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August 2022

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COMPASS

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 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.

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Four-color business card	add \$100

Frequency discounts available.
 Classified and business directory \$9 per formatted line

Circulation
 More than 4000 homes and businesses
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COVER
The Summit Sisters

Community

The last two years
 have been tough
 on our community.

We hid behind masks.

We were isolated
 in our homes.

But community
 is making a comeback.

We saw a play
 at Theatre in the Mountains.

In July,
 we danced (or listened)
 to the Alison Sharino Band.

In August, we can enjoy
 a family-friendly music festival
 at Mountain Jam.

(Who doesn't love
 the Summit Sisters?)

In September,
 we eat, talk, and win prizes
 at the Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and
 Rescue barbecue.

A week later,
 the Loma Prieta Museum
 entertains us with more barbecue,
 pioneer history, games, and a silent
 auction.

Meanwhile,
 the Loma Prieta Community Foundation
 is bringing back more
 recreation, enrichment,
 and community activities.

It's time
 to get out
 and enjoy community.

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**For late-breaking news,
 calendar, and classified ads, visit
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17780 Soda Springs Road Los Gatos

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Fabulous Victorian home with spaciousness and beautiful light has been updated throughout. The clean and well-planned floor plan is beautifully laid out for casual and comfort, perfect for entertaining. Hardwood flooring, high ceilings and natural light throughout. French doors connect the spacious interior to the expansive lot. Gourmet kitchen, granite counter, custom cabinets with soft closing drawers, stainless steel appliances, spacious informal dining area or breakfast nook and French door opening to the side patio and separate elegant dining room. Primary suite with a fireplace, walk-in closet, lined with picturesque windows, and an updated bathroom. Property also has 2 cottages and a workshop. Lovely setting with amazing gardens above Lexington and close to town. Lexington Elementary, Fisher Middle and Los Gatos High.



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events

Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire & Rescue A Barbecue and Wildfire Prevention Tamara Marx

Join us on **Sunday, September 11**, for the Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue barbecue. Enjoy family-friendly activities, exhibits, and an opportunity to win great items in our raffles and silent auction. It all happens from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Loma Prieta Playfield and Gazebo, 23845 Summit Road.

Enjoy an excellent barbecued steak or chicken meal, including chili beans, salad, and garlic bread, all for just \$20. A vegetarian option will also be available. Children can enjoy the hot dog lunch for just \$5. Desserts and beverages are also available for purchase.

We can use more help. To join our great team of volunteers, email Tamara at tamaracmarx@gmail.com.

With summer weather conditions, we need to be more watchful and careful to

prevent wildfires. Here are a few tips you can use to protect your home and property:

Maintain defensible space by clearing away dead trees, brush, and vegetation within 100 feet of your home.

Use hardscape like gravel, pavers, concrete, and other noncombustible mulch materials. Don't use bark or mulch.

Remove dead leaves and tree duff from your roofs, gutters, decks, porches, and stairways.

Remove all branches within 10 feet of any roof, chimney, or stovepipe outlet.

Create a separation between trees, shrubs, and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, and swing sets.

Remove all tree branches at least six feet from the ground.

When clearing your property, be careful. Metal blades can strike rocks, creating sparks that could start fires in dry grass. (Spark arrestors are required on all portable gasoline-powered equipment.)

Thank you for doing your part to keep our community fire-safe. We hope to see you at the barbecue.

Loma Prieta Museum Pioneer History Day Roger Mason

Bring your family to Pioneer History Day. Enjoy food, music, children's games, and pioneer history on **Saturday, September 17**, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Mason-Taylor Ranch, 22849 Summit Road.

This event will include a history scavenger hunt (with prizes) for children, old-fashioned children's games, and live music by the Wildcat Mountain Ramblers. Enjoy a barbecue lunch, short history talks, and a silent auction. Lunch tickets are available on Eventbrite.com. See our Facebook page (LomaPrietaMuseum) for details.

Pioneer family descendants will present short family stories describing what life was like in the Santa Cruz Mountains for early settlers. We invite pioneer families to include their family history at this event. Email LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com, or call 408-529-0254. We are looking for more families to provide interesting and educational history of the mountain area.

We need volunteers. If you would like to help with this or any future events, email us at LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com. Find out more at www.LomaPrietaMuseum.org.

If you like railroads and local history, we will host a presentation by railroad historian, Brian Liddicoat, in October, at Loma Prieta Elementary School. Brian will present the interesting history of railroads in the mountains. His previous presentations were standing-room-only. Look for more information in the September issue of *Mountain Network News*, or at www.LomaPrietaMuseum.org.

The Loma Prieta Museum is sponsored by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.



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August 20th Mountain Jam *Free* Music Festival!



Alex Lucero & The Live Again Band
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Summit Sisters
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The Joint Chiefs
Funk, Acid Jazz & Classic R&B

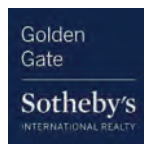


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events

Mountain Jam 2022

Eight Questions and Answers

The Producers of Mountain Jam

Mountain Jam returns on **Saturday, August 20**, to the Loma Prieta Playfield and Gazebo. We hope you can join us.

What is Mountain Jam?

Mountain Jam is a free event with great local music, excellent food, and entertainment for the whole family.

