

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John W. King, BPA President



We're enjoying a beautiful spring in Barron Park.

The BPA, our neighborhood association, continues to thrive, and we enjoyed a lively give-and-take at our annual meeting on March 17. The topics were the cell towers in Barron Park and the continuing Bol Park pathway discussion. The City Manager, Ed Shikada, was a guest presenter and Planning Director Jonathan Lait joined him at the meeting. Our 41st annual May Fete is to take place on May 19th in Bol Park with a wonder-

ful new event planner.

The Board welcomed a new Board Member, Doug Burns, who is a longtime resident of Barron Park. If you are interested in joining the Board, please let me know so we can invite you to our next Board meeting.

This time of the year is when we have our membership renewals and we look forward to your continued support. See the membership materials inside this newsletter. Or you can join the Barron Park Association, at BPAPaloAlto.org.

JOIN US FOR MAY FÊTE 2019

SUNDAY, MAY 19

BOL PARK, NOON TO 4 PM



Enjoy live music and dancers performing all afternoon, with a community Maypole Dance at 2:30 p.m. Wear ribbons! Bring family, friends, and a blanket, and make a picnic of it. Hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, and snacks for purchase. Active games and crafts for children, face painting, a three-legged race, our dear donkeys Perry and Jenny on parade, and more!

The May Fête is a volunteer effort. Come join us for the fun preparations and set-up. To help out or if you have a display or activity to add to the mix, contact John King at: johnwadeking@gmail.com or (650) 483-2710. See you there!

Mark Your 2019 Calendars!

Barron Park Senior Lunches

1:00 p.m. Tuesdays every other month
Corner Bakery Café
3375 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
June 11, August 13, October 8, and December 10

All are welcome to join & enjoy these community get-togethers.

No reservations needed.

Questions: Peter Mueller
(650) 856-1255 or pklausm@mac.com

EMAIL LISTS

The Barron Park Association has four email listservs: *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 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. (See also page 4.)

INSIDE

<p>2 Our Wild Neighbors</p>	<p>3 Silicon Valley Open Studios</p>	<p>4 BPA Email Lists</p>	<p>6 Bol Park Beautification Committee</p>	<p>11 Barron Park to Celebrate Centennial</p>	<p>14 Channing Chrisman Resident Since 1954</p>	<p>15 El Camino Business Update</p>
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Our Wild Neighbors: The California Ground Squirrel

By Jeralyn Moran



A group of squirrels is called a “dray” or a “scurry.” Source: <https://classroomclipart.com>

Description, Habitat and Diet

You’ll notice the California Ground Squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) mainly on, yes, the ground. This can be considered a “niche” when categorizing nature as we humans like to do. Living on or under the ground results in less competition for home space and food with the squirrels that dominate the tree canopy. The ground squirrel is found in the northern part of Baja California, all through California, western Oregon, and central Washington.

There are just three basic groups of squirrels, all of which are rodents—the tree squirrels (in Barron Park we have the Eastern Gray squirrel, *Sciurus carolinensis*), ground squirrels and flying squirrels.

Sporting a notably non-bushy tail compared to its tree squirrel cousins, the California ground squirrel has mottled brown and grey fur on top with a lighter fur “vest” or “collar.” Try to notice the small

rounded ears and lighter fur lining the eyes, similar to the Eastern Gray squirrel.

Ground squirrel burrows are typically occupied by a group, but each individual squirrel gets to enjoy its own entrance. They are capable diggers, and do the excavating themselves. Although they tend to be less “shy” in areas where humans are around, and quickly figure out they can snatch food left out or offered by picnickers, they spend most of their time close to their burrows for a sense of security (over 80 feet away would be unusual).

We humans are omnivorous, meaning we consume both plants and animals. The ground squirrel eats mainly plant parts (like an herbivore)—seeds, grains, nuts, fruits, and sometimes roots. But insects grow nervous around them, as (for example) a cricket sometimes makes a good snack. This would be in the category of eating like a carnivore (insects are in the “meat” camp here). That puts these squirrels in the omnivore category, just

like us. You may witness them using their cheek pouches to store more food than can be consumed in the moment.

Who eats the California ground squirrel? They are naturally preyed upon by rattlesnakes, birds of prey, raccoons, foxes, badgers, and weasels. They are unnaturally taken by humans via habitat loss, poisoning, target shooting.

When the weather is really hot, the Ground squirrel retreats underground (smart choice!), even for days at a time—a behavior called “estivation”. This is similar to “hibernation”, when some mammals spend the winter moving very little and sleeping a lot, in order to save energy.

Mating season is in early spring and lasts only for a few

weeks. The females will sometimes mate with more than one male, so the babies in one litter can have different dads. One litter of five to eleven babies are born each year. The youngsters open their eyes at about five weeks and become sexually mature after one year. Six years is the typical lifespan of this mammal, and the two genders look very similar.

You may consider these small neighbors to be pests since they damage your garden plants; like all other creatures they are just trying to make a living and don’t know how to tell which plants you care about or don’t—only which ones have the tastiest parts. Finding ways to co-exist is the goal here. A few ideas to start with:

- Try physical netting or bitter-tasting sprays on plants (bitter apple, spicy hot sauce);
- Take away old pipes, wood or brush piles, rock piles or junk, among which they feel safe;

- Let any vegetation grow tall, since this prevents the squirrel from seeing approaching predators; they feel safer with an open view of their surroundings;
- Build solid fences; this also limits their ability to see predators, so they feel less safe and will likely decide to move somewhere else.
- Wrap sheet metal around the trunks of fruit and nut trees to discourage climbing;
- Please think twice about poisons, as these harsh toxins cause great suffering and persist in the environment to go on poisoning other non-targeted creatures. Example: a turkey vulture feeding on the carcass of a dead squirrel.

