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October 2022

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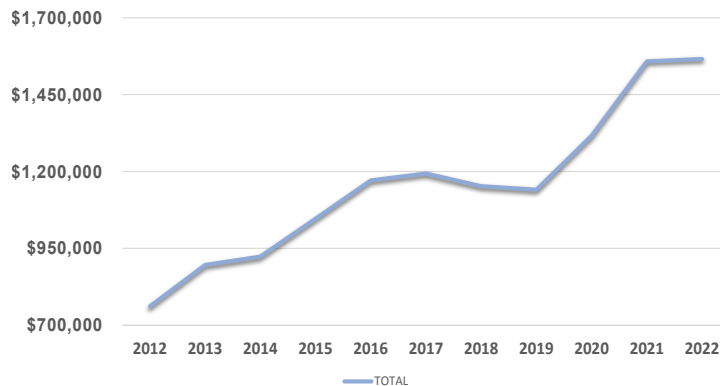
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live work play



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DRE 70010073

Saratoga



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2,699,000
3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2135 Sq Ft

Lisa Sgarlato
408.396.7231
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DRE 01342694

Santa Cruz



1033 Nobel Dr
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Sebastian Frey
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Los Gatos Mountains



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Watsonville



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Los Gatos Mountains



21433 Broadway Rd
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**The October issue of
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We invite individuals and organizations to submit letters and articles. Email mnnews@comcast.net, or mail to MNN, 23625 Skyview Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95033-9212. For information, call Neil Wiley (408-353-1901). We reserve the right to edit submissions. We assume no responsibility for errors, omissions, or authors' opinions. Deadline: 10th of the preceding month.

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Circulation

More than 4000 homes and businesses
in the Santa Cruz Mountains



Pumpkins

signal a season
of change.

Eat pumpkin pie.

Enjoy the Gala.

Dress up for Halloween
at the Redwood Estates
Pavilion.

Smell the flowers
in Patti's
Maison du Lac
Garden.

Live in the past
at
Loma Prieta Museum
events.

Shop, eat, and see friends
during
Harvest Festivals.

Wear boots
at the
Summit Riders' Playday.

Get out
your rain gear.

Try something new.

Make a new friend.

Earn a holiday day
every month
until 2023.

Eat more
pumpkin pie.

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IS



17575 Greenwood Drive Los Gatos

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COMPASS

events

Last Minute News
Loma Prieta Museum

Castro Adobe History Tour **Roger Mason**

If you are reading this in September, it isn't too late to sign up for a tour of the Castro Adobe. Paul Karz, California Park Ranger, invites you on a tour.

His 90-minute guided tour of the Castro Adobe State Historic Park is on **Friday, September 30**, from noon to 3 p.m., in Larkin Valley near Watsonville.

The Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe is one of the grandest of all adobe buildings representing the Mexican Rancho Period of California history (1821-1848). It was built between 1848-1850 by Juan Jose Castro, son of Jose Joaquin Castro, who was an original Juan Bautista de Anza expedition member.

If it isn't too late, see event information on our website: www.LomaPrietaMuseum.org.



Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe



Los Gatos Library **Rudy Rucker Interviews** **Metro Columnist Gary Singh** **Cheryl McKenzie**

Longtime *Metro* columnist Gary Singh will speak at a free Friends of Los Gatos Library event at the Los Gatos Library, 100 Villa Avenue in Los Gatos, on **Thursday, October 6**, at 5 p.m. He will discuss his book, *Silicon Alleys: Selected Metro Silicon Valley Columns, 2005-2020*, a compilation of 250 of his "Silicon Alleys" columns featured in *Metro*, a San Jose alternative weekly newspaper published since 2005.

Johnny Moore, former general manager of the San Jose Earthquakes, said, "To look at San Jose through Gary's eyes is an

education. He is to San Jose what Herb Caen was to San Francisco—part of the city, part of its vibe. For years he has walked the streets, enjoying hot spots and dives."

Singh will be interviewed by San Jose State University emeritus professor and author Dr. Rudy Rucker, who taught Singh at SJSU and wrote the book's forward. Rucker, a Los Gatos resident, is an award-winning writer who has published 40 books, which include science fiction, novels, collections, and nonfiction.

The talk is sponsored by Friends of Los Gatos Library. Mary Martin, president of the group, says, "Our volunteer organization provides financial support for library programs that serve people of all ages, from infants to adults. Last year more than 2,700 people attended 300 programs, performances, and classes funded by our organization. We also paid for local history room supplies: activity kits, puzzles, ukuleles, sewing machines, and other surprising items."

The Friends of Los Gatos Library raise money through the Friends of the Library Bookstore, where lightly used books sell for rock-bottom prices. The only bookstore in Los Gatos, it is located at 110 E. Main Street, near the Civic Center Plaza fountain. We are open Wednesdays through Sundays, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Adult Halloween Dance **in Redwood Estates** **Resurrected!** **Susan Francis**

On **Saturday, October 29**, all adult ghosts, goblins, and witches are welcome to the return of the annual Halloween Dance at the Redwood Estates Pavilion, sponsored by RESA.

This event is more than a party. It raises critical funds for our children's events. Dig out your favorite costume, dust off your cobwebs, and come as anyone but yourself.

We welcome back the Joint Chiefs Band. The music starts at 7 p.m. Beer, wine, and sodas will be for sale.

You need to be 21 or older to enjoy the indoor dancing and the outdoor spirits. Tickets are \$25 at the door.

Body count is limited, so scare us early. Squeeze yourself into a costume and you may even win a prize or terrify yourself in the photo booth.

Thank you for supporting Redwood Estates activities. Let's have fun! If you have any questions, email resaservice@comcast.net.

The Afterlife at.. **Redwood Estates Pavilion**



Halloween Dance

Saturday, October 29th 7-10..
21450 Madrone Dr. Los Gatos

The Joint Chief's Band Live

BODIES MUST BE 21 * BEER WINE SODA ON SALE
PARKING IS LIMITED, PLEASE CARPOOL * COSTUME PRIZES!
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events

Summit Riders Family Fun at the Playday Melany Moore

The Summit Riders will host the 2022 Fall Playday on **Saturday, October 15**, at the SRHA Arena, at Parker Ranch on Miller Hill Road. Riders and their horses will be challenged by fun games and a costume contest.