What is the music lineup?

This year's outstanding performers include the Summit Sisters (a local favorite), The Joint Chiefs (local soul/jazz/R&B artists), and L.A.'s breakthrough performers, EDYN. Headlining the show is Alex Lucero and the Live Again Band. Anthony Arya, finalist on *The Voice*, will perform his brand of Americana with his band.

How does Mountain Jam raise money?

All proceeds from sales of silent-auction items and concessions benefit music programs at our mountain schools. Sponsorships from our valued partners help cover costs of the event.

What is there for kids to do?

The kid's area includes hands-on experiences with musical instruments, facilitated by musicians and music teachers. Kids will enjoy face painting, rock painting, and henna tattoos. There will be volleyball, giant bubbles, and acrobatic performances.

What is there for dogs to do?

Dogs can meet new friends and participate in the "Doggies are Welcome" contest. Prizes will be awarded. Dog owners can create a custom bandana for their dog.

Why should I attend Mountain Jam?

The inspiration for Mountain Jam is to connect as a community, sharing the love of music and appreciating the creative opportunities our mountain community



Photos by Kevin Arnold

has provided over the years. This is the same inspiration that produced *Song Around the Mountain—Peace Train*. Check it out at www.santacruzmountainjam/peace.

What have people said about previous Mountain Jams?

"From the big tents to the grounding grass, everything had its natural flow and light-hearted mountain vibe."

"Everyone seemed to lose themselves in their music on stage, because the audience held every note."

Where can I get more information?

All the details are available at www.SantaCruzMountainJam.org, or by scanning this QR code.



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Located in the Los Gatos community of Redwood Estates, sits the Redwood Estates post office. Less than 10 minutes from downtown Los Gatos, this commercial opportunity sits across from Nono's Italian restaurant and pizzeria, and next door to the Redwood Store in the Los Gatos foothills. Currently, this commercial structure which sits on a quarter acre lot, offers opportunities for expansion. The U.S. Postal Service lease runs out in 1 year. Additional storage under the post office provides plenty of space for storage or adding additional usable square footage. The interior currently consists of the main office with counter space, 1 bathroom, and PO boxes.

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KTP KANADY TEAM PROPERTIES

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community

Loma Prieta Community Foundation Summit on Summit: Leadership Reception Robin Porter

Our mountain community is unique. We have an abundance of active and involved organizations that make our community stronger. They include the Loma Prieta Club (since 1905), the Mountain Alliance, Leos, Mountain History Museum, Loma Prieta Community Foundation, and so many more. We have two food banks that feed over 1,000 families each month. We have Building Blocks Preschool, and Kids and Co. for before- and after-school care for our students. REC programs are expanding and this fall, we will revive the Mountain Kids Soccer League.

We have a great group of organizations for fire and emergency response: MERC, CERT, Ham Radio Club, Firewise/FireSafe, and our volunteer fire departments. Many neighborhoods have active neighborhood associations and churches.

Mountain organizations often work together to do great things. At a lemonade fundraiser for our schools, LPEF, Los Gatos Lions, home and school clubs, the Summit Sisters, and the Loma Prieta Community Foundation worked together for a wonderful community event.

Another example of organizations working together happened when Building Blocks Preschool had a children's clothing



(From left) Cassie Maas, Sanjay Khandelwal, and Paula Leary



Lynn Sestak spoke about fire safety



(From left) Robin Porter, Joe Simitian, Manu Koenig, and Larry Lopp

swap. They had so much excess clothing, they ran the same event the next weekend, so anyone in the community could grab clothes for their children. This event created an even bigger impact when its organizers collaborated with the Skyland Church food bank to provide clothing for families in need. We do great things when we work together.

On June 30, over 60 leaders from these organizations gathered at an event hosted by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation and Wrights Station Winery. In addition to our mountain leadership, we welcomed our new Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, and Santa Cruz County Supervisor Manu Koenig. Both supervisors spoke about the work they are doing and listened to concerns from mountain community members.

Issues like roads and fire were at the top of the list. This reception provided an opportunity for our mountain leadership and elected leaders from both counties to discuss some of the issues we face.

The Loma Prieta Community Foundation believes that the more connected we are, the more we can continue to work together for the benefit of the community. We intend to continue this work and would appreciate hearing from you. Call me at 408-353-2551, or email Robin.Porter@LagoLomita.com.



Supervisor Joe Simitian



Supervisor Manu Koenig



Larry Lopp



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August 20th Mountain Jam



Alex Lucero & The Live Again Band



The Joint Chiefs



Summit Sisters



EDYN

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Learn more



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community

Measure D Defeated
Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line
and Roaring Camp Railroads Saved
 Matt Farrell

Co-Chair No on D Committee

Thank you so much for your work to defeat Measure D, to protect the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and Roaring Camp Railroads while continuing the Rail & Trail project. The landslide result made our local values clear. Protecting our local businesses while moving forward with the Rail & Trail project isn't controversial. Rather, it is an extraordinarily popular unifying vision for a transportation corridor that will provide a better quality of life for county residents and visitors. Here are the latest unofficial election results broken down by district.

Join Friends of the Rail & Trail to advocate for the Coastal Rail Trail and clean, electric passenger rail. Let's make the vision real so that we can get some relief from traffic and enjoy a safer, more prosperous Santa Cruz County.



