

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John King, BPA President



Welcome to Summer, Barron Park! Looks like we are in for warm weather, so make sure to stay cool and hydrated! We had a wonderful turnout at the Mini-May Fête on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30. I want to thank all the volunteers who helped make the event so successful. Thank you to Gary Breitbard for coordinating the music and dancers, to Karen Saxena for putting the ice cream social together, to Jenny Kiratli and Michael Holland for bringing Perry and Buddy, and to Copy Factory for providing the posters for the event!

In lieu of the traditional Maypole, we distributed mini-Maypole ribbon sticks which the kids really took to heart, floating the rainbow ribbons as they ran around Bol Park! The community spirit is alive and well in Barron Park, and as we roll into summer, let's be sure to keep our neighbors in mind who might be in need during the warm months.

The morning of the Mini-May Fête, our Barron Park Historian, Doug Graham, was the guide and docent, launching our belated Barron Park Centennial celebration with two comprehensive History Walks around the neighborhood. More than 50 neighbors participated that day! The first walk covered the "original" Barron Park, starting at the Sarah Wallis Historical Marker on Magnolia. Later that morning, in the second round, walkers met to tour detailed

locations in the Bol Park area. To do your own walks, Doug has prepared two self-guided pamphlets. For copies, please contact him at: dgrahampaca@gmail.com and be sure to read his History Walks article later in this newsletter.

In late June, the BPA was a sponsor of a week-long day camp for Buena Vista Mobile Home Park elementary-school students that focused on arts and crafts, not to mention special events. The BPA contributed toward the funding, and individual neighbors helped provide

materials.

We'll soon be discussing plans for another ice cream social in August and later, in October, the return of Movie Night in Bol Park. It's starting to feel a little more normal out there, and it's good to see more faces. Enjoy your summer!

Thank you to all our renewing BPA members and businesses, as well as to our newest members. As usual, please use the membership information in this issue to renew or join the BPA at: <https://bpapaloalto.org/join-the-barron-park-association/>

You can always reach me at johnwadeking@gmail.com



After a two-year hiatus, Barron Park residents gathered at a Mini May Fête in Bol Park. Longtime Celtic group, Broceliande (l. to r., Margaret Davis, Kristof Klover, and Kris Yenny), played and sang traditional music. Photo by Pasquale Bianculli.

I N S I D E

2

[Native Garden Celebrations](#)

3

[Native Bumble Bees](#)

4

[Environmental Journey](#)

6

[History Walks](#)

8

[May Fête Photos](#)

9

[Water Saving Tips for Summer](#)

11

[Driftwood Market](#)

14

[Art in Your Yard](#)

15

[Barron Park Memories](#)

Some Things to Celebrate!

By Linda Elder and Claire Elliott



From l. to r. Barron Park neighbors and longtime garden volunteers and donors: Shirley Finfrock, Melanie Cross, Richard Elder, Carla Bliss, and Sharon Erickson. Shirley and Carla envisioned the initial native garden and sponsored multiple Garden Club of Palo Alto grants. Photo by Jeanne Cosby.

This spring, our Bol Park Native Garden, looking its best, hosted an unusual number of community events. On April 2, we were part of the annual Growing Natives Garden Tour, sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and UC Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County. This was the first time our garden was included on the weekend tour, which features South Bay and Peninsula area gardens that have 70% or more California native plants.

The Growing Natives Garden Tour was a fun event that included docent-led tours by our volunteer Barron Park gardeners and do-it-yourself seed harvesting from native plants, such as Hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), and Lacy Phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*). A Barron Park neighbor provided cute origami-folded seed packets made from recycled paper for taking home harvested seeds. Our garden attracted over 185 visitors that day!

On April 12, the Garden Club of Palo Alto held a bench dedication ceremony to celebrate the results of its numerous grants to our garden and, not incidentally, the Garden Club's Centennial. Many Garden Club members attended as well as other financial and volunteer partners involved with the

garden, such as the Friends of Palo Alto Parks, the Barron Park Association, Grassroots Ecology, and the City of Palo Alto. Barron Park neighbors who volunteer at the garden were on hand to discuss the garden and answer questions. The first Garden Club grant was awarded in 2007 to kick off the Native Garden project.

Over the next 15 years, the Garden Club has awarded six more grants for ongoing development of the garden.

