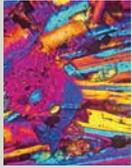




# OUR TOWN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

SEPTEMBER 2018



**5**  
Abstraction  
and  
Connection



**6**  
Westwind  
Community  
Barn



**8**  
Pathways  
of Discovery



**10**  
Waymo  
Cars in  
Town



## MILESTONES IN THE LIFE OF JUANA BRIONES

**1802**

Juana Briones is born at Villa de Branciforte, near Mission Santa Cruz on California's coast.

**1812**

The Briones family moves near the San Francisco Presidio after the death of Juana's mother.

**1820**

A teenage Juana Briones marries the soldier Apolinario Miranda at Mission Dolores.

**1840**

Juana's husband is arrested for the first time for assaulting her. She would report him to authorities more than a dozen times in the next few years.

**1844**

A devout Catholic, she applies at Mission Santa Clara for a clerical separation from her husband. The same year she purchases Rancho La Purísima Concepción in what became Los Altos Hills.



## Juana Briones: The Woman Who Owned Los Altos Hills

Los Altos Hills residents have a lot to salute in Juana Briones, the woman who once owned nearly all the land that became Los Altos Hills. She bought Rancho La Purísima Concepción in 1844, stocking it with cattle and building a large adobe house on the property. She planted the first apricot orchards along the rancho's golden hillsides. She managed to do all this at a time when a married woman in Mexican California had to fight for the right to own land in her own name. And Juana had to escape an abusive husband to make it happen. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2.]



Cover: Juana Briones' Rancho La Purísima Concepción — and Los Altos Hills — can be placed in the context of Santa Clara County on this map of nineteenth century Mexican Land Grant ranchos, designed by the late historian and graphic artist Ralph Rambo. Briones purchased her property (seen in the upper, northwest corner of the map) from José Gorgonio in 1844, one of just four ranchos originally granted to Ohlone in the Santa Clara Valley. From *Historic Bay Area Visionaries*, courtesy of History San José.

Juana's mother and her husband's mother came to California during the winter of 1775-1776 with the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition. Families had a better chance of survival on the frontier and girls married young. When Juana's mother, Ysadora Tapia, married her father, Marcos Briones, in 1784, the bride was just thirteen. Five of Juana's older siblings were born at isolated Mission San Antonio de Padua, California's third Spanish mission, which sits in a secluded valley about twenty miles from King City. Juana's father was a soldier and learned the cattle business there, something his daughter most likely learned from him.

Juana was born near Santa Cruz in 1802 at a place called Branciforte, a retirement village for soldiers. After her mother died in 1812, her father moved the family to the city that became San Francisco. It was called Yerba Buena then and fewer than two hundred people lived on its sandy hills.

With California isolated during the Mexican War of Independence, Juana's father received no pay and she went to work early. She had learned about herbs from her mother and came to be known as a healer and a nurse. She also tended her father's cows and chickens and raised produce, selling to locals

Right: Juana Briones built her home in one of the most beautiful spots in California on what became Old Adobe Road, with a view that stretched across the Santa Clara Valley to San Francisco Bay. Though the house ended up within the city limits of Palo Alto, most of her ranch land became Los Altos Hills. This photo of her house was taken about twenty years after her death. The structure was finally razed in 2011. Courtesy of *Historic Bay Area Visionaries* and the Palo Alto Historical Association.



### Is This the Face of Juana Briones?

For many years there were no known photographs of Juana Briones. Then, in 2007, descendants of the Garcia family, into which Juana's family married, donated this nineteenth-century photograph to a Marin museum, saying it had been passed down for seven generations and was believed by the family to be Juana Briones. "There is debate as to whether it is her, both in her looks and in the medium of the portrait, which is a platinum print," says Carola DeRooy, former archivist of the Point Reyes National Seashore Museum. "They only came into vogue in the early 1890s, after her death." An expert who analyzed the photo for the Point Reyes Museum made several points: it does bear a physical resemblance to known photos of Juana's family; the clothing dates to a time earlier than the 1890s; and, it was not unusual for platinum prints to be reprints of earlier photographs. The family believes it is a photograph of Juana Briones. Officially, for now, it remains one of the mysteries related to the life of this early California pioneer. From *Historic Bay Area Visionaries*, courtesy of the Point Reyes National Seashore Archives.

and visiting sailors. At a time when nearly everyone she knew either worked for the government or lived subsistence lives, Juana was one of California's earliest entrepreneurs.