Join us for our traditional barbecue lunch, available for purchase to attendees. Lunch is included in each rider's fee and is free to volunteers. The Fall Playday is sure to make some wonderful memories.

All proceeds go to maintain the Summit Riders Horseman's Association, which was founded in 1967. Questions? Email Melany Moore at melanymoore88@gmail.com, or call 408-886-4792.



Calling Local Mountain Crafters and Artisans Loma Prieta Holiday Craft Fair Lila Jones

C.T. English Home and School Club's 29th Annual Loma Prieta Holiday Craft Faire will be on **Saturday, December 10**, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and **Sunday, December 11**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Loma Prieta Community Center, 23800 Summit Road.

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, we are excited to be back. We are looking for local artists and crafters to offer their goods for sale to eager holiday shoppers.

Admission is free for shoppers, making it a great local venue. The Loma Prieta Holiday Craft Faire raises money for the C.T. English Home and School Club. It is our largest fundraiser.

For vendor booth application and fee information, visit <https://www.ctehsc.org/fundraising/holiday-craft-faire>, or email lomaprietaholidaycraftfaire@ctehsc.org.

Loma Prieta Museum Early Railroads In The Mountains Roger Mason

Railroad historian, Brian Liddicoat, will present *Early Railroads in the Santa Cruz Mountains*, on **Tuesday, October 25**, at 7 p.m., in the Loma Prieta School Forum. This free community event is sponsored by the Loma Prieta Museum and the Loma Prieta Community Foundation.

If you like railroads, don't miss this interesting and educational history of early railroads, tunnels, and stations in the



Santa Cruz Mountains. The presentation will include pictures of the early railroad route being constructed in the 1870s. It was used to ship fruit and lumber from the mountains and to bring tourists to the mountains and Santa Cruz.

If you want a seat, come early. We expect a large audience.

See our new website at www.LomaPrietaMuseum.org, or visit Facebook. [com/LomaPrietaMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/LomaPrietaMuseum).

Las Cumbres Holiday Bazaar Vicki Perkins

A traditional favorite event from the early days of Las Cumbres, our Holiday Bazaar returns on **Sunday, December 4**, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will be held in the Las Cumbres community center, 18620 Las Cumbres Road.

We are excited to hold an in-person event after two years of our virtual *Bizarre Bazaar*. Do your holiday shopping here in the mountains and purchase hand-crafted jewelry, pottery, soaps, hand-woven scarves, herbal teas, hand-printed mountain T-shirts, home goods, and other wonderful handmade gift items from local artisans. We also feature student displays of delightful gift items handcrafted by our young artists.

Relax with your neighbors at Café Las Cumbres, where baked goods, soups, and drinks are offered throughout the day. The Las Cumbres Pantry will feature local jam, honey, home-made candy, fudge, applesauce, and other goodies.

We will have activities for children, and a children's book corner, where you can purchase gently used children's books for a small donation.

Proceeds from the bazaar benefit South Skyline Firefighters (Company 29) and the South Skyline Fire Safe Council, two volunteer-based organizations dedicated to wildfire safety.

If you are interested in being a vendor, email bazaar@lascumbres.org. Applications are due **October 15**.



Real Estate Lots & Land

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LOS GATOS - Upscale Custom Home Development Land with Conceptual Design in progress. Property located in a prestigious area of \$5M+ homes and wineries. 3 separate buildable parcels totaling 17 acres, 13.75 acres, 1.93 acres, and 2.35 acres. 2 wells in place, electricity available. Located .6 mile to Hwy 17 & one exit to downtown Los Gatos. Close to hiking, biking, and open space. Views to Silicon Valley & Lexington Reservoir. This property sits directly across the street from, Black Ridge Vineyards and next to an Open Space preserve and close to Hwy 17 and downtown Los Gatos, St Josephs Hill Preserve, Lexington Reservoir County Park, Los Gatos Creek Trail, Camel Hill Vineyards, Testarossa Winery, and Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. Sought after Los Gatos Schools. ASKING \$2,225,000

2.35-acre Lot – Highland Wy. Los Gatos

0 Highland Way, Los Gatos - Opportunity to design and build your new Custom New home and accessory dwelling unit the beautiful Los Gatos mountains. The approximately 2.35-acre parcel is currently vacant and unimproved. The parcel is located on the northern side of Highland Way, approximately 0.6 miles east of the Soquel San Jose Road/Highland Way intersection. Approximately 830 feet of frontage on Highland Way. The parcel is bounded by Highland Way to the south and Burrell Creek to the north. Close to hiking and biking trails and wineries! Good commute location to Silicon Valley and Santa Cruz with easy access to Highway 17. Feasibility report prepared by Hamilton Swift. ASKING \$210,000

4.05-acre Lot - Soquel San Jose Road

0 Soquel San Jose - Opportunity to build your dream home and accessory dwelling unit. The approximately 4.05-acre parcel is currently vacant and unimproved. The parcel is located on the eastern side of Soquel San Jose Road, approximately 5 miles north of the Soquel Drive/Porter Street intersection in the quiet and sought-after town of Soquel. The parcel has approximately 1,400 feet of frontage on Soquel San Jose Road. Bounded by Soquel San Jose Road to the west and Hester Creek to the east. Close to hiking & biking trails and Nisene Marks Park. Good commute location to Silicon Valley and Santa Cruz with easy access to Highway 17. Feasibility report prepared by Hamilton Swift. ASKING \$190,000

1.61-acre Lot - 0 Lupine Lane, Santa Cruz

0 Lupine Lane, Santa Cruz - Build your home in the exclusive community of Chaminade Resort & Spa! Water is in and infrastructure is in place with paved road access. Minutes to restaurants, beaches and local attractions including Lighthouse Point, Steamer Lane, Santa Cruz Surf Museum, The Santa Cruz Wharf, The Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center, and in proximity to Natural Bridges State Beach and the University of California at Santa Cruz. 30 miles to Silicon Valley or about an hour to San Francisco, Monterey, and Carmel-By-The-Sea. ASKING \$550,000