District	D1 - Koenig	D2 - Friend	D3 - Coonerty	D4 - Caput	D5 - McPherson	Grand Total
Registered Voters	37,076	36,812	31,876	23,459	38,436	167,659
Ballots Cast	18,075	17,526	15,783	6,437	18,521	76,342
NO on D Total	12,171	10,544	12,223	4,717	14,998	54,653
YES on D Total	5,493	6,602	3,180	1,534	3,111	19,920
NO on D %	68.9%	61.5%	79.4%	75.5%	82.8%	73.3%

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It Only Looks Like a Plant **Kelp**

Bruce Sudweeks

It looks like an underwater plant, but giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) is the tallest algae in the world. It can grow over 160 feet tall. It grows fast, up to two feet in a single day. As the algae grows, it produces small gas bladders that raise blades toward the surface to maximize sun exposure.

Not only does kelp look like a plant, it also acts like a plant by transporting nutrients such as nitrogen to the ocean's surface. It moves carbon from the surface down to the base of the kelp, where photosynthesis is difficult.

As a byproduct of photosynthesis, marine algae produce oxygen that we can breathe. In fact, marine algae create as much as 70 percent of the oxygen in the atmosphere. Plants produce oxygen in their leaves. Kelp uses its entire surface area to produce oxygen.



Surf photos by Bruce Fournier

calendar

ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

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. We meet on Zoom and (weather permitting) on the Pavilion lawn. Visit pamsyogafitness.com for details.

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.

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

Live bluegrass at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Fridays

Live music at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, on the first Friday of each month, 6 p.m.

All-ages karaoke at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, second and fourth Fridays of each month, 6 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'Armen, 408-634-3493.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday, August 11

The Bookmobile visits the mountains: **Lakeside School**, 11 to 11:45 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.

Saturday, August 20

Mountain Jam is a free, family-friendly music festival at the Loma Prieta Playfield and Gazebo, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Find out more at www.SantaCruzMountainJam.org.

Thursday, August 25

The Bookmobile visits the mountains: **Lakeside School**, 11 to 11:45 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.

Sunday, September 11

Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue annual barbecue will be at the Loma Prieta Playfield and Gazebo, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Saturday, September 17
 Loma Prieta Museum hosts Pioneer Day, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Mason-Taylor Ranch, 22849 Summit Road. Enjoy barbecue, live music, pioneer history talks, old-fashioned children's games, and a silent auction.

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Animal Photography

Shoot your favorite animal (with a camera), tell us your first name and the general area of the shooting, and just for fun use a pun. Email your animal (picture) to mnews@comcast.net. Make them famous in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



Las Trampas? I should be pecking wood in Neil's Villa del Monte.



Betty, if I'm in Glenwood East, where is Glenwood West?








Bernadette, I feel so woody

Angelé Price

*From the Valley to the Sea
& the Mountains in between*

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opinion

Changes are Necessary Accessory Structure Building Codes

Pete Heller
Redwood Estates Resident

This article is for Santa Clara County residents, but Santa Cruz County readers may find it of interest, too. Have you tried to get a building permit for an accessory structure like a garage, storage unit, or workshop? Have you given up because of the difficulties involved?

Recently, while attempting to get a permit, I researched the zoning codes. I've found the accessory-structure codes have significant inconsistencies. They are difficult to understand and apply. Permits for utilitarian accessory structures are unnecessarily restrictive regarding setbacks.

Santa Clara County residents need simplified and less onerous building codes for accessory structures. This is particularly relevant for mountain residents who don't have attached garages. Many of us rely on accessory buildings, such as detached garages and storage structures.

Unfortunately, current zoning codes are inconsistent, confusing, and unnecessarily burdensome. It seems as if they have been developed piecemeal, without a unifying framework. For example, accessory-structure setbacks are different from those for ADUs. They also vary significantly depending on the number of streets the property fronts and the depth of the property.

Why should accessory structures be set back 30 feet (or more), when ADUs, which are typically larger structures, are only set back four feet?

Why is the number of streets fronted relevant? Aren't smaller setbacks appropriate when the property fronts multiple streets, since the road provides greater separation between neighbors?

When two or three streets are fronted, why is the setback based on a percentage? That means the county must treat every lot individually. It also leads to excessively large setbacks (up to 75 feet) for accessory structures sitting on deep lots. With 25 percent setbacks on the front and rear sides of a property, the county is effectively condemning 50 percent of some properties as non-buildable. Is this requirement justified?

	Non ADU Accessory Structure Setback	ADU Setback	Accessory Structure Code Section
1	30 feet	4 feet	2.20.030
2	25 percent (with 75' max from both front and rear)	4 feet	4.20.020(F)(2)
3	25 percent (with 30' max from side and 75' max from front or rear). If "discernable" rear yard then all normal rear yard setbacks apply.	4 feet	4.20.020(F)(4)

Why would any accessory structure need to be set back 75 feet?

Why is there a "discernible" rear yard carveout when three streets are fronted but not for two?

I proposed to Supervisor Simitian that setbacks for all accessory structures should be four feet, consistent with ADUs. This would dramatically simplify the zoning codes, provide predictability, reduce costs, and save time for residents and the planning department. It makes especially good sense for detached garages and storage structures, since they need access to the road. It would also enable residents with unpermitted structures to bring them into compliance.