She met her husband near the Presidio when she was a teenager. His name was Apoli-

nario Miranda, a man described in history's kindest mention as "a dull-witted soldier." The couple married in 1820 when the groom was 26 and the bride 18. By 1841, they had produced seven surviving children and had adopted another. Life was hard. Between 1828 and 1829,

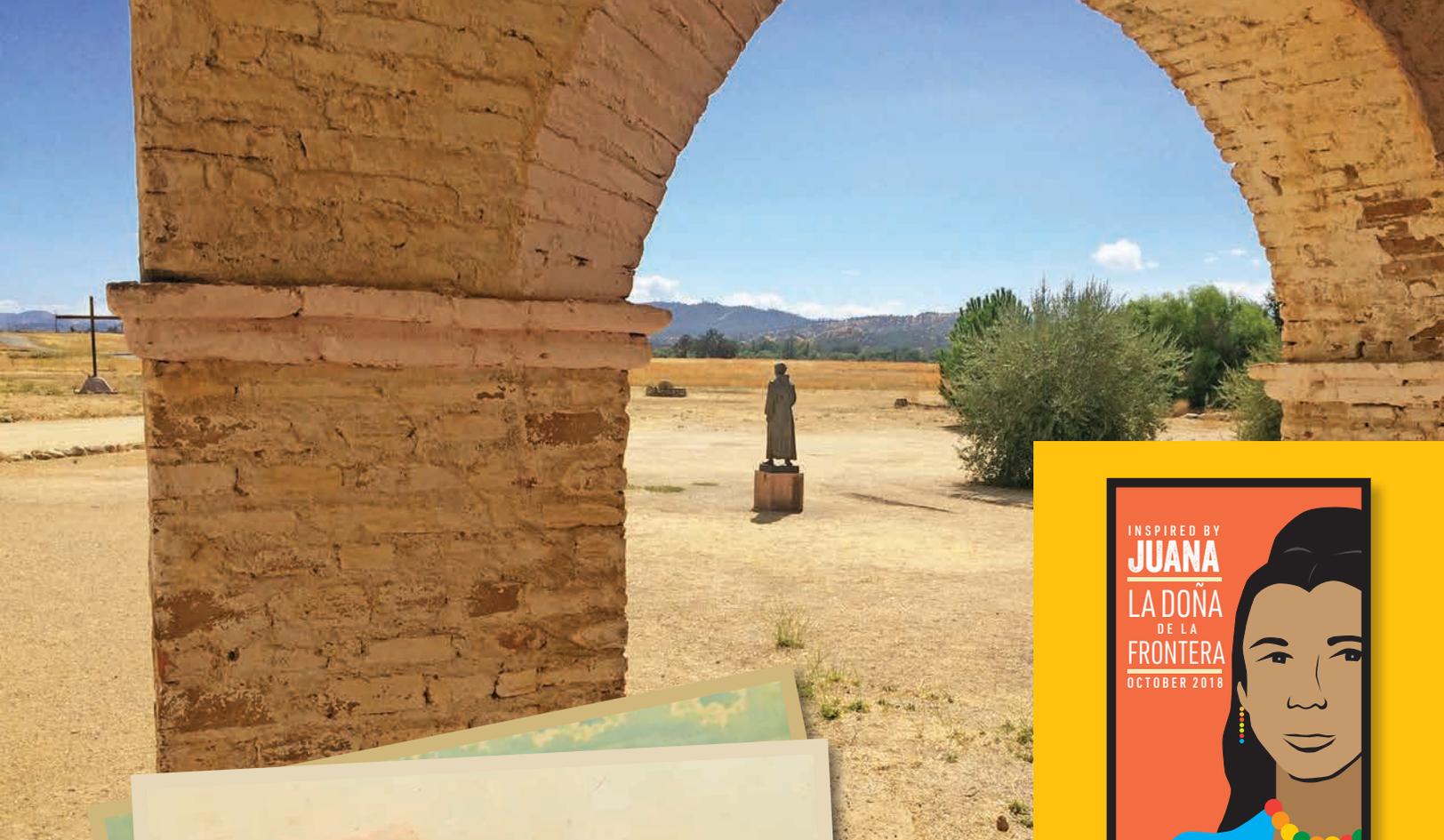
Right: Five of Juana Briones' older siblings were born at the isolated Mission San Antonio, which is today about 20 miles west of King City. Her father served as a soldier and learned the cattle business there, a business at which she would excel in her own life. Photo by Robin Chapman.

the couple lost four children to disease, something even Juana, with all her nursing skills, was unable to prevent.

By the 1830s, Juana Briones had built her own adobe, apart from her husband, in the neighborhood of what is now San Francisco's North Beach, where she focused on her businesses. Some historians speculate this may have caused a rift in her marriage. But the move was more likely caused by Apolinario's growing alcoholism and abuse. Beginning in 1840, when she was pregnant with her last child, Juana reported her husband repeatedly to the local alcalde for assault. In one incident, he knocked her down with a broadsword and opened a gash on the back of her head. An Indian ran for help while another stood by to protect her.

Just south of the city, an Ohlone man name José Gorgonio was facing his own crisis. California's governor had granted him the 4438.94-acre Rancho La Purísima Concepción in 1840. But the frontier was volatile and the ranch was raided by Tulare Yokuts who burned down his house, injured his son and daughter-in-law, and stole his horses. At the same time, Mexican administrators in





The life of Juana Briones has both local and international resonance and will be featured in a new exhibit opening this autumn at the Los Altos History Museum. This rich look into her life explores her roles as healer, entrepreneur, and woman of the changing California landscape. “Inspired by Juana: La Doña de la Frontera” opens in October.

