



# mr

## mountain network news

August 2021







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## Listings by Paula & Terry Leary | Your Trusted Real Estate Advisors

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Offered at \$1,825,000



23441 Skyview Terr., Los Gatos | 4bd / 3ba | 3,441sf

23454 Sunset Dr., Los Gatos | 4bd / 4full 2half ba | 10,000sf



Offered at \$1,950,000

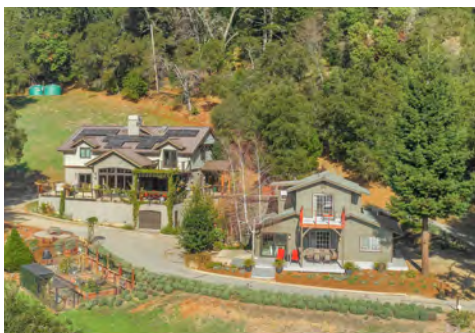


Offered at \$5,900,000

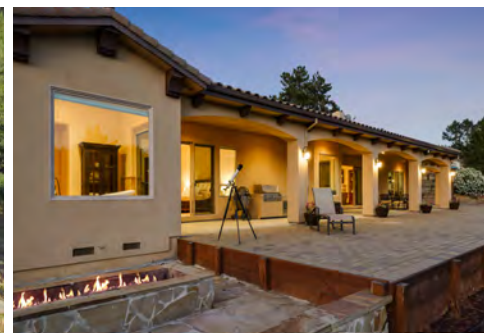
2 Master Suites! Fruit trees, lush gardens | 23441SkyviewTerrace.com

Monterey Bay views! Close to Downtown LG | SunsetDriveEstate.com

## Recent Sales | Average Days on Market: 9.5 days



24964 Skyland Ridge Rd., Los Gatos  
\$2,895,000 | SOLD over asking

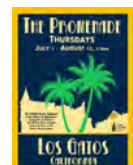


24455 Loma Prieta Ave., Los Gatos  
\$2,720,000 | SOLD over asking



24180 Summit Woods Dr., Los Gatos  
\$1,950,000 | SOLD over asking

**Come on out to rock with the Summit Sisters!  
August 5th, Downtown Los Gatos**



663 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos  
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408.548.7348  
[sebastian.frey@compass.com](mailto:sebastian.frey@compass.com)  
DRE 01369847

Los Gatos Mountains



SALE PENDING

17803 Upper East Zayante Road  
\$1,375,000  
5 Bed | 3 Bath | 2963 Sq Ft

Lisa Sgarlato  
408.396.7231  
[lisa.sgarlato@compass.com](mailto:lisa.sgarlato@compass.com)  
DRE 01342694

Los Gatos Mountains



SOLD

22005 Old Santa Cruz Highway  
\$1,280,000  
2 Bed | 1.5 Bath | 2267 Sq Ft

Lisa Sgarlato  
408.396.7231  
[lisa.sgarlato@compass.com](mailto:lisa.sgarlato@compass.com)  
DRE 01342694

Los Gatos Mountains



18096 Idalyn Drive  
\$1,250,000  
4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 1709 Sq Ft

Lisa Sgarlato  
408.396.7231  
[lisa.sgarlato@compass.com](mailto:lisa.sgarlato@compass.com)  
DRE 01342694

Los Gatos Mountains



SALE PENDING

20100 Thompson Road  
\$1,150,000  
3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1300 Sq Ft

Lisa Sgarlato  
408.396.7231  
[lisa.sgarlato@compass.com](mailto:lisa.sgarlato@compass.com)  
DRE 01342694

Los Gatos Mountains



14315 Treehouse Way  
\$499,975  
1 Bed | 1 Bath | 894 Sq Ft

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**COMPASS**

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Neil Wiley

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We invite individuals and organizations to submit letters and articles. Email [mnnnews@comcast.net](mailto: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.

**Advertising**

Closing date: 10th of the preceding month. We assume no responsibility for advertisers' submissions. Mail your check to **Mountain Network News**, 23625 Skyview Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95033.

**2021 Ad Rates**

Business card, vertical (3 3/4" high by 2 1/2" wide)	\$150
Business card, horiz. (2 1/4" high by 3 3/4" wide)	\$150
Jumbo business card (2 1/4" high by 5" wide)	\$215
Quarter-page, vertical (4 1/2" high by 3 3/4" wide)	\$275
Quarter-page, horizontal (2 1/4" high by 7 1/2" wide)	\$275
Third-page, column (10" high by 2 1/2" wide)	\$375
Third-page, horizontal (3 1/4" high by 7 1/2" wide)	\$375
Half-page (4 1/2" high by 7 1/2" wide)	\$450
Two-thirds page (2 columns, 10" high by 5" wide)	\$560
Page	\$850
Special position	add 20%
Four-color page or 2/3 page	add \$500
Four-color half, third- or quarter-page ad	add \$250
Four-color business card	add \$100
Frequency discounts available.	
Classified and business directory	\$8 per formatted line

**Circulation**

More than 4000 homes and businesses  
in the Santa Cruz Mountains

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*Photography by Bruce Fournier*

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Evacuate?

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Remove

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Commute  
Travel

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Sell  
Swap

Walk  
Run  
Ride

Restore  
Enjoy  
Live

**Contents****events**

Pioneer Spirit Day	6
Harvest dinner and dance	6
95033free swap meet	6
LP Volunteer Fire Department barbecue	7

**resources**

Little Free Libraries in the mountains	8
Friends of Los Gatos Library bookstore	9
Who is working on your project?	10
Wildfire in the Santa Cruz Mountains	11
Know your evacuation zone	11
Recipe: Sauce Villa Montaña	11

**people**

Richard Waiton obituary	12
Catherine Ann Sweeney obituary	13

**gallery**

Mercury Freedom	14
Bruce Sudweeks	14
Jim Scholfield	15

**calendar**

18

**exploring**

Six beaches on Monterey Bay	20
-----------------------------	----

**history**

Travel in the mountains	24
-------------------------	----

**schools**

LGHS recall effort	26
Loma Prieta Joint Union School District	27
Lakeside School	28
Building Blocks Preschool	29

**classified and business directory**

30

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# Lisa Sgarlato

# IS

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[lisa.sgarlato@compass.com](mailto:lisa.sgarlato@compass.com) | [LisaSgarlato.com](http://LisaSgarlato.com)

DRE 01342694

## 22435 Majestic Drive Los Gatos Mountains

\$2,399,000 | [22435MajesticDrive.com](http://22435MajesticDrive.com)

5 Bed | 5 Bath | 3434 Sq Ft | 1.3 Acre Lot



Find your bliss in this sought-after Riva Ridge resort property featuring unobstructed coastline views! Beautiful updating and impressive appointments throughout, open floor plan, skylights and windows providing views from every room. Formal living room/dining area with vaulted ceiling, gourmet kitchen, family room, 2 fireplaces. Spacious bedrooms, master en-suite, large walk-in closet, and slider to the deck. 1 bd, 1 ba apartment with separate entry, extra storage & a 3-car garage. Expansive decking and patio with jetted spa and sparkling pool with stunning canyon and ocean views. Great commute location, Loma Prieta schools and Los Gatos High!