Santa Cruz Mountains 9.7 acres in Felton

Sun and Views at the top of the parcel with a beautiful building homesite. Serenity, peace quiet and public water ready. Redwood grove and a small seasonal creek. You won't find anything better at this price! Preliminary survey has been recorded confirming lot lines. Good ingress and egress on a maintained, private road. The 2nd gate does not define the property line. Grandma's house is now deteriorated, including the foundation of the former house. San Lorenzo Water is available. Asking \$390,000

Santa Cruz Mfg. & Distribution

Santa Cruz manufacturing and distribution with Adult Use and Medicinal Distributor License and Adult and Manufacturing Medicinal Cannabis Products License Type 6 Non-Volatile Solvent Extraction. Great location, space 1360 s.f., current lease can be extended. Asking \$750,000

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community

Fire Safe County Roads Making Us Safer David Fullagar

The Fire Safe County Roads project is making progress on the Summit Road project.

In mid-August, the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County sent an "Invitation to Bid" package to about 40 local and national tree companies.

On August 25, Matt Abernathy and Angie Richman from RCD held a briefing near Summit Store, followed by a bid tour. This meeting was well attended, with 20 tree companies represented. Bids were opened on September 15.

Work should begin in early October, with completion no later than December 16.

If you want more information about



keeping your home safe, get a copy of the *Prepared, not Scared* brochure recently published by FireSafe Council of Santa Cruz County. It offers a helpful emergency-preparation worksheet and emergency-evacuation guide. It includes a comprehensive checklist of more than 150 items.

Do you know which radio stations broadcast emergency information? How

could you escape if you are trapped in a vehicle? Why it is important to post a residence-information sheet in a front window? Your questions are answered in this brochure. Copies are available at Summit Store or at Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County's website (<https://cafiresafecouncil.org/resource/fire-safe-council-of-santa-cruz-county>). You can also scan this QR code on your cell phone.



South Skyline FireSafe Council

Fall 2022 Free Chipping Program

The South Skyline FireSafe Council is accepting applications for its fall 2022 free chipping program. The deadline to apply is **Saturday, October 15**. Chipping will begin around **October 24**.

You must live within the south skyline area boundary to qualify. Visit www.southskylinesafesafe.org to view the service-area maps, get more information, and to apply.

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We are all concerned about fires.

District One News

Manu Koenig

First District Supervisor, Santa Cruz County

Sustainability Update

Santa Cruz County is nearing completion of a sustainability policy and regulatory update. The planning commission has held two public hearings. The next step is a public hearing before the board of supervisors. For the latest meeting information, visit sustainability-update-sccgis.opendata.arcgis.com.

This update includes revised regulations for housing, transportation, agriculture and resource conservation, sustainable communities, code modernization, commercial development, community services, and environmental justice. These changes address effective land use and transportation planning to create sustainable urban communities, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide housing options for county residents while protecting natural resources and agricultural areas.

Supervisors Approve Updated LAMP and Changes to Sewage Disposal Regulations

At the August 23 meeting of the board of supervisors, the board approved amendments for onsite wastewater-treatment systems in Santa Cruz County. The amendments

conform with state and county policy, as approved by the state's Central Coast regional water-quality control board.

At a public hearing to consider the proposed amendments, the board voted to approve, in concept, the amendments to County Code Chapter 7.38. This is a significant set of changes related to septic systems and requirements for advanced wastewater treatment systems. It will affect people living in rural areas and those who work in real estate and housing. My goal is to strike a balance between environmental safeguards and affordable housing alternatives. I voted against it, because I was concerned there had not yet been enough public input or consideration by relevant commissions and agencies. Still, the measure passed 4-1.

To see a summary of the changes, google "sccch lamp" and click on the pdf titled *Significant Changes in Proposed LAMP from 2016 Standards*.

New ALERT Wildfire Cameras Aid in Recent Fires

Two new wildfire cameras were very useful during the recent DeLaveaga fires. The cameras at Dream Inn and Silver Mountain Winery provided close-up views of the fire from different directions. This

helped firefighters limit the burn area to three to five acres. You can see the live feed from the fire cameras at www.alertwildfire.org/region/southeastbay/?camera=Axis-SilverMountain1.

In this year's budget, the board renewed support for the FireSafe Council of Santa Cruz County. Now is the time to join or start a Firewise group and become prepared, not scared. Learn more at www.firesafesantacruz.org/firewise-usa-recognition-program.

October Town Hall

On **Tuesday, October 11**, I will host a town hall meeting, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., in the Forum at Loma Prieta Elementary School, 23800 Summit Road. Attend in person or via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96708318897>.

For a full list of meetings, including recordings of past meetings, check our website: District 1 (santa-cruz.ca.us). Visit our office at the Sheriff Center (5200 Soquel Avenue) for office hours with Supervisor Koenig, on the first Wednesday of every month, from 1 to 3 p.m. Call us anytime by phone at 831-454-2200, email first.district@santacruzcounty.us, or join us at an upcoming community town hall meeting.

Angelé Price

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

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115 Woodlander Place

Delightfully tucked away in the majestic trees, this home is only minutes to Scotts Valley's great schools and shopping. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,000 sf. Great bones for your remodel ideas! **\$1,250,000**

SOLD



471 Parvin Drive

Stunning Mountain View townhome close to tech employers. Shows like a new home with fresh paint and new flooring. **\$1,200,000**

ACTIVE



23632 Skyview Terrace

Stunning and sophisticated home with beautiful designer touches. Privacy and easy living with chef's kitchen, new AC, sparkling pool, solar panels and Tesla Powerwall. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths. 2183 sq. ft. Call for price.

SOLD



111 Bean Creek Road

Cute & conveniently located condo close to Scotts Valley shopping, dining, and the brand new Target! Represented Buyer. **\$830,000**

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community

Thin, Limb, and Clean

Tish O'Reilly

After the Lexington Fire in 1985, I wrote my first article for the *Mountain Network News*. It was titled **TLC**, or Thin, Limb, and Clean your property. The article covered the basics of mountain-property maintenance to protect your home in a forest fire.