On May 17, Grassroots Ecology celebrated the completion of a Native Garden project



Claire Elliott of Grassroots Ecology explains GE's role in creating the Rain Garden and the extension to the Bol Park Native Garden. Photo by Myrna Rochester.

funded by a Valley Water Safe, Clean Water Program grant. The funds were used to propagate plants for garden expansion and to recruit and supervise volunteer groups who removed weeds, laid sheet mulch, and installed the new plants. The celebration was attended by garden volunteers, neighborhood supporters, and representatives from Valley Water, Grassroots Ecology, and the City of Palo Alto.

Our Native Garden is truly something to celebrate! A dried-out lawn carpeted with invasive weeds has now been replaced with a rich diversity of beneficial native plants and shrubs. The expanded garden, nearly 400 feet long, features nearly 100% fully labeled California native plants, a Rain Garden that reduces runoff and flooding along the shared pathway, bluebird and owl nesting boxes, bee hotels, and benches that invite visitors to stay and enjoy. Please come over and take your own tour soon; you'll find lots of ideas for your water-saving garden projects.



Projects and progress in the Native Garden with the help of 262 volunteers—most were high school stewards—on 28 separate workdays. Photo by Myrna Rochester.

(Continued on bottom of page 3)

California Bumble Bees

By Jeralyn Moran



<https://academic.oup.com/ee/article/49/1/220/5714030>

What are those rather slow-moving, fat and fuzzy, black and yellow insects meandering from flower to flower? Taking a closer look, you might notice an accumulation of some substance (typically light yellow in color) on their back legs – what is happening here . . . ? This round, rather non-threatening wild neighbor is busy collecting pollen to feed its young, itself, and other bumble bee nest-mates. They have small “pouches” on their hind legs to store the pollen from many different flowers before returning to their nest location. They are good at extracting what they need and consequently help in cross-pollination of many flowering plants. This includes fruits and vegetables!

The insect you see is in the genus *Bombus*. There are 26 different bumble bee species here in California! These neighbors are better at collecting pollen than their brethren, the honey bees. Why? Because there are more bumble bee species with varying tongue lengths to take advantage of a larger variety of flowers. These bees work relatively fast, and, with their large bodies, can carry more harvested pollen at any given time.

Long ago, Charles Darwin and other science-minded humans did their best to describe what they thought should be named the “humblebee” – not because they were lowly in stature, doing simple work of gathering nectar and/or pollen, but because they made a humming sound as they traveled from bloom to bloom. But as time went by, the name “bumble bee” prevailed. Factors that contributed to this were this bee’s relatively big body with smallish wings – making it seem to defy aerodynamic principles as it “bumbled” along in the garden or a local field.

These remarkable insects build nests (not hives) in the wild, with just a few hundred

individuals (50 to 400), unlike the honey bees which build hives that may include up to 50,000 members. Bumble bee nests often look like a pile of debris on or near the ground. Alternatively, bumble bees might set up housekeeping under the deck of your home, in a tree hollow, or even in an old rodent burrow. Check out the newly installed bee houses in our Bol Park Native Garden!



<https://cnas.ucr.edu/media/2022/06/16/where-are-californias-bumble-bees>

When winter arrives, only the bumble bee queen survives, typically stowing away underground. The bumble bee does not produce enough honey for humans to commercialize; all the pollen and nectar they collect is for group daily meals in the nest. Like other bees, the bumble bee is capable of stinging you – yet this would only happen if you truly hassled them – they are docile by nature.

Please consider planting bee-friendly plants, like native wildflowers, on your property! Not only would you be helping native pollinators in the longer run, these plants are beautiful and typically require less water. Native seed mixes and native plant starts can be purchased at local garden centers (for example: Summer Winds on San Antonio and Middlefield in Palo Alto). Please adhere to the seasonal planting/watering instructions on the packets and ask nursery staff for guidance! I have also had success attracting hummingbirds AND bumble bees by planting larger flowering native bushes and shrubs. You can get more ideas when you spend time in our Bol Park Native Garden; all the plants are labeled.

Sources:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/checklists/217590-Bumble-Bees-of-California>

<https://www.thesca.org/connect/blog/bumblebees-vs-honeybees-what's-difference-and-why-does-it-matter>

https://www.laspilitas.com/wildlife/California_Bumble_bees.html

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2010/aug/01/humblebee-bumblebee-darwin>

Native Garden Celebrations -- Continued from page 2)



Garden tour docent volunteers Jeff Burch, Linda Elder and Richard Elder stand behind the do-it-yourself seed harvesting table, awaiting visitors. Photo by Sky Runser.