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COMPASS



## events

### Loma Prieta Museum Pioneer Spirit Day Roger Mason

Don't miss this day of family fun. Enjoy food, music, children's games, and pioneer history on **Saturday, October 2**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Mason-Taylor Ranch, 22849 Summit Road.

This community event will include a history scavenger hunt (with prizes) for children, old-fashioned children's games, music by the Wildcat Mountain Ramblers, a barbecue lunch, short history talks, and a silent auction of merchant donations. Tickets for this event are available. See our Facebook page (Loma Prieta Museum).



Descendants of pioneer families will present short family stories describing what life was like for early settlers living in the Santa Cruz Mountains. We invite pioneer families to share their family history at this event. Email us at [LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com), or call 408-529-0254. We are looking for more families to provide interesting and educational stories about our mountains.

We need volunteers. If you would like to help with this or future events, email us at [LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com). To learn more about us, visit [facebook.com/LomaPrietaMuseum](https://facebook.com/LomaPrietaMuseum).

***This Loma Prieta Museum community event is sponsored by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, a 501(c) 3 non-profit foundation. All donations are tax deductible.***

### Christ Child Catholic Church Harvest Dinner and Dance Robert Freiri

Dust off your dancing shoes and save the date for Christ Child Catholic Church's annual harvest dinner and dance on **Saturday, September 18**.

This is Christ Child's biggest fundraiser of the year. Everyone is invited.

Appetizers start at 6 p.m., and dinner will begin around 6:45 p.m. After dinner, enjoy dancing to live music and bidding on exciting items in our silent auction.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, email [TravelbyBridget@gmail.com](mailto:TravelbyBridget@gmail.com), or call 408 489-4993.



95033free

### Giving "Stuff" a Second Life For More Than a Decade

Leslie O'Malley and Miriam Watson

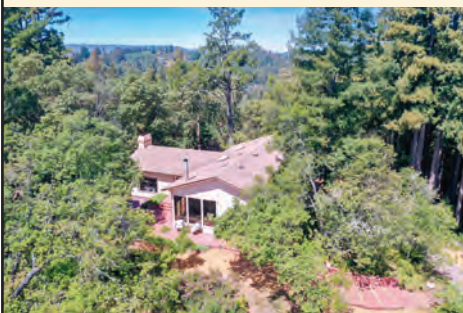
Online platforms and opportunities to participate in the sharing economy have grown since we started 95033free back in 2009. Facebook Marketplace, Nextdoor, and

## Angelé Price

*From San Jose to Santa Cruz  
and Everything in Between*

## COMPASS

### ACTIVE



#### Mountain Charlie Road

Quality built home with long range views from both sides of Mt. Charlie. Gorgeous modern kitchen, updated bathrooms, separate family and living rooms for flexible living, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Located on over 2.6 private acres. **\$1,450,000**

### COMING SOON



#### 21550 Madrone Drive

Spectacular canyon views from this peaceful 3 level home in Redwood Estates. 10 minute commute to downtown Los Gatos. Downstairs has separate entrance and kitchen. Terraced gardens for vegetables, fruit trees and flowers. Colisted with Monica Lussier. **\$1,400,000.**

### COMING SOON



#### 18620 Favre Ridge Road

Blissful, heavenly views to greet you all day from this dramatic home. Located in Las Cumbres. 2,700+ sq. ft. 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 3 car garage. **Price TBD.**

Instagram Twitter Facebook compass

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[www.angeleprice.com](https://www.angeleprice.com)



Craigslist are great places to give something away or find something you need, but many in our community still rely on 95033free.

95033free is an online community of mountain residents sharing free things over the years—from household goods such as refrigerators, ovens, and water heaters, to reclaimed fences, boats, goats, horses, and more. The abundance of sharing has been gratifying.

We have missed holding our in-person swap meets, and are thrilled to bring this tradition back. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, August 14**, at the Loma Prieta Community Center gymnasium, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Mountain residents can bring useable items from their homes that they no longer need, and set them up in a designated space in the gym. Fellow community members browse and take as many items as they like from each other's stashes. It's like a giant free garage sale. If you have nothing to share, a five-dollar donation is your ticket to enter. There are limits to creative uses. If it looks like it's ready for the landfill, you are probably right. Please don't bring junk.

Our favorite moments are seeing items get new owners as they are being unloaded from the giver's car. Or hearing a squeal of delight as someone finds a special treasure. We especially enjoy the opportunity that our swap meets create for mountain residents to get to know each other in a sharing environment. Neighbors have developed new friendships in the process of sharing items and giving their old stuff new life.

You don't need to stay with your items, but you must return for unclaimed items at noon (no exceptions).

To find out more, email Leslie O'Malley at [helpusendcards@gmail.com](mailto:helpusendcards@gmail.com) or Miriam Watson at [ilovethemountains@gmail.com](mailto:ilovethemountains@gmail.com).

### Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue The Barbecue Toni Sheppard

The barbecue is back! Join us on **Sunday, September 12**. The menu, raffle, exhibits, and games are coming together. Tickets will go on sale at the Summit Store in August.

To volunteer for the barbecue, email [tsheppard@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:tsheppard@lomaprietafire.org) or [jviskochil@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:jviskochil@lomaprietafire.org). To contribute to the raffle or make a donation, email [viskochil@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:viskochil@lomaprietafire.org).

Look for the third scavenger hunt clue in this issue of the *Mountain Network News*. Look for one more clue in the September issue. Remember to bring your clues and answers to the barbecue. The first 36 people with the correct answers will win a prize (one per family). Get an extra prize for correctly guessing the significance of "36."

If you are interested in volunteering throughout the year, email [volunteer@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:volunteer@lomaprietafire.org).

See you in September.



## BRUSH CLEARING AND GRINDING

- Fire clearances
- Poison oak, vines, heavy thick brush removal
- Brush grinder will grind up to 6" in diameter and spread chips
- Brushing along community roads and driveways
- Brush pile grinding

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# resources

## Little Free Libraries

Kathy McKinney

A Little Free Library is a neighborhood book-sharing box on the side of the road, where neighbors take and donate books to share. Hundreds of thousands of Little Free Libraries exist across the United States, with quite a few in our Santa Cruz Mountains. Stewards build and maintain the water-resistant box in their neighborhood.

There is a new Little Free Library next to the main entrance of the Summit Tree Farm, 23868 Summit Road. There's one just past mile marker .08 on Long Ridge Road that includes a reading bench, and another at the bottom of Summit Woods Drive. One of the first Little Free Libraries I noticed, many years ago, is at the corner of Hutchinson and Riva Ridge roads. Another relatively new Little Free Library is at mile marker 1.06 on Old Santa Cruz Highway (on the Santa Cruz County side).