Remember these basics. **Thin** standing dead trees to reduce fuel and separate the tree canopy from the lower shrubs. **Limb** up healthy tree branches to create space between underbrush or forest floor plantings and tree limbs. **Clean** the forest of dead branches and excessive ground litter, but be careful not to disturb the under duff, a layer of partly decayed organic material that accumulates on the forest floor. This keeps the ground, growing trees, and shrubs moist.

I thought this was good advice, but 20 years after I had written that article, a neighbor said he didn't know how to TLC. Everyone knows we live with fire threat, but what can we do?

Planting a fire-safe garden around your home can help your property survive. So, what is fire-safe landscaping? One example is choosing garden landscape materials such

as gravel for mulch, incorporating larger cobblestones and boulders, and perhaps adding some small plants. These steps can create a dry creek bed that provides an effective fire break around your home.

What about fire-safe plantings? Choose plant material that is low growing, slow to burn, and can protect your home from flying or windblown sparks. Use green leafy plant material that does not contribute fuel. Look for plants with branches that carry little sap or oil.

Deciduous trees lose their leaves in one season. They offer beautiful fall color. Some

have spring flowers. Many are fire-resistant. They usually have less sap or resin in their branches and less fuel to burn.

Proper plant placement and spacing is also important. When planting a privacy screen between you and your neighbor, remember hedges can act as a fire ladder right up to your front door. Don't forget maintenance. Pruning dead branches on shrubs can improve fire protection.

Looking for a good plant material list that covers fire-safety? Search the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection website for fire-safe plants. Or go to my web site, www.pacmthort.com, and look under plant lists.

When I drive along our mountain roads, I see a new awareness of fire protection and pride of stewardship throughout our community. It's impressive to see chipping programs in Villa del Monte and Redwood Estates, the TLC around the Summit Store, and cleared trails that keep our children and local walkers away from the road. I also appreciate the Spanish Ranch neighborhood for their extensive fire protection and road clean-up. We can thank our mountain neighborhoods, fire-prevention groups, and our local volunteer fire departments. Let's follow their examples. We can make our homes and neighborhoods safer.



Coral bells





Sword fern



Pacific Coast iris



Wiltonii (creeping) juniper



Western redbud



Red hot poker



Dwarf manzanita



Bergenia purpurascens



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Mountain Jam Rocked!

Kathy McKinney

The Mountain Jam, held at the Loma Prieta Playfield and Gazebo in August, was a rocking success. An estimated 1,000 people attended the free family-musical festival. The entire event was organized by Louis and Jeannie Niemann, along with their musically talented grown children Oliver, Sean, Maggie, and Teo, who all attended Loma Prieta and C.T. English schools. Of course, many volunteers pitched in to help as well. The awesome music, delicious food, children's activities, pet contest, silent auction, creative vendors, fun crowd, and relaxed vibe made this a fabulous afternoon of entertainment on the mountain.

All proceeds from food/merchandise sales, donations, and the silent auction help fund the Loma Prieta School District music program. In 2019, the Mountain Jam raised \$4,500. This year, the Niemanns will donate \$10,000. They will also fund the newly created Mountain Jam Youth Music Scholarship. According to Louis, "The scholarship provides young people in our community the opportunity to explore their interest in music. Any young person who wants to learn an instrument or develop their voice can qualify. The scholarship funds up to 10 private lessons plus a musical instrument, if needed. Benefits are customized depending on student interest and need." To find out more, email santacruzmountainjam@gmail.com.

Thank you to the Niemann family, the many volunteers and community organizations involved, and everyone who attended the Mountain Jam.

Photos by Neil Wiley and Ksenia Kuzmina



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animals

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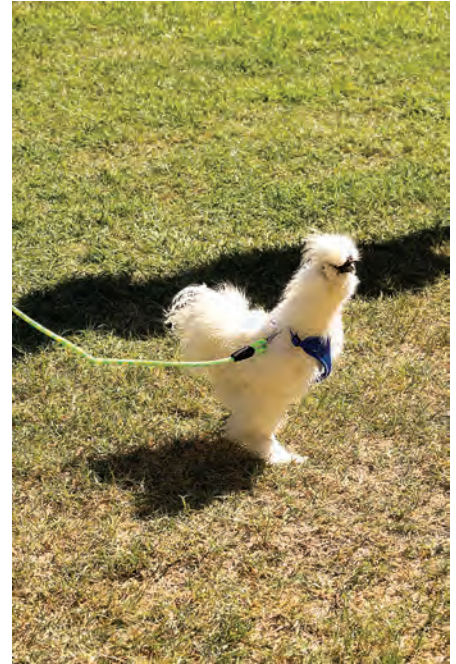
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Frederick's fox. I'm no cat or dog,
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Bill on Summit Road calls it,
"Waiting in line is for the birds."



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Bill asks, "How many quail do you see here on Summit Road?"

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calendar

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, September 30

Park ranger Paul Karz will offer a guided tour of the Castro Adobe State Historic Park, from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.LomaPrietaMuseum.org.

Saturday, October 1

LPEF 20th annual Gala auction and fundraiser.

Thursday, October 6

Longtime *Metro* columnist Gary Singh will speak at the Los Gatos Library, 100 Villa Avenue in Los Gatos, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11

Supervisor Manu hosts a town hall meeting at Loma Prieta Elementary School, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 15

Summit Riders 2022 Fall Playday at the SRHA Arena. Email Melany Moore at melanymoore88@gmail.com, or call 408-886-4792.

Goodwill donation drive, in the Loma Prieta/C.T. English parking lot at 23800 Summit Road, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, October 16

Harvest Festival at Lakeside School, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy games, crafts, pony rides, food trucks, and more.

Tuesday, October 18

Railroad historian Brian Liddicoat shares the history of railroads in the Santa Cruz Mountains, at 7 p.m., at Loma Prieta Elementary School.

Wednesday, October 26

Dine out at Super Duper Burger in Los Gatos to benefit Lakeside School. Print out a flyer at www.lakesidescf.org/dine-out-flyers.

