

# BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Richard Elder, BPA President



**H**appy New Year, neighbors. I am pleased to announce that Jon Affeld will be assuming the role of BPA President for 2018. As our Social Events Chairman this

past year, Jon continued to bring to life our traditional BPA events, like Movie Night, as well as new events, such as the November Fall Foodie Festival. Jon brings a lot of energy and ideas to the position, and I am excited about working with him as a regular Board member this coming year. The Board elected John King (who's also our BPA Treasurer) to the position of Vice President.

I have enjoyed meeting more of my Barron Park neighbors this year, particularly at the BPA Happy Hour (5:30 PM, the third Tuesday of every month at Celia's Mexican Restaurant, 3740 El Camino). Appetizers are provided by the BPA. I encourage you to join us. It is a good opportunity to meet neighbors and interact with BPA Board members. Another excellent opportunity to

meet our neighbors and learn more about what is happening in Barron Park and Palo Alto in general is our Barron Park Association Annual Meeting, February 11, 2018. More information about the upcoming Annual Meeting can be found later in this newsletter.

As a regular Board member, my goals will remain the same: to support the BPA in its mission to enhance our community atmosphere through neighborhood events, communication, and education, and to represent the community within the City. If you share these goals, please support the community by joining and maintaining your BPA membership (details and signup at [bpapalocalto.org](http://bpapalocalto.org)) and encouraging your friends and neighbors to become members. If you want to do more, there are many opportunities to volunteer, either by joining the Board or volunteering to support individual activities. Just contact any BPA Board member.

Wishing you all health and happiness in the New Year.

ing for one another. In the past, there were the early efforts to resist annexation into the City in order to maintain our unique rural, eclectic identity. Then there was the generous transfer of land and resources by the Bol family to establish Bol Park, and more recently, ongoing efforts to help the sick, the elderly, and the most vulnerable residents when outside forces affect them. Rich or poor, young or old, temporary or permanent, I have always been impressed with the way our residents and association members have gotten involved to make Barron Park a better place.

Maybe it is the close proximity to Stanford and Silicon Valley. Some say it is the beauty and abundance of our natural environment. Perhaps it is the fact that we have distinct geographical boundaries, and our neighborhood association is especially active. However, I believe it is the people themselves, who come from all over the globe and all walks of life, who make our community so special.

As the incoming President of the Barron Park Association, I hope to continue that tradition. We have so much to be thankful for, and I look forward to serving you over the coming year. The BPA studies local issues with the City to see how they affect us. It serves as a liaison to other nearby neighborhood associations. Most importantly, it sponsors many services and events, including the May Fête, Summer Movie Night, monthly Happy Hour at Celia's, the Babysitter and Services lists, and our quarterly BPA newsletter.

Come join us—membership signup at [bpapalocalto.org](http://bpapalocalto.org) Get involved, and start creating those connections to make the most out of living here in Barron Park.

## INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jon Affeld, Incoming BPA President



Hello everybody,

To me, the connections we make with people and the communities we live in are what make life worth living. Shared

memories and experiences with family, friends, and neighbors add depth, meaning, and stability to an often-turbulent world.

Fortunately, in Barron Park, residents have a long history of bonding together and car-

### I N S I D E

2

**Barron Park Fall Festival**

4

**Hummingbirds: Living on the Edge**

6

**Tax Advice from a BP Professional**

8

**The Old Barron Park Water Company**

10

**The Cool Block Program**

11

**Caring for Our Cats**

12

**The Many Faces of Empathy**

14

**The Sixth Annual Buena Vista Posada**

# OUR NOVEMBER 12TH BARRON PARK FALL FESTIVAL

By Jon Affeld

**F**all is traditionally celebrated in different cultures around the world for its life-giving harvest. If the rewards are measured in terms of fun, camaraderie, and inclusiveness, then perhaps the Barron Park community has the greatest bounty of them all.

On Sunday, November 12, 2017, the Barron Park Association hosted our first Fall Foodie Festival that included a Taiko performance by Bay Area drummer and instructor, Kristy Oshiro ([kristyoshiro.com](http://kristyoshiro.com)) and her troupe, followed by a cooking competition, a high-end foodie sampling from local vendors, and a potluck of various dishes from residents. Gary Breitbard and Jena Rauti led off the festivities with outdoor accordion music. Bruce Jaffe's informational table—with portable putting green—updated us on the status of the Palo Alto Golf Course. A raffle of donated prizes completed the afternoon.

The rumblings in hungry stomachs were only exceeded by the power and vibrations of the Taiko drums. Loud, proud, and exciting, there were smiles all around as the audience was moved by the irresistible rhythm and beat of the music.

To wrap up the performance, young and old were encouraged to take the stage and

play together on the drums. In a celebration of unity, they all took a bow together holding hands.

The cooking competition exceeded all expectations. Contestants spared no effort in hopes of winning the coveted Barron Cup Culinary Trophy! Four different contestant groups battled it out for three rounds that included appetizers, entrées, and desserts. The dishes were then evaluated by a distinguished panel of judges, including an internationally accredited chef, a local food critic from Terman Middle School, and one of our own Palo Alto City Council members.

Some examples of the amazing and skillful dishes were crispy curry lettuce wraps as appetizers. The entrées included Thai fried rice served in actual pineapple shells and a cooked-to-perfection schnitzel with mixed potatoes, peas, and mustard sauce. Finally, the evaluators enjoyed decadent desserts: chilled poached pears served in frozen chocolate molds, macaroon cookies with ice cream and marbled pumpkin, chocolate bread pudding, and chocolate cheesecake.

There were no losers, and perhaps the biggest winners were the judges (and a few lucky audience members) who got to taste all the delicious dishes. In the end, the Chakraborty family edged out the other contestants in an extremely tight competition to take the prize.

Neighborhood attendees were treated to a delectable feast of refreshments from local vendors and neighbors. Some highlights included gourmet cheeses, crackers, pasta, salads, and meats courtesy of the College Terrace Market, and candies from the Sweet Shop, which has long been a favorite of Terman students who have created a well-worn path behind the school to its location on Los Altos Avenue.

Many also praised the potluck dishes, like the Placones' Chicken Tamale casserole. Raffle winners took home valuable prizes that included donated cooking and serving utensils as well as gift certificates from our own Driftwood Deli.

All in all, it was a great day and a very successful event. New seeds of community were planted, bonds of friendship grew stronger, and we all reaped fond memories to sustain us through the evolving seasons of our lives.

## The Minds of Our Chefs

Our Barron Park Fall Festival featured three distinguished, discerning volunteer judges: Jordan Affeld, Seventh-grader at Terman Middle School; Lydia Kou, Palo Alto City Council Member; and Justen Lee, internationally trained chef and instructor at Williams-Sonoma.