In Chemeketa Park, a Little Free Library is at 19731 Ogallala Warpath. In Redwood Estates, there is one just past Nonno's on Madrone Drive.

One Little Free Library is a lovely replica of the old Burrell School. It is located on a private road.

Anyone can start a Little Free Library, and anyone can take or donate books. Visit them yourself, or find out more at [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org).



Long Ridge Road



Summit Road



Chemeketa Park



Old Santa Cruz Highway



Redwood Estates



Hutchinson Road





**Los Gatos Library Bookstore**  
**Books and DVDs**  
**Cheryl McKenzie**

Now that the state has changed its COVID-19 regulations, the Friends of Los Gatos Library Bookstore is back to pre-pandemic operation.

We're open five days a week, Wednesdays through Sundays, from 1 to 5 p.m. If you are vaccinated, no mask is required. You can call us at 408-354-2665.

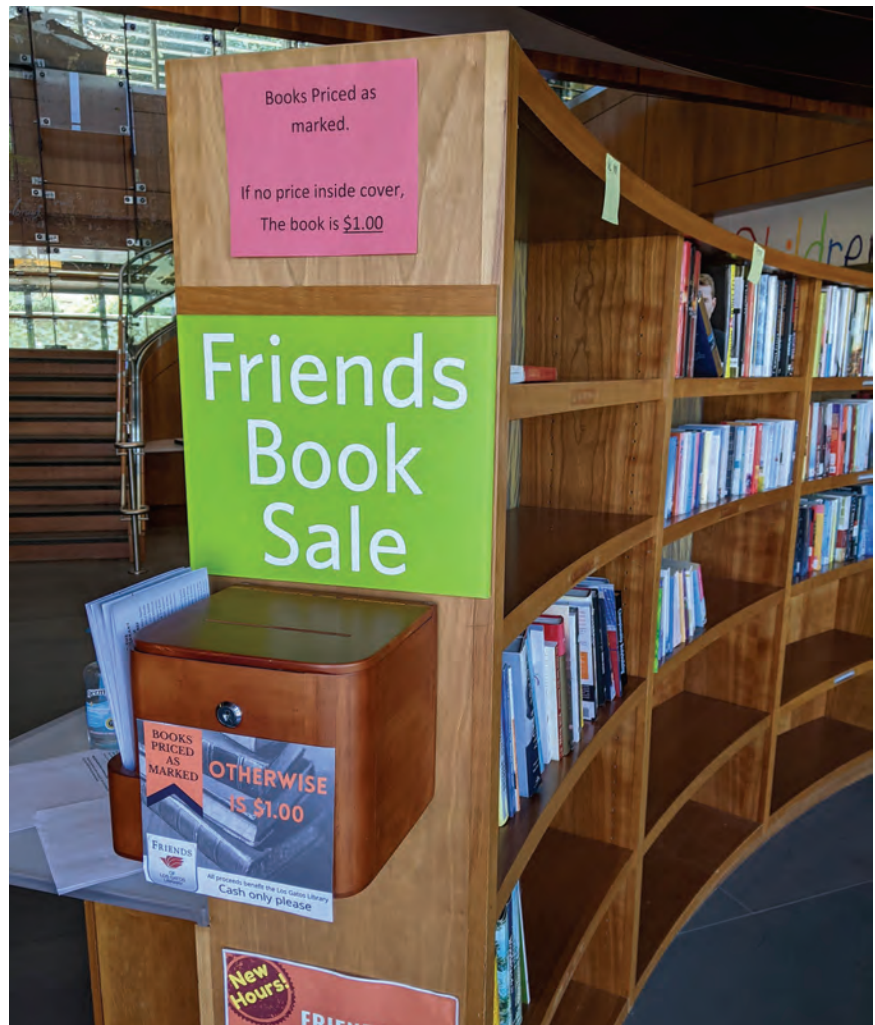
Our lobby store is open and well-stocked. There is a "money donation" box for your convenience. In both of our locations, you'll find amazing bargains on children's books. Summer is a perfect time to pick up good reads for your young readers.

Reservations to make a donation are no longer necessary; however, we will continue to accept books only between 1 and 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and only by the back door of the library. We cannot accept donations at the bookstore.

Please keep in mind that we need "gently used" books and DVDs, and can't accept those that are damaged. We also can't take encyclopedias or magazines. A good rule of thumb is, "if you'd give this book to a friend, then we would be happy to receive it."

If you have a large donation, email us at [friendsofllib@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofllib@gmail.com), and let us know the number of books you plan to bring, so we can make special arrangements.

Your donations and your bookstore patronage fund library programs year-round. We appreciate your support.



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**COMING SOON**

22860 Old Santa Cruz Hwy, Los Gatos

**Listed at \$1,975,000**  
**1.5 Acres | ADU + Workshop/Apartment**

This estate boasts a private driveway with paved parking for 10 vehicles + an oversized 1,338 SF 5 car garage with hydraulic car lift!

18805 Bear Creek Rd Los Gatos, CA 95033

**Coming Soon for \$5,700,000**  
**2.43 Acres | 5,726 SF**

Can be purchased with lots on either side of this home for a total of approx. 8 acres!



**Keith & Shelly Kanady**

Broker Associate  
 408.316.1666

[keith.kanady@compass.com](mailto:keith.kanady@compass.com)  
 DRE 00953975 & 02000852

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## resources

### Who Is Working On Your Project?

Rosalia Burgueño Tapia  
Pratt & Associates

Scenario: A licensed contractor meets with a homeowner to provide an estimate and to get a contract signed—but when it comes to the work, the homeowner finds unlicensed personnel doing much of it without proper supervision and control. Work requiring a contractor's license must be performed by the qualifying individual who actually holds the license, or be supervised and controlled by that individual. The qualifying individual can be the owner, a qualifying partner, a Responsible Managing Officer, or Responsible Managing Employee. A license search on the Contractor State License Board website will reveal whether the contractor is a sole owner, or if the company has an RMO or RME.

The California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 823 (a), states that an RMO or RME is the person qualifying on behalf of the person or firm that is applying for the CSLB license. When that is the case, the RMO or RME is an employee who is permanently employed by the company and is actively engaged in the operation of business for at least 32 hours, or 8 percent of the total hours per week that the business is in operation, whichever is less.

The RMO or RME is responsible for directly supervising and controlling the construction operations to make sure that the CSLB rules are followed. "Direct supervision and control" can include any one, or a combination of, the following activities: supervising construction, managing construction activities by making technical and administrative decisions, checking jobs for proper workmanship, or direct supervision on construction job sites.

The California Business and Professions



Code Section 7068.1 states that violation of this rule constitutes a cause for disciplinary action against the contractor and shall be punishable as a misdemeanor by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed six months; a fine of not less than three thousand dollars, but not to exceed five thousand dollars; or both. The reason for these stringent penalties is to prevent construction work that puts customers at risk when it is performed by unskilled and unqualified persons.