FUN FACTS

- Female ground squirrels with babies (pups) will sometimes chew on the skins shed by rattlesnakes and then lick themselves and their pups to disguise their scent.
- A ground squirrel will harass a rattlesnake to test danger level by kicking up sand toward it so it will rise up and rattle its tail. This gives the squirrel a chance to check out the snake's size and how active it is (snakes are reptiles and therefore "cold-blooded," involuntarily slowing down with falling temperatures).
- Another technique this squirrel uses to deter a rattlesnake is quickly swishing its tail. Rattlesnakes mainly rely on their "pit organ" to interpret their immediate surroundings (this organ detects infrared radiation or "heat," so the "hot-tail-swishing" seems to say to the snake, "I'm too big and fast-moving, and it's not worth trying to hunt me." This way of confronting a snake, as in the "sand-kicking" technique described above also helps distract a snake from any nearby squirrel burrows that have babies.

SILICON VALLEY OPEN STUDIOS, MAY 2019

"Hundreds of artists, thousands of ideas, unlimited imagination"

By Rona Foster



Photo: Rona Foster

Ceramic Teapot, 6" x 8" x 5"

The 32nd Annual Silicon Valley Open Studios is an opportunity to connect with artists of all kinds. This free art event is a real adventure, with over 350 artists in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties showing their work during the first three weekends in May—Saturdays and Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Silicon Valley Open Studios encourages

artists and enthusiasts to meet, view original creations, watch demonstrations, and buy fine art and crafts from the source. You can visit artists in their individual studios or at group sites where many artists exhibit; discover new artists showing for the first time; visit favorite artists from past events; spend quality time getting to know the artists and learn about their inspiration and techniques; find the perfect work of art for

your home or office, or commission your own masterpiece.

The studio of Rona Foster, a Barron Park resident for over 30 years, was open May 4-5 and May 11-12. Rona is a painter, mixed media, and clay artist who hosted a number of other artists and their works. This event invites you to explore the art of creative living with artists working in

paint, mixed media, pottery, cards, photography, mosaics, collage, encaustic, jewelry, and sculpture. This was Rona's 14th year participating in Open Studios.

Rona Foster: 3858 Timlott Court, Palo Alto
Email: ronasuef@gmail.com
Phone: 650-858-0589

Rona's web address: www.RonaFoster.com

Rona's page on the SVOS website is: <https://www.svos.org/artist.php?id=1415>

For more information about Silicon Valley Open Studios: www.SVOS.org

CALL FOR ARTISTS!

Are you a Barron Park artist, photographer, artisan, craftsperson, sculptor, designer, musician, writer, poet...? Do you know one? Artists who are members of the BPA can be featured in a future BPA Newsletter. Please send us your idea with a draft artist's statement and reproducible samples or a description of your work to newsletter@bpapaloalto.org

Our Barron Park Association Email Lists: An Ad-Free Neighborhood Network

By Richard Elder

Recently, I have seen and heard comments from neighbors about the number of ads and “sponsored content” that you need to wade through on the NextDoor website. So, it seems like a good time to remind everyone about the Barron Park Association email lists. They are maintained by BPA volunteers as a community resource. (Note that you don’t need to be a BPA member to join the lists.) Though the lists are open to all, the vast majority of subscribers are Barron Park or Green Acres residents. The lists are most valuable for local content.

There are three BPA email lists: *bpa-news@googlegroups.com*, *bpa-misc@googlegroups.com*, and *bpa-issues@googlegroups.com*. Each list has a different purpose and is managed differently.

- **The *bpa-news*** list is for sharing announcements about public events and alerts of interest to residents. Most of the items sent out are from the BPA Board, but anyone can submit a message of general interest to the neighborhood. It is a moderated list, meaning that messages first go to the moderator, who then approves and posts them.

- ***bpa-misc*** is for communicating with your neighbors. Say you have an item to give away or to sell (no commercial businesses, please), you want to borrow a ladder or need a recommendation for a roofer, and you think your neighbors could help, this is the place to ask. As you know, this is a friendly and resourceful neighborhood, and the “*bpa-misc*” list is a way to communicate with about 350 of your neighbors.

- If you enjoy lively debate, or just want to know what your neighbors think about the issues facing Barron Park, *bpa-issues* is for you. It is meant for discussion of Barron Park-related issues and can get very active when controversial topics arise. Because participants know they are

talking to their neighbors, the discussion tends to be more civil than your usual online forum, but we monitor it to make sure it stays that way.