Each Barron Park contestant-chef or group was given a basket of 5 'mystery' ingredients—pumpkin, chocolate, mustard, curry powder, and soy sauce—in advance. They prepared a 3-course meal in their home kitchens—appetizer, entrée, and dessert—using each of the mystery ingredients at least once. Chefs, listed below, were kind enough to supply their menus. Our mouths are still watering! (See our BPA website—[bpapaloalto.org](http://bpapaloalto.org)—for the Chakrabortys' complete, winning appetizer recipe.)

### Jannie Affeld

**Appetizer:** Creamy pumpkin soup with roasted pumpkin seeds and cubed pumpkin salad, plus deviled eggs

**Entrée:** Thai fried rice with onion pancake, served in a halved pineapple plate

**Dessert:** Pumpkin macaroons with chocolate filling, plus chocolate ice cream

### Simanta Chakraborty, Stephanie Shaw, and family

**Appetizer:** Soy-Garlic-Honey NY Strip steak and Sesame grilled asparagus with pumpkin "Wasabi"

**Entrée:** Pumpkin curry with pork over garlic chicken rice

**Dessert:** Poached pears in chocolate cups

### Amy Love

**Appetizer:** Curry lettuce wraps

**Entrée:** Fried schnitzel and mixed potatoes and peas with mustard sauce

**Dessert:** Pumpkin and chocolate cheesecake

### Amol Saxena

**Appetizer:** Pumpkin curry soup

**Entrée:** Roasted turkey with vegetables and glazed sauce

**Dessert:** Chocolate bread pudding

## Thank You to Our Generous Donors and Contributors!

We would not have been able to conduct an event on this scale without a generous grant from the City of Palo Alto and the generosity of our local business community who donated time and materials.

College Terrace Market, 2100 El Camino, food and cooking supplies

Barron Park Market, 3876 El Camino, pumpkins for the cooking competition

Sweet Shop, 994 Los Altos Ave., Los Altos, chocolate for the cooking competition

Driftwood Deli, 3450 El Camino, gift certificates for the raffle

Copy Factory, 3929 El Camino, discounted printing services



Photo: Jim Colton

Kids and families joined the exciting performance by Kristy Oshiro ([kristyoshiro.com](http://kristyoshiro.com)) and her troupe of Taiko Drummers.



Photo: Leon Rochester



Photo: Jon Affeld

Our chef-contestants: (L. to R.) Amol Saxena, Amy Love, Simanta Chakraborty, Stephanie Shaw, and family, and Jannie Affeld.



Photos: Myrna Rochester



Every dish was lovingly prepared to the highest culinary and aesthetic standards.

# GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS— HUMMINGBIRDS: LIVING ON THE EDGE

By Jon Affeld and Jeralyn Moran

**D**uring the holiday season, life can get very hectic. Trying to balance work and family. Preparing for and going to what seems like an endless string of parties and festivities. Dressing up, eating too much, and not getting enough sleep. Not to mention traveling long distances to visit relatives.

If that seems overwhelming, a few of our neighbors have it much worse. Perpetu-

## FUN FACTS

- Hummingbirds have no sense of smell but have very good eyesight.
- Hummingbirds cannot walk or hop, but they are the only birds that can fly backwards.
- With a physique a body builder would envy, roughly 25-30 percent of a hummingbird's weight is in its pectoral muscles.
- Their heart rate can reach as high as 1,260 beats per minute, a rate once measured in a blue-throated hummingbird, with a breathing rate of 250 breaths per minute, even at rest.
- They do not flap their wings but rotate them up to 80 times a second.
- An adult Anna's Hummingbird weighs about the same as a nickel.
- Showing off to attract a mate, males climb up to 130 feet into the air and then swoop to the ground, making an unusual noise that they produce through their tail feathers.
- Almost without exception, a hummingbird nest is bound together and lashed to a support (like a small branch) with lots of recycled spider webbing. Spider silk is an amazing material—thinner than even the finest human hair, stronger than steel relative to its thickness, somewhat sticky, and very elastic.



**Anna's Hummingbirds: the female is on the left, the male on the right. Credit: [virtualmuseum.ca](http://virtualmuseum.ca)**

ally balancing on the edge of oblivion, they frantically strive to keep the high life from catching up to them. Our friends the hummingbirds make it look so easy while turning life into one big celebration.

### **Name:**

The scientific name for hummingbirds is *Trochilidae*, after the family group they represent. There are over 300 known subspecies, and all are most closely related to the swift bird family. The most common hummingbird with which we share Barron Park is the Anna's Hummingbird.

### **Description:**

With long, thin beaks and brightly flashing colors, hummingbirds represent some of the smallest and lightest birds on the planet. They get their name from the buzzing sound caused by the rapid rotation of their wings. Their varied colors come from a combination of feather pigments as well as prism-shaped cells that reflect sunlight. Accentuated with show-off plumes, the outfit comes together like the ultimate dinner dress.

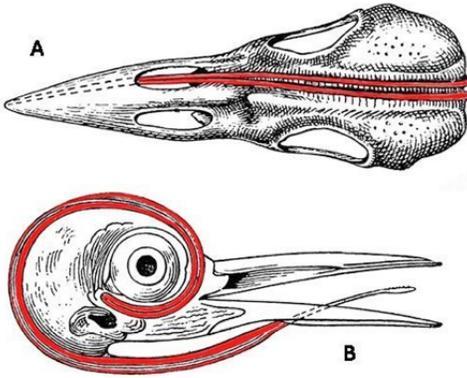
Highly maneuverable, they can hover to feed, fly backwards, or zip back and forth between potential food sources. Like socialites flirting with the appetizer tray, they are natural-born nibblers. Their beauty and amazing athletic feats make them the life of the party.

### **Habitat:**

Hummingbirds are native to the Western Hemisphere and do not naturally occur in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, or Antarctica.



**A hummingbird typically includes spider webbing to hold its nest together! Credit: [google.com/imghp](http://google.com/imghp)**



**The hummingbird's tongue as it wraps at rest inside the skull Credit: goldengateaudubon.org**

Some research indicates that they likely originated in the Andes Mountains of South America and co-evolved with the rise of nectar-bearing plants. Today, they can live in temperate climates where there are enough flowers to sustain them.

**Behavior:**

Due to their hyperactivity, hummingbirds need to eat approximately every 15 minutes while awake. Just hours away from starving to death, they must consume as much as three times their body weight each day in sugar just to survive. Pardon their reach as they always bring a big appetite.

For comparison, it would be like a 150-pound person drinking 5,000 cans of soda or eating 10,000 candy bars a day. Now that's a sweet tooth! Not quite vegetarian, they mostly consume nectar, but will also pursue soft insects for protein, especially when the female is feeding her babies. They do not "sip" or "suck" with their tongues, so much as lap up nectar, like a dog would water, with their unique tongues which can lick up to 15 to 20 times a second.

Born from eggs about the size of a pea, hummingbirds live from 3 to 12 years. Many participate in seasonal migration, with some traveling up to 3,900 miles. One species even flies non-stop 500 miles across the Gulf of Mexico. Scientists are not sure how many times the hummingbird kids ask if "they are there yet" along the way.