Simply put, if the work is not performed by the qualifying individual or directly supervised and controlled by that individual, the contractor is in violation of state contractor licensing laws. The homeowner can file a complaint with the CSLB, which will trigger an investigation leading to possible disciplinary action, fines, and criminal punishment. In addition, if the contractor is in violation of these laws, it is as if the work was done by an unlicensed contractor, which means that the customer has no obligation to pay for it. Also, the contractor must maintain a valid license at all times during the project. If the contractor does not follow the requirements pertaining to direct supervision and control, or if the license becomes inactive at any point during the project, the person or company will be considered unlicensed for purposes of recovering any payment (unless substantial compliance with the rules can be shown by the contractor).

An unlicensed contractor who received compensation is required to fully reimburse the customer for all sums paid for the entire project. California Business & Professions Code Section 7031 (a) states, in pertinent part:

*a) No person engaged in the business or acting in the capacity of a contractor may bring or maintain any action or recover in law or equity in any action, in any court of this state for the collection of compensation for the performance of any act or contract where a license is required by this chapter without alleging that they were a duly licensed contractor at all times during the performance of that act or contract regardless of the merits of the cause of action brought by the person.*

*(b) Except as provided in subdivision (e), a person who utilizes the services of an unlicensed contractor may bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction in this state to recover all compensation paid to the unlicensed contractor for performance of any act or contract.*

Additionally, if the contractor was not duly licensed at all times during the performance of the act or contract, the contractor cannot enforce a mechanic's lien, if one was recorded.

The next time you hire a licensed contractor, do your homework by checking with the CSLB website before entering into the contract. Then keep checking to make sure that the contractor is licensed at all times during the project. Once you know that you are dealing with a licensed contractor, make sure that the person holding the license is either performing the work or directly supervising and controlling it. If not, they may lose their right to payment.

**Pratt & Associates law firm, located in Los Gatos, specializes in real property law, boundaries, easements, fences, road issues, and other legal issues.**

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## Wildfire in the Santa Cruz Mountains

Jan Swayne

Along with many members of our community, I attended a joint presentation by firefighters and county representatives a few years ago at Loma Prieta Elementary School. I learned there is much we can do as rural residents to reduce severe damage to our homes and communities.

I also learned the importance of starting to make these changes. Here are a few things I learned:

Start with the first five feet around your home. Remove all flammables, including all plants and furniture. I've learned this takes new thinking and imagining. Starting is more important than doing it perfectly.

Reduce other flammable items in the next five to thirty feet, all around your home.

Reduce flammable items from thirty to one-hundred feet around your home.

Consider changes you could make that can help neighbors be safer, such as partnering to reduce fire danger.

Speak up, and follow through, to recommend changes in your community.

I applaud those who work on these important subjects at many levels of our church and community, including Larry Lopp, members of Skyland Church, FireSafe County Roads groups, and the *Mountain Network News*.

Let's be part of the solution, and help around our homes. Even small changes can make a difference.

## Know Your Evacuation Zone

CalFire plans to be more aggressive with evacuations this year, if fires do occur. They have divided Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo counties into more than 300 evacuation zones based on optimal evacuation routes. Look up your zone at [community.zonehaven.com](http://community.zonehaven.com), and write it down. First responders will issue evacuation orders and advisories based on these zones. This information will be available via news media, social media, and emergency alert notifications.

Let's hope for the best, but plan for the worst.

## Recipe Sauce Villa Montaña

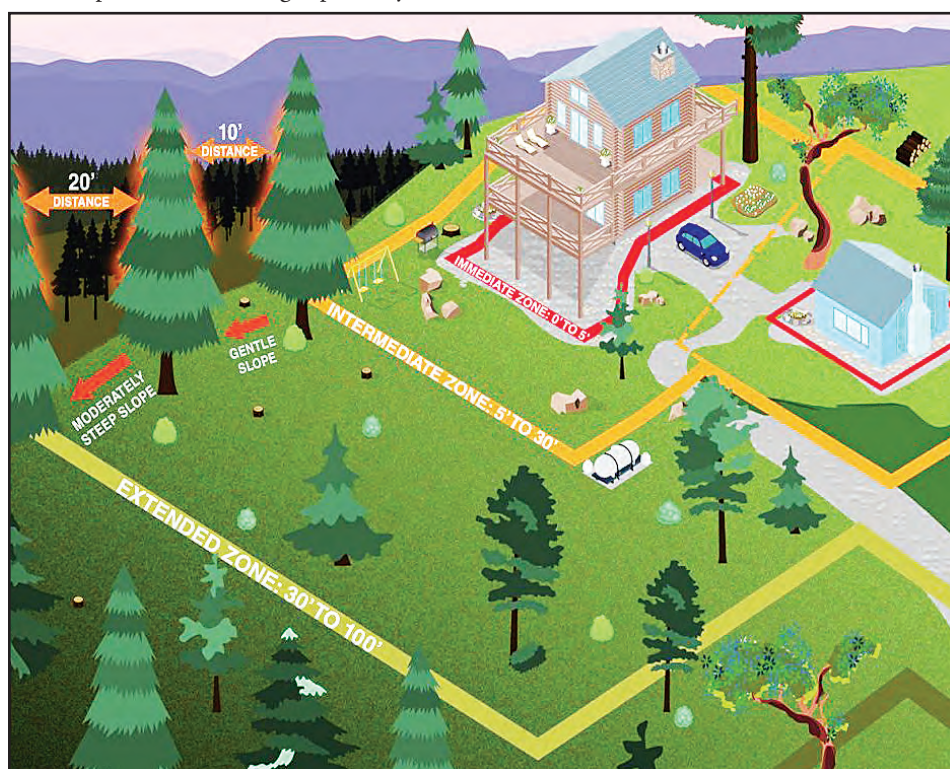
Ellen Bond

Some years ago, I was traveling in Mexico and stayed a few days at the Villa Montaña in Morelia. Lunch was invariably an excellent buffet. And along with everything else was a wonderful green sauce. I asked the manager to cajole a family-sized version from the chef and here it is. Enjoy!

- 4 cloves garlic
- 1 medium-size onion
- ½ cup parsley
- 2 Tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon mustard
- 1 cup cider vinegar
- 2 cups vegetable oil

Put all ingredients in a blender. Serve with sliced tomatoes, cucumbers, cold meat, cold fish, etc.

**Notes:** The blender is critical, although a food processor would probably work as well. A whisk won't mix it effectively. Stick to the ingredients listed. Don't try to "improve" on the oil or vinegar. I usually halve this recipe. It makes a lot.



**Defensible space**—the buffer you create between a building on your property and the vegetation that surrounds it—significantly improves your home's chance of surviving a wildfire, either from direct flame contact or radiant heat.

Defensible space is also important to protect the firefighters defending your home.

C.S.L. #948403

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# people

## Obituary Richard Waiton Marilyn Waiton

Richard Elmer Waiton was a mountain resident, Senior Olympics swimmer, a San Mateo firefighter, and a veteran of the WWII U.S. Air Force. He passed away peacefully in his sleep on June 25, 2021. He is survived by his family and many friends.