What Goes Around Comes Around: My Environmental Journey

By Rachel Gates, former Fellow at Acterra



Rachel's yearbook photo from Barron Park Elementary. Photo courtesy of Rachel Gates.

I spent much of my childhood outside – hiking through Foothills Park, wading through Matadero Creek, and camping in the Santa Cruz mountains. Even during school, I loved any excuse to leave behind the four walls of my classrooms. To that end, my mother designed a creek monitoring curriculum for my first-grade class; we measured pH and temperature as the fragrant, licorice-y smell of fennel wafted through the air. We observed water striders taking advantage of surface tension and tried not to splash each other too much. By the end of elementary school, I was hooked on nature and convinced I wanted to be an environmental activist. You can see proof in the 2008-2009 Barron Park Elementary School Yearbook!

My first year after college was spent teaching environmental science over Zoom (thanks COVID) to fifth graders in the Bronx. I welcomed the opportunity to inspire a younger generation, like my mother and countless other adults had done for me. My students learned the basics of geology and volcanology, but also the how and why of climate change. I was heartened to join with the [nearly 75%](#) of educators who believe climate change and its impacts should be addressed in the classroom. I even went a step further and introduced my students to the work of local environmental organizations to combat [climate anxiety](#) – fear or doom about the environmental crisis – that [the majority](#) of young people experience.

Although my career as a teacher was short-lived, I've remained in the environmental space. I discovered a fellowship based in the Bay Area called ClimateCorps Americorps. The program places young professionals at government and academic institutions as well as at nonprofits to undertake sustainability and resiliency projects. In that program, last year I worked as a Communications and Operations Fellow at Acterra, the locally based nonprofit founded over 50 years ago in Palo Alto. Acterra drives meaningful environmental change by creating local solutions for a healthy planet. In that role, I remained engaged with environmental literacy through our Youth Be the Change (<https://acterra.org/ybtc>) program. I also became familiar with new ways individuals can make a difference in reducing their environmental impact.

I eliminated animal products from my diet over six years ago – the resources required in meat production are staggering. You could shower for a month with [the amount of water](#) used to make a burger! I understand, however, that cutting out meat, eggs, and dairy products completely is an unattainable goal for many. Luckily, our dietary choices are not all or nothing! Switching your family meals to plant-based proteins such as tofu or beans a few times a week can go a long way. As part of my work, I compiled some awesome meatless recipes that you can check

out at acterra.org/meatless-monday and acterra.org/meatless-alphabet. If you eat at restaurants, a few of my local favorites are Curry Up Now, Oren's Hummus Shop, and

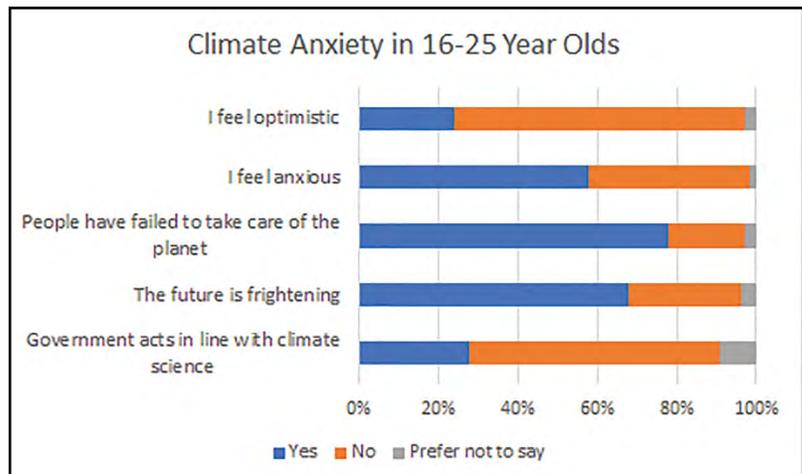


Analysis shows that 1/3 pound of beef requires 660 gallons of water for feed irrigation, drinking water, and meat processing.

Veggie Garden.

While on the topic of food, another way to minimize your carbon emissions is by cooking with an induction cooktop. Gas stoves not only burn fossil fuels, but leak them into your home, adversely impacting air quality. In contrast, induction is safer and more energy efficient! If you're not ready to replace your entire range, you can purchase a portable induction burner for under \$100 and plug it right into any outlet. Or, you can attend one of Acterra's plant-based cooking classes where you can borrow one for free! More info on that at acterra.org/induction.

We did not cause climate change overnight, nor can we fix it overnight, but there are actionable steps we can take to combat it.