Supervisor Simitian's office has been supportive and has referred this request to the planning department for review. The planning department's next review is scheduled for 2023. We have time to make our voices heard.

If you agree with my proposal, write or call Joe Simitian at supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org, or call 408-299-5050. You can send the same message to the

planning department, since they review and update building codes. While not ideal, they ask you to submit a message on the ADU information page: <https://plandev.sccgov.org/how/build-or-improve-property/accessory-dwellings-units>.

The planning department limits your message to 300 characters, so your message could include: "ADU setbacks are four feet, so all accessory structures setbacks should be four feet. Relevant zoning would be consistent and easy to understand. It would provide predictability, reduce costs, and save time for residents and the planning department."





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exploring

A Walk on the Wild Side
Las Trampas
Regional Wilderness Preserve
Neil Wiley

It may take you more than an hour to drive up I-680 to San Ramon, but it can be worth it if you value a quiet, beautiful place of solitude to hike, ride your bike or horse, spot birds, or walk your dog.

Las Trampas trails are primitive, especially those in the forested areas. There is no water

and no cell-phone reception. In return, you move through a tranquil 5,778 acres of shady forest and large golden hills. On a weekday morning, I saw only one person on the 2.1-mile Bollinger Creek Loop.

I stepped through a cattle gate, and in a few steps, I was in a forest of singing birds. I heard them, but I only photographed one busy red-headed woodpecker.

I took a barely visible dirt path to follow the loop clockwise along the left side of the seasonal Bollinger Creek. It's no sidewalk. The trail made lots of twists and turns and was less than three-feet wide. It wasn't too hard to follow, but the edges were a bit

indefinite, and I had to slide under a few bushes. Although the elevation gain is 331 feet, the climbs were easy.

It was more like exploring than walking. I liked it. After all, Las Trampas is more than a park; it's a wilderness preserve.

I broke out of the shade in about a mile, where I entered a very different environment. The trail was hard-packed dirt





covering a six-foot-wide road that took me up and around grass-covered hills. I could see big sky in all directions. The contrast between a dark and narrow shaded trail and sunny open space gave me a lift.

When I reached the intersection with the Las Trampas Peak trail, I was tempted to go up, but when I saw that the climb was steeper, I decided to finish my hike around the loop by walking downhill on Bollinger Creek Loop, through sunny meadows and under flocks of fast-flying birds. After taking a few pictures, I was ready for lunch.

This trail may be even better in the rainy season when the hills are green, and Bollinger Creek is running.

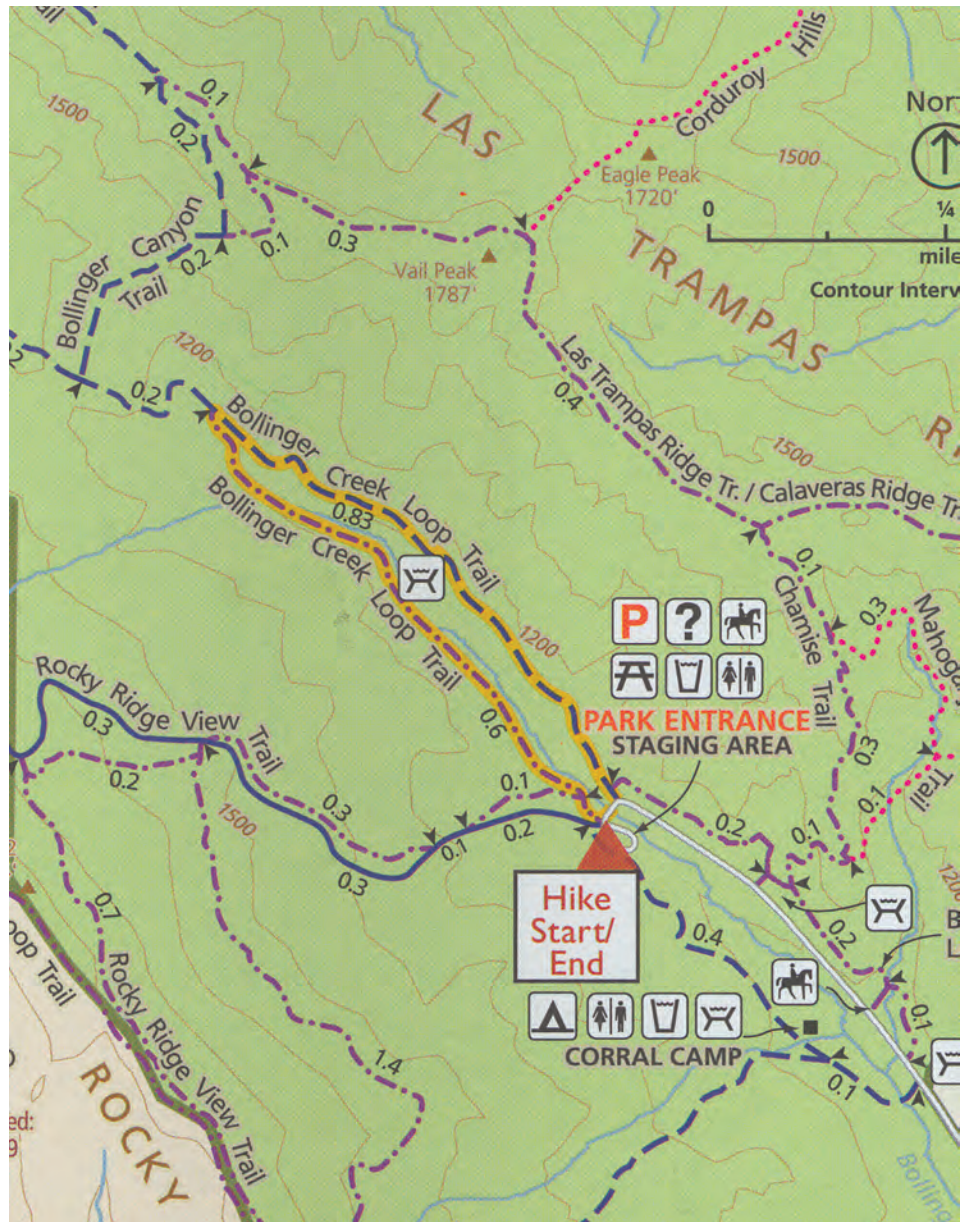
If you like longer hikes, you can walk 15 miles on Las Trampas Ridge Trail. If you want the “best” trail, the 5.5 mile Camille to Sulphur Creek trail has a 4.7 star rating from Alltrails.com. It also has an elevation gain of 1,856 feet.