At 96 years young, he was the last surviving of ten siblings. He will be buried at Waiton's Garden in Carson City, Nevada.

He was memorialized by an Air Force Honor Flyby of a C-130 Hercules over the Santa Cruz Mountains on July 16.

May he rest in peace.





**Obituary**  
**Catherine Ann Sweeney**  
 Stephanie Derylo

Catherine Ann Sweeney moved to the Santa Cruz Mountains in 1973 with her husband, James Sweeney. Cathy had a love for teaching and taught in the Campbell Union School District for ten years before moving to the mountains and raising a family of three boys. As her sons grew older, she became active in the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District. She was a substitute teacher, president of the Loma Prieta Home and School Club, and co-president of the C.T. English Home and School Club. When her children started high school, she returned to teaching full-time for the Cupertino Unified School District until she retired.

Cathy had a healthy and active lifestyle. She enjoyed jogging and walking daily in the beautiful surroundings near her home, camping with her family in the summer, and spending spring break in Death Valley. She also adored her four grandchildren and loved to spend quality time with them.

Cathy is survived by her husband, three sons, four grandchildren, her sister, and her brother. She is deeply missed.



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# gallery

Photography by Mercury Freedom



*White-tailed kites share a mouse*



## Sea Lions and Cormorants

Bruce Sudweeks

In the photo below you can see two land creatures who visit divers underwater. The mammals in the photo are sea lions. Sea lions are prankster ballerinas. Sometimes groups of twenty to thirty of them will put on an underwater ballet show around divers. They will perform corkscrew maneuvers over, under, and all around divers and other sea lions. It is completely mesmerizing to see such behavior.

Sea lions can also be pranksters. It seems to happen when three young (i.e., the equivalent of human teenagers) get together to prank the divers. A group of young lions stay about 25 feet away. Then one lion rushes toward the diver, tugs on the diver's fin, and rushes away quickly. It seems like some sort of game where the young lions dare each other to prank the unsuspecting diver, but it can be disconcerting when your fin is tugged on while you are diving.

The other creature in the photo is the Brandt's cormorant. These sea birds have been known to dive to 120 feet looking for fish to eat. Underwater they use their feet for propulsion. Many times on a dive I have been studying some sort of sea creature when I find a cormorant looking at the same sea creature, perhaps determining if it is edible.

I've seen it many times, but it still seems strange to see a bird sixty feet below the ocean's surface.







*Hummingbirds, a white-tailed kite in flight, and a duck*



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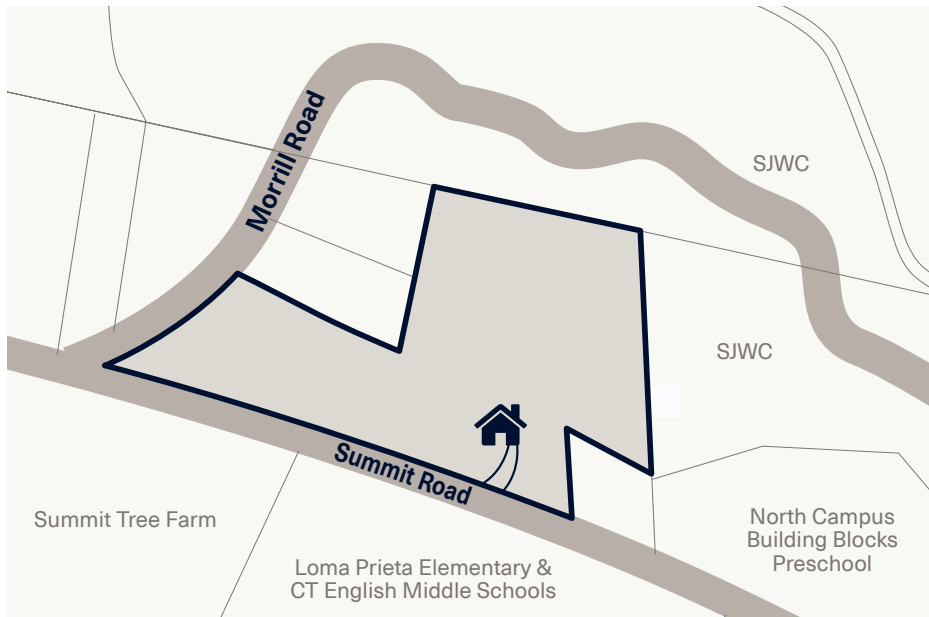
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# calendar

## ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

*Class and meeting schedules are valid as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Call or email to confirm dates and times.*

### Sundays

Dog agility, 24900 Highland Way, 9 to 11 a.m. Call 408-506-8670, or email in8runner@aol.com to confirm dates.

### Mondays

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings 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.

Felton Farmer's Market, 1 to 6 p.m., 120 Russell Avenue.

### Wednesdays

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

Downtown Santa Cruz Farmer's Market, Cedar and Lincoln streets, from 1 to 5 p.m.

### Thursdays

Yoga at the Redwood Estates Pavilion, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. We meet on Zoom and (weather permitting) on the Pavilion lawn. Visit pamsyogafitness.com for details.

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

Yoga at Skyland Church, 7 p.m. \$10 per class

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

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

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

Narcotics Anonymous meetings, 7 p.m. at Mountain Bible Church, 23946 Summit Road. Call 408-353-2302.

### 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.

Westside Santa Cruz Farmer's Market, Mission Street extension and Western Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Scotts Valley Farmer's Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Kmart parking lot off Mount Hermon Road

### Sundays

Los Gatos Farmer's Market, Town Park Plaza, Main Street and N. Santa Cruz Avenue, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Live Oak Farmer's Market, 15th and East Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Thursday, August 12

First day of school for Loma Prieta, C.T. English, Lakeside, and Lexington Schools. Remember to slow down in the school zones.

Santa Clara County Bookmobile is at the Loma Prieta Playfield/Building Blocks Preschool, from 1 to 4 p.m. Order items for pickup at [www.sccld.org](http://www.sccld.org), or call 408-273-2326, ext. 3060.

### Saturday, August 14

95033free swap meet will be at the Loma Prieta Community Center gymnasium, 23800 Summit Road, from 9 a.m. to noon. Bring something to share, or donate \$5. Everything is free. See article on page 6 for details.



### Wednesday, August 18

Santa Cruz County Supervisor Manu Koenig hosts a Summit town-hall meeting on Zoom, from 6 to 7 p.m. Register at [www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us](http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us) (select District 1).

### Tuesday, August 24

Santa Clara County Bookmobile is at Lakeside School, from 2 to 4 p.m. Order items for pickup at [www.sccld.org](http://www.sccld.org), or call 408-273-2326, ext. 3060.

### Thursday, August 26

Santa Clara County Bookmobile is at the Redwood Estates Pavillion, from 2 to 4 p.m. Order items for pickup at [www.sccld.org](http://www.sccld.org), or call 408-273-2326, ext. 3060.