**Opens October 18, 2018**  
Los Altos History Museum  
51 South San Antonio Road  
Los Altos

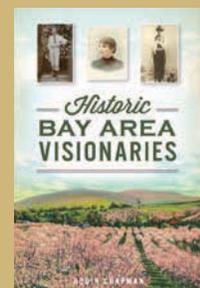


*Louis (sometimes identified as Ludwig) Choris came to California on a Russian expedition in the early nineteenth century and is one of the few artists to document the lives of the Ohlone in the Bay Area, while a few were still living in their traditional way. The lithograph, “Bateau du Port de San Francisco,” shows Ohlone on the bay in about 1815, when Juana Briones was a teenager. From Historic Bay Area Visionaries, courtesy of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.*

California were threatening to force Indians like Gorgonio, who owned land but were not officially “employed,” to return to the missions to work.

We don’t know exactly what brought Gorgonio and Juana Briones together. But around 1844, she bought the rancho from Gorgonio, registered her purchase with the government and asked Gorgonio and his family to stay on and supervise her cattle business there. It wasn’t the end of her troubles: in 1845, her husband served a year in jail for continuing to harass her.

The purchase of the rancho turned out to have enormous benefits for Juana and her family. Thirty-seven miles down the Peninsula from her miserable marriage, the rancho and its rich land did more than give her a safe haven. It helped her achieve great wealth, as the early days of the Gold Rush raised profits on everything. Rancho La Purísima Concepción — the land that became Los Altos Hills — enabled Juana Briones to live out the second half of her life in prosperity and peace in one of the most beautiful places in all of California.



This article, the first in a three-part series, by local writer **Robin Chapman** is excerpted from her book, **Historic Bay Area Visionaries**, set to be published October 15 by the History Press. The book profiles six fascinating people in California’s past including Juana Briones. Chapman is a board member of the Los Altos History Museum.

## FROM THE CITY MANAGER

## When to Call 911 or Non-Emergency Number

When there is an emergency or the immediate need for law enforcement assistance, most people know to call 911. But when is it more appropriate to call the non-emergency telephone number (408-299-2311) for police dispatchers?



Carl Cabill

Calls received on either line are handled by county dispatchers in a time critical manner. A 911 call is immediately routed to a dispatcher — it goes straight to their headsets. Calls are answered in 15 seconds or less as required by state standards. Calls made to the non-emergency number are also answered in 15 seconds or less. The main difference is the designation of one line as an emergency line, and the other as non-emergency. An emergency is typically a crime in-progress or any dangerous situation that may affect life or property. Other situations where a 911 call is encouraged are those where a suspicious person or vehicle is observed, as they may be a

sign of imminent crime, which may be preventable with prompt police response. Timely reporting in these situations has led to numerous arrests.

Last year, there were lower numbers of calls received reporting suspicious persons and vehicles in the town. In 2017, there were only 78 calls reporting suspicious persons as compared to 95 in 2016 (a decrease of 18%). That same year, there were only 239 calls reporting suspicious vehicles compared to 296 in 2016 (a decrease of 19%).

In contrast, non-emergency situations are usually prior committed or old crimes, where suspect(s) are long gone for instance or there is no immediate danger to public safety, such as an abandoned bike or a dog barking complaint.

Anonymity is another difference between these two telephone numbers. The non-emergency number is not equipped with a caller identification feature, but the dispatcher will still ask for this information in order to create



an official record of the call. However, the caller does not have to provide this information and may request to remain anonymous. The 911 number, on the other hand, provides dispatchers with a call back phone number and the exact location of the caller if they are calling from a landline and a general proximate location if the call comes from a cellular phone. This is because the police must know where to respond in the event the caller is in danger. As with the non-emergency call, the caller may request anonymity and dispatch will comply and make note of this.

Finally, there is a difference in prioritization of a deputy's response to emergency versus non-emergency calls. An emergency call will always trump a non-emergency call, but all calls are ultimately addressed. Since the safety of all residents is paramount, never hesitate to call. When in doubt, however, lean towards the adage of "better safe than sorry" and call 911. Effective policing cannot happen without the assistance, cooperation, and diligence of residents.

## FROM THE PLANNING DIRECTOR

### New Planning Staff

Town Hall staff welcomed two new Assistant Planners in June: Jeremy Loh and Dylan Parker. Jeremy Loh (pictured below) was born and raised in southern California, having lived in Monterey Park, Pasadena, Chino Hills, San Clemente, and Irvine as well as a few years in Las Vegas. Jeremy received his Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture and Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. While living there, he fell in love with the simpler lifestyle of the central coast. Jeremy later worked in

development review with the County of Santa Barbara Planning Division. Although he was saddened to leave sunny Santa Barbara, he is enjoying his new life in the Bay Area. While Jeremy is trying to adjust to metropolitan life, don't expect him to stop adding "the" before freeway names, as in "the 280."

Dylan Parker (pictured above) previously worked for the County of Santa Clara, City of San Jose, and recently the Town of Los Gatos, where he currently resides. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Cal State Northridge



and Master's Degree in Urban Planning from San Jose State University. In his free time, Dylan enjoys traveling, learning other languages, and gardening. Most recently

he traveled to Spain. His interests in planning are environmental conservation, transit-oriented development, and green building design.

