Hamas took 251 hostages during an October 2023 attack on Israel. The group is part of a worldwide “Run For Their Lives” movement aimed at bringing and maintaining awareness of the hostages and their plight. The group’s focus is not political but humanitarian – they want to “bring them (hostages) home” and reunite them with their families. At last count, approximately 20 hostages remained in captivity. Another 146 have been rescued while 83 have been killed, according to media reports. Los Altos is one of 22 California locations participating.



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<p>GREEN BEANS</p> <p>LOCAL TENDER AND CRISP</p> <p>\$2.49 LB</p> 	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">REWARDS CLUB MEMBERS GET FREE GIFTS</p> </div> <p style="color: blue; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">ARE YOU A MEMBER? SCAN QR AND SIGN UP</p>		<p>MANGOES</p> <p>KENT JUMBO SIZE</p> <p>2 FOR \$3</p> 

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News

Police Blotter

Drunk driver

July 19, 12:14 a.m.: Intersection of El Camino Real and Monroe Drive, Los Altos

July 19, 2:22 a.m.: Intersection of North Shoreline Boulevard and Terra Bella Avenue, Mountain View

July 19, 2:54 a.m.: Intersection of north Highway 85 and West Fremont Avenue, Mountain View

July 19, 10:49 p.m.: 1700 block of California Street, Mountain View

July 20, 1:52 a.m.: Intersection of Villa and Oak streets, Mountain View

Elder abuse

July 16, 11:29 a.m.: 500 block of Walker Drive, Mountain View

July 17, 10:56 a.m.: 400 block of Sylvan Avenue, Mountain View

July 18, 4:17 p.m.: 400 block of Stierlin Road, Mountain View

Financial crime

July 16, 11:01 a.m.: 200 block of Pamela Drive, Mountain View

July 18, 10:36 a.m.: 800 block of East Dana Street, Mountain View

Grand theft

July 16, 2:21 p.m.: 200 block of Camille Court, Mountain View

July 16, 3:41 p.m.: 400 block of Ortega Avenue, Mountain View

July 18, 3:18 p.m.: 500 block of Showers Drive, Mountain View

Identity theft

July 17, 1:52 p.m.: 2400 block of west El Camino Real, Mountain View

Residential burglary

July 18, 5:39 a.m.: 200 block of Sierra Vista Avenue, Mountain View

July 18, 8:08 p.m.: 300 block of Church Street, Mountain View

July 18, 8:09 p.m.: 1200 block of Pear Avenue, Mountain View

– Christina Casillas

Former LAH mayor Harpootlian was advocate for transparency

Town Crier Report

Former Los Altos Hills Mayor John Harpootlian, who served on the Los Altos Hills City Council for four years, died July 13 during recovery from heart surgery. Harpootlian was 81.

Harpootlian, a 6-year member of the town's planning commission, was elected to council in 2012 and served until 2016.

The engineer wrote his own obituary, in which he shared his professional and community resume.

Born in 1943 in New Rochelle, New York, Harpootlian attended New Rochelle High School, Stevens Institute of Technology, and Brandeis University, graduating with a master's degree.

After moving to the Bay Area in 1969, he began working as a software engineer at Hewlett-Packard where he developed computer products for nuclear medicine diagnosis

using the Anger Gamma Camera in 1974. He later worked at the Electromagnetic Systems Laboratory, which merged with TRW. He retired after more than 25 years developing computer-based equipment for medical, military, and private research applications.

Harpootlian and his wife, Dorothy "Duffy" Price, moved to Los Altos Hills in 1978.

Beginning in the early 1990s, Harpootlian became involved in community work in Los Altos Hills. In addition to his council and commission work, he also chaired the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of Los Altos Hills.

Harpootlian was an advocate for government accessibility and transparency. He



Harpootlian

began videotaping Los Altos Hills council meetings in 2002 and posting them online for viewing by local residents.

"It was my belief then, and is now, that transparency of town council meetings provides better government and improves the relationship with its citizens," Harpootlian told the Town Crier in 2012.

Harpootlian was an avid bridge player and earned the rank of Ruby Life Master.

He is survived by Price and his sister, Linda Matz.

City Manager Peter Pirnejad said Monday's (July 21) council meeting was adjourned in memory of Harpootlian.

He will be interred in New Rochelle, New York, at the Armenian family Cedar Grove gravesite near his parents in Flushing, New York.

Price said a future memorial will be planned.

Pedestrian bridge installation work prompts trail detours in Mtn. View

Town Crier Report

Access to the Stevens Creek Trail in Mountain View has been partially closed from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday since the beginning of June, and in the upcoming months, the closures are expected to be much more drastic.

Currently, during crew work times, the trail is narrowed. But the trail is scheduled to be completely inaccessible from July 28 to Aug. 1, Sept. 2 to Sept. 15, and Sept. 29 to Oct. 3.

Crews continue the construction of a pedestrian and bicyclist bridge connecting the Stevens Creek Trail to Moffett Boulevard through the 750 Ameswell development site, according to a city of Mountain View press release.

Detour signs will be posted at the La Avenida and Moffett Boulevard trail entrances during the closures, according to the release.

While the dates are subject to change, construction of the bridge is expected to be completed in October.



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

A map overview shows the locations of detours as Stevens Creek Trail closures are planned beginning next week. Closures also are planned in September and October.

40 MAIN

From Page 1

square feet. Zoning allows of-
fice or retail."

SB 35, enacted in 2017, streamlines the approval process for multi-family housing developments, its aim to incentivize and accelerate housing production.

The Sorensens collected nearly \$500,000 in attorneys' fees from the city after winning their lawsuit. The brothers then went after the city for another \$4 million in damages but were rejected in court.

The brothers' attempts to build on the site go back 18 years to 2007, when the Sorensens first presented plans for a three-story office building totaling more than 16,000 square feet and 45 feet high. Ron and Von Packard, whose office building at 4 Main St. is next door to the Sorensens' property, opposed the project as too big and not providing enough parking.

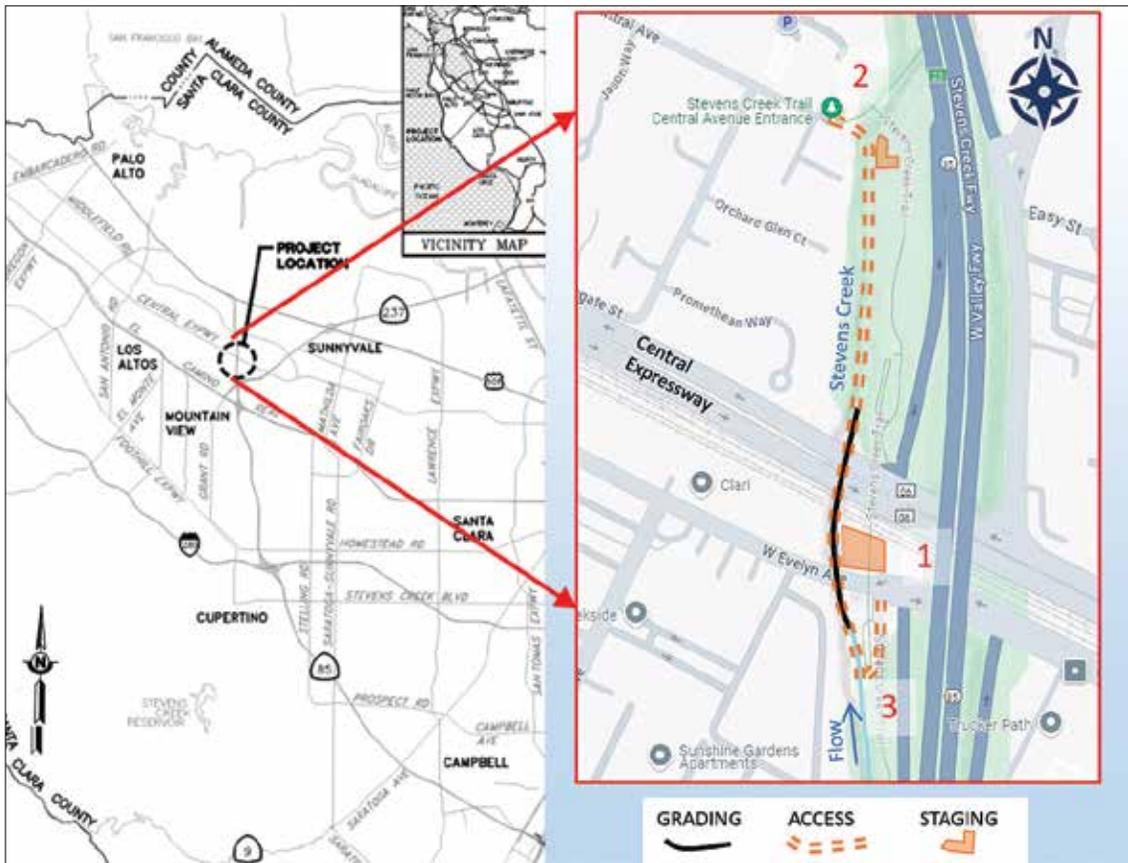
The city council agreed, denying plans. Then in 2019, the Sorensens took advantage of state laws that overrode local zoning restrictions.

City officials at one point offered a compromise proposal to reduce the project to four stories. But the Sorensens chose to proceed with the five-story project.

Ted Sorensen confirmed in an email to the Town Crier that construction could begin as soon as this week.

News

Valley Water to embark on 2-year fish habitat creek project in Mtn. View



COURTESY OF VALLEY WATER

An inset view of the project shows locations of the work, grading, staging and Stevens Creek Trail access.

Town Crier Staff Report

Work is scheduled to begin next month on a project designed to improve fish habitat along Stevens Creek in Mountain View. The work will likely result in detours for a section of the Stevens Creek Trail.

The Valley Water project area involves a 650-foot stretch of the creek from just upstream of Evelyn Avenue to downstream of Central Expressway. The project crosses under five bridges, including Evelyn Avenue, Caltrain and VTA tracks, and east and west Central Expressway.

Valley Water officials held a pre-construction meeting July 16 detailing what will be an estimated two-year project.

“This project reach of Stevens Creek is a deeply eroded creek with very steep banks,” said Denis Ruttenberg, project manager, at the meeting. “The creek is actually located, or vertically located, 15 to 20 feet below the adjacent grade where the (Stevens Creek Trail) bike trail is.”

“Stevens Creek is more than a waterway, as you all know, it’s a lifeline for wildlife and a service resource for our community,” said Tony Estremera, board president for Valley Wa-

ter (formerly the Santa Clara Valley Water District). “But in Mountain View, the stretch of creek between the Evelyn Avenue and Central Expressway bridges has long been hindered by barriers that blocked fish from migrating to the upstream spawning habitats. By connecting Stevens Creek’s natural pathways, this project supports Central California coast steelhead fish migration, restores ecological balance and protects the vital community resource.”

Ruttenberg said the goal is to create better access for the Central California coast steelhead, considered a threatened species by federal fishery agencies.

“The proposed solution that we have here is to put in a nature-like channel, otherwise called a roughened channel,” Ruttenberg said. “This project will be installing large (1- to 3-ton) boulders and native redwood trees that were naturally salvaged to simulate a natural creek condition and to create habitat.”

The construction caps project preparation going back to 2022. Valley Water still needs to obtain final permits from Mountain View, Caltrain and Santa Clara County.

“It’s a large project, so over the summers of 2025 and 2026,

we’re planning construction to comply with the regulatory permits. We’re only allowed to be in the creek from June 15 to October 15 of each year,” Ruttenberg said. “It’s typically dry during the summer, so we’re avoiding the rainy season.”

“After 2026 when the project is completed, the Valley Water staff will evaluate the creek after the winter flows, and determine if we need to do any kind of follow up maintenance.”

Ruttenberg estimated 7,000 tons of boulders would be trucked in for the project, and a large excavator would be used to place the boulders. Additional materials used would be cobble and gravel.

“Placement of the trees and root wads will provide resting spots for fish,” he said.

The project also includes slope stabilization work and a replacement of a boulder weir upstream of Evelyn Avenue. Ruttenberg said the weir, placed in 2015, has degraded over time.

The project will have at least two access points and staging areas, one in a city-owned lot along Evelyn, the other on Central Avenue. The contractor is required to submit a traffic management plan to the

See CREEK, Page 6



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Backers zeroing in on fundraising group for new theater

Town Crier Staff Report

Work on building a new Los Altos performing arts center has been quietly progressing since the city council in April allocated \$300,000 for a professional fundraising group.