Saturday, October 29

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

ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

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

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

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

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

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

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

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

Saturdays

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



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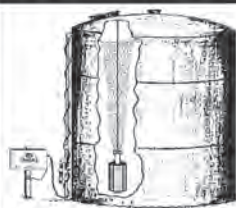
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Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve and

New Laguna Creek Trail

Neil Wiley

In the past few months, I have walked several new trails. It is always interesting to try something new, but this trail posed some challenges. Reaching the newly opened 1.5-mile Laguna Creek Trail requires walking several miles to reach the trailhead. Fortunately, it is a walk through the 552-acre Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve, which displays a rare habitat of sand hills. The Zayante soils and moist coastal climate support plants and animals that thrive only in this unique environment.

You also see the twisted remnants of blackened trees, the results from two large wildfires: the 2008 Martin Fire and the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire. Their misshapen branches look like the work of some mad artist.

On the positive side, new greenery atop the black tree trunks reflects the resilience of nature. Coast redwoods, Santa Cruz cypress,



Sand hills in Bonnie Doon Ecological Reserve

and Santa Cruz wallflowers have adapted to fire.

There are several ways to reach the new trail. At the Ecological Reserve entrance, I turned left on the Silver Leaf Loop, right on the Ponderosa Cutoff, and left on the right branch of Silver Leaf Loop. It was an easy walk on narrow, sandy, relatively flat trails until I turned right on Laguna Creek Trail. It was a climb down a steep, wide, shady path covered with slippery leaves. The drop in elevation was about 200 feet.

The Laguna Creek property provides a quite different environment dominated by giant trees, carpets of sorrel, huge rocks, and even running water in the creek in a few locations, even in summer. It is only

372 acres, but it feels like wilderness. Four local land trusts bought this property in 2011. They haven't done much with it, but naturalists and environmentally conscious hikers may prefer it that way.

I liked that I was going down, not up, and it was much cooler. The trail, however, was rocky. It climbed up and down along the banks of the river, with two crossings over the creek. In August, it wasn't a problem, but winter rains could make it far more difficult. The second creek crossing was facilitated by a simple plank, the only convenience in the reserve.

I saw a few squirrels and red-headed woodpeckers, but no marbled murrelets. Although these endangered birds are





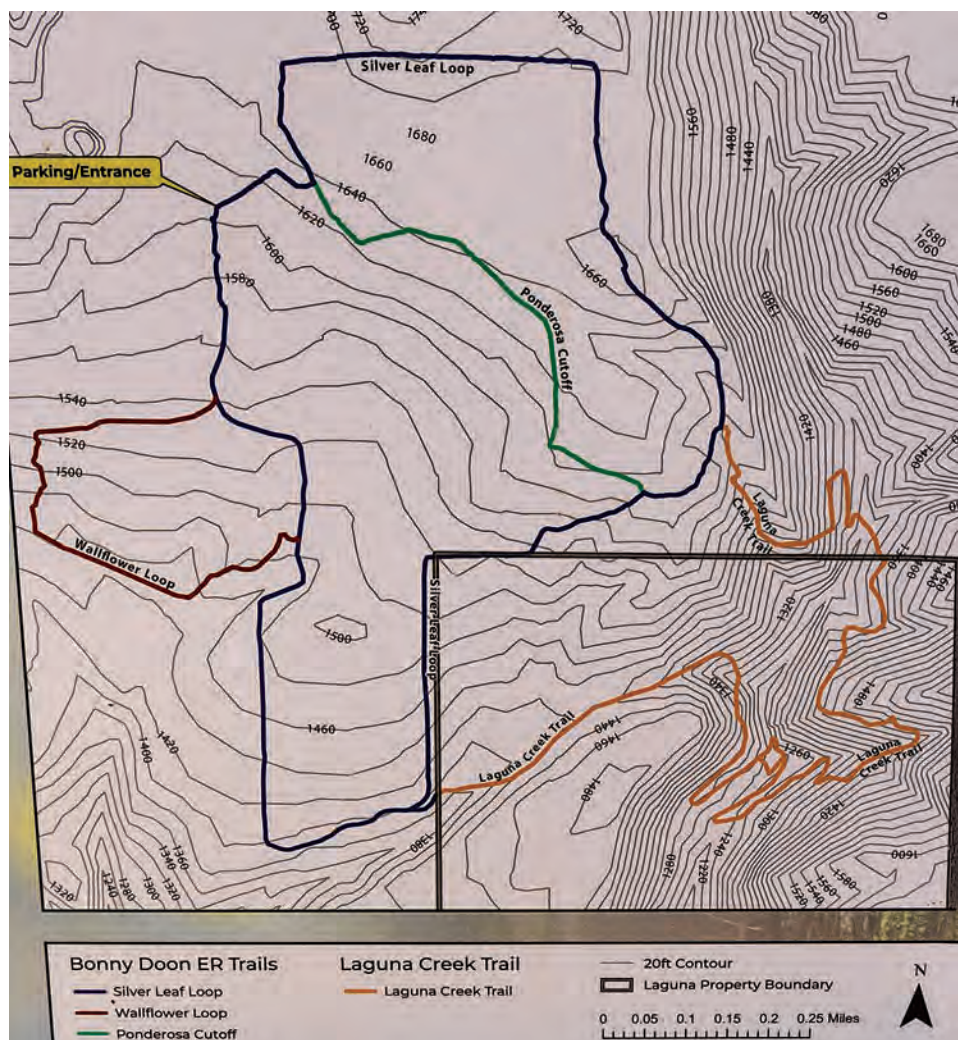
protected on this property, I didn't see or hear any, perhaps because they nest high up in tall firs and redwoods. Preserve protection excludes dogs and bikes. It also means no littering. (Food scraps could encourage the invasion of ravens and jays that eat murrelet chicks and eggs.)