### Planning Commission

The City Council recently appointed Rajiv Patel and Ed Smith to the Planning Commission, filling two seats vacated by Richard Partridge and Kavita Tankha whose terms ended at the end of June. Both the new Commissioners served on the

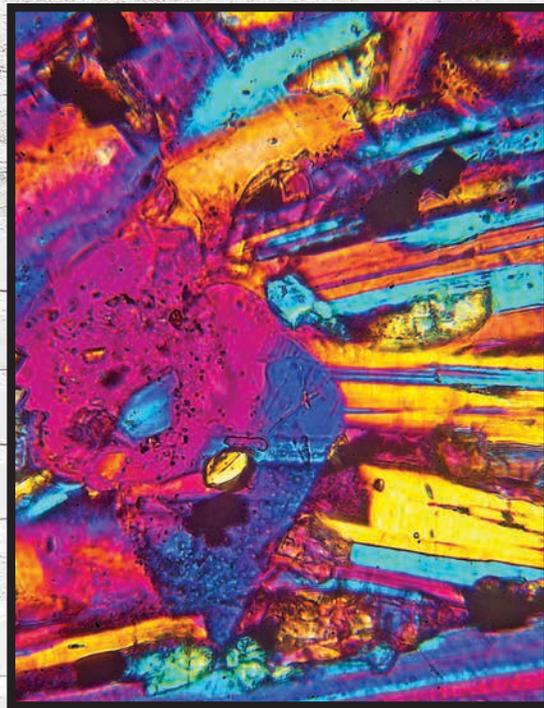
Environmental Design and Protection Committee. They were sworn in and participated in their first meeting on July 5.

### New Landscaping Guide

The Environmental Design and Protection Committee recently updated its Landscaping Guide which is a useful resource for residents developing a landscape plan or caring for existing landscaping. The guide includes information on landscape maintenance, caring for oaks, native, poisonous and invasive plants, and recommended plant lists. The Landscaping Guide is available on the town's website ([www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)) or a copy can be obtained at Town Hall.

*Suzanne Avila, AICP, is planning director.*

# ABSTRACTION & CONNECTION



**A**bstraction and Connection, an exhibit of digital art by Sterling Haidt will be on display at the Los Altos Hills Town Hall from September 2018 through March 2019. The artist reception, free and open to the public, will be held on Sunday, September 30, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Town Hall. It will feature refreshments, wine, and live music. During the reception a lottery will be held to win a magnum bottle of award-winning Londer Vineyards wine.

On Friday, November 30, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm residents are invited for an art walk and talk tour of the exhibit. Guests will have the opportunity to catch a behind-the-scene glimpse into the artist's inspiration, techniques, and materials used to express his connection to his subject matter.



Sterling Haidt, a resident of Los Altos, is a retired eye surgeon reinvented as a digital artist. The goal of his images — in imagery and media — is to tell a story and evoke feelings. A significant portion of his imagery is abstract, where the viewer is invited to imagine a story. In this manner, the abstract images serve as a Rorschach test. Haidt elaborates: "My art is about connection, not cognition. My images attempt to get past the rationality of the observer who wonders what does this image mean? My art connects with emotions, which are immediately evoked and not analyzed."

Haidt's digital art work is evolving, starting with photography and subsequently including scanned images, nature, abstract and extreme close-up photography, all used in concert to build a symphony of form and color. His subjects often include medical images, fonts, or mathematical patterns. Unusual media substrate, other than photographic paper, expands the meaning of the image. To see more of the artist's work, visit [www.haidtart.com](http://www.haidtart.com). For more information on the events, call 650-941-7222.

## Join the Los Altos Hills County Fire District CERT PROGRAM



When disaster strikes, local and state emergency services will be inundated with requests that far exceed their capacity. Members

of the community will need to rely on each other for help and must prepare themselves to respond to urgent medical needs.

The town's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program will help prepare residents to respond to the next disaster. In the multi-week program, sponsored by the Los Altos Hills County Fire District, participants will learn basic skills such as: triage, disaster medical operations, light search & rescue, fire safety, cribbing, team organization, radio communication, disaster assessment and more. Participants will also learn about the town's emergency procedures and all of the available resources.

Residents are encouraged to join CERT and help expand the existing 100-person team. There's a job for everyone in emergency response, whether it be handling operations, logistics, IT, radio communications, or acting as an emotional support volunteer.



The next CERT academy, taught by Santa Clara County Fire Department, will be held in City of Los Altos (97 Hillview Ave.):

**Tuesday: 9/11, 9/18, 9/25**  
(6:00 pm – 9:00 pm)

**Thursday: 9/13, 9/20, 9/27**  
(6:00 pm – 9:00 pm)

**Final Graduation: Sat. 9/29**  
(8:30 am – 12:30 pm)

Class Registration (\$35):  
Call 408-808-7800 or email: [cert@scbfd.org](mailto:cert@scbfd.org) or visit <https://tinyurl.com/y7ssmayj>