It is easy to subscribe to the BPA lists. Go to the BPA website at *www.bpapaloalto.org* and click on “BPA Email Lists” in the menu at the top. There are simple forms on the “Lists” page to subscribe to each of the lists. There is also other information there about how to use the lists that I encourage you to read. The lists are

hosted by Google Groups, so if you are familiar with Google Groups you can also subscribe that way. There is a searchable archive on the Google Groups site, so if you remember that someone recommended an electrician a few months ago, and now you need one, that is a good place to look. Another advantage of the BPA email lists is that if you ever have a problem or question, you can reach us, your neighbors who manage the lists, by emailing to *listmanager@bpapaloalto.org*

BPA ADDRESS REMINDERS

- For the **BPA Home Page**, the **BPA Newsletter Archive**, and to Join or Renew your **BPA Membership**, go to our website: *bpapaloalto.org*

- To confirm your **BPA Membership Status**, write to: Lisa Berkowitz Landers: *barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com*

- Contact the **BPA President**, John W. King, at: *president@bpapaloalto.org*

- Contact the **BPA Treasurer**, John W. King, at: *johnwadeking@gmail.com*

- Write to our **BPA Newsletter Editor**, Myrna Rochester, at: *mbrbpa@sonic.net* or *newsletter@bpapaloalto.org*

- Contact our **BPA Business Liaison**, Paul Yang, at: *pabloyang@yahoo.com*

- Reach our **Welcoming Committee Chair**, Gwen Luce, at: *gluce@cbmorcal.com*

- For information on our **Emergency Services Volunteer Program**, write to Maurice Green: *mauryg3@comcast.net* or Lydia Kou: *lydiakou@gmail.com*

- To contact the **BPA Babysitter List**, as a provider or if you need childcare: *barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com*

- To join the **BPA Services/Home Business List**, or to look for a service, write to: *barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com*

- Write to our **BPA Historian**, Douglas L. Graham, at: *dgrahampaca@gmail.com*

- Reach our **Cool Block spokesperson**, Hilary Glann at: *hglann@gmail.com*

- To contact our **Web Manager**, Maurice Green: *mauryg3@comcast.net*

- To donate for the care of **Bol Park’s donkeys, Perry and Jenny**, visit the Barron Park Donkey webpage at: *barronparkdonkeys.org* and follow the instructions or send a check to Acterra – Donkey Project, 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94306

- To donate to the **Bol Park Native Plant Restoration Project**: Donate online at *friendsofpaparks.org/donations* (Bol Park Fund) or write a check payable to “Friends of the Palo Alto Parks (FOPAP), for the Bol Park Fund,” 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*



Photo: Gwen Luce

Longtime volunteer Doug Moran feeds Jenny (left) and Perry—and hosts interested visitors—at one of the donkeys' regular Monday evening 'dinner' meetings.

**BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPRING 2019**

- John W. King, President
- Markus Fromherz, Secretary
- John W. King, Treasurer
- Doug Burns
- Todd Collins
- Richard Elder
- Maurice Green
- Christian Kalar
- Lydia Kou
- Lisa Berkowitz Landers
- Gwen Luce
- Peter K. Mueller
- Jaya Pandey
- Myrna Rochester
- Mircea Voskerician
- Paul Yang

■
Committee/ Activity Chairs

Business Liaison: Paul Yang

Communications: Myrna Rochester

Email Lists: Richard Elder

Environment: Jaya Pandey

Events: Vacant

Barron Park History: Douglas L. Graham

May Fête: John W. King

Membership: Lisa Berkowitz Landers

Neighborhood Safety & Emergency Preparedness: Maurice Green, Lydia Kou

Parks & Creeks: Christian Kalar

Bol Park California Native Plot:
Richard Elder

Schools Liaison: Todd Collins

Seniors Liaison: Peter K. Mueller

Traffic & Streets: Vacant

Zoning & Land Use: Lydia Kou

Welcoming: Gwen Luce

■
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 6:00 P.M.

For Meeting and Happy Hour locations write to president@bpapaloalto.org
bpapaloalto.org

**Summer BPA Newsletter
Deadline—Monday, June
3, 2019**

To Member Households of the Barron Park Association:

Please submit articles and drafts (preferably in Word) for the Summer issue of the Barron Park Association Newsletter, along with photos/illustrations (separate from text), by Monday, June 3, 2019, to Myrna Rochester, newsletter@bpapaloalto.org or mbrbpa@sonic.net

If your Summer idea is a query (for an article, story, report, update, interview, announcement, review, anecdote, or artist's page...), please contact Myrna in advance. The Summer issue will be mailed in early July 2019, to all BPA member households.

Announcements should be only for events scheduled *after July 15, 2019.*

**BARRON PARK
ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

Barron Park Association
724 Barron Avenue
Palo Alto, California 94306

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THANK YOU TO THE BOL PARK BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

By Linda Elder



Photo: Richard Elder

More than 20 years ago, the scrubby little plot in Bol Park at the corner of Laguna and Matadero Avenues slowly began to be transformed into a lovely California Native garden. This

transformation was due to the vision and hard work of three people: Shirley Finrock, Carla Bliss, and Agi Kehoe.

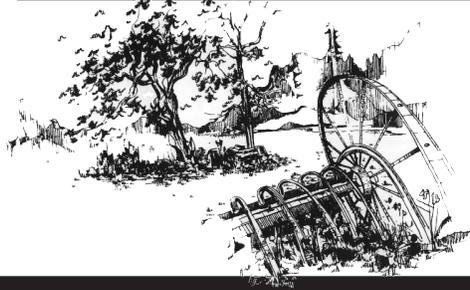
Together they created our very own Bol Park Native Garden, starting in the late

1990s, with a “reboot” in 2006–2007. The City of Palo Alto granted permission to use the plot and continues to provide the needed water. The Committee had only to plant it and tend it. No small task! This entailed obtaining grants, fundraising, creating a garden design and an irrigation design, sourcing the plants, preparing the soil, planting, and in the beginning, even some weekly hand watering. Shirley and Carla, both Barron Parkers, worked tirelessly with the City and other organizations to get it all started. Little by little, painstakingly, they grew the garden. Agi, a professional gardener who specializes in California Native plants and who designed the garden, also directed volunteers and additional hired help to plant and tend the garden and is still involved today.