I completed the hike by choosing the far western trail to complete the loop back to the reserve entrance. This eliminated the need to backtrack up the Ponderosa Cutoff. The first mile or so was a pleasant passage through lightly forested areas with mild elevation gains, but as I passed the Wallflower Loop, the continuing inclines and hot noon sun slowed my progress. I was happy to see Martin Road. As I walked the last section to the entrance, I passed two parallel rows of tall, beautiful eucalyptus trees that formed natural bookends to my walk in the woods.

In conclusion, this is a moderately difficult trail that offers good exercise in a natural environment. It provides quiet solitude. The forest was very still, and I didn't see one person on the Laguna Creek Trail. If you



october 2022



don't like hiking alone, bring along a friend, but no dogs. Be sure to bring water, boots, and a map.

Getting there. The drive from Villa del Monte off Summit Road to the Ecological Reserve is a little over 22 miles. Assuming no road closures, it should take about 40 minutes. Take Highway 17 south to Mount Hermon Road through Scotts Valley. Follow

Mount Hermon, then right on Graham Hill Road. Go straight ahead to continue on Felton Empire Grade. This road becomes Ice Cream Grade. Turn left on Martin. Park next to the fire station on Martin. The reserve entrance is across the street. If you didn't bring a map (available at www.landtrustsantacruz.org), see the posted map at the entrance. Trail intersections are posted, and if you miss a sign, you can eventually find your way back.

If you want an easy hike, enjoy the flat, sandy trails of the ecological preserve. If you want a bit more challenge, add the Laguna Creek Trail.

Happy trails.



Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains



history

Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve Preserving More than Land

Neil Wiley

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space is known for preserving land, protecting nature, and offering an environment for current and future recreation. Since 2019, Midpen has made some accomplishments in our local Bear Creek Redwoods. It is only a beginning.

It has been a nice place to walk, but the many layers of history disturbed the natural beauty. Old logging roads, fallen trees, and invasion of non-native plants seemed out of place. Old, dilapidated buildings surrounded by steel fencing were poor representatives of grand estates and proud schools. Even the landscaping had deteriorated over time.

Midpen is now moving forward on a plan to rehabilitate the cultural and historical environment of the preserve. Enhancing aesthetics and history will give visitors a more attractive, informative, and deeper experience.

Although the plan will take decades to complete, Midpen has taken the first visible steps. On your next visit you will see two restored building exteriors: the 1934 library, and the 1809 chapel. Interpretive signs tell their stories in text and graphics. The chapel porch is stabilized to provide for safe public access, but opening the interiors will depend



on future plans.

There is more. Convenient benches and tables will make visiting more comfortable. Safety and accessibility will be improved. Native plants will replace non-natives. Landscaping will honor history while

adding natural beauty.

This is a promising start. I hope that my late wife's dream of a history museum with informative exhibits will become a reality. Planners, historians, and artists can create a Bear Creek that goes beyond open space to become a cultural center for the Santa Cruz Mountains.





Alma College (colorized)

*Restored building photos
courtesy of
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space*



The Flood estate (colorized)



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nature



*Morning rainbow over the Santa Cruz Coastline
Photo by Bruce Fournier*



*Fog and sunshine over Olive Spring Quarry
Photo by Bruce Fournier*



*Naked ladies on display
Photo by Susan Francis*

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It's Jellyfish Time in Monterey Bay

Bruce Sudweeks

Fall is the season for gelatinous visitors to arrive in Monterey Bay. One such visitor is the egg-yolk jellyfish, also known as the field egg jellyfish. The scientific name is *Phacellophora camtschatica*. I took a picture of this jellyfish at Monastery Beach in Carmel just before sunset.

Although it doesn't show up in large numbers like the sea nettle and moon jellies, it is an interesting species.

Ecosystem stressors affect their appearance. They don't have circulatory, excretory, or respiratory systems. The entire surface area of their body handles breathing, waste management, and circulation.

It sounds efficient, but looks messy.



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schools

Lexington School Jason Deppong

School is back in full swing after a restful summer and exciting start to the school year. "I'm looking forward to a normal school year, working with a new group of students, and helping them to grow their minds as global thinkers," shared Julia Lombardi, first-grade teacher at Lexington.

COVID-related protocols are decreasing, but masks are still strongly recommended on campus. The first assembly of the school year took place outside to avoid everyone crowding into the multi-purpose room. Students continue to eat outside to reduce the possibility of an exposure, but they enjoy collecting snacks from the cafeteria window again.

Lexington plans to increase school-wide events during and after school this year. We hope to hold an international drumming day in November, a global play day in February, and an international family night in the spring.

Lexington's IB school community is also growing this year. Fifteen new staff members have been hired. It has made our lower parking lot spaces hard to find on most days.



Lexington welcomes teachers Lucia Arredondo (kindergarten) and Anna Kearney (third grade), in addition to a new P.E. specialist, instructional aides, kindergarten aide, art teacher, speech specialist, and on-site kitchen staff.

Lexington's kitchen is running all day now, providing snacks and lunches to Lakeside and Loma Prieta schools this year. It's great to connect more with the wider educational mountain community.

We have successfully launched the transitional-kindergarten program for Los Gatos Union School District at Lexington. We are excited to support all LGUSD "TK" families. The drive for families living downtown seemed a bit of a concern for some in the beginning, but they learned that



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

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COMPASS



the drive takes less than ten minutes. Our staff members are out front to welcome the children. We also allow downtown families to arrive up to 30 minutes late as a “soft start” if they have siblings at downtown schools.

Kristin Johnson and Michelle Smith co-teach one TK class, and another new hire, Kajsa Byrne, who previously taught at Lakeside, is teaching the second TK class. We also have two TK aides, Arantxa and Christina. Lexington uses the International Baccalaureate early-years framework to guide its TK program. California state standards for TK are still in development.

We offer a hands-on, play-based, inquiry-focused TK program. Students are also able to participate in Lexington’s unique “Pathway to Multilingualism” program. Families create goals with their children to practice home languages or any language. Our TKs also receive two days of Spanish instruction, art, music, and P.E. classes.

We will remember September’s heat wave. “It has been exhausting and the heat made the four-day week feel longer for everyone. I’m grateful for air conditioning,” explained second-grade teacher Katie Fountain. Students stayed indoors for lunch and P.E. for a few days. They were encouraged to stay cool and hydrated. When they did go outside for recess, Principal Deppong made sure to spray any of them needing to be

cooled down with the school garden hose. “It’s just another way we grow our students here at Lexington.”