Directions

It’s an easy, but long, drive over the hill on I-680 to San Ramon. You could turn west on Bollinger Canyon Road, but it’s faster to go west on Crow Canyon Road (exit 36), and then turn right (north) on Bollinger Canyon Road. Go to the end of the road and through an open gate, to the preserve’s staging area. Enjoy.

To avoid the traffic crunch, make your trip after 9 a.m. on a weekday, with a return in early afternoon. The preserve is open from 8 a.m. to sunset. For your GPS, you can use the address 18012 Bollinger Road, San Ramon, CA 94583.

The Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Trail Preserve is managed by the East Bay Regional Park District. For more information, visit ebparks.org/parks/las_trampas. There are no entry or parking fees.



history

What's in a Name?

Loma Prieta

Neil Wiley

Our children learned that Loma Prieta is derived from the Spanish *Loma* (a small hill), and *Prieta* (dark color). The name is given to our highest local mountain at 3,791 feet elevation, but in 1854 it was renamed Mount Bache by the Coast Survey. Fortunately, the name didn't stick. Since 1916, our dark hill has been officially known as Loma Prieta.

The name is so popular that it has been attached to many roads, schools, organizations, a village, the 1989 earthquake, and northern Santa Cruz County (even though the mountain is in Santa Clara County).

The confusion doesn't end there. Visitors don't always know that while you can turn off Summit Road to reach Loma Prieta Avenue, you need to travel Mount Bache Road to find Loma Prieta Way.

When the 1989 earthquake was named the Loma Prieta Earthquake, those of us in the Summit area complained that the epicenter wasn't near Loma Prieta School, but further south in The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park.

While that was true, most of us didn't know that the village of Loma Prieta was there before the state park, most of our Summit community, and the earthquake. The village opened in 1883, about four miles north of Aptos.

According to Donald Thomas Clark's *Santa Cruz County Place Names*, it was located "just below where Bridge Creek and the main Aptos Creek join after crossing Aptos on a high bridge for the Loma Prieta Railroad. It crosses a rather broad flat in a curve of the creek where the banks fall



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away vertically for 50 to 60 feet to the creek bottom. A beautiful fringe of trees grows along the flat, and it is here that the Loma Prieta Company decided to build their little town. It consisted of a store, hotel, Wells Fargo office, post office, extra switch track, and a large water tank for the locomotives. Here also were homes for the more important employees. Further up the railroad track, on a slope to the right, was the schoolhouse and two or three dwellings.” This was written by A. Stoodley of the Loma Prieta Lumber Company.

Although little remains of the village, we visited the site with the Loma Prieta Museum in July. (I may have some pictures for you in our September issue.)

I believe that the schoolhouse mentioned by A. Stoodley was in the Loma Prieta School District, formed in 1885. It appears to have disappeared before 1906.

In 1949, several school districts (Burrell, Hester Creek, Highland, and Summit) were merged to create our present-day Loma Prieta Joint Union School District. Although it is a Santa Clara County school, the elementary and middle-school buildings are now located in Santa Cruz County. If you go out to the athletic field east of the school, you can see the same old Loma Prieta mountain. Some things change, but some names live on.

Special thanks to Sandy Lydon, the history dude, who led the history department at Cabrillo College, and led us on many wonderful travel adventures. He recently gifted our Mountain History Archive with two books: Santa Cruz County Place Names, and Monterey County Place Names. He says that the Santa Cruz book is the single most important book ever published on Santa Cruz County.



The Loma Prieta Shingle Mill, 1888



Loma Prieta Elementary School in the 1940s



august 2022



Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

people

Nancy Wiley is Married
A Wedding and Family Reunion
 Neil Wiley

When 40 or so family members and friends met in Santa Fe, New Mexico, they got more than a reunion. One of their own, Neil and Marlene's daughter Nancy, starred in her own wedding to Tim Chaney.