The New Performing Arts Center Steering Commit-

tee has held several meetings with fundraising organizations in the past two months, said Vicki Reeder. The former president of the Los Altos Stage Company has been the leading advocate for placing a theater downtown. The targeted location, as outlined in a 2018 Downtown Visioning Plan, is

behind Main Street, the plaza closest to Walgreens, between Second and Third streets.

The steering committee is “closing in on finding an appropriate group to work with,” Reeder said. “We have provided these groups with the past two feasibility studies and their appendices to give them a

clearer picture of the previous work so that they can build on it. Several firms have expressed interest in supporting this project.”

The steering committee meets weekly, Reeder said, and she expects that “by the end of July we will have made an offer to a fundraising organization and started planning a capital campaign.”

Advocates are envisioning a 25,000-square-foot, 160-seat performing arts center that could have multiple uses – from theater productions, to lectures, concerts and other activities. Such a project is projected to cost \$25 million at a minimum, but supporters are confident most of the money can be raised privately.

Theater backers have asked the council for \$5 million in city funding, to which the council is yet to commit. The council resolution passed April 8 noted that backers must provide an analysis “of how a city contribution towards the project ... would be best received in this process.”

The current steering committee comprises a member of the city, the Los Altos Mountain View Community

Foundation (which is handling donations) and the Los Altos Stage Company.

Under current plans, the steering committee would work with the professional fundraisers to form a “capital campaign cabinet,” according to a city staff report from April. “The cabinet will comprise individuals from the community, Los Altos Stage Company and philanthropic community who are donors themselves that will work to support the initiatives and concepts presented with the goal to solicit donations directly from other prospective donors.”

Council members acknowledged the risk of investing \$300,000 toward a performing arts center plan that has not yet seen major donors step forward. However, members felt the timing was right to pursue the theater in the wake of other imminent downtown development, including an affordable housing project eyed for parking plazas located between First and Third Streets, and Edith Avenue and State Street.

Theater supporters are asked to return to the city council, in this case, next April, with an update on progress.

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CREEK

From Page 5

city before work can begin.

Public comment at the meeting included concerns about impacts on trees and the issue of fish passage during the construction process. Valley Water officials said they have planned for fish impacts and expect minimal impact on trees.

Rebecca Eisenberg, Valley Water board member for District 7 (including the Los Altos area), said “nature based solutions” would be preferable to the current plans.

“Imagine if instead of hauling in a bunch of boulders, you’re planting some trees,” she said.

Ruttenberg said construction crews would likely have to access Stevens Creek Trail during the course of work, with any trail closures to be determined by the city.

Valley Water officials also plan on dust control and monitoring noise vibrations. Construction work will be 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Ruttenberg estimated work beginning in early to mid-August.

Read both print and online editions of the Town Crier

Did you know that some features on losaltosonline.com do not appear in the print edition and that some items in print do not appear online? That’s why you need to read both. Don’t miss out on all the news about your community.

Get around: RideCare Program reimburses local seniors for local trips

By Christina Casillas

Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Just six years after the city of Los Altos staff created the RideCare Program, officials are still encouraging Los Altos and Los Altos Hills residents over the age of 50 to take advantage of the useful yet substantially underutilized service.

The RideCare Program, started July 1, 2019, provides financial reimbursements for select ride-hailing service trips to residents who are part of the Los Altos Parks and Recreation Adult 50+ Program. The goal of the program was to increase the mobility of seniors, said Manny Hernandez, Los Altos Parks and Recreation Director.

The program, a point of pride for the city, reimburses seniors for rideshare rides limited to the confines of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and local medical facilities. It covers the cost of rides (and a \$3 gratuity) beginning and ending within the city of Los Altos; town of Los Altos Hills; El Camino Hospital Complexes along Solace Place and North, South and Hospital drives; Kaiser locations in Mountain View (555 Castro St.) and Santa Clara (along Lawrence Express-



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS

The city of Los Altos is working with Lyft to provide free rides for seniors.

way and Homestead Road); Satellite Healthcare, 247 El Camino Real; Palo Alto Medical Foundation locations in Mountain View, Palo Alto and Sunnyvale; the Palo Alto VA Hospital and all other VA facilities along Miranda Avenue and Loop Road; Stanford Hospital and associated facilities along Pasteur and Blake Wilbur drives and Quarry Road.

Initially, the city was interested in partnerships, Hernandez said. In the years leading up to the start of the program, staff eyed preexisting services, like El Camino Health's now defunct RoadRunner's Program, which at the

time had a team of volunteers who would drive seniors to and from medical appointments.

But when it became clear that integrating with a pre-existing service wasn't the smoothest option, Hernandez said the Community Service Department (now Parks and Recreation) set out to develop its own program.

"The Community Service Department decided to kind of brainstorm ideas for this transportation process that would be reasonable," he said in a phone call. "Some of the things that we took into account are staff bandwidth and how much work budget to set aside. We were looking at how much work that staff would have to put into city staff to manage this program."

While staff initially floated the idea of securing grants for a city-owned vehicle or senior busses or vans, Hernandez said it "didn't seem reasonable," especially with such a small department. At the time of the program's creation, the department included eight staff members, and since then it hasn't grown much.

City staff were initially interested in a program that would allow Uber or Lyft – two rideshare companies that the RideCare Program reimburses residents

for – to charge the city directly when a senior resident enrolled in the Los Altos Parks and Recreation Adult 50+ Program took one of the coverable trips, but they soon found it wasn't possible.

The current setup was the next best option.

"We really tried to turn over every rock looking for a program that would make our seniors more mobile within the city," he said. "So that's when we decided to come up with this program."

Only a handful of residents used the service the first year it was available, Hernandez said, but since 2019, the number has ballooned.

"We've made modifications over the years to definitely make it useful for seniors. ... We think that it's been pretty good for our seniors and for the city and for businesses, too," he said. "We see a lot of seniors utilizing that to get downtown, to get to stores and stuff like that."

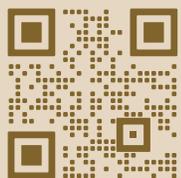
In 2024, 41 different seniors used the program, up from 40 in 2023, Hernandez said. While there is no cap of how many rides one resident can be reimbursed for in a year, he said the city has considered implementing either a ride or spending limit – nothing has been implemented yet.



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Comment

Editorial

Do buildings define a village?

Last week's demolition of a small 1920s-era building at 40 Main St. was yet another reminder of a Los Altos downtown undergoing major changes – changes that challenge the notion of the downtown as a “village.”

Think back to 2007, when developers Ted and Jerry Sorensen initially proposed a three-story office building at the site. Three stories downtown still prompted reactions akin to the world coming to an end.

The Sorensens' fight to build dragged on for years, triggering lawsuits with the city and incurring the wrath of local preservationists. As late as 2018, they were still trying to get a three-story project approved.

Then state legislators, desperate to address the ongoing jobs-housing imbalance, forced zoning changes on cities that allowed for high-density housing - even in low-density enclaves like Los Altos.

The Sorensens' plans changed from 3-stories and 16,000 square feet to five-stories and nearly 30,000 square feet. The new housing laws neutered the city's ability to have any say in the matter.

Construction on the new mixed-use project at 40 Main could begin as early as this week.

Times have changed. Work will begin at a time when there are several multi-story condos lining First Street. Parking plazas 7 and 8 are being eyed for affordable housing. Plazas 1 and 2 are due for conversion to a park and, possibly, a performing arts center.

The outrage from 18 years ago has become a collective sigh among those who wanted to keep downtown the way it was. Some just moved out or moved on. The newcomers who don't know the history wonder what the fuss was about.

As for the “village?” If one associates village with building sizes alone, perhaps it's time for a new name. On the other hand, doesn't village also connote a friendly spirit, where people know each other, and feel comfortable and secure? Where events like First Fridays and the pet parade bring people together for a little fun? That “village” is still with us.

Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF THE LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

These Hidden Villa campers are enjoying various activities while sitting on a bench inside the hostel building, in this Betty Estersohn photo from the 1970s. Do you recognize anyone?

Learning a new language worth sharing

By Laura Fay

I learned Spanish back in high school and was fortunate to get immersed in the language while taking care of children. Initially, I struggled to converse and made lots of errors but, unlike adults, the children were never shy to correct me, sometimes even ridiculing me for silly mistakes. It felt really great to connect in another language.

I loved how words revealed a culture, especially when expressions didn't have a direct translation in my own language.

These days, my Spanish is pretty rusty. So, I love to practice when I can.

Recently at the deli counter in a Mexican market I tried “¡Hola! ¿Puede mostrarme qué tipos de queso tiene?” The

Other Voices

employee paused a moment and said, “Everything we have is here,” as she pointed to the display case, her tone polite but firm. My heart sank just a little bit.

This happened repeatedly. Every attempt at my speaking Spanish was met with an immediate switch to English. Each time, I felt a pang of disappointment. I wanted the resistance, the challenge, the stumbling through a sentence and eventually the satisfaction of getting it right.

More recently, when I had a question for a produce clerk at my local supermarket and it was apparent that he had trouble understanding me, I switched to Spanish. It

seemed like he was grateful for the accommodation. I'd wanted to put him at ease and I now understood that perhaps others were just trying to do the same for me.

I was encouraged to keep trying. When I did, the vendor at my nearby farmers market asked me if I'd like to continue the conversation in English or Spanish. As we chatted, we found ourselves switching language back and forth during the conversation, smiling as we parted ways. It felt good. We'd connected on a level footing and I like to think that we both improved our language skills just a little bit that day.

Laura Fay is a retired technology industry executive, writer and environmental activist. She lives in Los Altos.

Letters to the Editor

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



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(650) 948-9000 | losaltosonline.com | SUBSCRIPTIONS: howardb@latc.com

Administration

Chief Executive Officer, Publisher:

Dennis Young (650) 397-5065, dennisy@latc.com

Chief Operating Officer, Associate Publisher:

Howard Bischoff (650) 397-5213, howardb@latc.com

Editor-in-Chief:

Bruce Barton (650) 397-5482, bruceb@latc.com

Managing Editor:

Christina Casillas (650) 397-5714, christinac@latc.com

Reporters:

Christina Casillas (650) 397-5714, christinac@latc.com

Curtis Driscoll (650) 397-5717, curtisid@latc.com

Brandon Roth (650) 397-5035, brandonr@latc.com

Copy Editors:

Vanessa Connell, Mary Larsen

Magazines Designer:

Michel Y. Echeverria (650) 397-5706, mikee@latc.com

Lucy Chen (650) 397-5726, lucyc@latc.com

Contributing Photographers:

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

Interns: Sahana Anamika, Rachel Aronson,

Ananya Chaudhary, Shaona Das, Maya Dutt,

Annabelle Eaton, Zoe Friedman, Oscar Johnson,

Mckayla Kao, Matthew Lee-Asiong, Lara Leon,

Prisha Mohapatra, Keara Morrow, Michael Shtrom,

Dorie Xie, Amelia Yuan

Intern manager:

Pete Borello (650) 397-5495, peteb@latc.com

Print/Media Ad Sales

Real Estate Advertising:

Linda Monterrey (650) 397-5487,

lindam@latc.com

Ad Sales:

Maria Crowder (650) 397-5097, mariac@latc.com

Janice Fabella (650) 397-5066, janicef@latc.com

Danielle Amaral (650) 397-5738,

daniellea@latc.com

Ad Services:

Production Manager:

Melissa Rodriguez (650) 397-5208,

melissar@latc.com

Lead Graphic Designer:

Michel Y. Echeverria (650) 397-5706,

mikee@latc.com

Graphic Designer:

Lucy Chen (650) 397-5726, lucyc@latc.com

Classified: classifieds@latc.com

Paid Obituaries: obits@latc.com

Legals/Public Notices: legals@latc.com

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Community

Quirky trolls come to visit the tailored grounds of Peninsula mansion

By Robin Chapman

It is difficult to know quite what to expect when you hear that sculptures of giant trolls have been installed within the manicured grounds of the century-old mansion Filoli, a bucolic California Historic Landmark in Woodside, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The beautiful Bourn-Roth estate – as Filoli is also known – with its fascinating history and its world-class landscaping, has been open to the public since its last owner donated the property to the National Trust in the 20th century. It is well known for its seasonal rotation of blooms, its quiet good taste, and – in past years at any rate – its cadre of volunteers, many from the ranks of retired professionals in Los Altos, Mountain View and Palo Alto.