### Sunday, September 12

The Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue barbecue is back, starting at 11 a.m. on the Loma Prieta Playfield behind Building Blocks Preschool (23845 Summit Road). Buy your tickets at the Summit Store. To volunteer or find out more, email [tsheppard@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:tsheppard@lomaprietafire.org) or [jviskochil@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:jviskochil@lomaprietafire.org).

### Saturday, September 18

Christ Child Catholic Church hosts a harvest dinner and dance, beginning at 6 p.m. Enjoy appetizers, dinner, live music, and a silent auction. To find out more, email [TravelbyBridget@gmail.com](mailto:TravelbyBridget@gmail.com), or call 408 489-4993.

### Saturday, October 2

Loma Prieta Museum hosts a Pioneer Spirit Day, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Mason-Taylor Ranch, 22849 Summit Road. Enjoy food, music, children's games, and pioneer history. For more information or tickets, email [LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com), or call 408-529-0254.

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# exploring

## Six Beaches on Monterey Bay Neil Wiley

You can walk twenty-one miles on sandy beaches next to one of the deepest submarine canyons in the world—all the way from the Monterey County line to Wharf #2 in downtown Monterey. I'm not sure you would want to walk that far, but it's possible through connections via six state parks and beaches.

Perhaps a better choice is to pick the beach that fits you. Some require a long walk to the ocean. Others entail a long drive. Some offer solitude and wildlife. One provides an urban environment with herds of people. All are free.

Most are open to fishing, but only one is recommended for swimming. All are open for day use at no charge, but none allow camping. Horses are welcome at several beaches, but one has the best equestrian facilities. Speaking of facilities, none of the parks have running water or clean bathrooms. And speaking of animals, dogs are not allowed at most beaches.

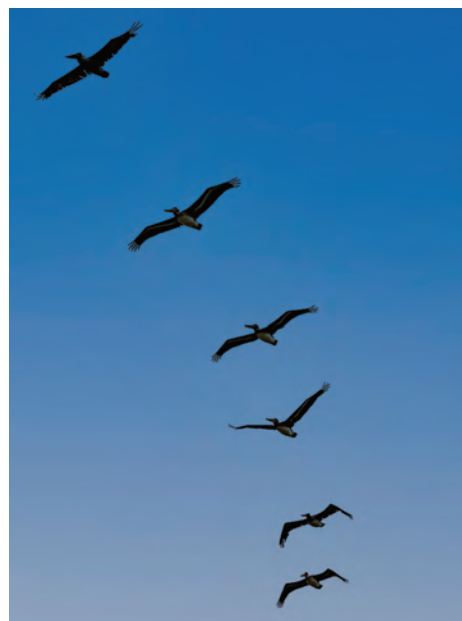
All these beaches have sandy dunes, but some offer better views, allow climbing, or cover more area. The Monterey dunes include five types of geologic landforms: beach sand, unstabilized active dunes, geologically younger and older stabilized dunes, and dissected uplands.

They support many kinds of plant life, including ice plant, which looks beautiful and keeps the dunes from blowing away. Even so, park officials want to remove ice plant because it is invasive and non-native.

Although it is possible to see harbor seals and California sea lions hauling out on any beach, brassy gulls looking for handouts, and flocks of pelicans flying by, the trails belong to lizards and ground squirrels.

I sampled these six beaches in July. Here are my impressions.

**Zmudowski State Beach** is the Monterey beach closest to the Santa Cruz Mountains. Drive south on Highway 1. A short distance past the Monterey County line, watch for a road sign on the right for Struve Road. (Your GPS may give you another street name, but you should end up on Giberson Road.) Follow a dirt road around a checkerboard of green fields. About the time you feel lost, the road turns toward the beach. At the end of the road is a small,



sandy parking lot. (Don't drive in too far. The sand is soft and deep.)

I climbed a small dune to reach the beach. I saw a few fishermen. Some were pole fishing, but one man far out from the shore was using a basket and spear. Fishermen can catch perch, kingfish, sole, flounder, halibut, bocaccio, jacksmelt, lingcod, cabezon, salmon, steelhead, and the occasional rockfish.

While popular for fishing, bird watching, and horseback riding, the dangerous rip currents, frigid water, and deep offshore drop-offs make swimming and surfing hazardous.

What I liked most about Zmudowski was the relative solitude. You hear the ocean and the occasional cry of a seabird. It is a good place to escape people and think deep thoughts. No dogs. No camping.

**Moss Landing State Beach** is the next beach to the south on Highway 1. Turn right on Jetty Road, just before the bridge and power plant. You can park on a little strip of land between the ocean and a small inlet. It's not much of a beach, but it's a good place to view wildlife. You may see seals, sea lions, otters, and many birds. You may also see kayakers, fishing boats, and sailboats as they enter and leave Moss Landing. This is also the kayakers' entrance into the Elkhorn Slough, an even better place to see wildlife. To drive to Elkhorn Slough, turn left on Dolan Road, just beyond the power plant, and left again at Elkhorn Road.

No dogs, swimming, fires, drones, or camping. Horses are permitted along designated routes on wet sand beaches. Do not disturb nesting Western snowy plovers.







**Marina State Beach** has several entrances. I found two. Travel south on Highway 1, then turn right on Reservation Drive. You should find a preserve entrance sign at Lake Street. Limited parking is available. The one trail to the beach goes straight up a big dune. Behind that is an even bigger dune. It's a good place to take pictures of the ocean view.

To find a second entrance, continue left on the same road for a short distance. Take the trail up a smaller dune and to the beach.

The high dunes and strong prevailing winds of Marina State Beach are perfect for hang-gliding, kite flying, and radio-controlled gliders. A launch platform is available for rated pilots. If you want information, call 831-649-2836.



sand below the high tide line is somewhat flat, making it less threatening to the horse (and perhaps the rider). I saw several equestrians enjoying rides along the ocean.

This is a good place to see birds, including California brown pelican, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, Western snowy plover, Western gull, black phoebe, Western scrub jay, California towhee, and white-crowned sparrow.

No drones, dogs, or fires. Swimming is not recommended. Only experienced surfers should attempt the hazardous tides, strong currents, and steep drop off.

**Salinas River State Beach** is just one mile south of Moss Landing on Highway 1. Turn right at Potrero. This is a good beach for riding horses, seeing birds, fishing, and walking to the ocean.

It's great for equestrians, because the parking lot is big enough to eliminate the need for backing your trailer. The trail to the beach is relatively short and has an easy incline—it splits, allowing horses and walkers to have their own paths. The wet







**Fort Ord Dunes State Park** is difficult to find, but worth it. Official directions tell you to take Lightfighter Drive off Highway 1, turn left onto Second Avenue, then follow signs to the park entrance at the 8<sup>th</sup> Street overcrossing at Highway 1. Following these directions and my GPS, I ended up at a Road Closed sign in front of an underpass. I parked on the street, and walked under Highway 1. On the other side was a sign for Fort Ord Dunes State Park. I followed a flat trail west for three-quarters of a mile, then up through dunes for another quarter mile.