Currently the Bol Park Native Garden is managed by a new committee of the Barron Park Association, the Bol Park California Native Plot Committee. We members offer this open thank you note to the founders of our Native Garden.

Dear Shirley, Carla, and Agi,

On behalf of the Bol Park California Native Plot Committee and the Barron Park Association, we would like to express our deep gratitude for your undaunted dedication, efforts, and hard work to beautify our little corner of Bol Park with a California Native garden. Our Native Garden is a precious jewel that enhances and graces our neighborhood. We are so fortunate that you had the vision to create it and the endurance to nurture it and make it grow. We thank you.



The Barron Park Association (BPA) Needs Your Support Now!

Your membership supports many community events including:

Emergency Preparation ♦ Bol Park May Fête ♦ Movie Night ♦ Newsletters

Established in 1926, we are your volunteer neighbors serving the varied interests of our very special community.

Your membership is greatly appreciated!

Barron Park Association Membership April 2019-March 2020

Join online at <http://www.BPApaloalto.org>

OR

If using regular mail, send this completed form with your check to:

Barron Park Association

724 Barron Ave.

Palo Alto, CA 94306

Name(s): _____ / _____

Primary Email: _____ Alternate Email: _____

Address: _____

Quarterly Newsletter—I want the online edition *instead* of a mailed copy. Phone: _____

Please select a Membership Category (per household, per year)

- | | | | |
|---|-------|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fellow | \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65+) | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member | \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Total Enclosed: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution: _____ | | | |

If paying by check, payable to: **Barron Park Association.** (Memberships/contributions are not tax deductible.)

Note: For economic and environmental reasons a membership reminder mailer is not planned this year.

Please remember to join now!



Need a few more reasons to join the BPA?

The BPA welcomes volunteers and new ideas!

Volunteering is a great way to meet your neighbors and improve your community.

Please indicate if you are interested in getting involved. Another BPA member will happily contact you!

Yes—I would like to get involved Interests _____

Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

The BPA can help match babysitters/childcare providers, as well as home business services with members seeking their services:

Service List ** The services list is made up of Barron Park area small home businesses and is available at bpapaloalto.org

Babysitter List ** The babysitter list contains brief bios of sitters in the Barron Park area and is available at bpapaloalto.org
Access to the list requires membership and a password.

To request a password for the Sitter List, email barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com

To be included on either List send your information to barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com

If under 18, parent/guardian approval is needed.

**By signing up for these lists, residents, parents, babysitters, and their families acknowledge that the Barron Park Association is not responsible for, and will be held harmless against, any injury, loss, claim, lawsuit, or other damage arising from, or related in any manner to the parents' and babysitters' use of this resource list or the individuals appearing on it.

The BPA maintains email lists for neighborly advice, discussions, and local news

Sign up for *BPA-news*, *BPA-misc*, and / or *BPA-issues* at <http://www.BPApaloalto.org>

BPA supports the Barron Park Donkeys

The Barron Park donkeys and their care are supported by voluntary contributions.

Make your regular donations for Perry's and Jenny's care and feeding at our dedicated, brand-new and improved website!

www.barronparkdonkeys.org

or send a check to Acterra – Donkey Project at 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303



Barron Park Emergency Preparedness Survey

All information kept strictly confidential and used only for emergency purposes. (Please be sure to fill out contact information.)

I agree that this information may be shared with the BPA Board and the Emergency Preparedness & Safety Committee.

Printed name(s): _____ / _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Someone in my household will need special help in an emergency owing to age, handicaps, critical medical devices, etc.

Name of Person with Special Need _____

Nature of Special Need: Physical Handicap Critical Medical Needs Age

Name of Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Emergency Contact Telephone: _____ Email: _____

These skills are available in my household:

- Physician Nurse EMT Paramedic First Aid CPR
- Crisis counseling (psychologist, therapist, etc.) Interpreting of _____ language
- Police Fire BPC CERT HAZMAT training
- Ham radio (equipment and license) GMRS radio (equipment and skill) FRS radio (equipment and skill)
- Bicycle and willingness to carry messages in emergency Plumbing, electrical, or construction skills

Other emergency skills (specify) _____

I have the following supplies available for an emergency:

- Major first-aid supplies (more than band aids) Medical Equipment (AED, crutches, wheelchairs, etc.)
- Emergency water supply (specify well, swimming pool, hot tub, etc.) _____
- Electrical generator Hoist Winch (gasoline- or vehicle-powered)
- Gasoline chain saw Electrical chain saw Water pump (gasoline-powered)
- Other useful equipment _____

Emergency Services Volunteers

Block Preparedness Coordinator (BPC) - Prerequisite: Attend free BPC Certification training, 3 modules—approximately 3.5 hours (date, time and location TBA). Day-to-day activities involve helping neighbors mitigate and take preventive measures against emergencies, getting prepared, and keeping aware and informed of what to expect from the City and neighborhood for response and recovery. BPCs fulfill their Emergency and Safety duties remaining on their street and in their neighborhood and perform “eyes and ears” functions.

