



M

November 2022





Neil Wiley & the Mountain Network News Team

Because of you we retain the rich history of the Los Gatos Mountains, we enjoy photos of our beautiful local nature and wildlife, and you provide our community with informative articles, contractor referrals, event notices, and places to explore!

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Sebastian Frey
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COMPASS

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We invite individuals and organizations to submit letters and articles. Email mnnnews@comcast.net, or mail to MNN, 23625 Skyview Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95033-9212. For information, call Neil Wiley (408-353-1901). We reserve the right to edit submissions. We assume no responsibility for errors, omissions, or authors' opinions. Deadline: 10th of the preceding month.

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Circulation

More than 4000 homes and businesses
in the Santa Cruz Mountains



Two Heads are Better than One

Photography by Celia Francis

Turkeys play an important role
in Thanksgiving.

They are more than a centerpiece
at dinner.

They remind us
of happy family times.

Perhaps another tradition
that is only a memory.

It's hard to remember
old times in these new times.

Life is more difficult
with strange new diseases,
hyper-inflation,
and scary climate changes,

You wonder how safe
it is to go to a store,
a concert, or even
walk in your
neighborhood.

To counter these fears,
let's be a positive influence.

Love your family.
Be a good neighbor.
Support your school.

Somehow,
some way,
make things better.

Perhaps we can
create our own traditions.

Contents

events

Spanish Brass concert	6
First-aid and CPR class	6
Las Cumbres Holiday Bazaar	6
Loma Prieta Holiday Craft Faire	6

community

Fire Safe County Roads	8
Loma Prieta Museum	8
Santa Clara County MedAssist program	9
Alma Equine introduces Snickerdoodle	10
Summit Horse Rescue	10
You and your dog	11
District One news	12
Skyland Church giving tree	13
Plant combinations for your garden	14

animal photography	15
--------------------	----

calendar	17
----------	----

exploring

Vasona Lake County Park	18
-------------------------	----

history

Castro Adobe	20
The Summit Opera House	21

nature

Mercury Freedom	22
Bruce Sudweeks	22
Steven Smith	23
Bruce Fournier	23

schools

Lakeside School news	24
Loma Prieta "families"	26
Vote yes on Measure M	27
The LPEF Gala	27
Lexington School	28

classified and business directory	30
-----------------------------------	----

**For late-breaking news,
calendar, and classified ads, visit
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Subscriptions

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IS

17985 Helen Way Los Gatos

\$1,200,000

17985HelenWay.com

4 Bed | 2 Bath | 1491 Sq Ft

Fantastic Redwood Estates home! Updated with breathtaking view of the mountains and beautiful light throughout! New carpet, interior and exterior paint. Sunny kitchen with stainless steel



appliances. Primary bedroom offers soaring ceiling, expansive windows, hardwood flooring and loft area. Additional large studio with kitchenette and private entry. Workshop with storage. Trex deck and partial wraparound redwood deck with seating area overlooking the beautiful mountain and redwood views. Sought after community just blocks from the playground, pool and community center. Minutes to town and Lexington (IB Programme) Elementary, Fisher Middle, and Los Gatos High.

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COMPASS

events

Los Gatos Concert Association Spanish Brass Concert Kathryn Morgan

Ole! Coming to Los Gatos from Valencia is the world-renowned Spanish Brass, regarded as one of the best brass quintets in the world. They have been making their stirring, dynamic music for 33 years. This is the kind of concert that will have you rejoicing from the sounds of high trumpet and low tuba.

Sponsored by the Los Gatos Concert Association, the music begins at 2:30 p.m. on **Sunday, November 6**, in the Los Gatos High School Theatre, 20 High School Court in Los Gatos. Doors open at 2 p.m.

Tickets cost \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors, \$5 for students, and \$65 for a family. Tickets may be purchased at the door or online at www.lgcca.org. Proof of vaccination against COVID-19 must be presented at the door, and masks are required inside.

The individual ticket price may also count toward a prorated price for two more concerts. On **Sunday, January 22**, we present Fandango, a string quartet. On **Sunday, April 30**, we will present the expressive voice and irresistible rhythm of Judy Carmichael's stride and swing piano.

The goal of the Los Gatos Concert Association, now celebrating its 75th year, is to present live, world-class music locally at reasonable prices. We welcome you to listen with us.



page 6

South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization First-aid and CPR Class Judy Sencenbaugh

On **Saturday, November 12**, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., the South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization will offer a first-aid course. This course covers basic treatments for medical, environmental, opioid-related, and other life-threatening emergencies, illness and injury prevention, adult CPR, and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator. It includes optional training in child and infant techniques.

This course is suitable for those with little or no medical training, people who may need a certificate of completion for their job or other regulatory requirements, and those who want to be prepared for an emergency in any setting.

This course will be held at the Las Cumbres Community Center, 18260 Las Cumbres Road. The cost of this course is \$80. To register and for more information, visit www.ssepo.org.

Participants should bring their own lunch. Coffee and cookies will be provided. Everyone who completes the course will receive a certificate of course completion and emergency supplies.

Las Cumbres Holiday Bazaar Vicki Perkins

Visit the Las Cumbres Holiday Bazaar on **Sunday, December 4**, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Las Cumbres Community Center, 18620 Las Cumbres Road. Support wildfire safety, our mountain artists, and a wonderful lineup of local vendors.

Shop for beautiful jewelry in a variety of styles and price-points, children's books, wearable art and textiles, all-natural soaps and lotions, wooden cutting boards and serving items, beautiful paintings, photographs, olive oil, herbal teas, spice rubs, handcrafted pottery, leather goods, and more.

Sample wine from two of our favorite local wineries: Muccigrosso and Bacarossa. Enjoy hot and cold drinks, homemade soup, and baked goods while you shop. Check out the Las Cumbres Pantry, with Mert's famous fudge, local jam, homemade toffee, and specialty food items. Children will enjoy fun activities and can relax in our children's book corner, where gently used children's books are available for a voluntary donation.

Our vendors are donating special items

for our raffle. Purchase raffle tickets for \$1 each at the door, or in advance by emailing bazaar@lascumbres.org. You do not need to be present to win.

The Holiday Bazaar benefits South Skyline Fire (Company 29) and the South Skyline FireSafe Council, two volunteer-based organizations dedicated to wildfire safety.

Loma Prieta Holiday Craft Fair How to Apply for a Vendor Booth Lila Jones

The C.T. English Home and School Club has a few vendor booth spaces available at the Loma Prieta Holiday Craft Faire on **Saturday, December 10**, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and **Sunday, December 11**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Loma Prieta Community Center, 23800 Summit Road.

The Loma Prieta Holiday Craft Faire raises money for the CTE HSC and is the club's largest fundraiser each year. Join our community in reviving this beloved event. We are seeking local artists and crafters who would like to join in the festivities by bringing their goods to sell to eager holiday shoppers.