This was my favorite preserve. I saw nice views in every direction, including dunes covered with ice plant and flowers, others in smooth sand, and more with jagged walls. To top it all off, you see a wide ocean scenic view at the end of the trail.

Along the trail, I saw several colorful lizards and busy ground squirrels. I also re-lived my army experience of shooting an M-1 rifle while viewing an abandoned old building once used at the rifle range.

This is a good place to jog, bicycle, hike, and walk the beach. To get a cell-phone tour explaining the preserve nature and history, call 831-998-9458.

Leashed dogs are allowed on the accessible paved trail. Wading and swimming are not advised. Horses and campfires are not allowed on the beach.





**Monterey State Beach** runs one mile from Sand City at the north to Wharf #2 in Monterey at the south. To reach the beach, drive south on Highway 1, then turn right at Highway 218.



This is the only state beach in this group that is safe for water recreation. Swimmers, scuba divers, kayakers, and young waders can enjoy the water. It even has lifeguards and a truck. On the other hand, it is an urban park that suffers from overuse and poor facilities.

It has some advantages. Thanks to a tip from the lifeguards, I crossed over Highway 1 and around the next corner to grab an In-N-Out hamburger. After walking all day, I almost ate the wrapper. If you can add more to these beach adventures, let me know.



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# history

## A Bumpy History

### Traveling Through the Mountains

Neil Wiley

Travel on Highway 17 can be difficult any day of the week, but especially on summer weekends. I've seen many improvements over fifty years, but there is more traffic and more impatient drivers.

Traveling through the mountains has always had its challenges. Although you can see grinding stones in the foothills of Bear Creek Open Space Preserve, you see less evidence of the native Ohlone tribelets in the mountains. Although the mountains were not as heavily forested as now, they provided less food and more difficult travel than coastal areas. Grizzly bears and mountain lions were dangerous. Darkness and cold made overnight stays uncomfortable. And transportation was limited to walking on rugged trails.

It wasn't much easier for the Spanish explorers. The first known European to visit the mountains was Fray Fermin de Lasuén. In 1791, he walked up from Morgan Hill to Loma Prieta. He saw Monterey Bay, and climbed down near Hester Creek to Soquel and the Mission Santa Cruz. He tried a shorter but more difficult path back to the Santa Clara Mission roughly cleared by the Santa Clara Mission Indians. (Many years later, Old Santa Cruz Highway and Highway 17 would follow some of that path.) In 1795, the trail was further improved to serve travel between a new Branciforte pueblo and the Santa Clara Mission.



Captain John Fremont

Led by Captain Fremont, Americans explored the mountains in 1846. They spent a few days at the summit, then down along a path that became the future highway to Santa Cruz. It still wasn't much of a trail.

This was confirmed when mountain pioneer Lyman Burrell brought his wife up from Los Gatos to their new home on the summit in 1851. It took them several days to reach their mountain home. He reported in the local publication, *The Mountain Echo*: "No man had ever been known to drive over the summit with a wagon. It was considered not only difficult, but a rather dangerous undertaking. In those days, a man could not safely travel very far alone, unless he was well armed, because bears were not infrequently



Lyman Burrell



seen on the trails, and they had not always the politeness to turn out for a man; but, on the contrary, they would sometimes dispute his passage."

The poor conditions remained even after the road to Santa Cruz was improved in the late 1850s.

Transportation up the mountain did get faster in 1858 when one-ton Concord coaches pulled by six-horse teams were added to the mix. Mrs. J.W. Linkins, a traveling book sales agent, caught the 1 p.m. stage from the company store in Los Gatos, passed the Ten-Mile House, and stopped at Lexington for lunch while they changed horses. She got to Santa Cruz at 5 p.m. She said the horses were so fast, and the turns so quick that she was dizzy. She was also completely covered in dust.

For many years, the road remained a dusty or muddy mix of dirt and gravel only six- to eight-foot wide, but thanks to a bond measure in 1911, the Old Santa Cruz Highway became a reality in 1921. This concrete road was called the Boulevard to the Pacific Ocean. The posted speed was twenty miles per hour. That was fast enough. The road had 132 curves. By 1940, the number of curves was reduced to twenty when Highway 17 opened.

Early traffic counts numbered 9,000 vehicles a day. Unfortunately, wet winters and subterranean springs in 1941-42 brought mud slides, reducing the road to two lanes at Inspiration Point, and closing the road completely at Vine Hill.





**Highway 17 in 1960**

Improvements were made, but traffic continued to increase. More than 20,000 cars traveled the highway during the Fourth of July weekend in 1950. By 1967, Caltrans reported that the highway was reaching its capacity with an average daily traffic load of 20,000 vehicles, 30,000 on weekends.

In 1969, Caltrans placed Highway 17 on the list of roads to be upgraded to freeway status and 100,000 vehicles-per-day capacity. They proposed an eight-lane road that could be expanded to 14 lanes if needed.

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of Los Gatos fought the plan. They convinced the California Legislature to remove Highway 17 from freeway expansion. Instead, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors encouraged a no-growth plan for Santa Cruz County. It didn't work. Population

increased and more commuters traveled on Highway 17 for higher-paying jobs in Santa Clara County. In turn, people living in the "pit" used the road to escape to Santa Cruz beaches.

Alternate routes were also considered, but the costs were too great. (I think more viable, but expensive options, would have been an overhead bridge or a car-carrier railroad through the mountains.)

Meanwhile, traffic has spilled over to secondary roads (Old Santa Cruz Highway, Bear Creek Road, and Soquel-San Jose Road). The results are more accidents, roadbed damage, and gridlock.

Although Caltrans couldn't do much to increase capacity, they created a safer highway. For years, the Safe-on-17 program made travel safer. Caltrans improved the drainage, widened some problematic shoulders, upgraded guardrails, added



overpasses at Bear Creek and Summit, and repaved most of the highway. Enforcement was enhanced. Better signage was added. The public was educated.

For 15 years, the program worked. The number of fatal and injury collisions was reduced by an average of 39 percent.

But something went wrong. Total collisions increased from 420 in 2013 to 583 in 2014. The number of injury and fatal accidents went up from 136 in 2013 to 174 in 2014.

Why? The Safe-on-17 annual report blamed a combination of speeding, tailgating, and unsafe lane changes (also called primary collision factors) as the most frequent factors leading to collisions on Highway 17. They recognized that distracted driving was also a factor. It's no surprise that their studies showed that many accidents were caused by significantly increased cellular-phone usage, text messaging over cellular phones, accessing email, using smart-phone functions, and following navigation systems that led drivers into unfamiliar situations.