I am interested in becoming a Block Preparedness Coordinator (BPC) for my street

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) - Prerequisite: Attend CERT Basic Training, 6 classes, 20+ hours (date, time, and location TBA). Day-to-day activities are same as BPCs. During emergencies CERTs perform light first responder search and rescue duties as trained.

I am interested in becoming a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member

I would like information on upcoming CPR/First Aid classes

Return this form to: Barron Park Association, 724 Barron Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306



CREEKSIDE INN

Your home away from home

(650) 493-2411



The Creekside Inn welcomes Barron Park residents and their guests! Perfect for visiting relatives. Preparing to renovate your home? Reserve the Creekside Inn's Renovation Package (call us). Stay in the neighborhood until renovations are complete—your home away from home!

Complimentary amenities included in our rates:

Room Amenities

- Complimentary Wireless (Wi-Fi) high-speed internet access throughout the property
- All 136 rooms offer a patio or balcony
- Refrigerators in all rooms
- Complimentary bottled water
- Complimentary local and toll-free calls
- Complimentary in-room safes for the largest of laptop computers (17-inch size)

- In-room coffee & tea
- Hair dryer
- Make-up mirror
- 50+ television stations including HBO, CNN, and ESPN
- Voicemail
- Bathrobes in room
- Iron & ironing board
- Air-conditioned rooms

Reception Services

- Complimentary Wall Street Journal & USA Today available weekdays at reception
- Complimentary morning pastries, coffee & tea served daily in lobby
- Guests are invited to join complimentary evening wine hour at Cibo's Lounge Sunday through Thursday 5 pm to 7pm

The Barron Park Association thanks the Creekside Inn for graciously providing rooms for our monthly meetings.

Barron Park Will Celebrate Its Centennial This Year

By Douglas L. Graham, Barron Park Historian

Barron Estate Sold in 1919

It may be surprising to learn that our neighborhood, Barron Park, will be 100 years old this year. In 1919, the old Barron Estate, including its wonderful old gingerbread Victorian mansion, was sold by the estate company to Driscoll and Reiter, strawberry packers and real estate developers. They began subdividing the 350-acre estate, much of it intended to become small berry farms. The sale date was Thursday, December 11, 1919 (see Illustration A, 1919 clipping). I have no photographs of the estate in 1919, but Illustration B, orchard on Matadero Avenue, shows the land as it was seven years later, probably not changed very much.

Mayfield Farm

The Barron Estate was also known as "Mayfield Farm," the name given it by its first "Anglo" owner, Elisha Crosby, who bought it from Juan Pena, the owner of Rancho Rincon de San Francisquito, in 1853. The name "Mayfield" was immediately picked up by Jim Otterson, who started a settlement that same year, where El Camino Real and California Avenue intersect today. Crosby built a large, handsome two-story farmhouse but went broke in the recession of 1857 and had to sell Mayfield Farm to Sarah Wallis. Sarah built the famous mansion, incorporating Crosby's house as the "servants' wing"

on the back of the mansion. When Sarah subsequently went broke in the even worse recession of 1873, she sold the property to Barron, who lived there with his family until his death in 1893. Then his wife and the estate company ran the place until the 1919 sale to Driscoll and Reiter (see Illustration C, Map of Mayfield Farm).

Barron Estate Subdividing Proceeded Slowly at First

Prior to 1919, the only known residence on the Barron Estate was the Barron Mansion itself. In the Maybell Tract part of our neighborhood, there were five homes, one built before 1900 and four more by 1920.

LAST GREAT ESTATE OF EARLY DAYS IS SOLD

**Barron Holdings on State
Highway Pass Into Hands
of Watsonville Capitalists**

**TO BE DIVIDED
INTO HOMESITES**

**Property Consisting of 350
Wooded Acres With Man-
sion Brings Near \$200,000**

By means of a deal closed today, the last of the great estates of the days of Governor Leland Stanford – the oak-studded Barron Estate has been sold and is to be subdivided into small home sites.

The purchasers are J.E. Reiter, R. F. Driscoll and B. I. Driscoll, Watsonville Capitalists, who are engaged in strawberry growing on a large scale. They will probably retain a portion of the land for strawberry growing.

The sale was made through the University Realty Company. It has been held for several years at \$210,000.

It is the plan of the developers to arrange for a Peninsula Electric Railway company's station on the property and to run suitable roads in development of the plan of subdivision. A portion of the beautiful redwood driveway which leads to the mansion will probably be used as one of the principal interior avenues.

The property consists of about 350 acres of land on the state highway, adjacent to the lands of Stanford University and the city limits of Mayfield, running across the Peninsular Railway company's tracks well into

the hills. It is within sight of the University's buildings on campus, which are less than a mile and a half distant from the westerly portion of the property. It is beautifully oak covered and has been owned by the Barron estate for about 40 years.

Prior to this, the place was owned by Judge Wallis, one of the prominent pioneers of this region. The Wallis family has virtually disappeared.

In the heart of the wooded portion on the highway is a 33-room mansion, which will be sold separately with from 10 to 30 acres of land, if present plans are carried out. Much of the woods will be cleared.

The type of soil upon both the hills and the flat is adapted to fruit, chickens, strawberries, tomatoes and other intensive types of farming, for which it will be sold to small home-makers.