# WESTWIND COMMUNITY BARN



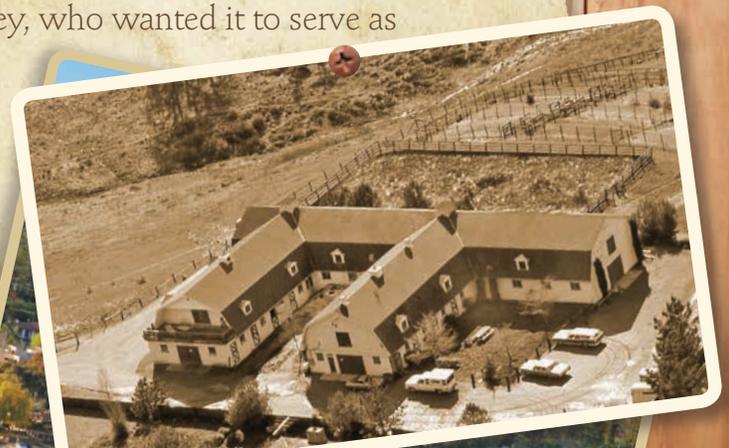
The plaque located on the southwest corner of the barn is very brief. It simply states that the Countess Margit Besseney donated Westwind Barn to the town in 1975 — but the simple sign belies a long and colorful history. The start of what we know today as Westwind Community Barn dates back to the 1940s when Frank Ellithorpe built the first six stalls

where he raised Morgan and Arabian horses. He sold the land in 1965 to Robert Clement who added another 17 stalls, a tack room and an arena.

In 1971, the barn was purchased by the Countess Margit Besseney, who wanted it to serve as

a California center for the training, showing, and selling of the Hungarian horses bred on the family property in Hamilton, Montana.

In memory of  
**Countess Margit Besseney**  
who donated Westwind Barn  
to our Town  
September 1975



Margit was born in Budapest. Her father was a Hungarian Count who also headed the Monarchist Party, which tried to restore the Monarchy in Hungary during World War II. As a result, he was interned in Mauthausen concentration camp. Her mother was the daughter of Copper King Marcus Daly, who also owned a large stock farm in Montana. During the war, Margit served as an interpreter and a leader of resistance efforts against the Nazi invaders. She also provided protection for some of the famous Lippizaner stallions which had been rescued from Austria during the Nazi occupation. After the war she immigrated to the United States where she continued to help Hungarians, now fleeing from the Russian occupation. In 1958, she married Baron B. Bessenyei, a retired Hungarian diplomat who had been Hungarian Ambassador to the United States. Unfortunately, he died a year later.

Margit redirected her efforts to her Montana stud farm where she raised Hungarian thoroughbred horses. This breed was used in Europe for hunting, jumping, cross country, pleasure riding, and the cavalry. Assisted by the well-known horse woman, Linda Tellington-Jones, they moved the nationally known Pacific Coast School of Horsemanship to Los Altos Hills from Badger, California, and combined the training of Hungarian horses with the professional education of horsemen. The Pacific Coast School grew, drawing students from all over the country as well as from Europe.

The Countess added a third wing to the barn and other elegant touches, such as the ornate double oak door entry (carved in Mexico) and the elaborate spiral stairway (imported from France). A full-sized dressage ring was built and a difficult cross country course was added to the growing complex.

In 1975, she made a gift to the town of the 24,000 square foot barn and just over 13 acres. This triggered over a year of wrangling by the Town Council as to what to do with this gift. Running it as a commercial entity would have violated town zoning codes besides not fitting with the town's charter. But the idea of selling it off for development was met with vigorous opposition.

After more than a year of argument over the best use of the barn, the Town

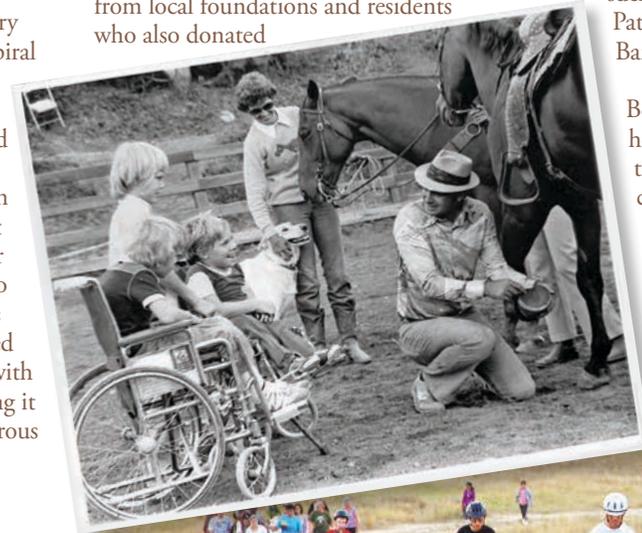


*Photo taken by Gordon Penfold, the town's safety officer at the time, in the winter of 1976 when snow briefly blanketed the town.*

Council accepted a proposal from the Friends of Westwind to lease the barn as a nonprofit cooperative stabling facility, leading to the formation of Friends of Westwind, Inc. However, one of the conditions imposed by the council was that the barn also serve some wider purpose for the general community beyond mere stabling of horses for their owners.

Accordingly, in 1978, a therapeutic horse riding program for handicapped children was established. Under the supervision of Jim Forderer (who had worked as a trainer for Margit) the Westwind 4-H Riding for the Handicapped began operating with classes offered twice weekly in the afternoons.