Under constant caloric pressure, hummingbirds have difficulty finding locations with enough flowers to keep them

alive. You may not be able to remember the names of new acquaintances you meet at a party, but hummingbirds have a large brain-to-body ratio and can literally remember the status and location of hundreds of flowers they visit.

They are food jealous to a fault—one reason they are considered some of the most aggressive species of birds in the animal kingdom. Like Uncle Bob hoarding the cheesecake, they will take on all comers if it means protecting a rare and reliable food supply.

At night or during cold weather, some hummingbirds intentionally slow down their metabolism into a hibernation-like state called torpor. It's a little like that post-dinner nap on the couch.

Even so, they lose approximately 10% of their body weight each night. Some might call that the slumber diet. Despite completely lacking in self-control, a hummingbird never has to fear getting on a scale in the morning.

**Threats:**

Hummingbirds are vulnerable to predators, including other birds, snakes, domestic cats, and even large insects, that stake out their nests or food sources and wait to ambush them. Additionally, they are very susceptible to habitat loss because of the close symbiotic relationship they have with nectar-producing plants. In fact, some plants have developed flowers specifically shaped so that only certain hummingbirds can feed from them. Hummingbirds never walk out on the ones that brought them to the affair.

So, if holiday stress gets you down, take comfort from the physics-defying, metabolism-denying hummingbirds. They never have time to stop and smell the roses because they are too busy trying to drink from them.

Are you a Barron Park artist, photographer, artisan, craftsperson, sculptor, designer, musician, writer, poet...? Do you know one? You and your work can be featured an upcoming BPA Newsletter. Please send us your idea with a draft artist's statement and reproducible samples of your work to [newsletter@bpapaloalto.org](mailto:newsletter@bpapaloalto.org)

## Parcel Tax Exemption for Seniors

Palo Alto homeowners age 65 and older, as well as recipients of SSI/SSDI, may apply for an exemption or a refund (for 2017) of the general Parcel Tax added to Palo Alto property tax bills, passed in 2015. Information and an application for exemption or refund can be found on the following Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) web page:

[pausd.org/business-services/parcel-tax](http://pausd.org/business-services/parcel-tax)

Here is a PDF of the application form, "Request for Exemption from the Parcel Tax":

[pausd.org/sites/default/files/pdf-faqs/attachments/ParcelTaxExemptionForm\\_0.pdf](http://pausd.org/sites/default/files/pdf-faqs/attachments/ParcelTaxExemptionForm_0.pdf)

You may apply for a permanent exemption and/or a refund for your (already paid) 2017 Santa Clara County property tax bill. The refund for 2017 is available **before May 31, 2018**. You will likely be requested to present documentation in person at the PAUSD offices, 25 Churchill Ave., Palo Alto.

For further information and answers to your questions, call **Betty Muñoz** at PAUSD, **650-329-3980**, or send email to [bmunoz@pausd.org](mailto:bmunoz@pausd.org) We have found her to be extremely responsive.

### 2018 BPA Annual Meeting and Lunar New Year Celebration!

Sunday, February 11, 2018, 2:00-4:00 PM  
Barron Park Elementary School Multipurpose Room

Everyone is invited to the 2018 Barron Park Association Annual Meeting, Sunday, February 11, 2018, in the BPES Multipurpose Room. Join your neighbors for informative presentations and Q&A about BPA and Palo Alto initiatives—including Emergency Preparedness, Sustainability, the Caltrain Rail Crossing Separation, Community Broadband Internet, and City plans for the Fry's (and surrounding) site.

Stay on for our community Lunar New Year celebration and potluck! Families welcome. There will be activities for children. Details to follow on the BPA mailing lists and NextDoor.

# IT'S TAX TIME! ADVICE FROM A BARRON PARK PROFESSIONAL

By Adele Gershater, CPA

*Note: This article has been prepared for informational purposes only and is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on, for tax, legal, or accounting advice. You should consult a tax or legal advisor before engaging in any transaction.*

**B**y the time you read this, it will already be 2018. Happy New Year! At the time of this writing, the House and the Senate have voted to pass two different versions of a tax reform bill. It appears that, if and when the House and Senate versions are reconciled, some type of tax reform bill will go into effect in 2018. Given that there are still significant differences between the two versions, it is difficult to predict how individual and corporate income taxes will be affected in 2018. We do know, however, that personal and dependent exemptions have been repealed, that the standard deduction will increase dramatically, that there will no longer be an itemized deduction for state income taxes, and that property taxes will only be deductible up to \$10,000 per year. Both versions also include a top rate of 40% on estates above \$11.2M (\$22.4M for couples). In addition, both the House and the Senate versions decrease the top corporate income tax rate to 20% in 2018 and 2019, respectively.

I hope that you can still take—or have already taken—advantage of the year-end tax planning tips in this article to minimize your 2017 tax liability, due to the unique set of challenges presented by the new tax bill:

1. Due to the time value of money, it is generally wise to defer taxable income into the following year and accelerate tax deductions to the current year, as they will be more valuable in reducing your tax liability. Depending on your tax bracket “before” and “after” the enactment of tax reform, it is also possible that your tax rate may be lower in 2018. In addition, certain itemized deductions, such as the one for state income taxes, will be eliminated under the tax bill, while a property tax deduction of up to \$10,000 is expected to remain. Thus, to make the most of your de-

ductions, you should pay (or should have paid) your 2017 state income taxes and your 2017-2018 property taxes before the end of 2017. If you are able to, you should also accelerate payments of large medical expenses, student loan interest payments, and the purchase of a new house that will be subject to a mortgage over \$500,000 into 2017. You should, of course, be cognizant of the phaseout of itemized deductions for high-income taxpayers and to remember that certain itemized deductions, such as property taxes, are disallowed for alternative minimum tax purposes.

2. Maximize your retirement contributions: if your employer offers a 401(k) plan, contribute the maximum amount allowed (\$18,000 for 2017, plus another \$6,000 for employees aged 50 and over). Similarly, you should maximize contributions to your traditional or Roth IRA, provided you meet the filing status and income conditions. Even teenagers should be encouraged to maximize their IRA contribution if they are working.

3. Make your charitable contributions before December 31. Keep in mind that you can donate appreciated stock to a qualified charitable organization without having to pay tax on the capital gain, as long as you have held it for over a year. If you are 70.5 years old or older, you may also have the opportunity to make a “qualified charitable distribution” of up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to a qualified public charity.

4. Offset your capital gains with capital losses: if you have sold investments and realized capital gains in 2017, examine your portfolio for unrealized losses and consider selling those investments in order to offset your capital gains.

5. If you got married, had a child, or got divorced in 2017, or if you started a new job, moved from another country or another state, or bought/sold a house, speak to a tax expert to evaluate the tax effects of these life changes.

Although by the time you read this, the new tax overhaul will be well underway, there still may be opportunities to minimize your tax bill for 2017, and you should use them to your benefit.