There is a frontage of almost a mile upon the highway, extending from the city limits to the Maybell tract and to the 60-acre Bonita Vista tract, which was sold through the same office to J. E. Reiter several years ago.

Illustration A: Palo Alto Times, December 11, 1919



Illustration B: Orchard on Matadero Avenue; looking southwest with Coyote Hill in center background, about 1930. Photo from Else Preminger.

These were probably all “orchard houses” or other farm dwellings.

After the sale to Driscoll and Reiter, there was a brief building boom, with six homes going up in 1920. By 1924 the cumulative total was still only 12, but then things accelerated, reflecting the general prosperity of the late 1920s. By 1929 there were 64 residences, with 25 more being built in 1930, mostly in the north end of the neighborhood.

Sale of the Mansion and Park

In 1923, Driscoll & Reiter had sold the mansion and about 20 acres of landscaped “park” surrounding it to Colonel Sebastian Jones, who wanted the mansion and land to build the California Military Academy, which he would head (see Illustration D, Barron Mansion). The mansion was huge, with two main stories, a large third-floor cupola with sweeping views, and two large two-story wings. Many of its 33 rooms had 14-foot ceilings. Its total footprint covered all or parts of five R-1 lots in the upscale 1937 development, Woodland Park. The location is marked by a state historical marker, granite with a bronze plaque

honoring Sarah Wallis, a notable pioneer, socialite and woman suffragist.

After the Mansion’s Purchase

After purchasing the mansion and park, Colonel Jones needed additional funds to build academy barracks and athletic facilities, hire staff and begin operations. He decided to split off the property fronting on El Camino Real between present-day Kendall Avenue and the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park, and subdivide it into small lots for road-side businesses. He also laid out a residential area of small lots for “summer homes” to sell to well-to-do San Franciscans trying to escape the fog. He named this combined commercial and residential tract “Barron Park” (see Illustration E, 1925 Clipping).

A Neighborhood Emerges

By 1930, the area had been planted mostly to berries and tomatoes, but was being converted to fruit orchards, mainly pears and prunes in the north end and apricots to the south. It was served by “Neal Station” on the Peninsular Electric Railway connecting north to Palo Alto and the Southern Pacific

Railroad to San Francisco, and south to Los Altos, Los Gatos and San Jose. Mayfield farm lanes (Los Robles, Matadero and Laguna) had been converted to regular two-lane streets. Maybell Avenue was being pushed through. Electricity and telephone service had arrived. The creeks had been bridged at five spots. Fire protection was provided by the State and police by the County Sheriff. Businesses had sprung up along El Camino Real (the new U.S. Highway 101). The Palo Alto Unified School District provided public schools in Mayfield and Palo Alto. Two private water companies supplied domestic water, and the Las Encinas Sanitary District provided limited sewer service. There were proposals for street paving and lighting.

Little Community Development

One of the big differences between then and today, however, was the lack of community organizations. There was no “Maybell Improvement Association” or “Barron Park Association,” or any other organized way for the neighbors to work together on anything. That was all to come later, in the 1940s, ’50s and ’60s (with some