Lexington is still seeking a Lifelab/garden coordinator. If you are interested, email jdeppong@lgusd.org.

Photos by Jason Deppong, Heidi Stonehocker, and Barbara Lougée



october 2022



Loma Prieta Joint Unified School District Measure R Citizens’ Oversight Committee Is Accepting Candidates

Superintendent Kevin Grier

The Loma Prieta Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees is seeking two candidates to fill vacant seats on the Measure R Bond Citizen’s Oversight Committee. One of the seats requires that the community member be a part of a bona fide taxpayer association (business owner). The other seat must be a member of the community at large.

A bond oversight committee is required under the legal provisions associated with the passage of the Measure R bond. The Citizen’s Oversight Committee serves a vital role to the community and its taxpayers. They review expenditures of current projects and inform the public of how Measures R bond funds are used.

Education Code 15282 states the committee must have at least seven members and represent specific segments of the community. Of the seven members, five are required community representatives as specified on the COC application. The board shall have sole discretion to select and appoint committee members and to determine its final size. Members will serve a two-year term and may not serve for more than three consecutive terms.

Candidates must be over 18 and cannot be employees, contractors, or vendors of the district. Interested parties should email Superintendent Kevin Grier at k.grier@loma.k12.ca.us by **October 8**. Thank you for your support.



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Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

page 25

schools

Loma Prieta Union School District Your Loma Prieta School Board Members Charlotte Khandelwal

When you open your ballots, you may be surprised that there are no candidates listed for the Loma Prieta Union School District Board of Trustees. Four seats were available this election (three four-year seats and one two-year seat). Four candidates submitted paperwork to run for office. As such, all four were appointed in lieu of an election. We thank them for their willingness to serve our community and look forward to their swearing in ceremony.



Ron Bourque

Returning to the board for another two years is incumbent Ron Bourque. During his tenure on the board, Ron has brought a critical eye to the district's financials, pouring over budgets and detailed expenses to help improve our efficiency. He has served as board liaison on the Budget Advisory Committee. His insightful questions in board meetings lead to a deeper understanding of our district's financial

challenges and thoughtful solutions to tackling those items.

Ron Bourque and his wife, Julie, have been members of the mountain community since 1993. Their two sons are alumni of the district and graduates of Los Gatos High School.

Ron is a senior financial executive with over 30 years of management experience. He has served as controller, VP of finance and administration, and is currently a CFO. In 1984, while working as a division controller at a Xerox subsidiary, Ron earned his MBA at San Jose State University, where he focused on Finance and Financial Management.



Nora Kim

"I have been a proud mountain parent for over 17 years. My twin boys attended Building Blocks, Loma, CTE, and are currently seniors at Los Gatos. My husband and I believe they received excellent educations in the mountains. I am committed to ensuring that our district continues to provide excellent education to the community.

As a previous board member of the Loma Public Education Fund, and co-chair of three Galas, I helped raise over \$500,000 that was used to maintain staffing and

critical programs at our schools. I gained an understanding of how funding for our school works. I also worked in the classrooms at Loma as a parent volunteer, and as a substitute teacher at Loma and CTE. I appreciate the challenges our

schools face, both inside and outside the classroom.

Our mountain schools are a unique and vital part of our community. They contribute to the appeal of living in the mountains. I believe that my experience with our schools qualifies me to be an effective member of the governing board. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute."




Denise Ramon Herrera

"I am excited to serve on the governing board because of my dedication to public education. My husband of 44 years and I have resided in the beautiful mountain community for 24 years. Our children are graduates of Los Gatos High School.

I served in an administrative role for California public schools for 35 years. I am an advocate for all students and continue to be committed to their public education. I feel strongly about providing quality programs that ensure safe and exceptional learning environments for students, teachers, and staff.

I am an elected member on the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization, chairperson of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, a member of the Los Gatos High School Budget Advisory Committee, and previously served on the Los Gatos Schools Parcel Tax Oversight Committee and the Measure A Parcel Tax renewal committee in 2016.

I have extensive experience in human relations, school finance, policies, regulations, governance, and am proficient in school-district operations.



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I care deeply about the community and serve on the following organizations: Red Cross Silicon Valley Chapter, Los Gatos Lions Club, History Club of Los Gatos, Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce, California Association of School Business Officials, and Leadership Los Gatos.”



Charlotte Boisvert-Khandelwal

“Having recently served 13 months on this school board, I understand how difficult it will be to balance critical student needs and ongoing financial challenges. I can hit the ground running, because I am well versed in our procedures and budgets.

I’ve spent 15 years working to raise money and volunteering for our schools. I’ve worked on 12 galas, as Loma Public Education Fund President, as a member of the School Site Council, and as a member of the budget and superintendent committees. I have led or been part of campaigns that raised over \$2.25 million for our district.

I have applied my corporate experience in public relations, marketing/communications, accounting, and event management. This will aid me in communications and outreach to our mountain community.

I believe in attracting and retaining talented teachers and giving them the resources needed to achieve great things. I am proud of the time spent in the classroom alongside them, teaching math and literature.

I’d like the opportunity to leverage knowledge gained from interacting with the previous four superintendents and nine principals as a parent, volunteer, leader, and staff member, in a way that contributes to the support of Loma’s children.

For me, Loma Prieta matters.”



Vote Yes on Measure M **Charlotte Khandelwal**

Our teaching staff and students pour their love for our schools onto pieces of wood and recycled canvas. They are working together to ask mountain voters to support Measure M. They know how much is at stake. They know it will hurt our schools if the measure fails to hit a two-thirds majority with our voters.

We need to stand up as a community and support teachers and students. We need to help our district rise from having the lowest paid teachers in Santa Clara County. We can’t attract and hire talented teachers or keep the great staff we have now unless we can provide adequate wages.

Measure M is a \$348 parcel tax, with senior exemptions and independent citizen oversight. Funds directly benefit local students. This parcel tax will fund core subjects, teaching staff, curriculum, P.E., music, and art.