*Adele Gershater, CPA, MBA, has resided with her family in Barron Park since 2001 and has enjoyed seeing the neighborhood grow and, at the same time, keep its character. After having worked for over 20 years in finance and corporate tax at Intel and Oracle, she decided to focus on serving individuals and small businesses. Thus was born her accounting firm, also in Barron Park. Adele offers a range of accounting and taxation solutions for individuals, startups, established corporations, partnerships, and non-profit organizations. For more information and to contact her, visit her website at [adelegershatercpa.com](http://adelegershatercpa.com), email [adele@adelegershatercpa.com](mailto:adele@adelegershatercpa.com) or call 650-382-3259.*

## Reminder: Annual BPA Membership Renewal Begins Spring 2018!

**T**he BPA Spring Newsletter, published in early April, will contain Membership forms for 2018 memberships/renewals. But you can always renew online at:

[bpapaloalto.org/join-the-barron-park-association](http://bpapaloalto.org/join-the-barron-park-association)

Feel free to join or renew early, either by mail or online. If you prefer to use mail,

our website offers “Mail-in Membership with a Personal Check.” Or join in person at our Membership table at the BPA Annual Meeting on February 11!

If enough Barron Park residents join between now and Spring, the BPA can eliminate a second reminder mailer. Eliminating this mailer saves paper and \$800 in printing/postage costs!

# Senior Lunches to Continue in 2018!

By Rosemary Jacobsen and Julie Spengler

Hello Barron Park Lunch Seniors,

Happy New Year. We hope your holidays and end-of-year activities were most enjoyable.

Mark your calendars! Starting in 2018, we're changing the format of our long-time, very successful Senior Lunches. Barron Park Seniors will meet regularly for lunch—on a drop-in basis—at the **Corner Bakery Café**, 3375 El Camino, at 1:00 PM on the *second Tuesday* of the following months: February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Note that this will be a restaurant/coffee shop get-together. No reservations are required. Don't wait for a reminder. Don't worry about R.S.V.P. or cancellations. You won't need to decide on a menu or pay in advance. Just order your lunch and pay at the counter.

You may, of course, find that you wish to carpool with a friend or neighbor—to be arranged individually. Please encourage others to join us!

One of our concerns has been that sitting in separate booths or at small tables is kind of impersonal and defeats the purpose. However, we have always been able to push two or three tables together, so we can all visit with everyone. We believe this solution will work out very well.

So, Seniors, here's a way to continue enjoying each other's company. Meet us at the Corner Bakery at **1:00 PM**, the **Second Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December**. We're looking forward to continuing the camaraderie we've established over the years.

See you at the Corner Bakery!

Rosemary and Julie

# Public Input Needed on Palo Alto Rail Corridor

By Tom DuBois

The City of Palo Alto is seeking public participation as it plans to separate our at-grade road crossings on the Caltrain corridor that runs through the community. Decisions made will affect community aesthetics and traffic flow for future generations. Your input is a vital part of the process. Three workshops to brainstorm alternatives have already been held. A fourth workshop focusing on lowering the train tracks in a trench or tunnel is being scheduled for January 2018.

Please consult: [cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/pln/transit/railways.asp](http://cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/pln/transit/railways.asp) for updates, as well as future meeting times and locations.

## BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Barron Park Association  
724 Barron Avenue  
Palo Alto, California 94306

### EDITOR

Myrna Rochester

### DESIGNER

Patrick Coyne

### PROOFREADER

Gwen Luce

### CONTRIBUTORS

Jon Affeld, Winter Dellenbach, Tom DuBois, Richard Elder, Reine Flexer, Adele Gershater, Hilary Glann, Douglas L. Graham, Rosemary Jacobsen, Lisa Berkowitz Landers, Jeralyn Moran, Myrna Rochester, Julie Spengler, Liliana Williams

### PHOTO/ILLUSTRATION CREDITS

Jon Affeld, Jim Colton, Winter Dellenbach, The Empowerment Institute, Art Liberman, Scott Mellberg, Elliot Margolies, Leon Rochester, Myrna Rochester, Lindy Small

### PRINTER

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**BPA Board meetings** are held the 3rd Tuesday of most months at 7:15 P.M.

Neighbors are welcome.

**BPA Community Happy Hours** are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5:30 P.M.

For Meeting and Happy Hour locations write to [president@bpapaloalto.org](mailto:president@bpapaloalto.org)

[bpapaloalto.org](http://bpapaloalto.org)

# THE OLD BARRON PARK WATER COMPANY

By Douglas L. Graham, Barron Park Historian, *Reprint from BPA Newsletter, Fall 2005*

Several private water companies used to supply water to different parts of Barron Park. Probably the most significant of these was the Barron Park Water Company, run by Cornelis Bol. At the time it sold out to the City of Palo Alto, it supplied roughly the northwest half of Barron Park, including all of Matadero, Chimalus, and Barron Avenues, as well as Roble Ridge, Laguna from Matadero to Barron, Whitsell, Kendall, La Selva, La Donna from Kendall to San Jude, and all the cul-de-sacs off those streets.

The water came from three deep wells, each more than 500 feet deep. Two of these (Matadero #1 and #2) were located on Matadero opposite Whitsell, where one of them served until recently [as of 2005] as one of Palo Alto's reserve emergency water supplies. Currently, the BPA is trying to persuade the City to reactivate it. The other one, the "Strain Well," was located at 3683 La Donna, and was named for the family that ran a dairy in that area.

The origin of this company is interesting. It was founded May 14, 1928, as the Emway Mutual Water Company, the name being an acronym based on the founders' family names (Eastus, Meyn, Watt, Alsgood, and Young). At that time there had been about 130 properties subdivided out of the original 350-acre Barron Tract. The new company was considered "the successor to the Matadero Water Company," so apparently it wasn't the first in the area. The idea was to provide irrigation to the orchards, crops, and cottages along Matadero, Chimalus, Whitsell, and neighboring streets, from Matadero Well #1.

The original five families provided the company's initial capital, partly as paid-in shares and partly as loans to the company. The principal shareholders and largest creditors were Luther and George Young. Luther served as the first President and was probably the real driving force behind the company. Cornelis Bol's name

first appears in the company records as the newly elected Secretary-Treasurer, January 1, 1939. The company expanded operations to Roble Ridge in 1940.

Bol tried to take control of the company September 24, 1939, with an offer to buy the other owners out. There was opposition, and in early 1940, Joseph Watt made a takeover attempt. For several years, Board meetings were strained as Bol attempted to persuade the others to prepare for the coming postwar expansion, and the others remained primarily interested in how much they could take out of the company in dividends. Cornelis succeeded in persuading the others to sell to him, May 24, 1942. He later changed the formal name to the Barron Park Water Company, but most people called it the Bol Water Company.