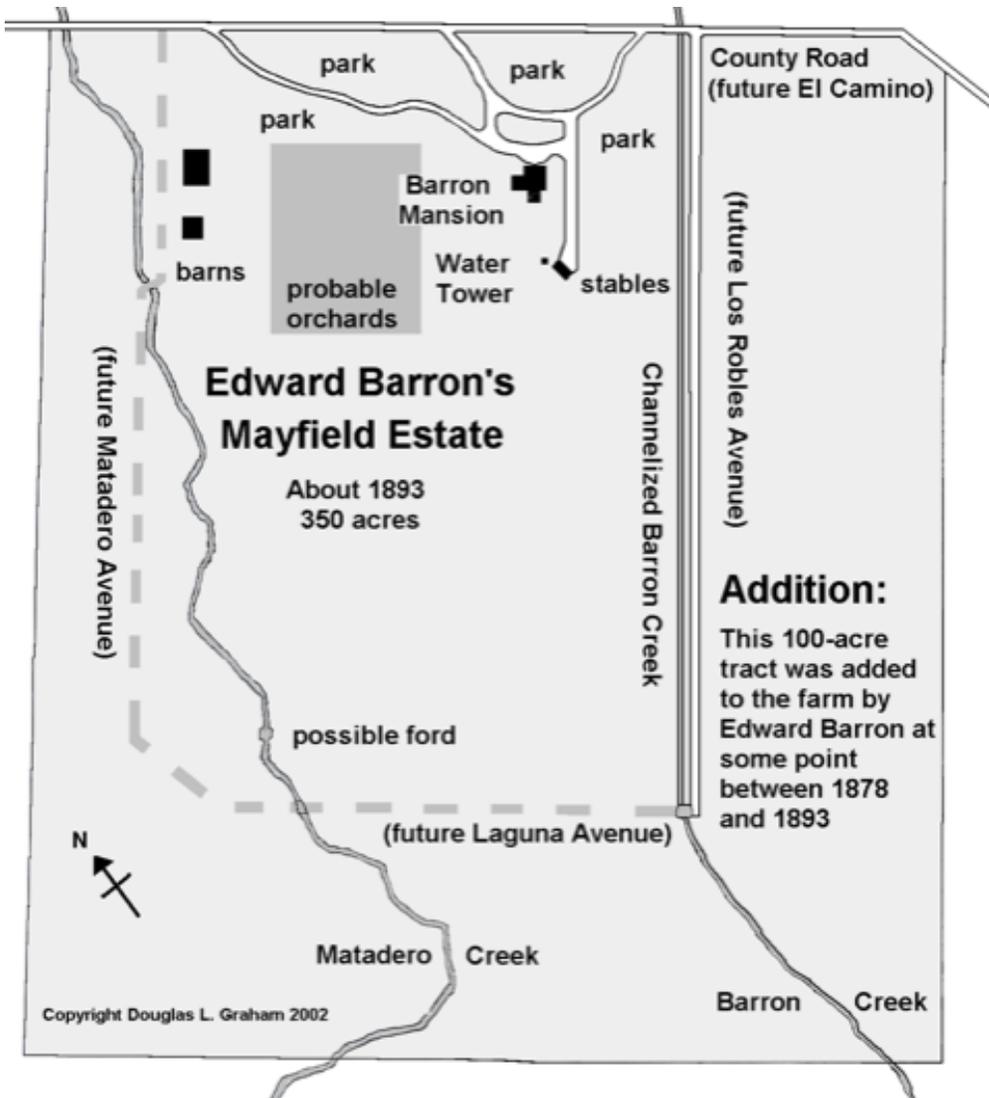


Illustration C: Map of Mayfield Farm, 1893. Copyright Douglas L. Graham, 2002.

sporadic, feeble beginnings in the mid-1930s). The orientation of the neighborhood in the 1930s was still quite rural and farm-oriented. It took the shocks of the Barron Mansion fire in 1936, the digging of "the borrow pit" by the State in 1932, severe flooding from the creeks in the 1940s and '50s, the "cold war" with Palo Alto during seven annexation attempts in the 1940s and '50s, and encroachment by apartment complexes, muffler shops, massage parlors and adult bookstores in the 1960s to bring about the creation of the Barron Park Association and the growth of community solidarity in the greater Barron Park neighborhood.

A Hundred Years Have Passed

Now that a hundred years have passed,

and Barron Park is well-integrated into Palo Alto and is still a very nice place to live, it is time for us to celebrate and also to honor those who came before us and who managed the problems, fought off the threats, saw better ways to do things and built the neighborhood that we know and love. Please join us in a community celebration later this year. If you are interested in helping, please contact me or anyone on the BPA Board. A committee is being formed.

Doug Graham
 Barron Park Historian since 1985
 dgrahampaca@gmail.com

984 Ilima Way
 (650) 493-0689



Illustration D: Barron Mansion, 1893, with wisteria vine screening the front portico, Guy Miller Collection, Palo Alto Historical Association.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1925

**NEW SUBDIVISION
 BEING IMPROVED**

Grading and improving is now being done on the 63 lots of the California Military Academy property adjoining the southeasterly limits of the city on the state highway, which have been converted into a new business and residential subdivision. There are 10 acres involved in the recently made tract.

On the highway there are 1400 feet which will be devoted to business purposes. The remainder has been set aside for residences.

Illustrating the interest in this type of property, all of the lots had been sold before the sign announcing that they had been placed on the market was erected, according to Hare, Brewer & Clark, which firm acted as agents.

Illustration E: Palo Alto Times, Friday, September 4, 1925

Channing Chrisman: Green Acres II Resident since 1954

By Ann Knopf



Photo: Ann Knopf

Dick and Chan.

Maybe you've seen two older men regularly walking and talking along the paths in Barron Park. They are friends who lived across the street from each other on Georgia Avenue for a very long time. They walked on most evenings for so long that neither can remember when they started, but it was at least 30 years ago. One of the pair, Dick Nelson, has recently moved to Nevada, so maybe you'd like to know a little about the other, Channing (Chan) Chrisman.

Chan was born in 1928 in Worcester, Massachusetts. He graduated from Stanford, went to Officers' Training School, and then served in Korea where he was wounded in the Demilitarized Zone, for which he received a Purple Heart. After recuperating on two hospital ships, Chan returned to combat in 1953, just as the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed. He was honorably discharged as a 1st Lieutenant of Company B, 25th Infantry Division.

Chan returned to his parents' home in

Atherton where his wife, Dorothy (Tafi), and newborn son were waiting. Soon they looked for a lot on which to build a house. They found one on Georgia Avenue, with a view of the Stanford hills. Chan built his house in 1954 when the Green Acres II neighborhood still had lots available and several homes already built.

His six children—who still live in the area—all went to local schools: Loma Vista Elementary (now Juana Briones), Terman Middle (now Fletcher), and Gunn High. Chan has three granddaughters and four grandsons.

At one point, the Palo Alto school district purchased a lot on Georgia Avenue near Chan's house to provide access to Gunn from the Green Acres neighborhood. Although this was convenient for Chan's children when they were young, in recent years it has become problematic as many people outside the neighborhood use the area for parking as well as a student drop-off point, resulting in traffic problems.

Chan found he liked building houses and proceeded to get his contractor's license. For the rest of his career, he built single-family homes and small medical centers in northern Santa Clara County and southern San Mateo County.

Chan still enjoys a short walk along the bike path. He especially likes to watch the dogs play because they remind him of the two English bull dogs, Brutus and Caesar, that he grew up with. He also enjoys reading the *Wall Street Journal* cover to cover, as well as the *Economist*. He goes to the VA as often as possible to enjoy aquatics therapy and to spend time with other veterans.