Admission is free for shoppers, so this is the perfect, local venue to gain exposure and sell your amazing goods. For more information, visit <https://www.ctehsc.org/fundraising/holiday-craft-faire>.

We need volunteers. If you would like to help us, email lomaprietaholidaycraftfaire@ctehsc.org to learn more about how to get involved. It's fun.

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Trouvaille Estates "Lucky Find"

475 Metcalf Road, San Jose, CA 95138

Very rarely does a property like this with the SITE APPROVALS come available. While less than a 10 minute drive from Silver Creek Valley Country Club, it's adjacent to open space and miles of trails will be easily accessible.

This 123 Acre property in the Evergreen Foothills is less than a 10 minute drive from Silver Creek Valley Country Club. It consists of 2 fifty acre parcels, and a 23 acre parcel. Each parcel has County site approval with a generous footprint for a 6,500 square foot home to be built. After 5 years of interaction with the County, all utilities are approved.

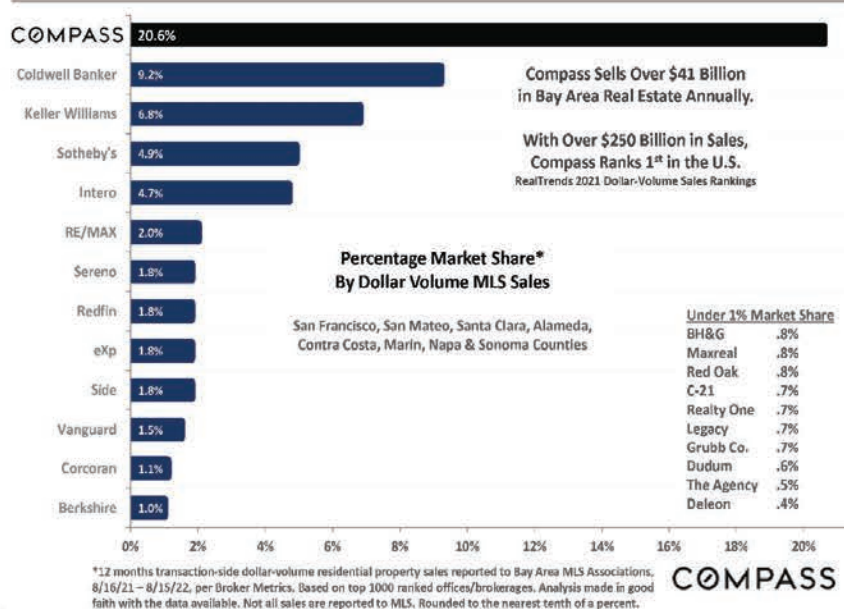
Sweeping panoramic views. Ideal for retreats or gatherings. Set amongst dozens of Oak Trees, the privacy and space to the nearest neighbors is optimal.

This property is perfect for 3 parties to build their estate homes together, for a ranch, a vineyard, recreational vehicles, or one of many other uses.



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community



Fire Safe County Roads Let the Work Begin!

Matt Abernathy, Larry Lopp,
and David Fullagar

The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County and the Santa Cruz Mountain Alliance are pleased to announce that a successful bid from Atlas Tree was accepted for the first phase of the Summit/Highland shaded fuel break. Work will begin in October, the culmination of a two-year effort involving many mountain residents and organizations.

The initial work from the RCD was to perform the shaded fuel break in two phases, one this year and one next year. Fortunately, due to favorable bid rates, the RCD hopes to expand the current phase and do a larger area this year.

In addition, the California Department will accept wildfire-prevention grant applications in November of this year, making potential funds available sooner than expected.

Due to these two opportunities, the RCD requests that landowners living along Summit Road and Highland Way, between Highway 17 and Mount Bache Road, who have not yet signed and submitted their landowner permission form, to do so. The goal is to get 100 percent voluntary participation in the project to make it as

effective as possible.

Scan this QR code on your cell phone to get a copy of the permission form. The signed copy should be mailed to Lou McTamane, 23525 Skyview Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95033, or emailed to lmctamane@comcast.net. Your cooperation can make a difference.

If you have any questions, call Matt Abernathy at 831-205-3420, or email mabernathy@rcdsantacruz.org.



Thank you, Loma Prieta Community

The Loma Prieta Museum Board

The Loma Prieta Museum thanks you for your donations of time and money to support and preserve history. Donations are used to research, gather, protect, and present Santa Cruz Mountains history to children and adults. The Pioneer Spirit Day event was interesting and educational. It helped further the awareness of local history.

We share educational and cultural knowledge for schools, community, and



visitors. This includes the history of Native Americans, pioneer settlers, farming, lumbering, railroads, stagecoach routes, hotels, general stores, churches, and schools of the mountain area.

You can make a tax-deductible donation at LomaPrietaMuseum.org. If you have any questions, email LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com. Checks should be mailed to LPCF, 23800 Summit Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033, with a footnote for LP Museum.

The Loma Prieta Museum is sponsored by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to building and supporting a strong sense of community in the Summit area by providing educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities for mountain residents.



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District Five News

Helping the "Missing Middle" Afford Life-Saving Medications

Joe Simitian
Santa Clara County Supervisor

Life-saving drugs shouldn't cost an arm and a leg. If you need an EpiPen, an asthma inhaler, or diabetes medications (including insulin), you already know that. They're not just "nice" to have; they are "have to" haves. Unfortunately, they cost too much.

That's why our county now provides **MedAssist**. This program provides monthly grants to help cover the high out-of-pocket cost of prescription medications.

In Santa Clara County, 118,900 adults have been diagnosed with diabetes, 257,000 adults and children have asthma, and 21,600 individuals are prescribed epinephrine auto-injectors for allergic reactions. It's likely you or someone you know relies on one of these medications to function on a daily basis. The high cost of living in our area, however, means that paying for essential medications can impact one's ability to pay rent or put food on the table, even when lives are at stake.

MedAssist was designed for those in our community who fall into the "missing middle," folks with an income that's just a little too high to qualify for existing health-care subsidies, but not enough to cover the cost of accessing necessary medication or high-end insurance coverage. The subsidies can be as much as \$1,250 per month, depending on family circumstances.

When we make it easier for people to afford lifesaving but expensive prescriptions, we not only help them financially, we also help make sure they get the medication they need to stay healthy.

To learn more, visit <https://www.scvmc.org/patients-visitors/services/medassist-program/overview>.



MedAssist Program

Individuals may be eligible for a grant to off-set high out-of-pocket expenses for life-saving medications such as anti-diabetics, asthma inhalers, and/or epinephrine auto-injectors.

Medications Covered



Asthma Inhalers



Epinephrine Auto-Injectors



Anti-Diabetics

Nearly 20% of Santa Clara County residents experience one of these conditions:



- Diabetes/Mellitus (118,900)
- Severe Allergies (21,600)
- Asthma (257,000)

Learn if you qualify.