Board president Erin Asheghian says, “Healthy schools mean healthy communities. In short, the cost of keeping the school open has risen faster than revenues. Underfunded or totally unfunded state mandates such as universal TK, free breakfast/lunch for all students, increased wrap-around services, increased contributions to retirement, and inflation make passage of a parcel tax imperative. Without the passage of Measure M, we will face drastic cuts to academic programs.”

Without Measure M, Loma students pay the price in cuts to teaching staff and loss of critical programs. Measure M is on the ballot because there is no other way for our district to raise these funds.

State funding does not meet the cost of new state mandates and inflation.

Taxpayers are protected.

All funds stay local for our schools and students. No funds are allowed for administrator salaries or pensions. Independent citizens’ oversight and mandatory audits ensure funds are spent properly. This parcel tax is for a term of eight years. This parcel tax applies equally to all commercial and residential parcels.

Senior citizens and certain disabled persons are eligible for an exemption. For more information, go to <https://www.mountainschools.org>.

If Measure M is approved, your investment will be closer to the parcel taxes supported by residents of Lakeside, Los Gatos, and other local school districts.

Whether you have school-age children or not, quality education is a wise investment. Good schools protect property values and keep our community strong.

The No on M campaign is being promoted by non-locals who do not have our mountain children’s best interests in mind. Our local community leaders are in favor of Yes on M.

We can be like the giant redwoods that grace our mountains. They circle together, stand tall, and weather storms and fires. Redwood roots are intertwined and interconnected. They support and nurture one another, particularly in times of crisis.

We can protect our mountain children within that redwood circle, supply them with shelter and resources to grow tall, and give them community support.

Look for your ballots in the mail. Please vote yes on Measure M, and don’t forget to mail in your ballot. We appreciate your support.

schools

Building Blocks Preschool Community Collaboration

Rebecca Witmar

Building Blocks Parent Cooperative Preschool benefits from the collaboration of community members. At the beginning of the school year, the Loma Prieta Club generously funded a new shade structure for our play area. Patti Hughes, who stopped by to check out the new addition, commented, "The Loma Prieta Club is proud to support the outstanding program Building Blocks provides for our community."

Parent volunteers quickly went to work installing the new awnings over our popular sandbox, rock box, and mud kitchen. Kurt Stiehl, who serves as one of our maintenance coordinators with his wife, Heidi, reported, "The maintenance volunteer team in August worked hard to prepare our small school for the fall semester. From our new shade structure to painting doll furniture and deep cleaning, a lot of sweat was poured in to make Building Blocks beautiful."

Our steering committee, overseen by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, meets monthly. This school year, our steering committee embarked on a strategic-

planning process to establish a set of priorities and goals to guide us into the future.

We also are undergoing a review of our emergency-preparedness plans with the support and expertise of our 2022-2023 steering committee: Brian and Christina Erdelyi, Kate Chasanoff, Citlali Gonzalez, Andria Hagedorn, Jessica Hagedorn, Amelia Macleod, Tamara Marx, Alex San Filippo, Alice Stevens, Heidi and Kurt Stiehl, Chelsey Weinacht, and Rebecca Witmer.

The students see many adults caring for them and their school, and learn that we value them and their growth. The students reflect our enthusiasm and dedication to their education in their own playful and creative way. It is a gift that we can raise our



children in this mountain community.

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

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Keith & Shelly Kanady

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KTP KANADY TEAM
PROPERTIES

COMPASS

Lakeside School News

Kathy McKinney

October brings the Walk-a-Thon to Lakeside School. Students collected pledges from family, friends, and neighbors. On Walk-a-Thon day, they will run or walk as many laps as they can to raise money for the Lakeside School Community Foundation. Students created artwork for the walkathon T-shirt design contest, with help from parents and our beloved art teacher Elizabeth Greer. The proud winner was Abigail Ewing.



Artwork by Abigail Ewing



LCSF is bringing back the annual Harvest Festival, which is open to the entire mountain community. Come out to Lakeside School on **Sunday, October 16**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy games, crafts, pony rides, food trucks, and delicious offerings from the bake sale.

Clean out your closets and mark your calendars for the next Goodwill donation drive at Lakeside School on **Sunday, November 6**. You can drop off donations at Lakeside's Community Center, from **October 31 through November 4**, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on November 6. Lakeside School is at 19621 Black Road. Goodwill Silicon Valley can't accept furniture, mattresses, large appliances, exercise equipment, automobile parts, weapons, household trash, food, carpeting, construction debris, hazardous household chemicals, liquids of any kind, pet related items, items over fifty pounds, and television sets with over 27-inch screens. We can accept microwaves, VCRs, printers, and vacuums.

You can also support our school by dining out at Super Duper Burger on **Wednesday, October 26**. Print out a flyer at www.lakesidescf.org/dine-out-flyers, and a portion of your purchase will be donated to LCSF. The LCSF supports science, art, dance, physical education, gardening, counseling, and more.

Open school and district positions. LJSD has open positions in facilities, operations, and food services. We also need instructional assistants and long-term substitute teachers. Find more information at www.edjoin.org/LakesideJoint.

Enrolling now for Lakeside Preschool. Champions offers a full day preschool on the Lakeside campus, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., for children three to five years of age. Call 408-460-7935 to schedule a visit.



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- Humbert Wolfe

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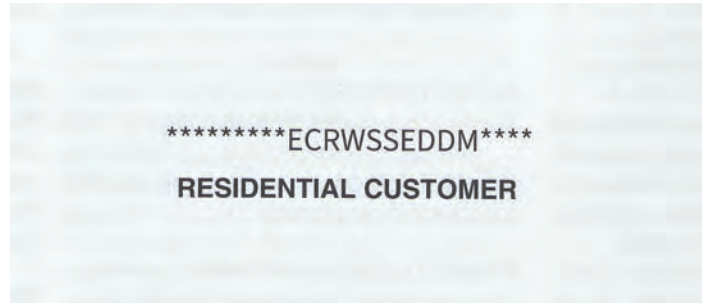
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