The program started with volunteers trailering in their own horses for the children to ride, but this soon proved too high a burden and it was decided the program should have its own horses to be kept in a separate small barn on the property. In 1980, funds were raised from local foundations and residents who also donated



*Left: An aerial photo showing Westward Barn (circa 1960s) on about 23 acres of land. At that time, the main arena was located to the right of the barn (that land was later sold off for development). Behind the barn is a large exercise pen with some holding paddocks beyond it. (Above, right) Jim Forderer, the first instructor for the "Riding For The Handicapped Program" demonstrating proper hoof care to a few of the program's earliest pupils. (Right) The riders from the program and their side-walkers on a trail ride through Byrne Preserve.*

labor and materials. Preferring that this smaller barn match the main barn, the Town council directed the town's crew to build it with the funds raised. The barn was named in honor of Frank Duvencek's late wife Josephine. Later that year, Duvencek cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony.

This year, the Handicapped Riding Program is celebrating its 40th anniversary – during which time, hundreds of children with various kinds of disabilities have been served. Thousands of volunteers have given countless hours, many of them high school students fulfilling community service requirements.

In 2006, the Town decided to change operation of the barn to a more sustainable business model so that it would require less operating subsidy from the town and at the same time assume a greater role as a community asset. During this re-organization, the facilities received a major renovation, including extensive seismic retro-fitting and sustainability enhancements.

Today, Westwind Community Barn is run under the professional management of Victoria ("Torie") Dye Equestrian. The barn is also the setting for many programs managed by the town's Park and Rec Department, including various summer camps for children and other community-wide events such as Earth Day Celebration, Pathways Run/Walk, Hoedown, and Barn Lighting.

Although Countess Margit Bessenyei passed away in 1984, her legacy is very much alive in the many activities that serve the community and children from around the Bay Area.

*Jim Couperer and his wife Nancy have been residents for 45 years. He retired after a career in R&D with American and British computer manufacturers, starting back when mainframes still used vacuum tubes.*



*Torie Dye*



# Pathways OF Discovery



One of the many hidden jewels found in beautiful Los Altos Hills is the ever-evolving pathway system.

This extensive network of pathways provides residents with the several unique opportunities: conveniently exploring nature, exercising in open spaces, and enjoying quality time with family and friends. Events like the annual Los Altos Hills Pathways Run/Walk, are one of the many examples of how the pathway system fosters engagement and the communal pride found within a small rural community. It's not uncommon for a resident to encounter runners, cyclists, and equestrians enjoying all that the pathways offer in a single day's exploration. It is this communal engagement and exposure that inspires the passion and commitment of those on the pathways committee.



Before Los Altos Hills was incorporated in 1956, the pathway system was unofficially developed as a network of trails that connected the surrounding neighborhoods throughout the community. Today, this network is made up of approximately



100 miles of vibrant trails that have continued to evolve based on a Master Path Plan. The pathway system is designed to provide residents easy access to a pathway for safe and convenient pedestrian and other non-vehicular travel along town roads, schools, community facilities, and alternative routes in emergencies. Because of this, the pathway committee, encourages direct engagement from residents so that the town is better equipped to serve and voice the needs and aspirations of this close-knit community.

The pathways committee is composed of 5 to 11 volunteers nominated by the town council for a four-year term. The committee members are passionate about the ability to make a difference; one member said, “When we bought our home in Los Altos Hills, I looked for opportunities to learn more about the area — the community and the place. I learned that the pathways committee provided a wonderful way to learn about all the areas of town and gain a better understanding of the issues that our neighbors are facing. I also came to realize that the pathway system is a true asset to the community, since it provides safe passage to open spaces, school, and downtown.”



The pathways committee's charter is to advise the planning department, the town manager, and town council on pathway-related issues in support of the Master Path Plan.

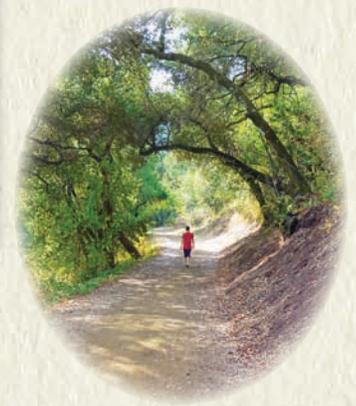
The pathways committee's charter is to advise the planning department, the town manager, and town council on pathway-related issues in support of the Master Path Plan. Although the pathways committee plays a key role in supporting the Master Path Plan, only the town planning staff, along with the mayor and town council, has the authority to enact final decisions. This, however, does not mean that community members should refrain from voicing their opinions and ideas on how to continuously improve the

pathway system. One of the great things about being a committee member, is the ability to bridge any perceived gap between town council and the individual members of the community. Communities should always be collaborative entities — every resident has the opportunity to make a positive impact on the most cherished elements of the town.

The key objectives of the pathways committee are to review and recommend changes to the Master Path Plan and the Bicycle Plan,

and make recommendations at subdivision, site development, planning commission meetings, and town council meetings. Members of the pathways committee meet regularly with the town's manager to render advice on pathway activities, priorities, and necessary maintenance.