The Bols ran the enterprise as a family affair, like everything else they did. The Bol sons were kept busy reading meters and responding to complaints of low pressure, leaks, or muddy water. Cornelis managed customer and financial affairs and handled major repair and maintenance jobs. Some were major indeed, such as the underground collapse of the well casing on Matadero #2. This stimulated the purchase of the Strain well and installation of the La Donna pumping plant. On another occasion, the 25,000-gallon steel tank fell off its tower and was partially crushed. It was repaired and remounted horizontally just above ground level in a concrete cradle. Henceforth, the system was pressurized with compressed air, rather than depending on gravity to provide adequate water pressure.

After the War, the anticipated residential development of Barron Park exploded, impacting the water company with recurring requests for new mains, hydrants, and connections. The Bols were constantly harassed by middle-of-the-night emergencies as the rapidly aging mains, connections, pumps, and valves were strained in

keeping up with the neighborhood's burgeoning growth. Cornelis was very busy at Stanford and brought Klaas, the oldest son, into the management of the firm.

Klaas was the manager from 1949 until he moved to Schenectady, NY, in 1951. Even after that, as Cornelis and Josina were forced to resume the management and day-to-day operational control, they depended on Klaas's business knowledge and accounting skills to handle the rapidly increasing tax and accounting requirements.

The postwar years saw one tax problem after another. Cornelis found that the company was supposed to be paying corporate income tax to both the U.S. and the State, something which apparently had never been done. He underwent a quick self-taught course in U.S. corporation and tax law as, in quick succession, several tax or legal emergencies followed each other. The County cracked down on private water companies which failed to pay the county franchise tax (it was either that, or get their mains out of the public streets and rights-of-way). The State informed Bol that the Emway Corporation had failed to secure ongoing registration and, as far as it was concerned, had ceased to exist in 1932. The U.S. and the State billed them for the unpaid corporate income taxes and penalties.

Relations with local government bodies were not the best, either. The City of Palo Alto twice refused to consider Bol's proposal to establish a cross-connection with the City system at El Camino Real and Barron Avenue, to serve as an emergency back-up. The Barron Park Fire Protection District (the "volunteer fire department"), which was undergoing its own financial and political crises, got more than a year behind in payment of hydrant rental fees to the company, adding to its financial precariousness.

There were many business problems too. Josina learned double-entry bookkeeping

from Klaas and upgraded the company's books, which had been both informal and incomplete.

Also, in the late 1940s and early 1950s, they had to deal with a rapidly fluctuating customer base—about half the houses on Chimalus and Matadero, for example, were occupied by renters. The renters came and went and didn't always pay their final water bills. A cut-off notice form became a necessity.

In spite of all this, however, the company was, on the whole, quite successful. The grit and determination of the entire Bol family made it so. The company met the construction challenges of rapid growth, the maintenance and repair challenges of the aging plant and equipment, and the business and legal challenges, and still managed to pay family members reasonable salaries for their work. All taxes were paid up, no creditors had to wait for payment, customers were usually satisfied with the service, emergency loans from Cornelis were all repaid by the company, and the Bols were able to pay themselves dividends from operating profits almost every year.

However, in 1953, when most of the Bol sons had left home, it became too much for Cornelis and Josina. When the City expressed interest in taking over the system and modernizing it, Cornelis was glad to negotiate a sale. The City had already taken over both the Los Robles and the Las Encinas Water Companies, and it was clear that the era of small private water companies in Palo Alto was ending. The final meeting of shareholders was held June 4, 1953, the sale to the City went through in July, and all affairs were wound up by March 1954. The "Bol Water Company" was history, after 26 years of providing water to Barron Park residents.

Please email me at the address below if you have Barron Park history information or old photos you would like to see reproduced in my upcoming Barron Park history book.

Thanks, Doug Graham  
[dgrahampaca@gmail.com](mailto:dgrahampaca@gmail.com)

## BPA ADDRESS REMINDERS

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■ You will also find a link to the **BPA Services/Home Business List** on our BPA Website at [bpapaloalto.org/2017/09/01/barron-park-area-service-list-september-2017](http://bpapaloalto.org/2017/09/01/barron-park-area-service-list-september-2017)

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■ Reach our **Welcoming Committee Chair**, Gwen Luce, at:  
[gluce@cbnocal.com](mailto:gluce@cbnocal.com)

■ For information on our **Emergency Services Volunteer Program**, write to Maurice Green:  
[mauryg3@comcast.net](mailto:mauryg3@comcast.net)

■ Contact the chair of the **Bol Park Future Plan Committee**, Richard Placone, at:  
[rcplacone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rcplacone@sbcglobal.net)

■ To donate to the **Bol Park Native Plant Restoration Project**: Write a check payable to "Friends of the Palo Alto Parks (FOPAP), for the Bol Park Corner Restoration Project," and mail to: FOPAP, 425 Grant Ave., Suite 27, Palo Alto, CA 94306

Please consider volunteering time or expertise to the **Bol Park Native Plant Restoration Project**. Contact Rich Elder at [rich.e.elder@gmail.com](mailto:rich.e.elder@gmail.com)

■ To donate for the care of **Bol Park's donkeys, Perry and Jenny**: write a check payable to: "ACTERRA-Palo Alto Donkey Fund," and mail to: ACTERRA, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303.



This is an anonymous piece of art (single piece) left at the paddock and submitted by Jim Witt.

# THE COOL BLOCK PROGRAM

## *Building a Stronger Palo Alto One Block at a Time*

By Hilary Glann, Cool Block Leader for Ilima Way

**D**isaster resiliency. Stronger community. Protecting the planet. These three goals motivated 24 city blocks in Palo Alto to participate in a novel community program, supported by the City of Palo Alto, that ran from January 2016 through June 2017.

Three Barron Park blocks—Los Robles from Cerrito Way to the back of Gunn High School, Josina Avenue, and Ilima Way—participated in a pilot program for the Empowerment Institute’s Cool Block Program ([coolblock.org](http://coolblock.org)) creating a more cohesive and friendly block, while increasing their disaster preparedness and reducing their carbon footprint.

The Cool Block organizes people at the hyper-local level to help citizens meet personal and community goals by creating a supportive environment in which neighbors can share knowledge, ideas, and resources. Neighbors get together every two weeks or so over a four-to-five-month period to address specific topics. Each meeting is led by a different neighbor who hosts the meeting in their home or in another neighbor’s home. Participants selected from a menu of 112 potential actions to meet their goals, often utilizing resources available from Palo Alto Utilities, Sustainability, Emergency Services, and Community Services departments.

Program highlights included a hands-on session with the Palo Alto Zero Waste



©2018, The Empowerment Institute

team, as well as a discussion with Palo Alto Home Efficiency Genie Program Manager Scott Mellberg, about free phone resources and low-cost in-person resources available to address home-comfort and energy-efficiency concerns.

“Finding out about the Home Efficiency Genie and using them was one of the finer parts of Cool Block,” said Joanne Barnes. “I used them prior to getting a new furnace. The people who came were very professional and helpful, replacing light bulbs with their LEDs and switching out other light fixtures with my own LEDs.”

The pilot program achieved strong results across Palo Alto:

- On average, nine disaster-resiliency actions were taken per household. The most popular actions included storing seven days of food and water, establishing alternate lighting and news sources, and preparing ‘go-bags’ for emergency evacuations.