<https://www.scvmc.org/patients-visitors/services/medassist-program>



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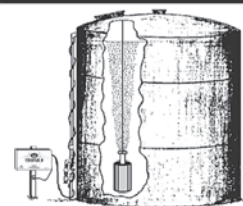
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community

Alma Equine

A Little Pony Named Snickerdoodle Jenny Whitman

Alma Equine is excited to introduce its newest equine member, a miniature pony named Snickerdoodle.

Snickerdoodle, aka 'Doodle,' came to us from Summit Horse Rescue, a local rescue organization dedicated to saving feedlot horses from slaughter. Summit Horse Rescue does amazing work rehabilitating neglected and unwanted horses, and finding them loving homes.

We met Snickerdoodle and realized quickly that he was perfect for Alma Equine's program. You see, Snickerdoodle has a unique skill set that gives immediate feedback about interpersonal boundaries.

He does this by shying away from students until they learn to come into his space calmly, confidently, and with respect for his thoughts, feelings, and integrity. Only then will he respond by allowing students to get closer.

When students approach him in this way, they are rewarded by a nuzzle from a pony who is as charming and cute as his name suggests. We believe that becoming a Doodle's friend can help young people identify and relate to their own sensitive natures.

For future updates on Snickerdoodle and the important work that he does with young people, visit the Alma Equine website: www.almaequine.com, and Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/almaequine>.

For more information visit them on Facebook, (search for Summit Horse Rescue.)



page 10

Summit Horse Rescue

Rebecca Smith

We have been busy at Summit Horse Rescue since our July open house and fundraiser. Thanks to all who visited and donated, we were able to fill the barn with hay and save another life.

Meet Freddie Mercury, a three-year-old colt. His unusual tan-gray color is called grulla. Freddie arrived malnourished and dehydrated. He was bullied at the kill pen, covered in cuts and scratches, and his leg punctured and infected from a dog bite. He also had a worm infestation and diarrhea.

We exhausted our rescue funds to save him, so we started a fundraiser for help with his care and vet bills. Freddie was a direct-ship horse, which means the kill buyer intended to ship him straight to Mexico for slaughter. (Direct-ship horses are rarely seen or offered online.) But, perhaps because he was small and underweight (low meat value), we were given a rare three-day window to save him. He has a long way to go to get healthy, but he is already feeling better. Everyone who donates for his care will receive an invitation to the Summit Horse Rescue barn to visit when he gets out of quarantine. If all goes well, he will go to our trainer in December, and will be available for adoption by next February.



Freddie Mercury

Spirit, one of our long-term horses that is considered unadoptable, hit the jackpot when he was offered his dream home as a companion to a senior mare. Her equine friend had passed away unexpectedly and she was unhappy being alone. Her owners read about Summit Horse Rescue in the *MNN*, and thought we might have horses that couldn't be ridden and needed companion homes.

Spirit is likely a mustang. He is a handsome dun roan gelding, only eight to 10 years old. We don't know his history before the kill pen, but some past trauma has undermined his confidence, so he's too



Spirit

anxious to be ridden. Two trainers advised us to find a sanctuary for him. After three years with our rescue, it was hard to say goodbye, but we're excited that Spirit finally found his sanctuary, with a wonderful new owner on twenty acres in our mountains.

We have two more rescue horses available for adoption to a permanent home.

Hope is a five-year-old palomino mare. She is gaited and will make a fabulous trail pony. She has lots of trail experience and takes rough terrain, obstacles, water, bridges, and cows in her stride. Hope is calm, gentle, intelligent, friendly, and absolutely beautiful.



Hope

Comet is a five-year-old paint gelding. He has unusual markings. His color is chestnut in the front, white in the back. He has 90 days of professional training, but he is still green under saddle. He will need a kind and experienced rider to keep building his confidence.

For more details and adoption fees, call Rebecca Smith at 408-507-7165, or Chris Erdelyi at 408-390-1067. You can email me at rebecca@sereno.com. Follow us on Facebook at Summit Horse Rescue.



Comet

Pratt & Associates

You and Your Dog

Sharon Glenn Pratt

and

Patricia A. Wendleton

A 2019 American Pet Products Association survey found that 63.4 percent of households own at least one dog. That percentage is likely even higher in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

With dog ownership comes responsibility and risk. Dogs have become family members to many of us, and have become welcome in places such as hotels and motels, and even on airplanes. But, as gentle and loving as your dog may be, it can exhibit unexpected behavior. The most dreaded and serious behaviors are biting someone or attacking another dog.

California's dog bite statute is Civil Code 3342. It makes a dog owner strictly liable for their dog's bites if they happen where the victim has a lawful right to be. Strict liability means that the owner is liable even if they were not acting negligently. Exceptions apply when the victim is a trespasser, or provokes the dog, or if no injury occurs.

The State of California and most counties and cities have procedures to be followed in the event of a dog bite. For example, animal-bite reporting is mandatory in Santa Cruz County and Santa Clara County. Detailed ordinances are designed to prevent a future bite by the dog. California laws can classify your dog as potentially dangerous before it bites someone. This can result in adding duties or even the loss of your dog.

Any of the three following behaviors may result in your dog being classified as a potentially dangerous dog:

When unprovoked, on two separate occasions within a 36-month period, the dog engages in any behavior that requires a defensive action by a person to prevent bodily injury when the person and the dog are off of your property, or on the property of someone caring for your dog.



When unprovoked, a dog bites a person that causes a less-severe injury than the injuries that would result in your dog being classified as a vicious dog.

When unprovoked, on two separate occasions within a 36-month period, the dog has killed, seriously bitten, inflicted injury, or otherwise caused injury attacking a domestic animal off of your property or on the property of someone caring for your dog.

A vicious dog is "any dog that, when unprovoked, in an aggressive manner, inflicts severe injury on or kills a human being." There are also local ordinances requiring quarantining a dog that has bitten a person. Impoundment is possible.

If your dog meets the criteria of a potentially dangerous dog, it must be kept indoors, or in a securely fenced yard from which it can't escape. This security also must prevent the trespassing of children. A potentially dangerous animal may be off the owner's premises only if it is restrained by a substantial leash of appropriate length and under the control of a responsible adult.

Further, if your dog is classified as a vicious dog, it may be destroyed by the animal control department, after proceedings conducted under the Food and Agriculture Code, when the release of the dog would create a significant threat to

the public health, safety, and welfare.

Santa Clara County ordinances require a potentially dangerous dog over four months of age be registered with the manager of Animal Care and Control. The registration must be renewed each year. The ordinance requires the owner to be over 18 years old, carry public liability insurance of not less than \$100,000, keep the dog kenneled or indoors, and post a warning sign.