Though the town pathways system has been around for over sixty-years, the pathway committee is always looking for ways to innovate and move forward in making the system the best it can be. The pathway committee now prioritizes capital projects that ultimately connect the pathway system. The goal is to actively engage town residences in this process to ensure support, usage and success of the pathway system. For many, the pathway concept is new and requires education and awareness of the town requirements when embarking on a new development.



Residents are invited to pick up a pathways map and attend a monthly committee meeting to learn about the issues that the committee members study and discuss. It is also a great opportunity to meet fellow residents who are passionate about the town's pathway system.

*Sonja Wilkerson is a member of the Los Altos Hills Pathway Committee.*





# Make Way for WAYMO CARS

As a Los Altos Hills resident, there is a good chance you have seen a distinct-looking white minivan with some unusual accessories on our local streets the past few years. In fact, it was probably one of Waymo's self-driving cars, developed out of Google with the mission of making our roads safer.

## What's down the road?

Waymo has recently applied for a driverless testing permit with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). This application is the result of a new regulatory change by the DMV that took effect in April, allowing fully driverless testing within specific limits. It's the first time that California has invited companies to apply for tests on public roads of fully driverless cars — that is, without a test driver in the vehicle. If the DMV accepts their application, Waymo expects to begin testing in Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills. Fully driverless testing is the next logical step on the path Waymo has been on since 2009, when they first began working on self-driving technology right here in the South Bay. Over the past nine years, their vehicles have safely driven more than 8 million miles on public roads and 5 billion miles in simulation across more than 25 cities. California would be Waymo's second state for fully driverless testing; similar tests have been underway in Arizona since October 2017. Today, they are fully autonomously testing in Greater Phoenix where members of the public in a trial program have been using the vehicles to do everything from running errands and commuting to work to taking children to soccer practice.

## How Do Waymo Vehicles Work?

Waymo's vehicles are equipped with LiDAR, cameras and radar that can detect pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles, road work and more from a distance of up to three football fields away in all directions, in everything from bright sunlight to the dark of night. Safety is the top priority. The vehicles undergo a rigorous and extensive testing process that begins well before they get to the road. The process includes thousands of collision avoidance tests on a private test track. The cars also practice the most challenging driving scenarios already encountered on the road or, through the use of simulators, re-drive the miles they've already driven with changes to the data to further test real-world situations. Waymo also has heat-tested the vehicles in Death Valley and Las Vegas, and driven them in the cold in Michigan and Lake Tahoe.



## FORUM ON SELF-DRIVING CARS

HOSTED BY WAYMO

Wednesday, September 5  
6:00-8:00 pm  
Town Hall  
26379 Fremont Road

Presentation will include refreshments, 3D car experience, presentation, and Q&A.



# SEPSIS

is a life-threatening condition caused by the body's response to infection that can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, amputations and death. Each year, it affects 1.7 million people in the United States. Sepsis is the third leading cause of death in the United States after heart disease and cancer, killing more than 270,000 people each year. For a condition that kills one person every two minutes, sepsis is relatively unfamiliar to most people because the name "sepsis" isn't used very often and when the condition is talked about, it's often referred to incorrectly as "blood poisoning." Most of the time when someone dies from an infection, it's usually sepsis.



## S

**Shiver, fever or very cold**



## E

**Extreme pain or general discomfort**



## P

**Pale or discolored skin**



## S

**Sleepy, difficult to rouse, confused**



## I

**"I feel like I might die"**



## S

**Short of breath**

Anyone can develop sepsis, even infants, but it's most common in older adults, people with chronic diseases and those with weakened immune systems. Sepsis impacts people of all ages and levels of health.

Many doctors view sepsis as a three-stage syndrome, starting with sepsis, progressing through severe sepsis to septic shock — the point where inflammation can damage multiple organ systems, causing them to fail. The goal is to treat sepsis during its mild stage, before it becomes more dangerous.

When the human body fights an infection, it releases infection-fighting chemicals into the bloodstream. Sepsis occurs when those chemicals go beyond the actual infection to trigger inflammation in other parts of the body. Microscopic blood clots then form and begin to block blood and oxygen flow to organs and tissues causing them to shut down and fail. When organ failure occurs and

is accompanied by low blood pressure, it's called septic shock. Septic shock carries the highest risk of death and complications.

It's important to know that sepsis is not contagious. But, the infection that triggered sepsis could be contagious so practicing good infection prevention techniques can decrease the chance of developing sepsis. Tips to prevent the spread of infection:

- Frequent and thorough hand washing
- Stay current with vaccinations
- Maintain a healthy lifestyle with nutritious food, exercise, and rest
- Take antibiotics, if prescribed, for the entire course and exactly as prescribed by a doctor
- Cough into an elbow, not a hand (to help prevent spreading infection if sick)
- Properly cleanse and bandage wounds and sores
- Seek medical help if an illness does not seem to be improving or it is getting worse

"Most people know the symptoms of a heart attack or stroke, but very few people can name the symptoms of sepsis or even know what sepsis is," says Kelly Nguyen, RN, manager of sepsis quality at El Camino Hospital. "Sepsis is just as time sensitive as a heart attack or stroke."