Prepare to be amazed at the

Santa Clara Valley Lives

changes.

The Thomas Dambo trolls have brought a sensation to Filoli. Six of the giants are now installed along Filoli's California Loop Trail, not far behind the house and up a slight incline amidst the dusty California landscape of chaparral and oaks. In a walk of about a mile, visitors can see the trolls and read their stories. They are between 12 feet and 20 feet in height, each has been given a quirky name, and each is made of reclaimed wood and other recycled material. This speaks to the theme of the exhibit: "Trolls: Save the Humans," an installation highlighting environmental preservation. It has been a big draw.

On a recent Friday after-



PHOTOS BY ROBIN CHAPMAN

This Thomas Dambo troll, called Rosa Sunfinger, is about a half-mile into the troll walk along the California Loop Trail at Filoli, where there are now five other giant trolls on exhibit.

noon, the main Filoli parking lot was filled and two additional lots had been set aside to handle the overflow. There was a line of customers at the popular Quail Café – though

it did move quickly – and the grounds were filled by families with children. I have never seen so many young people at Filoli.

The installation artist

Thomas Dambo is now quite famous for his trolls. He has more than a hundred of them placed across the globe, from the Pacific Northwest to the western coast of Australia.

There's even one in Solvang, California, at the California Nature Art Museum. Solvang, being a Danish-themed town, is well-suited to the artist, who is from Denmark.

My cousin in Portland, Oregon, first alerted me to the Filoli exhibit after she learned Dambo's story from a giant troll installed in her region. Well, from the news reports up there, anyway.

The artist gives names to his characters and each one has a mission. From Sofus Lotus, the listening troll ("He was the first one to notice that something was wrong with the rhythm of nature ..."), to Basse Buller, the painting troll ("He makes his

See TROLLS, Page 10

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Community

Grantees benefit from Rotary's Fine Art in the Park fundraiser

By Ron Stefani
Special to the Town Crier

The Rotary Club of Los Altos will present its 50th year of Fine Art in the Park in Lincoln Park on Saturday Aug. 9 and Sunday Aug. 10 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This popular show features outstanding artwork, jewelry, clothing, photography, food, music and great fun.

But more than that, the proceeds from last year's 2024 Fine Art in the Park gave cash grants to a wide range of Los Altos Rotary's local and international charities. This cycle of giving will continue after proceeds from the 2025 show are distributed to worthy beneficiaries.

Some of Los Altos Rotary's 2024 local grantees included the following.

- Avenidas: to support its popular programs for seniors, especially for disadvantaged seniors who need support with rent, medications and caregiving.
- Camp Kaleidoscope: to provide a weeklong summer camp for children whose parents suffer from cancer.
- The Day Worker Center of Mountain View: to provide healthy meals for low-income seniors.
- KARA: to support Camp Kara for children who have experienced the death of a family member.
- The Los Altos History Museum: to support their program to transcribe and archive the museum's oral histories.
- The Los Altos Stage Company: to fund youth theater and musicals.
- Jasper Ridge Farm: to provide animal-assisted therapy



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

Proceeds from the Rotary Club of Los Altos' Fine Art in the Park, above, benefit a host of nonprofit groups.

50th Rotary Club of Los Altos Fine Art in the Park

When: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Aug. 9 and 10

Where: Lincoln Park, 199 University Ave., Los Altos

Information:
rotaryartshow.com
losaltosrotary.com

to aid veterans with PTSD and other emotional injuries.

- Pacific Hearing Connection: to purchase equipment for and provide mobile hearing services to homeless and low-income seniors.
- The Community School of Music and Arts: to provide free community concerts.

The Los Altos Rotary Club also partners with international Rotary clubs and Rotary International to make grants to international beneficiaries, such as these:

- The Karat School in Ivory Coast, Africa concurrently educates girls at the Karat School and trains their mothers to become entrepreneurial, financially independent farmers. These programs have raised the skills and status of girls and women in a patriarchal culture.

- Save a Girl, part of The Global Uplift Project founded by former Los Altos High School teacher Robert Freeman, aims to keep adolescent girls in school in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

- In an Iraqi village, displaced Yezidie girls participate in breeding and selling a variety of poultry. The proceeds allow girls to attend school and feed themselves and other villagers.

Community members are encouraged to attend this year's Fine Art in the Park, where they can purchase wonderful art items, enjoy good food and entertainment, and feel confident about supporting good causes.

For more information, visit rotaryartshow.com and losaltosrotary.com.

TROLLS

From Page 9

marks with stones, leaves, sticks, or anything he can find ...”), each troll story is revealed both in signage and in a tableau along the trail. One of the most colorful is Ibby Pip, the birdhouse troll (“She is a friend to all animals ...”) who carries a backpack filled with brightly painted birdhouses, which are installed high up in the nearby trees.

There is much more about all this you will learn when you visit: Maps include a QR code with more on the trolls' stories. The California

Loop Trail is easy for people who are good walkers, but could be more difficult for parents with strollers and might not be suitable for the walking challenged. But there are lots of other paved paths around the Filoli gardens, where the Dambo installation will continue to brighten the estate until Nov. 10, 2025. After that, it appears one of the trolls will make his home there, which suggests the trolls – in addition to being conservationists – also have excellent taste in real estate.

Robin Chapman is a longtime journalist, a Los Altos native, and the author of three books about California.

Los Altos History Museum introduces new board members

Town Crier Report

Former Mountain View mayor Mike Kasperzak has joined the Los Altos History Museum's Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning July 1.

With more than 25 years of experience in business, law and public service, Kasperzak brings a wealth of leadership expertise. He has held prominent roles with the League of California Cities, National League of Cities and various regional boards and commissions.

A well-connected community leader, he is active with several organizations including the Los Altos Stage Company and the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce.

Kasperzak earned his Juris Doctor from Hastings College of the Law and a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis and Clark College.

"I'm delighted to welcome Mike to the museum's board," said Jennifer Springer, chairperson of the nominating committee. "His deep connection with the city of Mountain View and extensive legal and civic background offer valuable insight. We look forward to his contributions to our mission and governance."

Also joining in a leadership role is Riya Srivastava, appointed as the museum's new youth representative.

A junior at Pinewood High School and a dedicated teen docent for the past two years, Riya is recognized by her



Kasperzak



Srivastava

school and peers for her commitment to service. In addition to her volunteer work, she is a student-athlete who competes in soccer.

"Including youth voices is essential as we work to make our programs more relevant and impactful for younger audiences," Springer said. "Riya brings first-

hand knowledge of our teen programming and a strong understanding of her generation's interests. Her insight will be a tremendous asset in shaping future programs."

The museum's 2025-2026 executive committee of the board of directors includes: president, Kuljeet Kalkat; first vice president, Margo Horn; second vice president, Wayne Hooper; treasurer, Jay Thomas; secretary, Rebecca Lowell; past president, Vicki Holman.

The museum expresses their appreciation for the outstanding service of outgoing youth representative Sophie Filer.

To view the full list of current board members, visit losaltoshistory.org/board.

Community Briefs

Del Monte block party returns

The Del Monte Avenue Neighborhood Block Party returns this Aug. 10, bringing together residents from Carmel Avenue, Carmel Court, Del Monte Avenue, Pasa Robles Avenue, West Portola Avenue and Pleasant Way.

"The event aims to strengthen community ties and offer a joyful, local celebration for neigh-

bors of all ages," said Robin Bantz, who is a block party organizer along with her husband, Paul.

In addition to a potluck picnic, games and visits from local fire and police departments, activities will include displays of historical stories and vintage neighborhood maps mounted on poster boards. The event is for neighborhood residents only.

National Night Out comes to Los Altos

Los Altos police officers are participating in the annual National Night Out, scheduled

6-9 p.m. Aug. 5 at the Los Altos Community Center.

Activities will include drone demonstrations, police car and motorcycle displays.

The event is designed to strengthen police-community relations, heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, and generate support in local anti-crime efforts.

Officers will be making brief visits at participating neighborhoods.

To participate or for more information, contact Angela Alvarado at aalvarado@losaltosca.gov.



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Community

Unite for good: War crimes ambassador addresses Rotary club

By Marlene Cowan
Special to the Town Crier

Beth Van Schaack put a face on the U.S. government's efforts to prevent and respond to the inhumane violence that we see in the nightly news. As ambassador-at-large leading the State Department's Office of Global Criminal Justice, she has spent years working toward justice and the prevention of war crimes and other atrocities. President Joe Biden nominated her for this post in 2021.

As a young student, this war crimes ambassador had benefitted from Rotary's support as an ambassadorial scholar, spending a year in Kenya working on women's rights. Rotary International's theme for 2025-2026 is importantly "Unite For Good." She discussed her experience with the Rotary Club of Los Altos July 10.

Van Schaack, a Los Altos resident, led American efforts to develop global criminal justice in numerous areas of conflict around the world, focusing on Uganda, Ukraine, Syria, The Gambia and beyond. One of her presentation slides showed her



COURTESY OF BETH VAN SCHAACK
Van Schaack

reporting on ABC World News: "Breaking news – U.S.: Russia Committing War Crimes, Citing Russian Attacks on Hospitals and Schools."

She described the United States' contributions to the formal meeting of lawyers representing 48 member states at the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.

Pursuing post-war justice is an extremely complex, lengthy process involving national courts, international courts, transitional justice, truth-telling, reparations and reforms

that would lead toward future prevention. Some of Van Schaack's other slides showed the rubble already giving rise to claims of damage in Ukraine, human rights victims protesting in Latin America, and survivors demanding reparations relating to the decades-long practice of apartheid in South Africa.

Van Schaack's impressive academic training lists degrees from Stanford, Yale Law School and the University of Leiden School of Law (doctorate). Her powerful legal activities include fact-finding in Ukraine and other zones of human rights crimes. Her book, "Imagining Justice for Syria," presents the challenges developing in Syria to deliver justice after a decade of abuses.

Closer to home, she is currently a Distinguished Fellow at Stanford's Center for Human Rights and International Justice, where she has taught international human rights, international criminal law and human trafficking, among other subjects.

Marlene Cowan is a member of the Rotary Club of Los Altos.

Save the Date

- 2025 Summer Concert Series, hosted by the city of Los Altos. Held 6:30 p.m. every Thursday, through July 31, at Grant Park, 1575 Holt Ave., and Hillview Soccer Field, 97 Hillview Ave. Information: losaltosca.gov/325/2025-Summer-Concert-Series.

- Los Altos Farmers' Market, 4-8 p.m. Thursdays, through Oct. 9, along State Street. Information: downtownlosaltos.org.

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

- Groundbreaking on 90-unit affordable housing proj-

ect., 1-3 p.m., Aug. 28, 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos.

- Mountain View Arts Festival, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 6, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 7, Castro Street, downtown Mountain View. Information: mviewarts.com.

- Downtown Los Altos Festival of Lights Parade, 6 p.m. Nov. 30. Information: losaltosparade.org.

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Stepping Out

New Works Festival invites community input on new plays

Town Crier Staff Report

TheatreWorks will be staging its 22nd New Works Festival later this month, and it's set to include an array of original work by playwrights from around the world.

Many of the plays in the festival have been seen only a few times or have never before been performed for an audience. The festival is an opportunity for the playwrights to receive feedback on their story and to see what moments in the play the audience reacts to the most. At the end of the show, the audience will be asked questions about what they liked about the play, how it could be improved, and what could be added or removed.

There will be six plays this year: Robert Schenkkan's "Old Cock," a tale about the fascist dictator António de Oliveira Salazar of Portugal; Irene Sankoff and David Hein's "Vienna," a story that takes place in three different periods in Vienna; Mark Saltzman's "Alice, Formerly of Wonderland," a new musical about Princess Alice of England, Lewis Carroll's real-life inspiration for "Alice in Wonderland;" Kate Kilbane and Dan Moses's "The Bridge," a play that explores the tropes and tragedies that can occur within a marriage; Christopher Oscar Peña's "Malcreados," a story on the reunion of two brothers who come together after their mother's passing; and Geetha Reddy's "The Employee Dharma Handbook," a play about a first-generation American who works for a rocket company and learns to deal with the clashing of ideals with her culture and company. There will also be a special one-night event written by Robert Schenkkan called "Motion/Capture" that reimagines the story of "Frankenstein" in the modern world.