Nancy shared the occasion with her sisters, Lisa, Jill, and April, who grew up together in the Santa Cruz Mountains. They schooled at Loma Prieta, C.T. English, and Los Gatos High, then went away to college, careers, and children.

The sisters brought their significant others and children to Santa Fe. They were joined by an extended family that goes back many generations.

The first night, everyone gathered to learn more about the Wood family heritage. Who were the four brothers who created this family tree? Where did they come from? Where and how did they live? Neil's brother, Gale Wiley, sister Nancy Thornton, and cousin Jacqueline Martin presented a detailed family history through pictures, descriptions, and diagrams. Some of the content was based on Marlene



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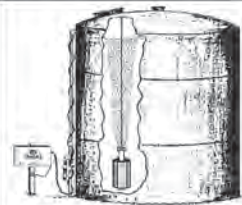
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Wiley's written family history. Cousin Jackie dug deeper, reporting stories of our French Huguenot branch.

The next day, we enjoyed being tourists. Some rafted. Some shopped. Some enjoyed the art, music, and the foods unique to Santa Fe. We ate. We talked. We strengthened our ties as a family.

Then came the *pièce de résistance*: the wedding. Brother Gale officiated the ceremony. Nancy's children escorted her down the aisle. We applauded. We cried. April and I led toasts. We ate beautiful cake. We talked for hours.

I don't know if this would work for every family, but a reunion that ends with a wedding can be wonderful. I thank everyone who made this a special family occasion.



SCOTT GREEN

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schools

Loma Public Education Fund
The Future is Bright
 Lydia Harville

Loma Public Education Fund has approved a grant of \$537,540.27 to be awarded to Loma Prieta Elementary and C.T. English Middle schools for the 2022-2023 school year. With the support of our beloved community, we will fund critical programs such as physical education, music, band, counseling services, and library. In addition, this will maintain an 11th classroom at Loma, seventh-grade Spanish, art, math intervention, and more.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, sponsors, and volunteers who have made this possible. Funds were raised in 2021-2022 through our direct-giving campaign (Keep Excellent Education Program), and some successful in-person events. We were delighted to see friends, family, and alumni at our annual Gala celebration for our night under the stars. In addition, our Sips for Schools and the Fore the Kids golf tournament were resounding successes.

Would you like to support a great cause, share your talent and energy with like-minded individuals, connected with our



local schools, and have fun?

The Loma Public Education Fund raises funds to support critical programs at our schools. We award the money to the district as program grants. With these grants, our children have learning opportunities they would otherwise not have. Through fundraising, we bridge the gap between what our schools receive in government funding and the cost to educate each student.

Volunteers are critical to the success of our fundraising. By joining LPEF as a volunteer, you'll have the opportunity to connect with a community of generous and dedicated individuals who share the same love for Loma and CTE. We are seeking board

members, including officer positions. Some areas where we need help include event planning, communications, recordkeeping, and data entry.

We also need support in planning the Gala, a celebration that brings our mountain community together in support of Loma Prieta Joint Union School District. This is our biggest fundraising event for LPEF, raising more than half our annual budget. This major event relies on the support and efforts of our volunteers. Please join us as we begin planning.



If you are interested in learning more, or joining this wonderful organization, email us at president@lpef.org.

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<https://www.edjoin.org/lomaprieta>



Local Schools
Your Vote Matters

The board of trustees of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District selected Bill W. Sanderson as the new superintendent. Bill served as assistant superintendent of San Francisco Unified School District high schools for the past eight years. He has worked in public education in South Carolina and San Francisco. Growing up in rural South Carolina, just after desegregation, Bill saw firsthand the isolation of underserved populations, and the life-changing opportunities that education can offer.

Public education is important for our future. There are a number of open seats on local school boards up for election in the November 2022 election. Your participation and vote matter for our community.

The Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District and Los Gatos Union School District have three board positions open. The Lakeside Joint and the Loma Prieta Joint Union school districts have three long-term positions and one short-term position open.

If you are interested in running for a board seat, the deadline to file is **Friday, August 12**. For more information, call the appropriate school district office.

Champions Preschool
Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall

Registration is now open for Champions Preschool on the Lakeside School campus, 19621 Black Road. Nurture your child's creativity and sense of discovery this fall. They will learn, play, and make friends in a safe, fun, and educational program.

Champions Preschool is open to children ages three to five. Weekly tuition is \$227 for one to two days per week, and \$378 for three to five days per week. School hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To find out more, or to enroll your child, call Gretchen Jacobson at 408-460-7935, email ch001895@discoverchampions.com, or visit discoverchampions.com.