Dog licensing and display of tags is mandatory in both Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties. Proof of rabies vaccination must be presented for licensing. Most county's websites contain ordinances or laws relating to the ownership of your dog before and after your dog has engaged in aggressive behavior.

Proper care and responsibility for your dog is instrumental in preventing the dog from ever becoming dangerous in the first place. Dogs need more than food and water and vaccines. They need companionship and emotional support. Their mental health is supported by training, playing, taking walks, and showing affection.

Veterinary visits are important, not only for vaccines, but also because it can be difficult to determine if your dog is physically or mentally sick. Regular grooming can also help identify painful areas. Pain can cause dogs to react differently to people.

Another aspect of responsible dog ownership is keeping the dog contained with a leash or a fence. This not only reduces the risk of your dog biting someone, it is also a safety line for the dog. Preventing your dog from wandering or running off is preventing it from being hit by a vehicle, and from unintentionally scaring other dogs, people, or livestock.

Most of us would agree owning a dog is very rewarding, but we must be responsible owners.

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community

District One News

Manu Koenig

Santa Cruz County Supervisor

The Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works is completing many repair projects for rural Santa Cruz County mountain roads.

Old Santa Cruz Hwy

Old Santa Cruz Highway at post mile 1.20 and 1.36. Repairs began in early October, and are expected to continue through mid-December. Traffic will be subject to a northbound lane closure throughout duration of the project.

Loma Prieta Av

Loma Prieta Avenue at post mile 2.82 and Loma Prieta Way at post mile 3.33. Work began in August, and is expected to continue through early November. Traffic will be subject to delays, with potential lane closures between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.

Schulties Rd

Schulties Road at post mile 2.05.

Repairs began in August and are expected to continue through November. Traffic will be subject to a full road closure Monday through Friday.

Highland Wy

Highland Way at Spanish Ranch Road.

Work began in August, and is expected to continue through early November. Temporary traffic signals will be in place for the duration of the project.

Camino Online Permit Guide debuts

A pilot version of the Camino Online Permit Guide will go live on the county's website this month. Camino permit guides offer a customized checklist that leads applicants through the entire process of submitting a building-permit application. One reviewer called it "Turbo Tax for permits." Each guide will include application-submission requirements, and based on the project location, any alerts (flood area, sensitive habitat, zoning

conflicts) that could affect the feasibility or design of a project.

The Camino permit guide explains the permit submission process, providing every applicant with a list of the forms and documents that are required for their unique project. It also provides up-to-date code requirements based on the actual location of the project.

The Camino permit guide provides consistent, rules-based information to ensure that staff and customers are on the same page. It will prepare applicants for inter-agency issues that may occur during plan review, and encourage pre-application consultations or redesigns in the concept phase rather than during the county's review of the project. Initially, the guide will be available for residential-building permits such as new homes, additions, remodels, and ADUs. Eventually, we will include commercial-building permits and discretionary projects such as coastal permits. For more information, email CaminoCDI@santacruzcounty.us.

Sustainability update

After several public hearings, the planning commission made their final recommendations to the sustainability update and sent it to the board of supervisors. Planning staff will adopt their

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revisions and prepare a report to present to the board, tentatively on November 15.

The sustainability update includes updated regulations for building housing and transportation options. It supports agriculture and resource conservation, code modernization, commercial development, community services, and environmental justice. Consistent with county priorities under the Vision Santa Cruz County strategic plan, the sustainability update recognizes that effective land use and transportation planning are necessary to create sustainable urban communities. It would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide housing options, while protecting our natural resources and agricultural areas.

For the latest information on the sustainability update, visit: www.sccoplanning.com/SustainabilityUpdate.

We welcome your feedback

Call us at 831-454-2200, or email first.district@santacruzcounty.us. Join us at our November Town Hall on **Tuesday, November 8**, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. It will be held in person at the Congregational Church of Soquel, 4951 Soquel Drive, and on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96708318897>

Come to our office at the Sheriff Center, 5200 Soquel Avenue, for office hours with Supervisor Koenig, the first Wednesday of every month, from 1 to 3 p.m.



Skyland Community Church Giving Tree Shannon Edwards

In 2021, during the winter holiday-giving season, Skyland Community Church and community members generously donated \$11,000 for holiday gifts for 12 families and 21 children in need in our community. For the first time last year, Mountain Neighbors Helping Neighbors supported Lakeside families also, and we will work together again this year. Can we raise that much money in 2022? We distribute, through local schools, Target and grocery-store gift cards in early December, so that parents can buy food, toys, and clothes for their children.

The Skyland Community Food Pantry also feeds our local community approximately 1,000 meals a week through our food pantry. Thanks to many generous

donors, we were able to give \$25 and \$50 gift cards to 80 food-insecure neighbors last year, and we are hoping to do this again. Help us make a local impact by donating online at the giving tree link at skylandchurch.com/donations, or by mailing a check to Skyland Church, P.O. Box 245, Los Gatos, CA 95031-0245.

Would you like to make an end-of-the-year donation to our food pantry? Paper products are always appreciated. You can do this on the donation page listed above, using the food pantry link.

If you have questions, call Melanie Weiner at 408-353-1310.



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Plant Combinations

Trish O'Reilly

Autumn is the best time to plant in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The plants will have enough time to adapt to their new environment and then settle in, with help from winter rains.

Whether we are in the middle of a drought or not, gardeners are ready to put plants in the ground. Faced with the realities of deer, drought, frost, and fire, planting the right combinations of plants can be a challenge.

I consulted with my friends who work at several local nurseries. Over a good glass of Silver Mountain wine, I asked them to give me their ideal plant combinations that meet at least three of the four criteria for our mountain region. In addition, the combinations must have at least three different heights: groundcovers, shrubs, and small trees. Here are a few of their recommendations.

Slow growing but worth it, *Arctostaphylos* is interesting. It is a native that can be a groundcover, shrub, or a small tree. It just depends on which variety you choose. They recommend planting *Arctostaphylos* with Pink Sugar Lavender. Remember to prune the lavender hard, twice a year, for healthy leafy growth and bountiful, fragrant flowers. *Aloe striata* is a good hardy succulent and a strong bloomer. Include these with variegated grass, *Miscanthus* to add graceful movement to your garden.

Olive trees can be used for height and shade. You can prune these trees into topiary shapes or simply leave them to grow naturally. *Verbena lilacine* is a perfect accent color. If it's a sunny location, add *Dieties iridoides*, whose flower looks similar to *Iris*, and *Heteromelus leather leaf* *Arbutifolia*, our own native *Toyon*.

Grevillea lanigera is only one of the many *Grevillea*'s in the *Proteaceae* family. With the common name of hummingbird bush, you know it attracts birds. Add *Agapanthus*, *Lily of the Nile* for contrasting blue, purple, or white color. Add *Arctostaphylos*, *Austin Griffith* for height, and you will have a long-lasting blooming garden.