Geetha Reddy, the author of "The Employee Dharma Handbook," said the festival allows her and her fellow playwrights to receive feedback from the audiences and be in a supportive environment that helps her connect with people across different cultures. Reddy said events like New Works

keep theater alive; they create a vision for the future and are an act of defiance against a society that forces one to be isolated.

Reddy, who began her career in the tech industry, was always interested in the arts and slowly developed her skills as a writer by taking courses at the University of California, Berkeley Extension program. She also experimented with her story writing by participating in Playground SF, where she submitted her first 10-minute commission play. Many of her stories center around the experience of immigrants and encourage viewers to think of societal issues. In her upcoming play, she will be looking at how the ancient conflict of an Indian immigrant clashes against the structure of capitalism.

"I became very interested in the intersection between the modern corporate structures and our ancient injustices and the ways we perpetuate or mimic them," Reddy said. "It's kind of an investigation about what's happening amongst these employees at this company."

Giovanna Sardelli, the creative director of TheatreWorks and the director of "Alice, Formerly of Wonderland," said that she has been following Saltzman's piece for the last decade and saw it grow from a rough reading performance to debuting with a successful world premiere. Sardelli said Saltzman learned that he wanted to abridge the story. He hopes to reintroduce the script to new families and to give it new life.

"I think this festival is the perfect example that we can take any concept in its earliest stage and just support them (writers)," Sardelli said. "Giving them an actor, letting them play in a room together, that's super rare. I rarely get to be in the room with a Pulitzer Prize winner and an artist and I think this festival will be special."

The festival is set for July 25 to Aug. 17 at the Lucie Stern Theatre in Palo Alto, 1305 Middlefield Road. For more information on the plays and ticket prices, visit theatreworks.org/new-works.



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TheatreWorks will hold the 2025 New Works Festival July 25 to Aug. 17 at Lucie Stern Theatre.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Los Altos Lutheran Church Rejoice in the Word + Sent in the Spirit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10AM In-Person & Online</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.LosAltosLutheran.org</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">460 S. El Monte Ave. (at Cuesta) 650.948.3012 office@losaltoslutheran.org Email the office for the Worship Zoom Link</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Christ Episcopal Church <i>Inspired Worship. Relevant Preaching. Transcendent Music.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Services In Person</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service (also via Zoom)</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Childcare provided on Sunday mornings during 10:15 service 1010 Border Road Los Altos 650-948-2151</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.christchurchlosaltos.org</p>			
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Schools

Local teen places second at National History Day contest

By Annabelle Eaton
Town Crier Editorial Intern

When Jason Rong came across the Attica Prison riot of 1971, the Los Altos teen was far more interested in learning about it than winning a prize for writing about it. By June, he accomplished both.

Rong's paper placed second out of thousands in his division at the National History Day contest.

"I started researching Attica as part of a school (capstone) project and found that it was actually really fun, and so I poured more time into it," Rong said. "I wasn't really expecting to win anything, but I really enjoyed doing the project, and still would have been happy if I didn't win."

According to the incoming freshman at The Nueva School, his paper focused on four days during which 1,281 inmates seized control of the prison in Attica, New York, held negotiations with the government and gave speeches on prisoner's rights. Authorities

responded with force, killing 43 people.

"I chose Attica because of how violent it was – (which I think was totally unnecessary," Rong said. "Also, prisons are (on) an interesting boundary where ... rights are still up for debate and most Americans don't really care about how prisoners are treated."

The National History Day contest treated Rong much better. After submitting his paper to the competition, judges ranked it among the top two in his region. That sent Rong to the national event, held June 8-12 at the University of Maryland.

During the in-person interview process at the competition, Rong fought for his place by expanding on the implications of his paper and solutions to the problems he posed.

"A bunch of politicians determined that these prisoners are bad – that they needed to be put under control," Rong said. "They enacted laws that were really harsh."

Rong added that, partially



COURTESY OF JASON RONG

Los Altos teen Jason Rong recently wrote a paper about the Attica Prison riot of 1971 in New York that placed second in his division at the National History Day contest. Rong is an incoming freshman at The Nueva School.

due to these laws, prisons have become less rehabilitative and more punitive, resulting in recidivism and mass incarceration.

"So today, if they get out of

prison, they can't vote, they have a bad credit rating and it basically just destroys your entire life," Rong said. "I think there needs to be a stronger focus on rehabilitation and that

it might be time to consider just prison abolition overall."

As Rong moves from eighth grade into his first year of high

See HISTORY, Page 15

Get ready – changes to essay prompts expected this year

By Hollis Bischoff

In prior years, the schedule for when college application essay prompts were announced was fairly straightforward. The Common Application (App) and the UC application would announce around March/April whether their prompts were changing and published any changes. Then individual colleges on the Common App would leisurely post their supplemental essay prompts between Aug. 1 and Sept. 1.

Road To College

This year has already seen national politics, internal school politics and surprise announcements impacting the essay writing requirements. With the national political focus on removing any references to DEI in the college environment, there is pressure on institutions to remove any

wording which would highlight words like diversity. In prior years, one of the most popular supplemental essays was some form of "Please tell us how you will contribute to the diversity of our campus community." Changing the wording of an essay prompt is not a simple procedure, as it often must go through a number of committees and approval processes to publish even simple word changes. This has the potential to delay the announcement of supplemental essays past Sept. 1.

Internal politics go beyond just approval of prompt wording. Essay prompts reflect the values of the institution, and where that institution wishes to focus. The UC system is this year's best example of evolving focus; while prior years a student could pick any four of the seven prompts available, this year the UCs have focused on the student's preparation



ADOBE STOCK/CULTURA CREATIVE

Several colleges are looking into changing essay prompts this year for the application process.

for their chosen major. This was done by creating one required question related to

activities within school (e.g., classes, clubs) and out of school (related extracurricular

activities, dual enrollment, etc.) which are preparing

See ESSAY, Page 15

Schools

Schools Briefs

Homestead High School hosts Goodwill and E-Waste event

There will be a Goodwill and E-Waste event at Homestead High School, located at 21370 Homestead Road, Cupertino, on Saturday, July 26 and Sunday, July 27 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until the trucks get filled. The school is asking people to clean out their closets and donate their clothing, shoes, toys, books, small appliances,

e-waste and electronics. This event will support the school's Winter Percussion group, a competitive drumming ensemble that incorporates drill movements.

Email HemaLakhani@intero.com with any questions on unacceptable items or event logistics.

HISTORY

From Page 14

school, he plans to continue researching and writing about history. However, this time, he has a specific goal in mind.

"I learned not to trust the mainstream theories," Rong said. "But I'm interested in taking a further critical lens of viewing things in history, because the government (among others) tells lies."

Next year, Rong must compete in the senior division (for high school students) rather than the junior division (middle school students) of National History Day, and he plans to turn his focus toward a different historical event.

"(The win) inspired me to keep on competing," Rong said. "There are a lot of other areas of our society that are also overlooked and still very important, and I think that I'm just interested in these things."



Students should expect changes to college essay prompts, according to columnist Hollis Bischoff.

ESSAY

From Page 14

the student for success at the UC system. For students who have already started on their UC essays (good for you!), don't panic, the change is actually relatively minor; there are no changes to the original prompts #1-5, #6 has been slightly reworded and moved up to the "required" questions, and prompts #7-8 have been renumbered to #6-7.

All the surprises are not about prompt release dates moving out; some colleges have already published their prompts for this year, including Purdue University, University of Michigan, University of Chicago and Boston College.

What does this mean for the student apply-

ing during this season? Students should spend their efforts on the Common App Personal Statement, the UC prompts, and colleges which have already published their supplemental essay prompts. Students should hold off on starting any out-of-date prompts as there are no guarantees the prompts will not change (in any previous years, as many as 50% of schools change prompts). Completing the known prompts before Sept. 1 will free up time to respond more quickly when the late prompts are published. Lastly, remember that each student will be signing a statement on the Common App which attests to the student using their original words – this means no parental or other writer's word, only the student's and that the student did not use any human or robotic (AI) writer to create the answer.

To pitch a story for Schools, email section editor
Brandon Roth at brandonr@latc.com.

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Sports

Architect of Mountain View wrestling team back in charge

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisdriscoll@latc.com

After starting the Mountain View High School wrestling program from scratch in 2017 and stepping down two years ago due to time constraints, it would be understandable if former head coach Nhiem Nguyen focused on other pursuits.

With the position recently open, Nguyen has not only accepted the vacant position, but he also has big plans to reenergize the program.

“That passion and motivation to be involved in this program has not changed,” Nguyen said. “I’d say it’s even more so because I’ve had time to reflect on what I could have done better, and I want to apply that in this coming season.”

Nguyen built Mountain View’s program from the ground up, starting with 12 wrestlers and growing into the 60 it has today. He originally started the program so his son Tai Nguyen, who recently graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, would have the opportunity to wrestle in high school. At the time, his son was going from eighth grade at Blach Middle School to high school, but there wasn’t a wrestling program at Mountain View High, even though Los Altos High had one.

The first time around, it was Nguyen and a parent volunteer who helped with administration, with Nguyen providing most of the technical training for a team of more than 60 kids, a lot of pressure for just one person. Nguyen noted that there wasn’t enough staff to group wrestlers based on experience during his previous tenure, which he feared held back the development of some of the more experienced wrestlers.

“I think upon reflection, I learned a lot during the first years that I had and understanding what were things I could do better coming into the new season,” Nguyen said.

This time around, he plans to bring on several additional assistant coaches for the program, including former Stanford wrestler Jaden Abas, an NCAA All-American in 2021 and recipient of the Pac-12 Freshman of the Year award. Abas was also a two-time California state champion who graduated from Rancho Bernardo High in San Diego. Abas will focus on the technical drills, while Nguyen will look into hiring for the other positions. Nguyen is allowed stipends for two assistant coaches but wants to be aggressive and find funding for four assistant coaches – two for the boys and two for the girls. The program had 18 girls last season and thanks to strong interest from the incoming freshman class, he hopes to have at least 20 girls participating next season.

He also wants to give the junior varsity new wrestlers more time at tournaments than in the past when they had fewer tournaments to participate in. His goal is to bring the junior varsity team to more tournaments where they are guaranteed matches, allowing them to get a sense of what it’s like on the mat and in the spotlight. Nguyen hopes to improve wrestlers’ confidence and skills and believes the results will speak for themselves if the wrestlers show up, work hard and improve every day.

“If they do these three things, they show up and are committed to the program, they work hard and are committed to improving themselves, I think we are going to have a great season,” Nguyen said.



COURTESY OF NHIEM NGUYEN

New Mountain View wrestling coach Nhiem Nguyen.

Nguyen has kept up to date with the program over the last two years and has coached some of the upcoming seniors when they were freshmen. Mountain View finished sixth out of seven teams in the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League De Anza Division last season with a 1-5 league record, and Nguyen is hoping the team can improve in the standings.

“Rather than being a sideline critic, I decided to put my hat in and say, nope, I can come back and get this back to where I hope we can be,” Nguyen said.

LAHS doubles players team up for Magical Tennis nonprofit

By Chloe Eshagh

Town Crier Editorial Intern

Two students at Los Altos High School are trying to make tennis a more inclusive sport.

Sophia Stavrakos and Ava Randall are behind Magical Tennis, which they created in 2023 in partnership with Magical Bridge Foundation, a Palo Alto-based nonprofit that aims to make communities more inclusive.

The two rising LAHS seniors June 28 started offering free weekly sessions for tennis players of all ages, abilities and skill levels. Weekend sessions run through Aug. 9 at the Cubberley Community Center Tennis Courts in Palo Alto. Randall and Stavrakos also offered sessions during the school year.

“Sophia and I have both grown up playing so many different types of sports, and once we learned that a lot of kids who are neurodivergent don’t really have opportunities to play sports, we knew we wanted to do something about it,” Randall said. “And tennis, since we play, was just like the perfect fit.”

Stavrakos and Randall, who met

freshman year in biology class, had a shared passion for playing tennis and soon joined forces as doubles partners on the LAHS girls tennis team. Stavrakos said that led them to become close friends.