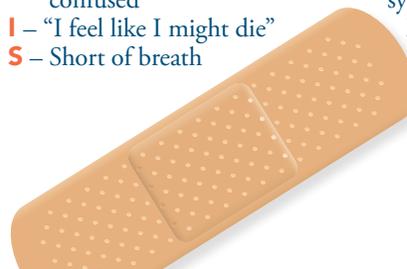
Sepsis symptoms start off very subtly and may mimic a flu or virus. It's important to look for the warning signs of sepsis. Spotting these symptoms early could prevent the body from entering septic shock, and could save a life.

Here are some of the more common symptoms of Sepsis:

- S** – Shiver, fever, or very cold
- E** – Extreme pain or general discomfort ("worst ever")
- P** – Pale or discolored skin
- S** – Sleepy, difficult to rouse, confused
- I** – "I feel like I might die"
- S** – Short of breath

Watch for a combination of these symptoms, especially if there's been a recent cut, scrape, surgery, or any type of illness or invasive procedure. If sepsis is suspected, call 911 or go to a hospital Emergency Room and say, "I am concerned about sepsis."

While there are not doctors who specialize in treating sepsis, there are hospitals and doctors who can quickly identify sepsis and treat it appropriately. El Camino Hospital has achieved Joint Commission Sepsis certification and has demonstrated the ability to produce better patient outcomes and lower sepsis mortality rates. At El Camino Hospital, the healthcare team follows highly practiced guidelines to prevent infection. From regular hand washing to close monitoring of patients for sepsis symptoms, all members of the healthcare team are dedicated to patient safety. To learn more, visit [www.elcaminohospital.org/sepsis](http://www.elcaminohospital.org/sepsis).





**TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS**  
26379 Fremont Road  
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Los Altos, CA  
Permit No. 306

**Town Newsletter Statement of Purpose**

This is the official town newsletter to communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the town — to facilitate, encourage, and improve interaction between the residents and the town government. The newsletter is published quarterly. **Deadline for the next issue is October 3, 2018.**

Printed with soy-based inks. International Paper, the manufacturer of the paper, has earned Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forestry Stewardship Council dual certification.

[www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)

**Our Town**

Our Town is published with assistance from the City Clerk, Deborah Padovan, and Town Volunteer Committees.

Editor: Alexander Atkins

Associate Editor: Glen Reed

Contributing Writers: Robin Chapman, Jitze Couperus, Daniela Friedmann, Duffy Price, Amita Sachdeva, Sonja Wilkerson

Photography: Alexander Atkins, Jitze Couperus, Torie Dye, Deborah Padovan, Alice Sakamoto

**Los Altos Hills City Council**

John Radford, Mayor  
Roger Spreen, Mayor Pro Tem  
Courtenay Corrigan  
Gary Waldeck  
Michelle Wu

**City Manager**

Carl Cahill

**CALENDAR**

**Sept. 8**

Sat., 3:00 - 8:00 pm

**Hoedown**

Live blue grass music, Capelo's BBQ for purchase, square dancing, old fashioned crafts, and horse show at 4:30.

**23**

Sun., 2:00 pm

**The Ginztons of Los Altos Hills**

Presented by the Los Altos Hills History Committee. Nancy and Anne Ginzton will share their tales of growing up in town with such vibrant parents who were early contributors to the character and success of Silicon Valley.

**15-16**

Sat. & Sun., 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Los Altos History Museum's Train Days**  
Elaborate model train

layouts, intricate scenery, and scaled renditions of prototypes and whimsical engines to delight visitors of all ages. Admission is \$5 per person, ages 4 and under free.



**27**

Thu., 11:00 am - Noon  
**Retirement: Making Your Money Last**

The presentation discusses ideas to help build a reasonable and sustainable strategy for managing income and expenses during retirement.

**30**

Sun., 2:00 - 5:00 pm  
**Art Exhibit and Reception**  
Abstraction and Connec-

tion, an exhibit of digital art by Sterling Haidt will be on display at Town Hall from September 2018 through March 2019.

**October 2**

Tue., 10:00 am - 12:30 pm  
**Stay Active, Stay Safe, Stay for Lunch**

Join us at Town Hall for a 2-mile walk, Home Fire Safety & Crime Prevention Program presented by Santa Clara County Fire and the Sheriff's Office and Le Boulanger sandwiches. Registration is required: [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov).

**9**

Fri., 6:30 - 9:00 pm  
**Halloween Middle School Lock-In**

Games, music, a costume contest, movies, snacks, and more Halloween themed fun. For more information, contact the Los

Altos Hills Youth Commission at [lahyouthcommission@gmail.com](mailto:lahyouthcommission@gmail.com).

**26**

Fri., 2:00 - 4:00 pm

**Trick or Treat and Tour Town Hall**

Tours and trick-or-treating. Tours begin at 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, and 3:30. Open to all ages. Please RSVP to [cknopf@losaltoshills.ca.gov](mailto:cknopf@losaltoshills.ca.gov).

**Dec. 2**

Sun., 2:00 - 5:00 pm

**Barn Lighting**

Spend the afternoon at Westwind Community Barn, sampling cookies, hot cider, and wine tasting while kids participate in seasonal games, craft tables, face painting, Santa visits, pony rides, and a petting zoo.

Calendar events are also posted on town's website: [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)