BPA Neighborhood Services/Home Business List

Look for this Link for Neighborhood Services at the BPA website: bpapaloalto.org

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

barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com

The service provider or his/her household must be a current member of the BPA. If under 18, please include contact information for a parent or guardian.

NEW! Neighbor Services

Neighbor Services

Various services offered by residents of Barron Park

EL CAMINO BUSINESS UPDATE, SPRING 2019

By Bob Moss

There continue to be changes in occupancy on El Camino between Adobe Creek and Page Mill Road since my last report in August 2018. Vacancies have increased, but overall vacancy rates are still low.

On the Barron Park Side

The former Jewish Study Network offices at 3626-3628 El Camino are still vacant.

At 3666A El Camino Real (at Barron Avenue), the previous tenant, Palo Alto Cleaners, was replaced by Needles Studio in February 2019. Needles offers classes, workshops, and supplies for sewing and needle craft projects (<https://www.needlesstudio.com>).

Marine Recruiting vacated 3666B El Camino Real, but still rents the site and will send recruiters there by appointment to talk to people who ask about joining the Marines.

Ace of Sandwiches at 3964 El Camino Real, has been replaced by the Sandwich Bug (not yet opened as of mid-May).

New York Nail and Spa at 4222 El Camino is now called Heavenly Nail Spa.

At 4256 El Camino Real, a proposal to replace Su Hong Restaurant with a five-story hotel is still pending; the restaurant remains open. Residents of the nearby Palo Alto Redwoods condominiums have strongly objected to the plans, and the City of Palo Alto Architectural Review Board (ARB) reviewed it in January. There were many comments on its size and bulk, parking, landscaping, and need for greater

setbacks. It is to return to the ARB in May.

On the Ventura Side

Mike's Bikes, formerly at 3001 El Camino, moved to San Antonio Road at Charleston in early 2017. A proposal to redevelop the site with 19,800 square feet of ground floor retail and 30 apartments, plus 20 apartments in a building behind the retail, was approved more than a year ago.

The former Footlocker store at 3225 El Camino (at Portage Avenue) was demolished last summer and is being rebuilt with a mixed-use project: a four-story building with 6,513 square feet of ground floor retail and six housing units, plus a two-story rear building with 2,061 square feet of ground floor retail and 1,826 square feet of office space on the second floor.

InnoSpring (a co-working space, "accelerators") occupies 3401 El Camino Real, having replaced Orthopedic Sports Medicine. Restaurant Supplies and Fixtures is at 3457 El Camino Real, but does not appear to be occupied. Dumpling City at 3487 El Camino Real prepares Chinese dumplings, sold frozen. Clout House (men's streetwear/Korean snacks) formerly at 3489 has closed.

Redevelopment of 3703-3709 El Camino Real (at Wilton Avenue) to a four-story, 59-unit apartment project has been approved by the ARB. Treasure Island Stamps and Coins, Nouvelle Bridal, the former Family Fashion Cuts (now at 3666D El Camino Real), and Euromarket Russian grocery will be replaced by all-below-market-rate housing, with at least 25% slated for ten-

ants with disabilities. The City Council approved an exception to ground floor retail requirements because it is 100% low-income. The ground floor will include "community amenity space," parking for vehicles and bikes, and other ancillary uses.

Instant Urgent Care, having replaced Palo Alto Dental Care at 3737 El Camino Real, is part of a walk-in medical clinic chain.

3775 El Camino Real is now Afficient Learning Center, one of eight Bay area math tutoring locations.

The former Compadres restaurant site at 3877 El Camino Real has been vacant since October 2010. A project for 4,027 square feet of retail and 17 condominiums was approved. Problems with planned garage access and appearance were addressed during the ARB hearings. Demolition of the old building was supposed to occur in 2017, but probably won't be done until later this year.

4131 El Camino is now Opus 1 Music. Think Tank Learning has closed. 4149B El Camino Way completed renovation and is now occupied by Christian K. Lee, DDS. 4153A El Camino Way is still vacant. It was formerly occupied by Instrumental, Inc. The Integrated Healing Arts site at 4157C El Camino Way was red tagged as unsafe and is being rebuilt.

Vacancy rates under 5% are basically considered full occupancy. On El Camino they have increased slightly.

There are six vacancies on the Barron Park side, totaling 15,322 square feet. The lots at 3710 and 4146 have been vacant for decades. Each has had several developments approved, but nothing was built.

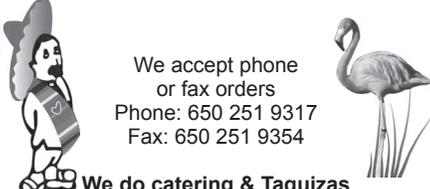
There are six vacancies on the Ventura side: 3001, 3011, 3877, and 4117. The Combes Auto site has been vacant for more than 45 years. It is used to store cars for the nearby Shell Station. The former Curves site at 4117 El Camino Real has also been vacant for years with nothing proposed for it.

Vacancy rates	Feb. '16	Nov. '16	Aug. '17	Aug. '18	Feb. '19
El Camino, Ventura Side	5.5%	6.9%	6.7%	5.2%	5.3%
El Camino, Barron Park Side	2.1%	3.1%	3.6%	2.2%	2.8%
El Camino Way	2.3%	7.0%	9.3%	3.5%	4.8%
Total Vacancy incl. El Camino Way	3.0%	4.5%	5.0%	3.2%	3.8%

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