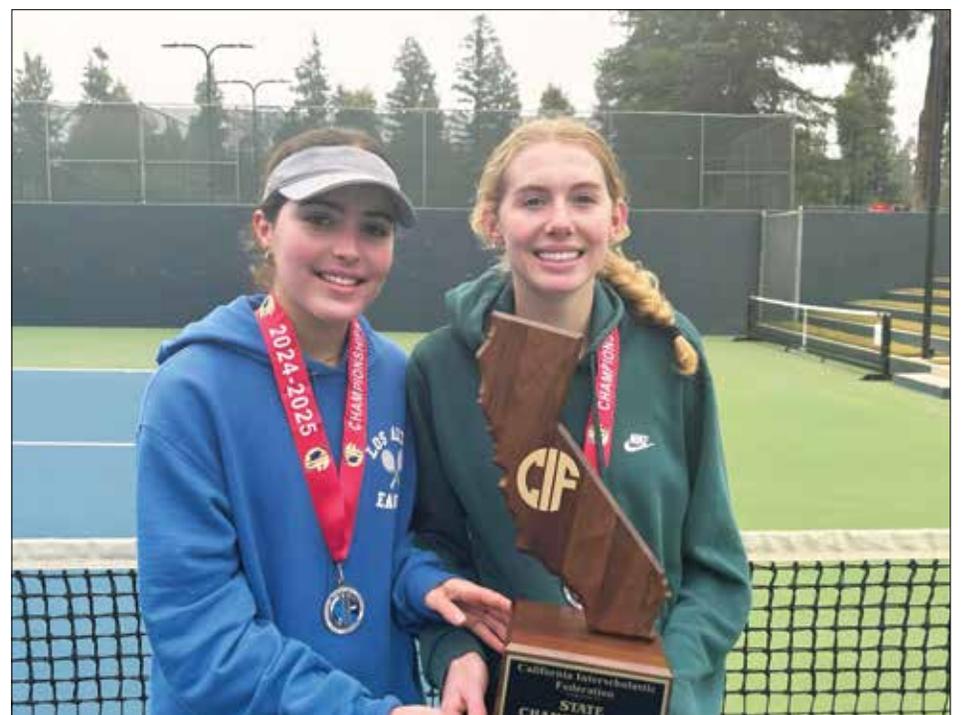
Stavrakos said Randall introduced her to the Aceing Autism program, and they both began volunteering together as freshmen.

“We both loved it,” Stavrakos said. “We were like, ‘Wow this is amazing ... how can we do more for such a great program? There should be more of these.’”

Randall added that both she and Stavrakos played a lot of sports as kids and wanted to create a safe space for children of all abilities to play tennis.

“You just learn so many valuable lessons from sports and it’s so important to (growing up), too, especially as kids,” Randall said. “So, I think we just wanted to create a safe space where these kids can feel seen and get the attention that they deserve.”

Stavrakos added that they wanted to create an opportunity for kids with neurodiversities, which the Cleveland



COURTESY OF SOPHIA STAVRAKOS AND AVA RANDALL

Los Altos High students Sophia Stavrakos, left and Ava Randall.

Clinic describes as a nonmedical term for people whose brains develop or work differently.

“I work with this one guy who came to multiple sessions,” Stavrakos said.

See TENNIS, Page 17

Sports

TENNIS From Page 16

“He was kind of shy at the beginning, and then he’d open up and talk to me. It was just really fun. He basically became my friend.”

Randall had a similar story with a different child she worked with during the Magical Tennis Program.

“Just like seeing the kids come out of their shells is so cool. For example, I worked with this kid a lot and in the beginning, he would never really talk,” Randall said. “But then toward the end of the session he’s a really good tennis player and he was just having so much fun.”

Randall and Stavrakos as sophomores brought the project to LAHS by establishing a club in an effort to get more students involved and raise funds for Magical Tennis.

As part of running Magical Tennis this summer, the girls are working on a manual with a step-by-step guide for people who want to create a similar program. The manual will be on the Magical Bridge Foundation website, according to Randall.

Stavrakos added that the summer program “is a bit extended,” going from one hour to two. The first hour is tennis “and then it’s one hour of another activity that we figure out,” she said.

Randall said members of the Magical Bridge Foundation are helping them organize the second hour. One of the activities will feature a visit from Canine Companions’ service animals, she added.

For more information on the Magical Bridge Foundation and to register for the Magical Tennis and Fun Camp, visit magicalbridge.org.



COURTESY OF SOPHIA STAVRAKOS AND AVA RANDALL

Ava Randall and Sophia Stavrakos are offering weekly tennis sessions in partnership with Magical Bridge Foundation, a Palo Alto-based nonprofit making communities more inclusive.

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



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Senior Lifestyles

Senior Lifestyles is published once every other month. For advertising information, email sales@latc.com.

Getting older comes with perks: Benefits of being 50+ locally

Town Crier Staff Report

Believe what you will about aging, but there are some tangible local benefits to the phenomenon. From lunches and ride reimbursements to free tax preparation and insurance advice, the city of Los Altos and the Adult 50+ Program have a number of helpful offerings for local seniors. The Mountain View Senior Center, open to residents of neighboring communities, also has a wealth of resources for those 55 and up.

Free medical rides

Need a ride? The Ridecare Program reimburses users ages 50 and up for rides to and from a number of healthcare facilities, including Stanford Hospital, Palo Alto Medical Foundation (Palo Alto, Mountain View and Sunnyvale), the Palo Alto VA Hospital, El Camino Hospital and Kaiser (Mountain View and Santa Clara).

Reimbursements are for basic rides, no upgrades. Users must use an on demand ride company that can provide official verification of ride cost, rider name and transportation start and finish points. The full cost of the ride and up to \$3 driver gratuity will be reimbursed.

For details, visit losaltosca.gov/319/RideCare-Program or call (650) 947-2797.



S.M. LIEU/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

From Mah Jongg (above) to boccee ball (right), there are a number of free activities residents 50 and older can participate in.

Free AARP tax prep

Each tax season, the AARP Tax-Aide program sets up shop at the Los Altos Community Center. The free tax service is especially designed for those aged 50 and up with moderate incomes, but is available to all taxpayers. Services are provided by trained, IRS certified volunteers.

Appointments are required. Next tax season, call (650) 947-2797 to sign up.

Free Medicare insurance counseling

HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program) is available 1-4 p.m. every third Tuesday at the Los Altos Community Center Madrone

Room. Appointments are required. Call (650) 947-2797.

Free Adult 50+ Program luncheons

Meet old friends or make new ones at festive luncheons.

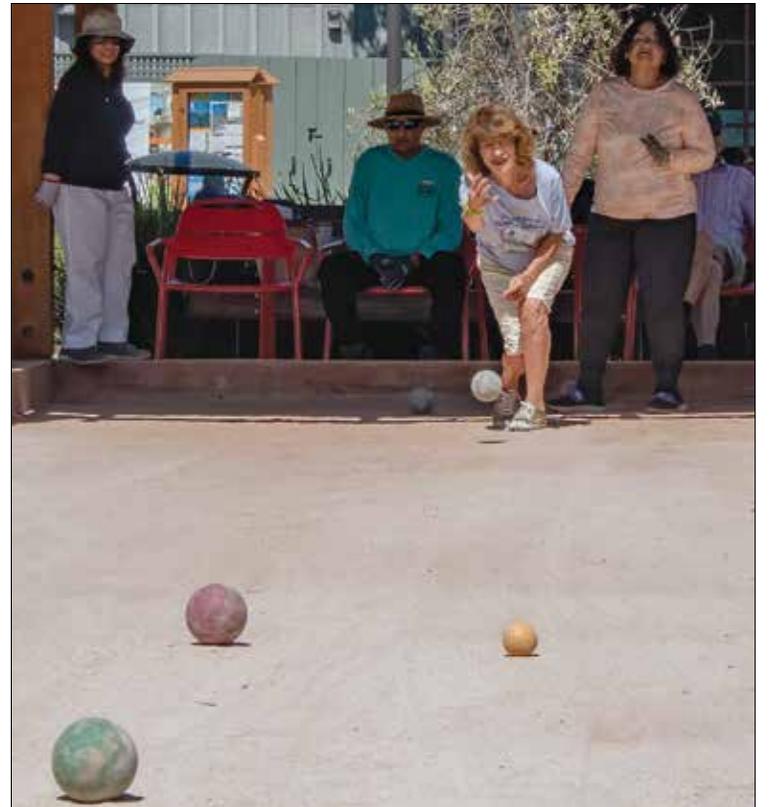
Los Altos Community Center Grand Oak Room, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Thursdays, July 24 and Aug. 28.

Grant Park Community Center, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Wednesdays, Aug. 13, Sept. 10 and Sept. 17. The Aug. 13 luncheon will feature a special Hawaiian luau theme.

Registration is required. Call (650) 947-2797 to sign up.

Free events

- Downtown Park commu-



nity update, presented by the city manager's office, 12:45-1:45 p.m. Thursday, July 24, Los Altos Community Center Grand Oak Room

- Meet-Up: Summer Concert Finale – 50+ pre-concert lounge, 5:15-6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 31, Los Altos Community Center Cedar Room

- Silk Road lecture, presented by Dr. Scott Cady, 12:45-1:45 p.m. Thursday, August 28, Los Altos Community Center Grand Oak Room

Here is a list of ongoing

free activities in Los Altos and Mountain View:

Los Altos Community Center

- Dance exercise class, 1-2 p.m. Mondays, Maple Room
- Sock monkey toy group, noon to 2 p.m. Mondays, Sycamore Room
- SOLAH cultural exchange, 10:30 a.m. to noon, second Tuesdays, Sycamore Room
- ArtVenturers group, 9:30

See BENEFITS, Page 21

Let strength grow from the silent grief of watching parents age

By Duanni Hurd

There is a unique kind of sorrow that creeps in slowly, quietly, and without ceremony – the kind you carry without fully realizing its weight. It is the grief of watching your parents age.

It begins with small things. Your father starts forgetting names or repeats the same story twice in a conversation. Your mother, once so agile in the kitchen, now needs help lifting a pot or reading a recipe. At first, you brush it off – everyone forgets things, everyone slows down. But over time, the changes add up, and you find yourself in a strange place: where the people who once cared for you now need your care in return.

Growing up I admired my parents for their amazing professional accomplishments: my father, a rocket

scientist; and my mother, an aerospace engineer. They not only managed prolific careers but also raised two children (my brother and I) and supported their own parents and siblings. Their journey gradually changed a decade ago when my father had to undergo two unsuccessful spinal stenosis surgeries in his early 70s while my mother continued to recover from heart conditions. At that time, they started having a caregiver for a four-hour visit, five days a week, to support with meal prep, light housekeeping and some mobility assistance. My brother, who lives nearby, has checked in regularly after work and taken them for lunch outings on weekends.

Fast forward a decade later; after going through the grueling pandemic and isolation for years, we had our

Journey into Aging

first family reunion with a big trip to Europe. My father had to resort to a wheelchair frequently after walking a short distance. That was expected as I had known his mobility decline all along. However, what truly saddened me were the moments that seemed so unexpected. Like the moment when I handed him my phone and asked him to charge it for me but he held it in silence, eventually replying, “I am not sure how to do it” after repeated prompts. And like the time I texted a few times to remind my parents to meet at the hotel lobby to go to dinner, only to find them sitting in the hotel room having no recollection of the reminders. The realization

of their memory loss and cognitive declines brought tears to my eyes.

There is no funeral or milestone that marks this shift. No sympathy cards arrive in the mail. Instead, you mourn in silence. You grieve the strength that used to live in their hands, the sharpness in their minds, the confidence in their steps. You begin to notice how your phone calls become less about catching up and more about checking in. You count their medications, schedule doctors' appointments, and smile through your own worry so they do not see it.

What hurts most is the realization that time is moving forward, and you are powerless to stop it. You try to be present, to be grateful, but underneath it all, there is an ache that

See AGING, Page 20

Senior Lifestyles

AGING

From Page 19

does not go away – it lives in the way your mom calls you to ask how to reset the TV; it shows up when you notice your dad sitting quietly instead of fixing things like he used to. You miss who they were, even as you love who they still are.

While seemingly elusive, there's beauty



in this chapter too – often, soft and tender moments can remind you of how deep your bond runs. Helping your dad button his shirt

becomes a quiet act of love. Listening patiently to your mom's stories, even when you have heard them before, feels like a gift. You realize that the roles may have changed, but the love has not.