- Seven tons of CO2 were saved annually per average participating household, a 32% average carbon reduction. The most popular actions taken were reducing waste, using less hot water in personal and kitchen use, reducing meat consumption, using more efficient lighting, shopping less, and keeping cars tuned up.

- Five water-stewardship actions were taken on average. The most popular actions were

reducing water used in personal care, gardening, and car washing, with about a third of the households taking action to reduce toxins in the environment.

- Three community/livability actions were taken on average. The most popular block-level actions were safety, block parties, tool-sharing, and helping neighbors when needed.

“I enjoyed getting to know my neighbors better, and I really enjoyed seeing my energy bill drop significantly as the result of changes I made in my lighting and energy use,” said Karen Michael.



Lindy Small

The program helped bring together neighbors across generations and build relationships between recent and longtime Palo Alto residents. Teams unlocked the ‘wisdom on the block’ by tapping into the skills and experiences of their neighbors. Participants increased their neighborhood interactions in a variety of situations, including consolidating hazardous waste disposal trips, crowd-sourcing household appliance purchases and contractor engagements—and even borrowing a cup of sugar.

“The community-building aspect of the program was the highlight for almost all of the team members and even non-team members as I talked to the neighbors about the program,” said David Coale, Josina Avenue Block Leader.

Jeralyn Moran, Los Robles Avenue Block leader (*aka*, Barron Creek South Team) commented: “With fewer young children on this block than in the past to bring families together, neighbors expressed appreciation from the start for the Cool Block Program’s



City of Palo Alto, Home Efficiency Genie Program at May Fête 2017.

Scott Mellberg

potential to bring us together.”

The disaster-preparedness section of the program had particular resonance for Cool Block participants in light of the recent natural disasters in the US and around the world.

“We have several CERT (Certified Emergency Response Team) members and Block Preparedness Coordinators on the block who are well prepared for a disaster,” said Tom Sanders. “The Cool Block gave us a platform to help the rest of the neighbors get prepared and to identify shareable

resources, as well as who could relay messages in an emergency.”

The Cool Block team hopes to launch another wave of Cool Blocks in 2018. Please contact Hilary Glann, [hglann@gmail.com](mailto:hglann@gmail.com) if you have questions or are interested in forming new groups.

## CARING FOR OUR CATS

By Reine Flexer and Myrna Rochester

If you have a cat (or cats) or have friends and family who do, you know how much care and attention they get, especially nowadays when pets tend to be treated as family members. On local social media, we see daily posts about cats who’ve strayed, requests for vet recommendations, cat sitting, cat sitters offering services. Yet there’s a lot we may not know about how to handle our pets and the community resources available. We asked a few questions of Reine Flexer, a longtime Barron Park neighbor and active volunteer in animal protection.

**MR:** What should a cat owner (or potential cat owner) be aware of?

**RF:** Above all, make sure your cat is spayed or neutered. For advice, contact the Palo Alto Humane Society (PAHS), 4000 Middlefield Rd., 650-424-1901, [paloaltohumane.org](http://paloaltohumane.org) (Important: PAHS is not our local animal shelter. The animal shelter is Palo Alto Animal Services [PAAS] at 3281 E. Bayshore Rd., 650-496-5971, [cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/pol/as](http://cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/pol/as))

PAHS is a general clearinghouse for animal protection issues. They answer questions, give recommendations, including veterinary, and distribute vouchers for free or low-cost spay and neuter services.

**MR:** Do I need to keep my cat indoors? What about the indoor/outdoor lifestyle?

**RF:** Adoption services recommend that cats be kept indoors (and offered plenty of stimulation) for all the reasons we know. We understand that the indoor/outdoor lifestyle is common. Be aware of the consequences and probably a shorter lifespan.

**MR:** Should we have our cats microchipped?

**RF:** Yes, all pet cats should be microchipped. The chip is inserted at a vet clinic. Then you are responsible for registering the microchip. Ask for the forms at your clinic.

There are several companies that allow you to register. Be careful to retain the name and contact information for your company and the microchip numbers of your pets. Your vet MAY OR MAY NOT KEEP this information. Collars with tags are regularly lost. If you find someone’s lost pet, all vet clinics and the agencies listed in this article have microchip scanners, as do some individuals. If you move or change phone numbers, don’t forget to update your own microchip company.

**MR:** What if my indoor cat slips out and I can’t find him/her, or my indoor/outdoor cat doesn’t come home?

**RF:** Put your cat’s food and water dishes and litterbox outside your door, near the cat flap if you have one. Talk to all your neighbors. Hang printed posters with your phone number, a description, and a photo of your pet on telephone poles at nearby intersections and cross-streets. Leave the posters up until your pet is found; then make sure to remove them. Post a notice on *bpa-news* and *bpa-misc*, as well as on NextDoor. Go in person to our local shelter, Palo Alto Animal Services (PAAS), Mon.-Sat. 11:00-5:30, 3281 East Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto, 650-496-5971, [cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/pol/as](http://cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/pol/as) several times if necessary. PAAS charges a fee to retrieve found animals. A cat can travel far, cross busy streets, and end up across town. An old or sick cat’s personal “GPS” system is probably faulty and he/she will get lost. And, of course, report the lost cat to your microchip company.

**MR:** What if I find a cat or dog?

**RF:** Post on the media sites listed above. Check media sites for “Lost” postings; scan nearby telephone poles for posters. Or take the pet to the Palo Alto Animal Shelter (PAAS) or a vet clinic where the microchip can be scanned. If you find a dog, ask

around; try to find the (neighbor) owner. During the day, call PAAS at 650-496-5971, and a P.A. Animal Control officer will come in person to pick up the dog. At night, the Palo Alto Police Department takes over for found dogs; call the PAPD non-emergency phone number, 650-329-2413.

**MR:** If our family moves, how should we handle our cat’s move?

**RF:** After a move, confine your cat, its food, water, litterbox, and a familiar carrier to a single room for at least two weeks. We don’t usually recommend collars with tags—a collar can be lost, the cat can strangle in it, and there are privacy issues—but this is the time to use one. Put your new contact information on the tags. Good luck.

**MR:** Any advice about adopting a new cat or kitten?

**RF:** The websites of local shelters maintain lists of animals currently on site, as well as a separate list of adoptable pets, with photos and descriptions. A national organization—Pet Harbor—compiles the lists from local shelters. To adopt, check the shelter at PAAS (not PAHS), the Pet Harbor website, or local non-profits: Community Cat Rescue, Peninsula Catworks, Companions in Waiting, Pets in Need, or Nine Lives. They all have websites.

**MR:** What do you do in your volunteer capacity? How can we get involved?

**RF:** We volunteers mainly deal with feral, abandoned, or “community” cats to keep them healthy and reduce the population with spay/neuter programs. Sadly, pets are still being abandoned. Stray or feral pregnant cats or mothers with kittens are of particular concern; they should NEVER be ignored. Call PAHS (650-424-1901) for information about joining a fostering/socialization program or feeding/maintaining community cats.