Salvias Hot lips, *Firecracker*, and *Mystic Spires*, are few of the many varieties to choose from. Think about what height/width/color you like and you can choose from the *Salvias* that fill the bill.

One of the best ways to keep your *Salvias*

healthy is to prune from August to late summer, and again in late winter, just after danger of frost.

Choosing the right combination of plants will make your garden a work of art.

You can find me in the garden, or at www.pacmthort.com.



Agapanthus purple delight



Arctostaphylos



Salvia Salvatori



Salvia Hot Lips



Agapanthus Africanus



Grevillea



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calendar

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, October 29

Halloween Dance at the Redwood Estates Pavilion, from 7 to 10 p.m. Costumes. Prizes. Adults only. I.D. required.

Sunday, November 6

Goodwill donation drive is at Lakeside School, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 19621 Black Road.

Spanish Brass performs at the Los Gatos High School Theatre at 2:30 p.m. Doors open at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, November 8

California general election, polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Santa Cruz County supervisor Manu Koenig hosts a town hall from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the Congregational Church of Soquel, 4951 Soquel Drive, and on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96708318897>.

Thursday, November 10

The Bookmobile visits the mountains: Lakeside School, 9:45 a.m.

Building Blocks Preschool, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.

Redwood Estates Pavillion, 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

S S E P O SOUTH SKYLINE Emergency Preparedness ORGANIZATION

Saturday, November 12

The South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization will offer a first-aid course, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Las Cumbres Community Center, 18260 Las Cumbres Road. The cost of this course is \$80. To register and for more information, visit www.ssepo.org.

Wednesday and Thursday, November 16 and 17

Lexington students perform their annual school play, *The Ghost Light*, at 7 p.m. Purchase tickets at <https://www.lexhsc.org/lexplay>.

Sunday, December 4

Las Cumbres Holiday Bazaar is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Las Cumbres Community Center, 18620 Las Cumbres Road.



Saturday, and Sunday, December 10 and 11

The Loma Prieta Holiday Craft Faire is at the Loma Prieta Community Center, 23800 Summit Road. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.



ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

Mondays

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at Skyland Church, 8 p.m.

Tuesdays

Qi-gong classes, 8:45 to 10 a.m. at Skyland Church. Call 831-247-5617.

Pilates mat class, 7 to 8 p.m., via Zoom. Email altesta@gmail.com or text 650-465-8513.

Wednesdays

Tai chi for beginners is held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Los Gatos Recreation Center.

Thursdays

Loma Prieta Amateur Radio Club meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Burrell CDF station on Highland Way.

Pilates mat class, 7 to 8 p.m., via Zoom. Email altesta@gmail.com or text 650-465-8513.

Yoga at the Redwood Estates Pavilion, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Visit pamsyogafitness.com for details.

Integral yoga at Lakeside School (held online currently), 6:30 to 8 p.m. Visit www.lgsrecreation.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous, Redwood Estates Pavilion, 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays

Summit Toastmasters 95033, meets on Zoom, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit <https://summittoastmasters95033.toastmastersclubs.org>, or call Laur d'Armien, 408-634-3493.



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exploring

Mild, not Wild

Vasona Lake County Park

Neil Wiley

In my attempts to show you something new, I've reported on some difficult and distant trails. While I enjoyed the challenges, not every hike has to be a solitary adventure in rough terrain. When I walked through a park in downtown Los Gatos on a sunny Saturday, the only difficulty was finding a parking space.

If you like solitude, this wasn't it. Every path was filled with people, especially the main paved trails that take you about 9.5 miles through the town, Vasona Lake County Park, Los Gatos Creek County Park, Campbell, and San Jose.

Although some athletes were running or biking, it seemed that most of us were just walking, some with children who were often more interested in the adjacent Oak Meadow Park's train ride, carousel, and playground. Children do not require a leash, but dogs do. (Owners should be prepared to pick up droppings.)

While the trails were busy, you'll find lots of room on the 45 acres of lawn. Although Vasona Lake was almost dry, it will re-open for rentable boats after winter rains. Boating is a great way to enjoy the park.

If you get tired of walking, visit the newly renovated Vasona YSI Nature Center's interpretive and interactive displays. (You don't have to be a child to learn.)

Speaking of learning, you can download the free Agents of Discovery mobile app from Google Play or Apple App Store for your smart phone or tablet. As you walk through the park, the app will tell you about park history, wildlife, and our local ecosystem.

Instead of playing a cell phone app, I walked off the trail to point my camera and telephoto lens up to the top branches of an eucalyptus tree. A woman passerby looked up, then asked me what I was photographing. I said, "birds." It might have been my Santa Cruz Mountains cap, fisherman's vest, and funny looking boots, but I could see that she thought I was a crazy person.

Meanwhile, a snow goose was honking at nearby walkers. I thought he was warning his flock of danger, but it turned out that he was begging for food. In a matter of minutes, a woman and her children began throwing the geese some grain, which is frowned on by naturalists and the park authorities, but not by the geese. The rock doves stayed safely up in the trees.

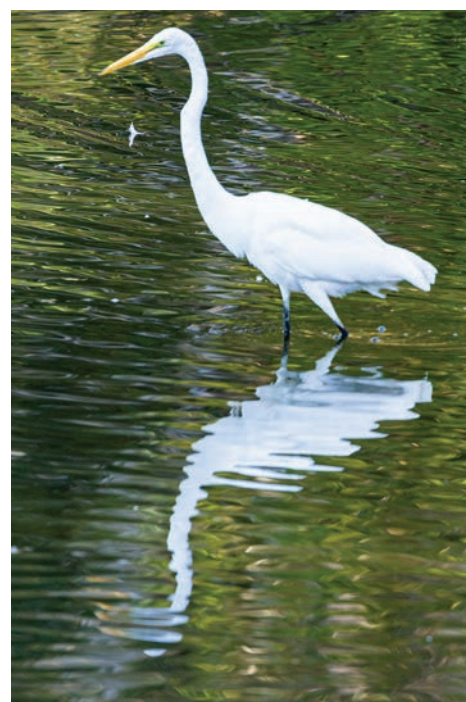
Although Vasona Lake looked more like a series of puddles, the mallard ducks enjoyed dipping their beaks in a few inches of water. It was so shallow they could walk rather than swim as they ate. The iridescent green-headed males and simply brown females formed perfect couples dabbling together in the shallows.