If anything, that love has

deepened.

This silent grief is not about death – it is about transformation. About learning to hold joy and sadness in the same hand. And in that delicate balance, you find a new kind of strength. One that carries them, and you, through the unknown days ahead.

Duanni Hurd is founder of Starlight Caregivers, a Los Altos-based home-care organization that serves most of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. For more information, visit starlightcaregivers.com.

VTA recognized as certified age-friendly employer



GRACE GAO/TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority can now tout being an age-friendly employer by the Age-Friendly Institute.

Town Crier Report

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) was recently designated a Certified Age-Friendly Employer by the national Age-Friendly Institute. VTA is the only public transit agency in California, and among the few nationwide, to earn this prestigious designation.

More than 950 employees over the age of 50, representing over 40% of the workforce, contribute essential leadership, operational continuity and customer service excellence throughout the agency, VTA said in a press release.

The Institute's Certified Age-Friendly Employer program evaluated VTA across 12 key performance areas, including recruitment and retention, institutional knowledge retention, workplace accommodations and pay equity.

According to the VTA, key workforce strategies that contributed to certification

include age-neutral recruitment and promotion policies; pay equity audits across classifications; ergonomic accommodation and wellness initiatives; pre-retirement and financial planning resources; a retired annuitant program enabling experienced employees to return in advisory or part-time roles; mandatory implicit bias training, including age-diversity content; and ongoing exploration of multi-generational workforce development.

By recognizing the business value of experience, VTA officials said they are addressing talent shortages while optimizing long-term performance and customer satisfaction. The certification also reinforces VTA's role as an innovator in public-sector workforce planning.

To learn more about the Certified Age-Friendly Employer program, visit institute.agefriendly.com/initiatives/certified-age-friendly-employer-program.

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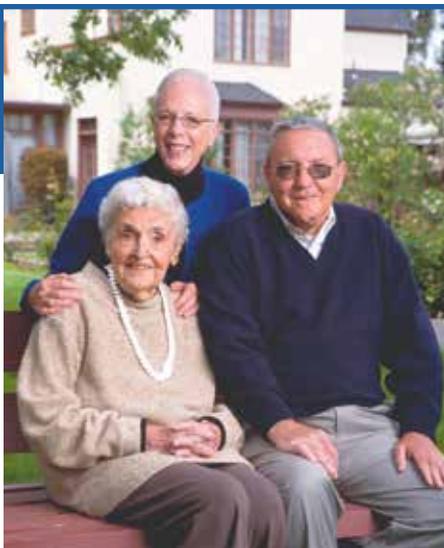
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FD #579

SUNNYVALE
174 N. Sunnyvale Ave.
(408) 736-6294
FD #910

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Have a comment? Reach out!

If you have an idea for Senior Lifestyles or would like to comment on its content, email section editor Bruce Barton at bruceb@latc.com.

Senior Lifestyles

BENEFITS

From Page 19

a.m. to noon Wednesdays, Apricot Room

- Bocce ball 50+ play, 9 a.m. to noon Thursdays, Bocce ball courts

- Rummikub, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Cedar Room

- Bridge, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Sycamore Room

Grant Park

- Discussion group, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Mondays, Room 1

- Carrom, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays, Classroom 4

- American Mah Jongg class, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Classrooms 2 & 3

- American Mah Jongg group, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays, Classroom 3

- Chair Yoga class, 9:45-10:15 a.m. Wednesdays, Multipurpose or Classroom 1

- Stretching class 10:15-10:45 a.m. Wednesdays, basketball court area

- Book Club, 11 a.m. to noon, third Wednesdays, Room 1

- Dance Exercise, 1-2 p.m. Wednesdays, Multipurpose Room

Note that only free activities are listed here. For a current schedule of Adult 50+ offerings, including ones requiring fees, such as pickleball, tai chi, ping-pong and a mini-trip to a Half Moon Bay pumpkin farm, pick up a copy of the latest brochure at the Los Altos or Grant Park Community Center or download one at losaltosca.gov/647/Adult-50-Program-Brochure. For more information, call (650) 947-2797.

The Los Altos Community Center is located at 97 Hillview Ave. Adult 50+ Program hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Note: The 50+ facility will be partially closed Sept. 1-5; call (650) 947-2797 for program details.

The Grant Park Community Center is located at 1575 Holt Ave. Adult 50+ Program hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Wednesday. Note: The center will be closed Aug. 18-22 for electrical work and partially closed Sept. 1-5; call (650) 947-2797 for program details.

Mountain View Senior Center

The Mountain View Senior Center also has a number of offerings. The center is located at 266 Escuela Ave. Stop by the front desk or call

(650) 903-6330 to sign up for activities requiring pre-registration. For more information, visit MountainView.gov/Seniors

Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays.

Here's a list of some free classes, groups and clubs at the center:

- Creative Stitchery club, 9 a.m. to noon Mondays, Arts & Crafts room

- Tai chi, 10:15 a.m. to noon Mondays, Multipurpose room A

- Ehru (beginning), 12:30-2:30 p.m. Mondays (other Ehru classes offered different days), Multipurpose room A

- Quilt club, 1-3:30 p.m. Mondays, Multipurpose room B

- Fan Dancing, 2:45-3:45 p.m. Mondays, Dance & Movement room

- Dancing with the Oldies, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays, Multipurpose room A

- Gentle Yoga & Body Sculpture, 8:45-10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (Mon.: Multipurpose room A; Weds./Fri.: Dance & Movement room)

- Mahjong club, 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, Arts & Crafts room

- Strong for Life, 9:30-10:15 a.m. and 10:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, Dance & Movement room

- Square Dancing, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Multipurpose

room A

- Evergreen Art Troupe (Chinese Chorus), 2:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Social Hall

- Painting club, 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays, Multipurpose room B

- Vinyasa Flow Yoga, 12:45-1:45 p.m. Wednesdays, Dance & Movement room

- Knitting & Crocheting club, 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays, Multipurpose room B

- Chinese Chorus, 2:30-5 p.m. Wednesdays, Social Hall

- Qigong, 9:45-11:15 a.m. Thursdays, Dance & Movement room

- Open Faith discussion group, 10-11 a.m. Thursdays, Meeting room

- Line Dancing, 10-11:30 a.m. Thursdays, Multipurpose room A

- Beginning Social Dance, 2:30-5 p.m. Thursdays, Multipurpose room A

- Book Club, 2-3 p.m. Second Thursdays, Meeting room

- Finding Joy with Art, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Fridays, Arts & Crafts room

- Line Dancing, 1-2 p.m. Fridays, Multipurpose room A

- Chinese Folk Dancing group, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Fridays, Dance & Movement room

The Mountain View Senior Center offers a number of services to assist local seniors.

- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide. This free service provides tax assistance to anyone, with

a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income. Post-season tax assistance with certified volunteers is available on the second Wednesday of the month at 9 and 10 a.m. Volunteers offer free e-filing and assistance for low to medium income taxpayers. Pre-registration is required.

- Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP). Appointments are available at the Senior Center the second Tuesday of each month from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Volunteer counselors can help you understand your specific rights and health care options. Pre-registration is required.

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Business & Real Estate

Behind the sale: Three offers, one winner in Mountain View

By Alex Wang

In December, a family decided to relocate out of Silicon Valley and hired me to sell their downtown Mountain View townhouse. They had purchased the property for just over \$2 million only two years earlier and wanted to maximize their return while moving quickly – two goals that, while seemingly contradictory, I've successfully navigated for clients through strategic pricing, preparation and negotiation.

Property preparation and marketing

After being hired, we developed a straightforward and comprehensive preparation strategy. The condo was relatively newly built, so the focus was on interior design and staging – selectively relocating excess furniture to the garage, replacing carpets with neutral tones and applying a final fresh coat of paint with proper sheens in specific areas. For example, molding

is painted differently than ceilings even when using the same color, and we avoid too much shine in ceiling areas. These details enhanced the property's overall appeal.

By February, we had completed home and termite inspections (roof inspections common for single-family homes don't usually apply to townhouses, where the HOA covers the roof) and arranged professional photography, including beautiful twilight shots displaying the illuminated interior. The marketing campaign included online strategies with video content to capture attention, broker tours and open houses for access, plus an expansive print marketing campaign. We had over 65 groups of potential buyers through the house the first weekend, which was a healthy number relative to the current market conditions.

The sellers opted to list the property at \$1.898 million, which was a decent amount below their original \$2 million purchase

price. This strategic underpricing was designed to generate multiple offers and create competitive bidding among buyers.

The offer process

The strategy worked. We received three offers on the home:

- Offer A came in strong at \$2,068,000 with no loan or appraisal contingencies, presenting the most competitive and low-risk position
- Offer B initially submitted at \$2 million
- Offer C entered at \$1.9 million

Rather than accept the highest initial offer, we issued a multiple counter at \$2,081,000 to all three buyers. This tactical move served two purposes: it pushed the final price higher while testing each buyer's commitment level.

Offer C increased their initial \$1.9 million offer to \$2 million. Offer B remained at their initial \$2 million offer price. Offer A responded decisively, not just matching

our counter but exceeding it to \$2,108,000. Their willingness to go \$40,000 above their original offer, combined with their clean terms and strong financial position, made them the clear winner.

Results

The final sale price of \$2.108 million represented a \$108,000 gain over the sellers' original purchase price and exceeded our multiple counters by \$27,000. More importantly, the winning buyer's aggressive response to our counter demonstrated genuine commitment, reducing the risk of deal complications during escrow.

The transaction closed smoothly, delivering the sellers both their desired financial outcome and confidence in their buyer's dedication to the property.

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

Transactions

Los Altos

1070 Mercedes Avenue #8, S. Faghieh to J. & G. Yang for \$1,030,000

470 Gabilan Street #4, W. Ng to M. Acob-Nash for \$1,390,000

36 Los Altos Square, Golub Trust to A. & A. Balasubramanian for \$1,673,000

1005 Marcelli Circle, T. Gao to C. & J. Zhang for \$2,276,000

1365 Bright Oaks Court, Chambers 2022 Trust to J. & I. Park for \$3,300,000

1130 Runnymede Drive, Zampino Family Trust to H. & P. Srinivasan for \$3,800,000

1670 Whitham Avenue, Halliday Trust to Richardson Living Trust for \$3,975,000

674 Campbell Avenue, Smith Family Trust to Y. & H. Wang for \$4,200,000

374 West Edith Avenue, Maloney Living Trust to M. Wilkinson for \$4,875,500

427 Paco Drive, Patton Trust to Li Family Trust for \$4,928,000

504 Valley View Drive, K. & K. Ahn to V. & D. Dutta for \$5,250,000

Los Altos Hills

27440 Elena Road, Skarmoutsos Family Trust to Y. &

S. Lin for \$2,450,000
27696 Vogue Court, Chen Family Trust to V. & I. Keri for \$5,700,000

Mountain View

1101 West El Camino Real #405, N. Hanselmann to V. Pant for \$650,000

1908 Silverwood Avenue, Riley Trust to T. Lam for \$900,000

509 Sierra Vista Avenue #2, W. Shen to Z. Liu for \$1,049,000

700 Chiquita Avenue #1, Yang Trust to A. & R. Hagelmueller for \$1,330,000

70 Sheffield Court, Goss Trust to V. Raghuram for

\$1,536,000
410 South Shoreline Boulevard, S. Tran to A. & G. Kannan for \$2,150,000

1051 Dale Avenue, J. Thompson to D. & M. James for \$2,381,500

1651 Tulane Drive, Sullivan Living Trust to W. & L. Tian for \$3,028,000

969 Eichler Drive, C. Branson to D. Weikersdorfer for \$3,535,000

2684 Yorkton Drive, M. Collins to Yan Family Trust for \$4,350,000

Total sales

Los Altos

Total sales: 14
Lowest sale: \$1,030,000
Highest sale: \$5,250,000
Average sale: \$3,433,300

Los Altos Hills

Total sales: 2
Lowest sale: \$2,450,000
Highest sale: \$5,700,000
Average sale: \$4,075,000

Mountain View

Total sales: 15
Lowest sale: \$650,000
Highest sale: \$4,350,000
Average sale: \$2,312,000
– Provided by CalRE-Source. Some transactions have been omitted for space.