# THE MANY FACES OF EMPATHY

By Liliana Williams, MA, SLP-CCC

The ability to demonstrate empathy and compassion towards others is inarguably one of our finest human traits. So valued are these traits that many parents teach and model empathy to their children at home and on the playground beginning at a very young age. They teach their toddlers to apologize if, say, they bite a friend, and model empathy by asking if that crying friend is okay. As children grow older, this education continues. Students from kindergarten to college are encouraged to extend help and support whenever possible to classmates who appear to be in physical or emotional distress. School-based outreach can include simple gestures of friendship, such as greeting a shy classmate with a wave and a smile or asking a loner student to join them at lunchtime. Adults who feel they need a refresher in empathy skills can attend workshops such as Stanford's Center for Compassion and Altruism, where one can "learn to develop the qualities of compassion, empathy, and kindness for others ..." (No, I am not an employee of the Center!)

Demonstrating empathy requires that we first be able to recognize pain and suffering in others. This is easy for most of us to do. The basic facial, verbal/non-verbal expressions that reflect sadness, loneliness, or pain are not difficult to identify. Our response to human suffering may differ according to our personality, but support typically includes offering words of comfort, showing physical affection (like a hug or pat), or simply listening and giving practical advice. These basic expressions of empathy are incorporated in our societal norms and are present in most cultures.

But what about individuals who differ from us in neurology or cognition? Should their emotional response be measured within the societal norms of what we consider "appropriate" expressions of empathy? Moreover, should these individuals—such as people on the autism spectrum—be taught to conform to stereotypical (i.e., neurotypical) expressions of empathy?

Here is an Empathy Quiz: Read the following vignettes, and determine if each

featured child demonstrates appropriate empathy as defined by *your* norms:

1. I am a speech therapist. As I walk into my treatment room with ten-year-old "Johnny," I bang my hip clumsily on the corner of my desk. I gasp in pain, rub my sore hip, and mutter angrily to myself. I hear a giggle. Johnny is looking at me, laughing.
2. "Tammy" and "Eric," both six years old, are sitting next to each other eating lunch in their classroom. Eric accidentally spills his juice. The classroom teacher rushes up, stands over Eric, and begins loudly reprimanding him. Eric's face crumples and he starts to cry. Tammy ignores Eric's sobs, covers her ears, and starts to rock. She watches the teacher warily. As poor Eric continues to cry, Tammy turns her back on him, but keeps a close eye on the teacher as he moves around the room.
3. "Jared" is sharing some sad news with his middle-school friends. Over the weekend his precious dog Rascal has died. Jared is relating the sad details of the death when his classmate "Trevor" blurts out, "My dog died too. He's a skeleton now. Your dog Rascal will be a skeleton in approximately nine months, depending on how big he is and if you used a coffin. If you used a pillowcase like I did, Rascal's decomposition will be quicker. Maybe only six months. If you want, I can search the website [fromfleshtobone.com](http://fromfleshtobone.com) and tell you exactly how long Rascal's decomposition will take."

The answer to the Empathy Quiz is that all three of the children: Johnny, Tammy, and Trevor are demonstrating elements of empathy, just not in the way we might show it! As some of you may have guessed, the children described are on the autism spectrum. I am familiar with these cases because they are my students (names have been changed).

We've all watched popular movies and TV shows that depict children/adults with autism as they attempt to navigate through a world made up of neurotypical people. Many of the scenes are considered funny

or moving. The person with autism is usually depicted as being baffled by 'human emotions,' and who apparently didn't get the memo on how to show appropriate empathy towards roommates experiencing a disgusting hangover or a painful breakup with a BFF. The characters with autism make cold, 'rational' statements that hurt people's feelings and may appear unconcerned or even amused when people get hurt. They dominate conversations with mundane details of a train ride, and they certainly never apologize for anything that might be their fault. These reactions, although at times entertaining, serve to 'educate' the public that people with autism have no empathy, no compassion, and worst of all, no feelings.

My job as a speech pathologist is to teach communication strategies to children with special needs. This includes teaching children on the autism spectrum to interpret the mysterious communication styles of neurotypical people. This can be a complicated task. According to the Diagnostic Criteria for Autism in the DSM-5 Manual (don't worry, this won't take long), people with autism have "deficits in Social/Emotional Reciprocity" (a fancy way of saying they may not react or emote the same way others do). The Manual also lists "Impairments in Social Pragmatics ... which include deficits in the ability to take turns during conversations and the tendency to fixate on topics and dominate conversations." Additionally, people with autism often have difficulty putting themselves in other people's shoes and reading facial expressions.

I've always balked at the word "deficits." I would rather think of them as differences than deficiencies. However, I do think it's important to teach a teenage boy how to keep his friends by saying, "Aww, dude, what a bummer your dog died." Instead of, "He'll be a skeleton in approximately six months."

So how do I attempt to teach a person with autism "appropriate" empathetic response? I can use photo cards or video clips of people reacting in different situa-

tions (happy, sad, scared, etc.) and point out how their facial expressions reflect how they feel emotionally. I can model and label those reactions using my own facial expressions and voice: "I'm so happy it's your birthday today, Johnny!" Or I might knock over a Lego tower a student is building and then make a tragic face of regret as I apologize... (Yes, it's mean—but effective!) With older kids, I can use "Social Stories," which are written vignettes designed for autistic students that describe a situation and model appropriate verbal responses in a clear, simple format.

Back to the children in the Empathy Quiz: Whereas each child's reaction differed from what we might consider 'normal,' it wasn't a wrong reaction for them. Johnny, who laughed when I hurt myself, was clearly confused by my grimace of pain and my strange muttering. Because I'm often a pretty goofy teacher, Johnny may have been thinking: "Could this bizarre behavior simply be Teacher Lil being silly again? How do I react here?" We did a lesson that day on recognizing when people are in pain and how one might respond 'correctly.'

In the second scenario, Tammy turns away from her scared, sobbing classmate and fixates on watching her teacher instead. Children with autism often have anxiety and trouble differentiating between when others are in trouble and when they themselves are in trouble. Tammy was most likely consumed with worry that this large, loud teacher would target her next.

In the third case, Trevor thought he was being a very helpful friend by describing what he knew about dog decomposition. This was Trevor being logical: "Your dog is dead. That's a fact. Now would you like to know what happens to your dog next? Here is an informative website." This is not a callous or unfeeling reaction to anyone who is familiar with autism!