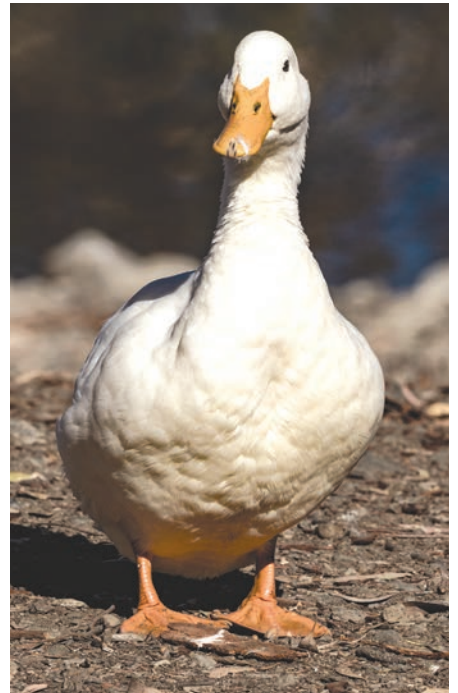
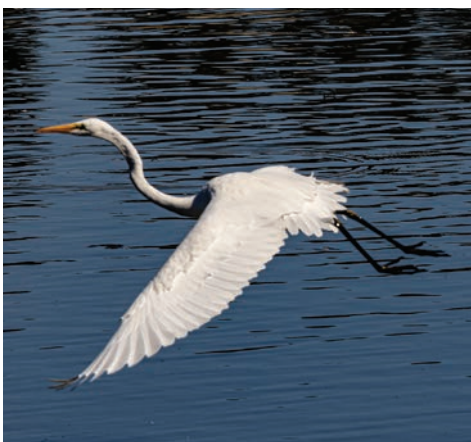
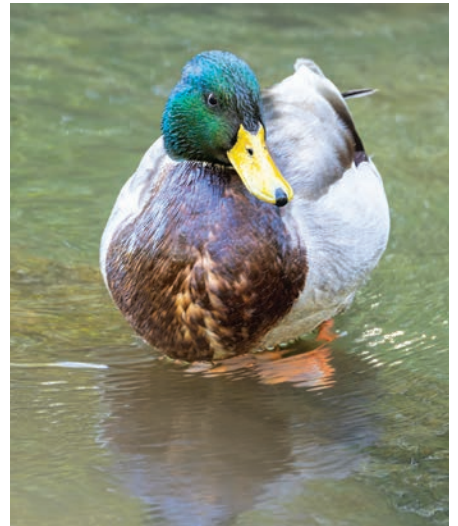
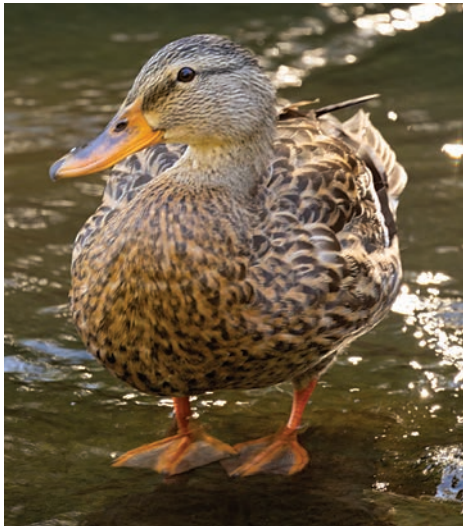
Many Canada geese have made California their home. Unfortunately, too many have refused to migrate, presenting a problem for local parks and golf courses. As a native of Chicago, I identify with them. They appear to like areas of green grass and making loud ha-RONKs.

As an amateur photographer, I like the great egrets the most. They don't jump around like little birds. They are big. They pose. And when they stretch their necks, they look like white-feathered giraffes.

I saw all these birds in one morning at Vasona Lake. It's good to know you don't have to wander the wilderness to see nature. Just drive down to 333 Blossom Hill Road in Los Gatos.

Enjoy.





history

Walking on Historic Ground **Rancho San Andre's Castro Adobe** Neil Wiley

When I visited Castro Adobe a few years ago, it showed its age. More than a century of time, a series of private owners, and the Loma Prieta Earthquake had led to decline. Now, the Friends of Castro Adobe and California State Parks are partnering to preserve and interpret this historic building as a State Historic Park. Although it is a work in progress, you can see some interesting history at an open house or scheduled tour.

In September, a small group of us from the Loma Prieta Museum toured the historic Castro Adobe, which was constructed in 1848-49. We were led on the tour by state park interpreter Paul Karz. He was our great guide on a recent tour of the Forest of Nisene Marks, but he was even more valuable on this trip.

We could see the building, the construction materials, a few artifacts, and some copies of original items that reflected the history, but it all needed interpretation to make it real. Paul's descriptions, explanations, and stories helped us understand this place, the people, and their stories.

He told us about Juan Jose Castro, his wife Rita Josefa Pinto, and their twelve children. He described the cooking implements in the rancho *cocina*, a traditional Mexican kitchen. He took us upstairs to the large



page 20



Mountain Network News



november 2022



The Summit Opera House Debra Staab

Humankind has hummed, strummed, and drummed since the beginning of time. The early pioneers in the Summit area were no exception, so they formed a social group and built an event center.

The Patchen Social Club was incorporated in 1885 by Charles Aiken and Volney Averill. Martin Schulthies, Volney's father-in-law, donated land for the new community center (near the intersection of Summit Road and Old Santa Cruz Highway). The completed hall was 40 by 75 feet in size. It was called the Summit Opera House.

The Summit Opera House featured plays, operas, musicals, orchestras, and other entertainment. Martin directed one local orchestra that played there often. Other activities included weddings, shivarees, and church events. The most common use of the hall, however, was for dances.

Fred and Tillie Brohaska, both music teachers, were popular performers, along with William Crichton on violin and William Gebhardt on piano. Reports noted that attendees came by horse and buggy from Wright's, Skyland, Laurel, Burrell, Glenwood, Los Gatos, and even San Jose to enjoy the music.

It seems that mountain folks loved these dances so much they typically lasted until the wee hours of the morning. Singles never stopped dancing, and parents paused only long enough to put their children to bed in the hall's dressing room. The twirling and swaying went on until dawn.

One of the largest dances at the Summit Opera House took place just a month after the 1906 earthquake. The community rallied together to support life, love, and each other. There is a lot of kinship in the mountains.

Perhaps we could do something like this.

Based on the book *The Howling Wilderness* by Stephen Payne, 1978, pp. 86-87.



fandango room where he described the many parties that took place there. Although the garden is new and well-maintained by volunteers, he showed us historic clusters of cacti with crimson-red prickly pears, purple blooms of wisteria, and old cork oaks that once gave their bark to seal bottled refreshments. You can learn much more if you visit an open house or tour. For information, call 831-429-1840, or email castroadobe@thatsmypark.org.

If you are driving to the Castro Adobe, set your GPS for 184 Old Adobe Road, Watsonville. Take Highway 17 south to Highway 1 south. Exit at Buena Vista. Drive east on Buena Vista to the Larkin Valley Road intersection stop sign. Look up the hill

to the left. You should see a sign for Old Adobe Road. Follow the one-lane private road about a mile to the park on the right side of the road, and follow the signs to the parking area.