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Seller's Bill of Rights

Silicon Valley sellers deserve better – better marketing, better support, and better results. No games. No hidden agendas. Just clear, honest commitments. Our **Seller's Bill of Rights** isn't fluff – It's a promise.

- I. **Fair Deals Only** – No double-ending. Our buyers get free representation on our listings.
- II. **Legal Help** – Free access to a licensed CA attorney.
- III. **Best Marketing** – Better than any comparable listing.
- IV. **Full Exposure** – On MLS, Zillow, Redfin & more.
- V. **Massive Visibility** – Weekly ads, professional video, 3D tour, custom site.
- VI. **Design Support** – Designer + handyman guided preparation.
- VII. **Free Staging** – Always included.
- VIII. **Paid Inspections** – We cover property & pest reports.
- IX. **Flexible Listings** – Auto-expire after 39 days unless renewed by seller.
- X. **Elite Teamwork** – Full in-house team working for you.



Discover the full details about our Seller's Bill of Rights

Closed Doors May Cost You More

Don't *Trust* a Brokerage That Prioritizes Commission Over Clients

Some brokerages pressure sellers to keep listings hidden from buyers who are not represented by that same brokerage on the buy side. While this "office exclusive" approach can dramatically increase the brokerage's chances of collecting both sides of the commission, it often comes at the seller's expense – reducing exposure, limiting competition, and ultimately lowering the final sales price.

DeLeon Realty welcomes competition from all buyers, irrespective of their choice of agent. And if a buyer isn't represented, Ken DeLeon's Buyer's Team will represent them on our listings – at no cost to either the buyer or the seller. Simply put, we always put our clients' interests first.



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YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS



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23171 MORA GLEN DRIVE | \$7,888,000 | 5 Bd | 5.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS | 23171MoraGlen.com



27500 LA VIDA REAL | \$39,988,000 | 5 Bd | 12 Bth
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 27500LaVida.com



706 N SAN ANTONIO RD | \$5,748,000 | 4 Bd | 5.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS | 706NSanAntonio.com



28500 MATADERO CREEK LN | \$9,398,000 | 6 Bd | 9 Bth
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 28500MataderoCreek.com



1271 PETERSEN COURT | \$5,095,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS | 1271Petersen.com



12355 STONEBROOK COURT | \$9,988,000 | 6 Bd | 9 Bth
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 12355StonebrookCt.com



761 WOODSTOCK LANE | \$3,988,000 | 4 Bd | 2.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS | 761Woodstock.com



240 3RD STREET #301 | \$5,988,000 | 2 Bd | 2.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS | 240Third.com

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YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS



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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.



140 FARM ROAD
WOODSIDE

\$10,988,000 | 5 Bd | 5.5 Bth
140FarmRd.com



154 BRYANT STREET
PALO ALTO

\$4,488,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
154Bryant.com



789 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
PALO ALTO

\$5,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4 Bth
789University.com



37 VALLEY ROAD
ATHERTON

\$5,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
37Valley.com



1561 KINGSGATE DRIVE
SUNNYVALE

\$2,988,000 | 4 Bd | 2 Bth
1561Kingsgate.com



448 FELTON DRIVE
MENLO PARK

\$2,988,000 | 3 Bd | 4 Bth
448Felton.com



188 FAIR OAKS LANE
ATHERTON

\$14,988,000 | 5 Bd | 7 Bth
188FairOaksLn.com



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Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com
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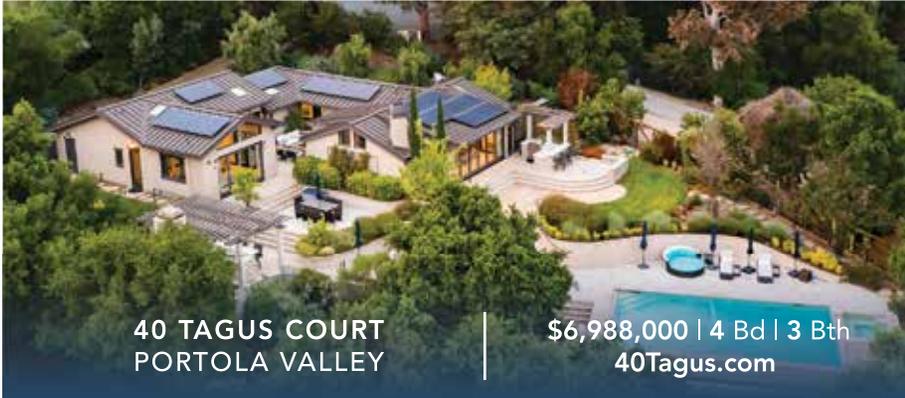




YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS



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40 TAGUS COURT
PORTOLA VALLEY

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



835 LA HONDA ROAD
WOODSIDE

\$7,490,000 | 5 Bd | 7 Bth
835LaHonda.com



695 N CALIFORNIA AVE
PALO ALTO

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



8 REYNA PLACE
MENLO PARK

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



1932 EMERSON STREET
PALO ALTO

\$9,988,000 | 6 Bd | 6 Bth
1932EmersonStreet.com



27690 BRIONES COURT
LOS ALTOS HILLS

\$3,988,000 | 4 Bd | 2.5 Bth
27690Briones.com



756, 758, 760 WAVERLEY ST
PALO ALTO

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



5 OAK FOREST COURT
PORTOLA VALLEY

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



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Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com
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YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS



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850 ARROYO COURT | \$4,288,000 | 5 Bd | 3.5 Bth
PALO ALTO | 850Arroyo.com



653 WILDWOOD LANE | \$4,988,000 | 6 Bd | 4 Bth
PALO ALTO | 653Wildwood.com



3751 EL CENTRO STREET | \$5,300,000 | 5 Bd | 7 Bth
PALO ALTO | 3751ElCentro.com



590 MILITARY WAY | \$4,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
PALO ALTO | 590Military.com



128 CORNELL ROAD | \$3,688,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
MENLO PARK | 128Cornell.com



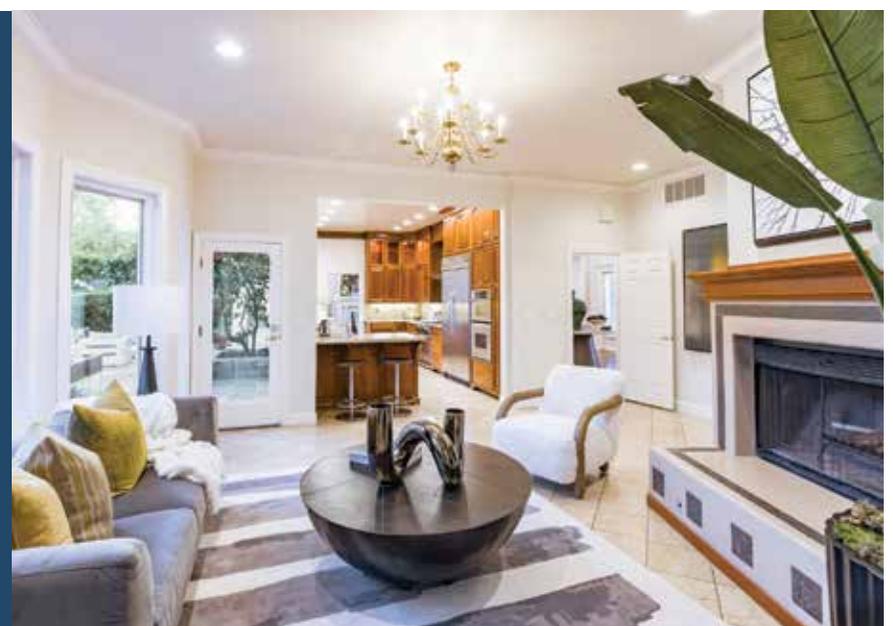
86 RITTENHOUSE AVE | \$4,888,000 | 5 Bd | 3 Bth
ATHERTON | 86Rittenhouse.com

DON'T OVERPAY TO SELL YOUR HOME LIST WITH US FOR 3% TOTAL COMMISSION

We have entered a new era where sellers are no longer permitted to offer any commission to buyer's agents in the MLS, which means that no commission details are advertised on sites like Zillow or Redfin. Buyers also need to sign agreements with their agents outlining the commission they will pay their own agents before they show any properties. If a seller wants to offer additional compensation to the buyer's agent, they can, but it is neither required nor encouraged.

While some listing agents will still try to contractually obligate sellers to pay 2% or more to the buyer's agent, DeLeon Realty has taken a different approach. Our sellers benefit from our industry-leading home preparation, staging, and marketing services while paying a total commission of 3%. Additionally, if a buyer chooses not to pay a buyer's agent, Ken DeLeon and his team will represent them on our listings at no cost to either the buyer or the seller.

Our client-centric business model and policies are just a few of the reasons why we are the leading listing team in all of Silicon Valley!



Contact us today!

Michael Repka (DRE #01854880) 650.488.7325
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Closed Doors May Cost You More

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Some brokerages pressure sellers to keep listings hidden from buyers who are not represented by that same brokerage on the buy side. While this "office exclusive" approach can dramatically increase the brokerage's chances of collecting both sides of the commission, it often comes at the seller's expense – reducing exposure, limiting competition, and ultimately lowering the final sales price.

DeLeon Realty welcomes competition from all buyers, irrespective of their choice of agent. And if a buyer isn't represented, Ken DeLeon's Buyer's Team will represent them on our listings – at no cost to either the buyer or the seller. Simply put, we always put our clients' interests first.



For more information, please see the following articles on the DeLeon Realty website:



Court Ruling Fails to Halt Commission Collusion and Price Fixing in Real Estate -
The DeLeon Insight
(May 2025)



Off Market Listings – A Hidden Sale or a Discriminatory Practice? -
The DeLeon Insight
(May 2025)



Agents Push for "Pocket," "Private," or "Exclusive" a.k.a. Hidden Listings -
The DeLeon Insight
(July 2025)

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Public Notices

all other rights of Trustor in and to the items set forth in subsections (a) through (n) above. CAPITALIZED TERMS NOT DEFINED HEREIN SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS THOSE IN THE NOTE, SECURED OBLIGATIONS, THE DEED OF TRUST AND ANY/OR ANY OTHER LOAN DOCUMENTS. Beneficiary reserves the right to revoke its election as to some or all of said personal property and/or fixtures, or to add additional personal property and/or fixtures to the election herein expressed, at Beneficiary's sole election, from time to time and at any time until the consummation of the trustee's sale to be conducted pursuant to the Deed of Trust and this Notice of Trustee's Sale. No warranty is made that any or all of the personal property still exists or is available for the successful bidder and no warranty is made as to the condition of any of the personal property, which shall be sold "as is", "where is". The real 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: 1212, 1215, 1245, 1255, 1305, 1277 Terra Bella Ave, 1330, 1340, 1350 W Middlefield, 850-900 N Shoreline, Mountain View, CA 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 unpaid balance of the obligations secured by and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust (together with any modifications thereto). 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 \$129,056,887.60 (Estimated), provided, 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. DATE: July 14, 2025 FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE COMPANY, TRUSTEE 24-00376-2FNT 5170 Golden Foothill Parkway, Suite 130 El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 916-636-0114 Sara Berens, Authorized Signor SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.servicelinkasap.com AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 1.866.684.2727 A-4848002 07/23/2025, 07/30/2025, 08/06/2025

KAPWA REALTY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717682

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: KAPWA REALTY, 5989 Taormino Avenue, San Jose, CA, 95123, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Lionel Mangapit Madamba, 5989 Taormino Avenue, San Jose, CA 95123. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Lionel Mangapit Madamba / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/03/2025. (07-16,23,30-25,08-06-25)

181-T

LOPEZ AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717710

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: LOPEZ AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE LLC, 1726 Smith Ave, San Jose, CA, 95112, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): LOPEZ AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE LLC, 1726 Smith Ave, San Jose, CA 95112. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/03/2025. /S/ Enrique Mario Lopez / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/07/2025. (07-16,23,30-25,08-06-25)

180-T

CAFFEINE BODEGA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717726

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CAFFEINE BODEGA, 1484 Pollard Road, Ste 3107, Los Gatos, CA, 95032, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): THE KAIZEN GROUPE L.L.C., 1484 Pollard Road, Ste 3107, Los Gatos, CA 95032. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/04/2025. /S/ Matthew Clark / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/07/2025. (07-16,23,30-25,08-06-25)