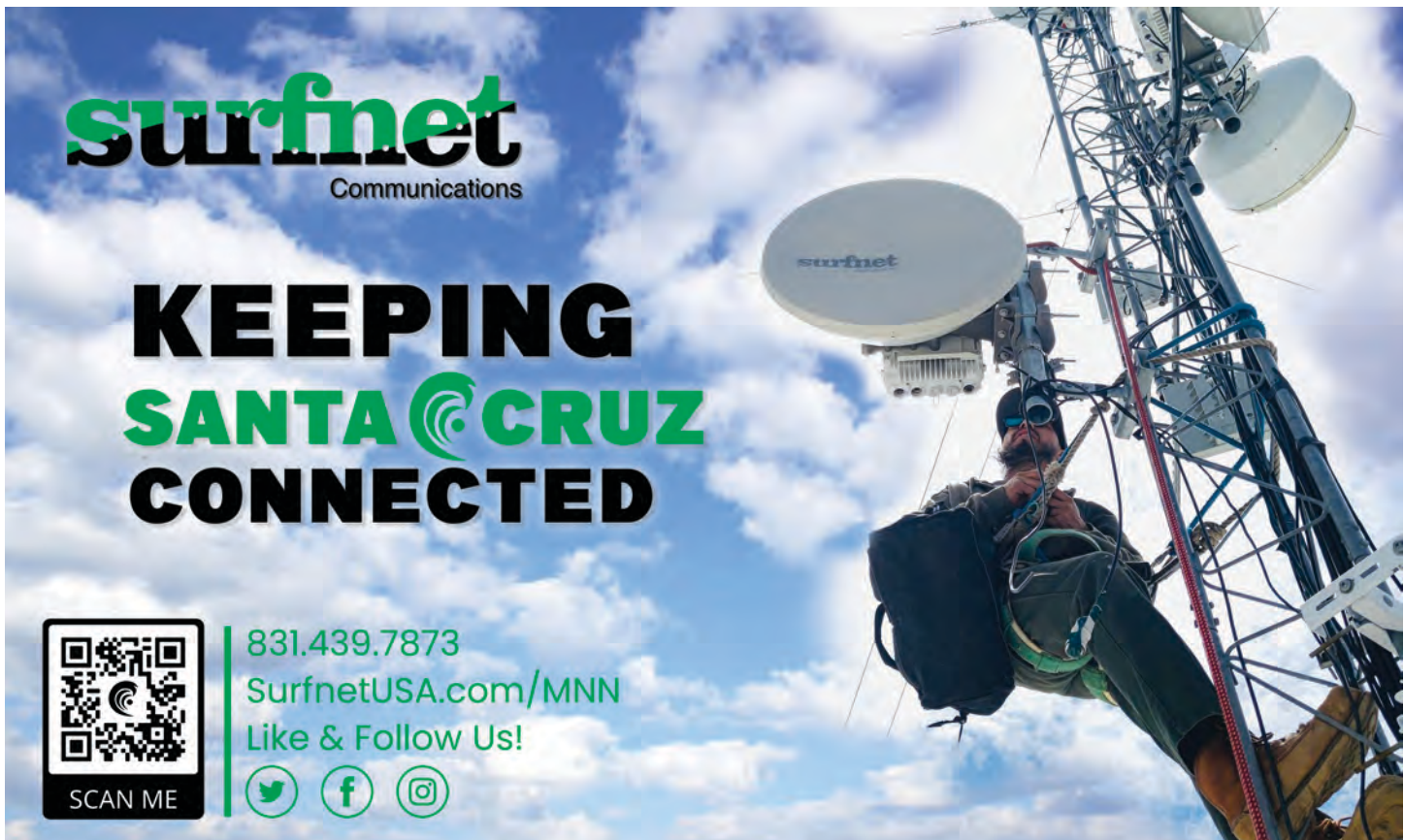


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schools

Lakeside School News

Shama Marshall

The Lakeside School administration team has been busy preparing for the upcoming school year. We are pleased to welcome two new members to our instructional team.

Nicoli Trefil will join our staff as a new classroom teacher. He comes to Lakeside with a background teaching in an International Baccalaureate school, and as a vocalist. He previously worked at a small private school.

Wendy Candelaria is a former Lakeside parent who joined the team in June as an instructional assistant for our extended-school-year program. She has been a wonderful new addition to our school.

We thank parent volunteers Tim Fishback, Ryan Poling, and Dave Marshall for volunteering this summer to improve the playground and school track.

Eagle Scout and Lakeside alum, Finlay Hughes-Bland, worked diligently over the summer on a new pergola for the Lakeside garden. Students, teachers, and visitors will be able to enjoy the benefits of all his hard work.

Students in the Lakeside district and surrounding areas were able to attend the Champions Champ Camp summer program at Lakeside in June and July. Champ Camp

offered students an opportunity to “travel the world,” learning about other countries and cultures, engaging in hands-on art, STEM, and outdoor activities, and enjoying surprise visits from Kona Ice.

Champions has been a very inclusive partner to Lakeside, welcoming *all* students regardless of needs and abilities. During the school year, Champions provides before- and after-school care at Lakeside.

Looking to the coming school year, we are working hard to bring new drama and coding programs to students. In addition, thanks to the parent and community support of the Lakeside School Community Foundation, Lakeside will continue to offer students science, art, physical education, and the garden program.

We hope our Lakeside families had an amazing summer break. The first day of school is **Thursday, August 18.**



Eagle Scout and Lakeside alum, Finlay Hughes-Bland, built a new pergola for the Lakeside Garden.



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schools

Building Blocks Preschool Summer Fun Rebecca Witmar

Dragons! Dinosaurs! Rainbows and glitter! These were just a few of the delightful themes of Building Blocks Cooperative Preschool's weekly summer sessions in June and July.