I'd like to relate an anecdote that happened in my first year of teaching: "Richard" was a nine-year-old boy with severe autism. He was often anxious and appeared to be 'in his own world' much of the time. He spoke only a few words, including: "Candy, More, No, Eat, Red, Green, Yellow." Richard became easily frustrated and overstimulated by external

stimuli, like buzzing lights and school bells, and would react by crying, clutching his head, and rocking. I would pat his back gently until he calmed down, then we would finish working. At the end of our sessions, I would open a tin of Gummy Bears (don't judge, he was only allowed one), and say, "Do you want candy?" and he would name which color he wanted. Richard loved this treat and often eyed the candy tin during our sessions. One day I came into work feeling very stressed and overwhelmed by personal matters. Midway through the lesson, I let Richard play with a toy while I jotted down some data. Suddenly I felt overcome with emotion and stopped writing. I leaned forward and quietly held my head in my hands. After a few moments, I felt a small hand on my back patting me gently. I stayed very still. Then I heard the sound of the Gummy Bear tin sliding across the desk toward me. I looked up, and Richard was gazing at me with concern. He gave me a brief smile, nudged the tin against my hand, and said softly, "Candy?"

That very appropriate gesture of empathy from Richard made my day! And of course, he earned an extra Gummy Bear (or two) for his kindness. We chewed happily together and continued working.

*Liliana Williams is a Speech-Language Pathologist who works with children on the autism spectrum and with other special needs. She lives in Barron Park with her family.*

*If anyone would like to learn more about this topic, please contact Liliana for resources at [liliana@modernthings.net](mailto:liliana@modernthings.net)*

## BPA Neighborhood Services / Home Business List

Look for this Link for our list of Neighborhood Services offered at: [bpapaloalto.org](http://bpapaloalto.org)

To list your service or home business, please send your information to:

[barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com](mailto:barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com)

The service provider's household needs to be a current member of the BPA. If under 18, please include contact information for a parent or guardian.

## SPRING 2018, BPA Newsletter Deadline—Monday, March 5, 2018

To All Our Valued Contributors:

Please submit articles and drafts (preferably in a Word file), along with any images (separate), by **Monday, March 5, 2018**, to Myrna Rochester, [newsletter@bpapalto.org](mailto:newsletter@bpapalto.org) or [mbrbpa@sonic.net](mailto:mbrbpa@sonic.net)

If your Spring idea is still a query (for an article or report/update, an interview, announcement, review, anecdote, or artist's page...), please contact Myrna in advance to talk about developing it. Our Spring 2018 issue will be mailed in early April to the general Barron Park neighborhood. Event announcements should be for events scheduled after April 15.

## EMAIL LISTS

The BPA has four email listserves: *bpa-news*, *bpa-issues*, *bpa-misc* and *bpa-jobpostings*. They are hosted at Google Groups. To join the lists, go to the BPA Website: [BPAPaloalto.org](http://BPAPaloalto.org) and click on the tab near the top of the web page (under the logo): "BPA Email Lists." This link provides information about each list and an easy way to subscribe to one or more of them.

### NEW! Neighbor Services

Neighbor Services

Various services offered by residents of Barron Park

# The Sixth Annual Buena Vista Posada—December 3, 2017

By Winter Dellenbach, Friends of Buena Vista

Photo: Jon Affeld



The Posada was wonderful, warm, and celebratory as anticipated. Thanks for everyone's support! Residents and friends spoke in celebration of saving Buena Vista. Erica Escalante, President of the BV Neighborhood Association, greeted us, radiating happiness and pride in BV's accomplishments, as she introduced other BV Board members: Supervisor Joe Simitian, Palo Alto Mayor Greg Scharff, and Councilwoman Karen Holman. The six BV children and teens who spoke reminded us that children were at the heart of our effort. They spoke so well, as they have over the last five years, in defense of their homes, some of them first when they were very young, and now as Gunn High students.

There was a continuous slide show of BV scenes, created by Mario Escalante. Displays of articles, leaflets, photos, plans, and other materials from 2012-2017

documented the intent to close BV, and the twists and turns on the long road to saving it. Nearby was the Homework Club where the twice-a-week tutoring and homework group meets, organized for BV elementary students by Deborah Farrington-Padilla. Folks lingered at the history display, watching the slides (the kids loved seeing themselves) and checking out Homework Club's digs, which doubles as a meeting space for BV residents, provided courtesy of Caritas.

Thanks again to Chris Gonzalez Clarke and Cenobio Hernandez who organized the talented Stanford musicians and singers who played at the Procession and later. From Raíces de México, the local (Cubberley) non-profit dance school, children and teens in cowboy hats, boots, and swirling skirts came to perform. Some of the dancers are from BV and the immediate neighborhoods. We are so fortunate that they love coming to the Posada. Thank you, Sue Edredge (one of our organizers

Photo: Elliot Margolies

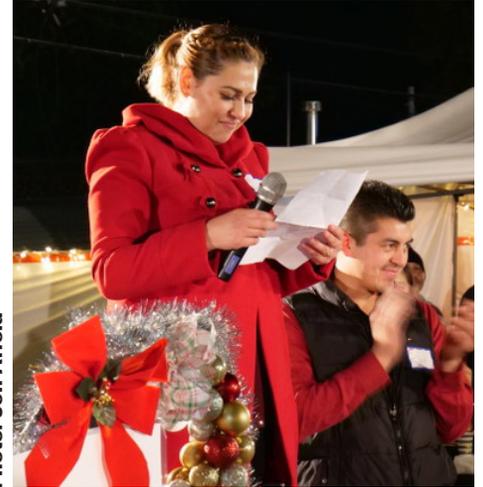


Photo: Jon Affeld

**Erica Escalante, President of the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association**

for BV in the schools), for arranging their return appearance.

The food was super delicious; the drinks warmed us. Later the group dancing warmed us up all over again, first in our circle of friends, then in a huge square of line dancers moving back and forth in rhythm.

Thank you so much, friends and residents. For the sixth year you made this Posada a success by supporting it in so many ways, donating funds, speaking, singing and playing, decorating, and participating. This is what makes a community: we care for each other and act on that caring.

Photos: Winter Dellenbach



# Cyclist and Pedestrian Safety on the Bol Park Shared Path

- *New Signs in Place Along the Bol Park Path* -

## Courtesy and Safety

The Bol Park Path is **SHARED**  
by  
**Pedestrians and Cyclists**



The path is heavily used by pedestrians for recreation and exercise. **CYCLISTS:** Watch for people walking their pets, children running across the path, older people with limited mobility.



**Pedestrians: WALK ON THE Right**  
**Cyclists: SLOW FOR PEDESTRIANS**

## - **CYCLISTS** -

**REDUCE SPEED and CALL OUT**  
**When Passing Pedestrians**

Call out 'ON YOUR LEFT' or RING YOUR BELL when you approach and pass pedestrians from behind



**Palo Alto will enact SPEED LIMITS on Shared Paths**

Riding below this speed is safer and reduces conflicts with pedestrians.



Chris Corrao of the Transportation Department, City of Palo Alto, confirms that the signage on the Bol Park pathway described in this flyer created by Art Liberman is now in place—at a height comfortable for both pedestrians and cyclists. Hope you've been out to see it! Trimming of shrubs and foliage near all signs and light fixtures has been scheduled, to remedy any visibility issues.

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION  
724 Barron Avenue  
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