179-T

Hope Counseling Center of Silicon Valley FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717546

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Hope Counseling Center of Silicon Valley, 1101 S. Winchester Blvd, #K236, San Jose, CA, 95128, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: copartners. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Diane

182-T

Wood, 1101 S. Winchester Blvd, #K236, San Jose, CA 95128, Dr Ardel Payne, 1101 S. Winchester Blvd, #K236, San Jose, CA 95128. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/01/1999. /S/ Diane Wood / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/30/2025. (07-16,23,30-25,08-06-25)

178-T

SMCO CONSTRUCTION LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717672

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SMCO CONSTRUCTION LLC, 8831 Morey Way, Gilroy, CA, 95020, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): SMCO CONSTRUCTION LLC, 8831 Morey Way, Gilroy, CA 95020. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/30/2025. /S/ Omar Mendoza Maldoi / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/03/2025. (07-16,23,30-25,08-06-25)

177-T

AF WOOD PRESERVING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717360

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: AF WOOD PRESERVING, 1056 Lynn Way, Sunnyvale, CA, 94087, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Arsenio Ferreira, 1906 Plymouth St, Mountain View, CA 94043. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 04/12/2000. /S/ Arsenio Ferreira / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/24/2025. (07-16,23,30-25,08-06-25)

176-T

MOSAIC MUSIC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717621

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: MOSAIC MUSIC, 692 Borregas Ave, Sunnyvale, CA, 94085, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Stephen Mckee, 692 Borregas Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94085. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/06/2017. /S/ Stephen Mckee / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/02/2025. (07-16,23,30-25,08-06-25)

174-T

CYSTEMATIC SOLUTIONS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717575

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CYSTEMATIC SOLUTIONS, 309 Laurelwood Road Suite 17, Santa Clara, CA, 95054, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Asghar Laique, 309 Laurelwood Rd. Suite 17, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/30/2025. /S/ Asghar Laique / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/30/2025. (07-09,16,23,30-25)

173-T

ARTWORK BY TERESA H KO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN716853

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ARTWORK BY TERESA H KO, 26480 Anacapa Drive, Los Altos Hills, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Teresa H Ko, 26480 Anacapa Drive, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/31/2024. /S/ Teresa H Ko / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/03/2025. (07-09,16,23,30-25)

172-T

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PETITION OF ALEXANDRA CYRIA EATON STANFILL ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 25CV468245

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioner: Alexandra Cyria Eaton Stanfill filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: a. Alexandra Cyria Eaton Stanfill

Proposed Name: a. Alexandra Cyria Eaton Strange

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 09/16/2025 at 8:45 a.m. Room: Probate (b) The address of the court is: 191 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

3. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least

once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Altos Town Crier Date: 06/18/2025 /s/ LE Jacqueline Duong Judge of the Superior Court (07-09,16,23,30-25)

171-T

FIT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717480

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: FIT, 600 Fremont Ave, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): IMPACT FITNESS, LLC, 600 Fremont Ave, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/04/2000. /S/ Tracey Downing / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/26/2025. (07-09,16,23,30-25)

170-T

PRONTO LED DISPLAYS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717402

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PRONTO LED DISPLAYS, 727 Lakefair Dr, Sunnyvale, CA, 94089, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): PRONTO ELECTRONIC DISPLAYS LLC, 548 Market St. #703770, San Francisco, CA 94104. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Michael H Hawkins / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/24/2025. (07-09,16,23,30-25)

169-T

PORTOLA WELLNESS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717331

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PORTOLA WELLNESS, 881 Fremont Ave Suite A5, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an unincorporated association other than a partnership. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Krista Fielding, 881 Fremont Ave, Suite A5, Los Altos, CA 94024, Lawrence Choy, 881 Fremont Ave, Suite A5, Los Altos, CA 94024, Zaakir Yoonas, M.D. PC, 881 Fremont Ave,

Suite A5, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/22/2011. /S/ Zaakir Yoonas / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/23/2025. (07-02,09,16,23-25)

168-T

STURDY FENCE COMPANY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717160

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: STURDY FENCE COMPANY, 171 Main Street, Suite 227, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: married couple. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Michael T Hampel, 171 Main Street, Suite 227, Los Altos, CA 94022, Catherine B Hampel, 171 Main Street, Suite 227, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/1987. /S/ Michael T Hampel / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/16/2025. (07-02,09,16,23-25)

166-T

Datebook

Datebook items are run on a space-available basis for entertainment, events, classes and groups run by non-profits 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, Los Altos Main Library, 7 p.m., Woodland Library, 1975 Grant Road. **Poetry Community Hour Open Mic,** 7 p.m., first Monday of every month; **Bay Area Games Day,** 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., third Saturday of every month. Other events: **Wednesday Travel Nights – Mexico: Exploring Cabo and the Baja Peninsula.** 7-8:30 p.m. today (July 23). Join presenter Kim Ramsey for travel presentation. Seating will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. **Paint-Your-Own Pottery Workshop,** 10:30 a.m. July 26. Materials provided, allowing participants to design a masterpiece. For ages 13-18 years old. **Arabic Belly Dance.** 2 p.m. July 27. Explore the world of Arabic dance with a vibrant and interactive performance.

All About Bees. 6-7:30 p.m. Aug. 14. Longtime beekeeper, Enrico Reineri, will share all he knows about bees, bee products, keeping a hive and more. **Open Space Odyssey,** 6-8 p.m. Aug. 19. A Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District representative will explore the history, flora and fauna and the ongoing preservation of the local region's open spaces. Programs are free and open to the public. Information: (650) 948-7683, scclld.org.

REUNIONS

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

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

CLUBS/GROUPS

Assistance League of Los Altos. Charitable organization benefiting youth of Santa Clara County. Open 10 a.m. to 1

See DATEBOOK, Page 31

DATEBOOK

From Page 30

p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Located at Third and State streets. Information: (650) 941-2610, assistanceleague.org/losaltos.

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

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

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

GreenTown Los Altos. Nonpartisan group of citizens helping the communities of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills become more sustainable. Information: greentownlosaltos.org.

Foothills Amateur Radio Society. Amateur radio club serving Los Altos and local area. Meets 7 p.m. the fourth Friday of the month. Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos. Information: fars.k6ya.org.

American Association of University Women, Los Altos-Mountain View branch. Open to women (and men) with a college degree who are interested in equity for women and girls. Information: (650) 207-6625; lamv.ca.aauw.net.

Los Altos Las Madres Playgroups. Playgroups for moms and their babies five and under. Play dates in and around Los Altos. Expectant moms, new dads and other caregivers welcome. Information: (650) 917-9914; lasmadres.org.

Quota International of Mountain View/Los Altos. Supports scholarships for hearing-impaired students. Noon first and third Thursdays of each month. Michael's at Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd. Mountain View. Information: (650) 967-5404; quotamvla.org.

Rotary Club of Los Altos. Service group. 12:15 p.m. Thursdays. Garden House at Shoup Park, 400 University Ave. Information: losaltosrotary.org.

South Bay Storytellers. 7 p.m.

third Sunday of the month. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave. Information: (650) 494-1383, (650) 917-1920, southbaystorytellers.com.

Los Altos-Los Altos Hills Newcomers Club. Nonprofit organization, builds vibrant friendships in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills through special interest and social activities. Information: losaltosnewcomers.org.

Sons in Retirement, Branch 5. Small group of men who keep socially and mentally active, have lunch and hear speakers on a variety of subjects. 11 a.m. fourth Wednesday of each month. Michael's restaurant at Shoreline Golf Course, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Information: (408) 761-3941.

EXHIBITS

Gallery 9 Los Altos. "California in Brush Strokes" by Abby Zhang through July 27. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Located 143 Main St., Los Altos. Information: gallery9losaltos.com.

Viewpoints Gallery. "Simplicity and Elegance in Nature," works in gold leaf, acrylic and collage by Amy Rattner through July 27. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Information: viewpointsgallery.com.

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Midpeninsula Widows and Widowers Association. Nonprofit volunteer group organizes activities for those who have experienced the loss of a spouse. Meets 1:30 to 3 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month and 7:30 to 9 p.m. the remaining Tuesdays at the Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte Road, Los Altos. Information: mpwwa1.org.

Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing (GRASP). Support group provides help for individuals and families suffering the loss of a loved one as the result of drug use. 7-8:30 p.m. second Wednesday of the month. Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte Ave. Information: email eshow818@gmail.com.

Vasa Order of America, Lindbergh Lodge. Organization for experiencing the Swedish culture. 6:30 p.m. second Friday of each month; supper 7 p.m. American Legion Hall, 347 First St., Los Altos. Information: (650) 948-7030, (650) 773-0199.

Los Altos Al-Anon. Confidential support and tools for families and

friends affected by another person's drinking. Noon Thursdays. Room 7, Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Road. Information: district20afg.com.

Eating Disorders Resource Center. For individuals struggling with disordered eating and body image. 9:30-11 a.m. first and third Saturdays of the month. El Camino Hospital, Conference Room A, 2500 Grant Road, Mountain View. Free. Information: edrcsv.org.

Cupertino Rotary Job Search Support Group. Open to the unemployed, employed, under-employed and career changers 18 or older. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays. St. Cyprian Elementary School Conference Center, 1133 W. Washington Ave., Sunnyvale. Information: (408) 735-0663, jimgibson007@aol.com.

Moving On. For those going through major life changes. Led by Paula Wolfson, LCSW of Avenidas. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Los Altos United Methodist Church, Garden Room, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Cosponsored by Avenidas and Senior New Ways. \$42. Information: (650) 289-5438, pwolfson@avenidas.org.

Amputee Support Group. A place to meet other amputees, gain support, hear guest speakers and have barbecues in the summer. Third Wednesday of each month. Cedar Crest Rehabilitation, 797 E. Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale. Information: (408) 968-7464; (408) 738-4880.

Ongoing Breast Cancer Support. Recovery, renewal and education for anyone who has completed breast cancer treatment and is focusing on continued physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. 5-6:30 p.m. second and fourth Mondays of the month. Free. Information: (650) 326-6686.

Alzheimer's Association Portuguese/English Support Group. For families and caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Share common experiences, give and receive support, and discover ways of coping and caring. 5:30-7 p.m. third Tuesday of the month. Alzheimer's Association, 2065 W. El Camino Real, Suite C, Mountain View. Information: (650) 962-8111.

Child Advocates of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Volunteers needed to mentor and speak up for abused and neglected children who have been placed in the foster-care system. Information: (408) 416-0400.

WOMENSV. Nonprofit weekly support group for victims of affluent abusers. Information: (650) 996-2200, Dear-Ruth2200@gmail.com.

OBITUARY NOTICE

CHARLOTTE RORDEN

March 25, 1935 –
February 23, 2025

Early Sunday morning, February 23, 2025, Charlotte Wilhelmine Flettner Rorden passed away peacefully. The widow of Robert Rorden, beloved mother of Paul Michael Rorden, Peter Alexander Rorden and Ralph Christopher Rorden, was an active, accomplished woman. She also leaves behind nieces and nephews and numerous grieving friends.

Born in Frankfurt Germany, March 25, 1935, she had a brief career as a flight attendant for Pan Am Airways during which she traveled the world. When based in San Francisco, she met her husband at Fremont Airport as they both had an interest in aviation. She would do some glider flying and eventually obtained her pilot's certificate.

Charlotte went away to Switzerland to a bible school, then to Israel before returning to

the United States and marrying Robert. Charlotte made many trips to visit indigenous peoples, making friendships with the missionaries who ministered to them, and sharing her enthusiasm for Jesus Christ.

Also an avid hiker and outdoorsperson, she was a docent at Mid-Peninsula Open Space and a long-time member of Hidden Villa Ranch, a place that she loved and hiked often. Together with Robert she spent a lot of time hiking in the Sierras and the two of them had a special affinity for Yosemite National Park.

Charlotte loved classical music, attending the symphony as well as opera which she loved to attend with her late beloved sister, Marianne Flettner.

Charlotte never met a stranger, it always was a new friend.



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 Wilcox High.....2.5 miles.....8 min

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 Whole Foods2.9 miles.. 12 min
 Nvidia4.0 miles.. 10 min
 San Jose Int'l Airport...9.0 miles.. 17 min
 Google.....10 miles.. 16 min

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