All classes were held outdoors with lots of art projects and sensory activities, especially water play. After the pirate-themed session, four-year-old Hunter Nachison recalled that he especially "loved the treasure hunt and making a spyglass."

Nicole Gomez, director and lead teacher during the school year, rotated leading the sessions with another teacher, Shawna Persaud. Shawna shared, "Summer session has been so much fun. The children are energized and excited for each day."



One of my favorite summer activities is water play. The warm summer weather is perfect for exploring with multiple water activities. Teacher Shawna added, "Water play is easy to do at home as well. Using a small to medium plastic storage bin, fill about halfway with water. Add measuring cups and spoons. For more fun, you can add food coloring, small toys, or items found in nature."

Many incoming families enrolled their children during the summer to ease the

transition into the preschool environment. The summer classes were shorter and smaller, so they were a perfect way for children to orient themselves to school, and gain confidence and independence from their primary caregivers. "Hopefully, navigating some of the separation anxiety this summer will make starting school in the fall a bit easier for them," reflected Gomez.

Several sets of siblings attended together. Gomez reported, "Our summer program features an opportunity for mixed ages to learn together in a more casual environment. This allows siblings to attend



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class together, giving our older children chances to teach the younger ones. That builds everyone's self-esteem." Sibling relationships among the students magnified the sense of interconnectedness among our families and staff.

The membership coordinators, Alice Stevens and Alexandra San Filippo, hosted a community playdate at Building Blocks in early July. Mountain families with young children, whether enrolled at the preschool or not, made new friendships and deepened existing ones. The school hopes to offer

more community playdates soon.

Building Blocks is owned by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, visit our website at www.buildingblockcoop.org.



Ice Melting Activity

This activity is not only fun on a hot day, but it also teaches science concepts like states of matter and heat transfer. Using a dropper strengthens the muscle groups needed for the eventual acquisition of handwriting skills. A turkey baster is an excellent substitute for a dropper and easier to use for a younger child.

Materials:

Water, freezer, small dish or container (repurposed plastic food containers work well), small toys or other items to freeze (such as coins, pompoms, plants or other natural materials), salt, cups, metal spoon, dropper or turkey baster, and towel.

Directions:

The day before you wish to do the activity, fill a small container with water. Place items to freeze in the water, and put the container in the freezer. Once it's frozen, prepare a workspace with towels nearby. If indoors, put a cookie sheet beneath the container to capture excess water. Provide your child with a small cup of salt to sprinkle over the ice.

Provide a cup of hot water and another of cold water so that the child can explore how the temperature affects the dissolution process. Dye the hot water red and the cold water blue, to help the child distinguish between the two, and learn how these colors correspond to temperature.

The child can then use a spoon, dropper, or baster to apply the hot and cold water to the ice, to watch it slowly dissolve and retrieve the items frozen inside.

Variation A: Add the ice to a bin of water, a wading pool, or the bathtub.

Variation B: Use the chunks of ice to make ice sculptures. Check out some of Andy Goldsworthy's artwork for inspiration.

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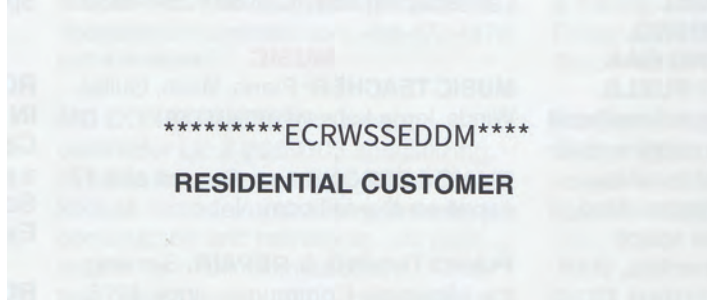
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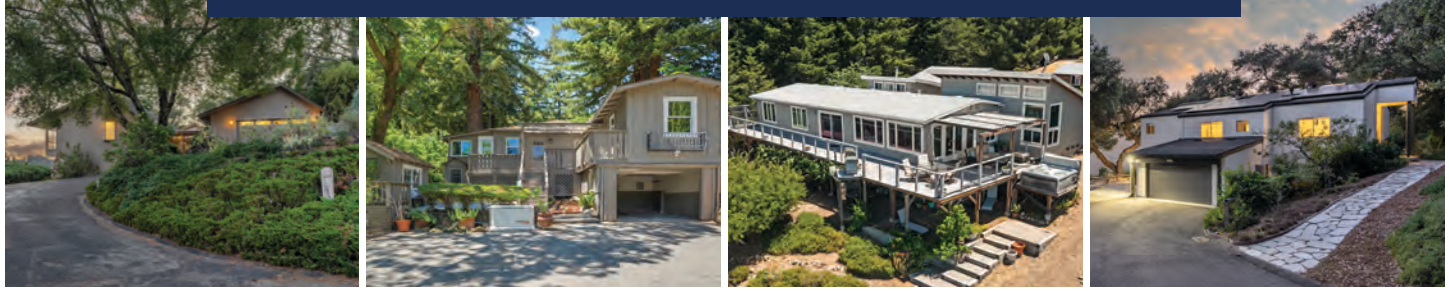


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