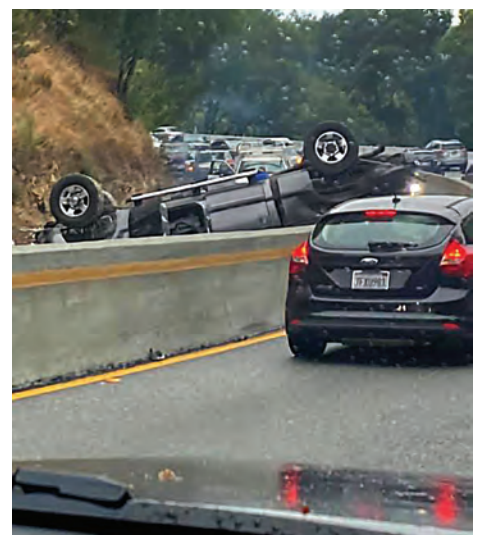
Most of the causes listed are against the law, so you might conclude that more people are driving badly. It sounds like the road has been made safer, but drivers are more dangerous. Perhaps the answer is driverless cars.

The pandemic reduced traffic congestion, but the accident rate was still high. Perhaps the Ohlone people had the right idea for mountain travel. Walk.



**august 2021**

**Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains**



**page 25**



# **schools**

## **Los Gatos-Saratoga High School District Recall Effort** Kathy McKinney

In March, a group of parents began an effort to recall four of the five members of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District board of trustees—Theresa Bond, Cynthia Chang, David Guidry, and Peter Hertan.

Recall supporters argue that the district was too slow to reopen schools to in-person instruction after the number of COVID-19 cases began to ebb in the county. The high schools reopened to in-person instruction in late March, a few weeks after students began returning to elementary and middle schools in Los Gatos.

Theresa Bond is the first mountain resident to serve on the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District board of trustees since the tenure of Lorrie Wernick. Wernick, a former trustee for the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District, served on the high school board of trustees from 1998 through 2012. Theresa was elected in November 2020, and began her term in December. She is the only member of the board representing the mountain community. Theresa served on the board



of trustees for Lakeside School from 2010 through 2020.

To get the recall on the ballot, recall supporters must submit 7,500 signatures per board member before **September 15, 2021**. If the recall effort is successful, the district will incur the cost of a special election, estimated to cost \$1.2 million from the school's general fund. Three of the

four newly elected board members would serve a term of approximately nine months before the regularly scheduled election would take place.

If you are asked to sign a petition to recall a member of the board of trustees of Los Gatos High School, do your research to make sure you agree with the ramifications of that decision.



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**Loma Prieta Joint Union School District  
Superintendent's Message**

Kevin Grier

I hope that this message finds you enjoying your summer to the fullest. As I begin my tenure in the Loma Prieta community, I am honored and humbled to begin working as the superintendent for the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District. I have heard, felt, and seen the deep passion for our schools in this community. I am excited to meet and learn more about this fantastic place of learning. Additionally, I am amazed by the breadth of facilities, the scope of our instructional programs, and the beautiful views.

**Welcome Walk.** It has been great meeting with our wonderful school staff and parents, and learning about our district and community. I happily extend an opportunity to anyone who would like to join me for a Welcome Walk using our fabulous new track, at 7:30 a.m. on **Wednesday, August 18** and **Wednesday, August 25**. I would love to "get my steps in" while walking and talking with you. I will walk from 7:30 to 8 a.m. You can jump in at any time. This will be a leisurely stroll. We will take a break (or two) to drink some water and gather under the trees to continue talking before the students begin to arrive on campus at 8 a.m. Your children are welcome to join us on the walk, but they must remain supervised by you until released onto the campus to school-staff supervision.

To adhere to current COVID-19 guidance at an outdoor event, masks are not required, but please have one in case we stop and chat for a few minutes during, or after, our walk. Masks are recommended for close gatherings outdoors when we can't maintain social distance. I strive to be a good role model for our students.

**Planning for the 2021-22 School Year.** While we await official new guidance from our counties for reopening in the fall, we are planning for a full return to in-person instruction in August. Safety is paramount. We will ensure that we return to school with the required protocols and procedures to keep students safe. As we receive guidance, we will update the community.

Take care and continue to safely enjoy summer fun.





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# **schools**

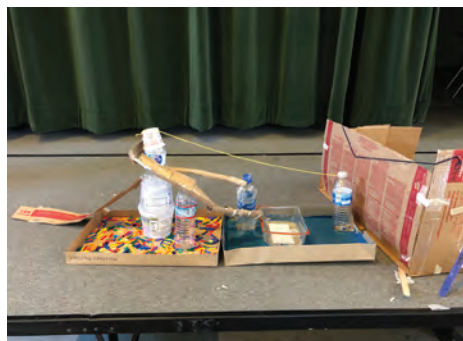
**Lakeside School**  
**Preschool, Summer Camp,**  
**and After-School Care**  
 Tamara Payne-Alex

## **Preschool at Lakeside**

In July, a huge truck delivered equipment and materials to the new Champions Preschool on the campus of Lakeside School. It was like opening presents at a party—boxes of blocks, puzzles, puppets, art supplies, a beautiful new wooden dramatic play set, science equipment, and more. The new preschool will be open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, and will provide many opportunities for children to experience the excitement of new ideas, imagination, and exploration. Find out more at [DiscoverChampions.com](http://DiscoverChampions.com).



**Students at summer camp designed and built a two-story restaurant (above) and a theme park waterslide ride (left).**



## **Summer camp**

The children attending Champions Summer Camp at Lakeside have been using their creativity and problem-solving skills. These budding architects and city planners built a model of a two-story restaurant (with drive-through window). One team of students designed

and built a fabulous model “hot chocolate” waterslide ride.

## **Before and After School Care**

Champions will provide before- and after-school care at Lakeside in the fall. Families can find out more information at [DiscoverChampions.com](http://DiscoverChampions.com).

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## Summer at Building Blocks

Shawna Persaud

The summer session at Building Blocks is going well. Our wonderful yard is brimming with outdoor learning opportunities. It is amazing to see the children engage with their environment and with each other. We have a plan for each day, but take our cues from the children. They are natural explorers and often find ways to use the materials provided in ways we grown-ups never would imagine.

To beat the summer heat, we have enjoyed a variety of water activities. The children loved freeing frozen toy bugs from ice using squirt bottles, salt, various tools, and their ingenuity to melt and break the ice.

Another favorite activity was making volcanoes in our sandbox. We use baking soda, vinegar, and liquid water coloring to make the eruption. First, we worked together to make one big volcano. Then the children made their own miniature versions.

The children love to read books, both during our official story time or as a personal choice throughout the day. They are eager to share questions and comments about the connections they are making while we read together, or when they explore books independently.

Our fall program starts **Monday, August 16**, for teacher Sally's Monday/Wednesday/Friday class. Teacher Nicole's Tuesday/Thursday class starts **Tuesday, August 17**. Space is limited, so interested families should visit [www.buildingblockscoop.org](http://www.buildingblockscoop.org) for more information and register as soon as possible.



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