You can read more in the book, *The Castro Adobe in the Twentieth Century: From Earthquake to Earthquake*, by historian and one-time Castro Adobe owner Suzanne Paizis. She traces the history of the Castro Adobe and the many families who called it home from 1906 to 1989. The book is available at <https://thatsmypark.org/shop/>, and at Castro Adobe open-house events. All proceeds benefit the preservation of the Castro Adobe.



Rowers in the fog on Lexington Reservoir
Photo by Mercury Freedom



A sea lion (above) and a pod of orcas
Photos by Mercury Freedom



Pretty but Nasty
Bruce Sudweeks

I am happy when I find this rare sea slug called Hilton's Aeolid (*Phidiana hiltoni*). It is very beautiful but has a nasty disposition. Before it was given the species name of *hiltoni*, it had the species name *pugnax* due to its pugnacious temperament. It attacks and kills other beautiful sea slug species. Fortunately, it has a fairly small range extending from Marin County to Baja California.



*Mountains in the fog
Photo by Bruce Fournier*



*I love to take wildflower pictures.
I photographed the rare Calypso Orchid in Butano State Park,
the Mariposa Lily in Edgewood Park, and the Giant Trillium at an undisclosed location I don't remember.*

Photos by Steven Smith

schools

Lakeside School News

October was a busy month at Lakeside. Students, staff, parents, and even our school mascot, Chester, participated in our annual Walk-a-Thon. This tradition is a great source of exercise and fun for the students, and an important fundraiser for the Lakeside School Community Foundation. Students from transitional-kindergarten through fifth grades participated. Congratulations to third-grader Leon Olvera Juarez, who ran 38 laps, the highest lap count in the school.

A heartfelt thanks to our sponsors: Southbay Kids Dentistry, *Mountain Network News*, Yoga in Las Cumbres, and Greg Pond of State Farm. Thank you also to our special supporters: Bear Creek Stables, Rebecca Smith and Karen Izzo of Sereno/Christies Real Estate, and the UPS Store of Los Gatos.

The LSCF also brought back the long-standing Harvest Festival. Neighbors and community members enjoyed games, crafts, pony rides, food trucks, and delicious offerings from the bake sale. It was nice to socialize with neighbors in-person again.

Our students learned about the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. In art with Mrs. Greer,



A little above Los Gatos

Summit
STORE

Santa Cruz Mountains



they decorated a Sukkah, built near the garden by the Fraimovich Almog family. Liz Herman read the book, *Sammy Spider's First Sukkot*, and led the children in some fun Sukkot songs about gathering, sharing, and having fun in the Sukkah. They tasted falafel and hummus.

Our TK/kindergarten class is learning about snails. They captured a snail from



the school garden, and built it a habitat in the classroom. The reward? The snail laid its eggs in the classroom as the children excitedly observed. Teacher Heather Wingfield's shared, "It was SO cool!"

Our Lakeside school garden is a certified waystation for monarch butterflies, with plants that invite the monarchs to stop as they migrate and get the shelter and nectar they need. Our students enjoyed witnessing the life cycle of a monarch, as the caterpillars metamorphosed into chrysalis, then beautiful butterflies.

Looking forward, clean out your closets and mark your calendars for the next Goodwill donation drive at Lakeside School on **Sunday, November 6**. You can drop off donations at Lakeside's Community Center, from **October 31 through November 4**, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or from 10 a.m.



to 2 p.m. on **November 6**. Lakeside School is at 19621 Black Road.

Another way to support our school is to dine out at Pizza My Heart, in Los Gatos, on **Wednesday, November 30**. Print out a flyer at www.lakesidescf.org/dine-out-flyers, present it when you place your order, and Pizza My Heart will donate a percentage of your sale to our school.

Champions Preschool at Lakeside

We have added new outdoor activities for the students at Champions Preschool, conveniently located on the Lakeside School campus on Black Road. To schedule a visit to our school, call 408-460-7935. Find out more at www.discoverchampions.com.

SCOTT GREEN

Thinking of Selling?

Oftentimes a lot of preparation is needed to bring a home to market. In addition to a network of service providers for various home needs, I have a crew on staff that can help with property clean up and defensible space. I will provide one free 20 yard dumpster for clean up and debris removal (Additional available at a reduced cost).

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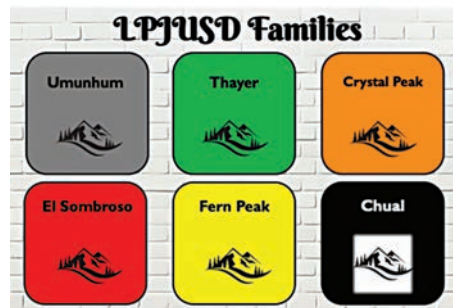
COMPASS

schools

Loma "Families" Bring the Mountain Together Charlotte Khandelwal

Loma schools are implementing a new learning-support system that creates an atmosphere of caring, encouragement, and meaningful contributions. District-wide, students and staff have been assigned to a "family" unit comprised of a cross-section of students from every grade level, and staff from all areas of our district. The families are named after peaks in the Santa Cruz Mountain range. Each family has its own color scheme and identity.

We believe that our new family structure will encourage relationships across grade levels and strengthen existing ones among students and staff. This system also promotes cooperation and provides leadership opportunities. Being a part of a "family" can also create a sense of belonging in our students, to increase motivation and boost student achievement.



C.T. English teacher Tony Arias shared, "The family system is a great way to bring our schools together. It will make our district a closer community. It is something the students enjoy. I can't wait to see where it can go in the future."

Staff members are encouraged to award a family point when they see a student demonstrating good behavior. Students can earn points for their family by participating in activities such as sports and achieving academic goals. Events will occur throughout the year for family gatherings and challenges to earn more points. Second-grader Jasmine Fazzio reports, "I like the family system because it encourages people

to listen and do the right thing to get points. I think it's fun!"

Lisa Sullivan, Loma Prieta secretary, explained: "We believe that the family system hits 16 of the 41 developmental assets. We are passionate about being intentional in our work of fostering the growth of those assets for our students."

The development assets are positive supports and strengths that young people need to succeed. For more information, visit <https://www.search-institute.org/our-research/development-assets/developmental-assets-framework/>.

Staff and middle schoolers are looking forward to the increased connectivity between elementary and middle schools.

Kindergarten teacher Karren Zook shared, "This has proven to be a fantastic way to bridge the parking lot between Loma and C.T. English, not only for students but for staff as well."

Her sentiments are echoed by students at C.T. English. As seventh-grader Alice Girard says, "I like how it keeps Loma and C.T. English combined as a community and not as two separate schools."

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Yes on Measure M Charlotte Khandelwal

I'm sure you'd rather read an article about fall festivities at our school, than reading about an upcoming election measure.

I'd prefer to write that also, but to be honest, I'm concerned that too many community members will listen to misinformation or not realize what will happen if Measure M fails. The people who are opposed to Measure M do not live in our community. They do not have our community's or children's interests in mind. One of them even states that they want the public school system abolished.

Measure M is vital to the education of children in the Loma Prieta school district. Your vote has a direct impact on the quality of education that our schools can provide. Our staff is currently paid at the very bottom of all schools in Santa Clara County. We need to close that gap and increase their pay without making significant cuts to the number of staff and programs offered. Measure M will provide our district with the resources to address that challenge.

Our community overwhelmingly passed a parcel tax nine years ago. That tax ended in 2020, and the district is putting it back on the ballot. The reality of school funding is that we are locally funded. We have expensive homes in the district, but few businesses to bring in the support that other Santa Clara County school districts have.

The district has been actively working to optimize fiscal management. Our budget advisory committee reviews and advises on financial strategies, practices, and budgetary actions that help ensure a sustainable, long-term financial model. This parcel-tax measure is a key component of the district's plan to provide a well-rounded, high-quality education to our mountain children, and attract and retain talented teachers. Other local districts, including Lakeside and Los Gatos, have already passed larger parcel taxes to support their funding needs. Investment in these parcel taxes helps keep schools and our property values strong.

Measure M also provides fiscal accountability, including independent citizens' oversight and mandatory annual audits, to ensure funds are spent as promised. All funds would be controlled locally. Measure M permits an optional exemption for residents age 65 and older, so they can support our schools and vote yes on M without impacting their budgets.

Be a hero for our heroes. Vote yes on Measure M.



A "Roaring" Success The Gala Lydia Harville

Loma Public Education Fund held its annual Gala in October at the beautiful *Maison du Lac*. In honor of our 20th year, the theme was Roaring '20s. Parents, teachers, alumni, and community members gathered for an afternoon and evening with dinner, music, dancing, and silent and live auctions. While it was a bit chilly, everyone stayed warm by the heaters, on the dance floor, and with good company. The turnout was incredible. Everyone looked dazzling.

As always, the live auction was full of surprises and excitement. The prospect of being Principal Ramsay or Coach Patino for a day was enticing, and the magnum of wine signed by the staff was a hot ticket item. Bidding on fabulous destinations such as Tuscany, Paris, and Tahoe was exciting.

We are also happy to announce that we surpassed our goal for a special grant to increase student counseling. We appreciate everyone who donated to support this grant for our students.

The Gala is more than just a party. It serves as LPEF's primary fundraising event,

raising critical funds for Loma Prieta Elementary and C.T. English Middle schools. Funds are granted to the schools to support P.E., music/band, electives, art, library, counseling, and math-intervention services.

For the current school year, the district was only able to fund ten classrooms for Loma. Through the funds granted to the district, we were able to provide funding for an 11th classroom, helping to maintain smaller class sizes. We are delighted to provide Loma students time with C.T. English art teacher, Ms. O'Dea, and also more garden time.

LPEF thanks everyone who attended, volunteered, and donated auction items. We also thank our generous sponsors, including Marisa Thompson of Sotheby's International Realty, Abounding Harvest Mountain Farm, Lydia Harville of State Farm, Rebecca Smith and Karen Izzo of Christie's International Sereno, SWENSON, Advanced Chiropractic, Hills Construction, Inc., Infantino Dental, Open-Homes.com, Cunningham Tractor, and LGC General Construction.

We will disclose our net proceeds when we have our final numbers.

schools

Lexington School

Jason Deppong
Principal

Lexington had its first “dugnad” of the year. A “dugnad” is a Norwegian tradition where community members clean up a neighborhood or school. Principal Deppong lived in Norway for seven years, and brought the tradition to Lexington last year. Families came out to weed, rake, trim, and build. Norwegian music was played for part of the day and traditional dugnad food served, such as hotdogs, juice, coffee, and a *kransekake*.

We celebrated the United Nations’ International Day of Peace on September 21. First-graders presented information at an earlier assembly about this annual event and taught strategies for resolving conflicts. They learned how resolving conflicts helps create a peaceful environment. They greeted families with flowers, posters, music, necklaces, and balloons. They hope to grow this celebration at Lexington in the future.

The annual Lexington play is in full rehearsals. Barbara Lougée, our school



librarian, and writer and director of 18 years of Lexington school plays, is excited about *The Ghost Light*. Public performances will be held at Lexington on **November 16 and 17**, at 7 p.m. Purchase tickets at <https://www.lexhsc.org/lexplay>.

Classes have teamed up this fall to

develop more multi-age experiences. The transitional-kindergarten class recently met with the third-grade class for the first time.

“This is a great chance for children to increase their social-emotional skills. Pairing younger students with older ones helps both groups, as younger students practice explaining what they are doing and working with others, while the older friends have to consider what to do to keep their buddies on task,” explains Mrs. Kearney.

Other buddy classes have met to discuss a school-wide math problem of the month that increases in complexity. It has been a great way to enhance student thinking and communication skills.

Our fifth-graders visited Nature Bridge Science Camp in the Marin Headlands in early October for two nights. The students



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observed bioluminescent creatures on the beach at night, learned about the Miwok way of life, and how the early Spanish settlers impacted it. There were pond studies and evening campfires. This was an unforgettable experience for the students, and a great way to create bonds early in the school year.

We held the annual “bike rodeo” at Lexington. Our fourth- and fifth-graders practiced bike safety with several parent volunteers. Maestra Alison, our Spanish teacher, integrated Spanish into the activities. We also had an exciting BMX bike assembly. The GoGreen Action Sports BMX Team visited us and talked about being an upstander, working hard, and being safe. They jumped over a few brave



teachers and Principal Deppong. They dazzled us with a lot of high-flying jumps across the blacktop.

Solar panels are finally coming to Lexington. Workers began installing panels above our upper-grade classrooms at the end of September. They will also be installed

on our main office roof. There has been minimal disruption during the work. In fact, the students have enjoyed watching the process. We are looking forward to using this new source of green energy.

*Photos by Jason Deppong
and Barbara Lougée*

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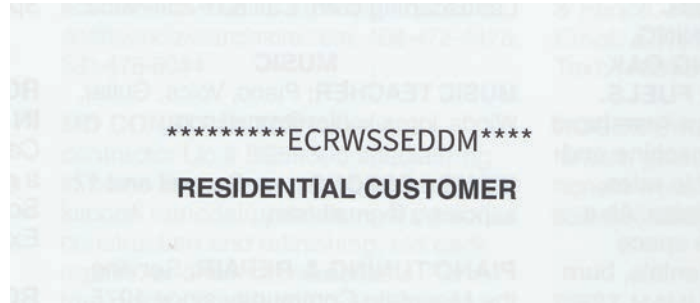
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