A 2021 global mental health survey that included 1000 US youths ages 16-19 revealed anxiety about climate change. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34895496/>

Even if you weren't convinced you wanted to be an environmental activist at age 10 like me, you're never too old to change your mind.

Rachel Gates has called Barron Park home since age 2, and is looking forward to her next adventure. She graduated from Barnard in 2020 with a B.A. in Environmental Science. As an undergrad, she interned at the City of Palo Alto's Zero Waste program, researched at the Carnegie Institute for Science and Columbia University's Land-Doherty Earth-Observatory, and studied Indigenous tourism in Bocas del Toro, Panama. Her fellowship with Acterra has ended, and she'll be in graduate school in Marine Affairs at the University of Washington. Feel free to reach out (rachel.gates@acterra.org) if you want more environmental tips or plant-based restaurant suggestions!

Resources:

<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/22/714262267/most-teachers-dont-teach-climate-change-4-in-5-parents-wish-they-did>

<https://www.climateproject.org/blog/what-climate-anxiety-and-what-can-we-do-about-it>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34895496/>

<https://www.latimes.com/food/dailydish/la-dd-gallons-of-water-to-make-a-burger-20140124-story.html>

CALLING LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS!

Do you have a business in Barron Park? Are you a business owner living in Barron Park?

A **Barron Park Association Basic Business Membership (\$50/year)** gives you one free ad in the Summer, Fall, or Winter edition of the BPA Newsletter. You may also place a "Spotlight" article about you and your business during your first year as a member. Plus, you'll be listed on the home page of the BPA website.

At another level, **Business Sponsors (\$350/year)** may place four ads per year in the Newsletter.

For more information, contact our BPA Business Liaison, Paul Yang at: pabloyang@yahoo.com

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUMMER 2022

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BPA Board Meetings are held the 3rd

Tuesday of most months at 7:15 p.m.

Neighbors are welcome.

For Board Meeting Schedule write to:

johnwadeking@gmail.com

<https://bpapaloalto.org>

Pair Up (Juntos) Summer Camp Thank You!



Yoonha Park and the Pair Up (Juntos) Summer Camp team. Photo by Yoonha Park.

Dear Barron Park community: My name is Yoonha, one of the student leaders/founders of the Buena Vista Summer Camp, Pair Up (Juntos), which I am sure you are aware of (happening next week!) On behalf of our team, I am sending this message to thank you for the outpouring of donations and support from you all. No words could describe how blessed my team is to have so many donations and so many generous hearts, so thank you again! From craft supplies to fiesta hats to slime materials, each donation allows us to

provide an even more fun camp for the kids, and we'll definitely use them well. Running a summer camp is truly a team effort, and without your donations, it would not be possible.

To any of you who have made a donation, I would love to thank you each personally by name, so if you feel inclined, please send me an email at yoonhapark7@gmail.com with your name and what you donated, and I'll definitely get back to you! Thank you again so much, and many blessings!

History Walks Launched on Memorial Day

By Douglas L. Graham, Barron Park Historian



History Walks docent Doug Graham begins the first of two history walks at the plaque honoring Sarah Wallis, the chief founder of the women's suffrage movement in California. Photo by John King.



Doug Graham meets the group at the Bol Park BPA Community Information Kiosk. Photo by Toni Gooch.

Two Barron Park history walks were successfully launched the morning of May 30, 2022, before our Mini May Fête in Bol Park. Quite a crowd – 36 people – greeted Barron Park Historian Douglas Graham at 9:30 a.m. for the first walk. (See photos.) The walk covered major historical locations in the “original” Barron Park area, including the Sarah Wallis Homesite State Historical Monument and the California Military Academy grounds around the Wallis Mansion site (also known as the “Barron Mansion”); the original Barron Park tract of small homes built in the 1920s and ‘30s; the 1983 flood that affected hundreds of properties in Barron Park, and was worst in the 500 block of Barron Avenue; the 1960s growth in apartments near El Camino Real; Matadero Creek and the Matadero well site mini-park; and finally, the mid-twentieth-century architecturally ground-breaking Eichler homes in the University Gardens tract.

The second walk, at 11:30 a.m. the same day, covered historical locales in the Bol Park area. (See photos.) It included the story of how the neighborhood created Bol Park and the extensive Native Plant Garden area. Also covered was Neal Station (Barron Park’s flag stop on the Southern Pacific railroad); the Roble Ridge and Matadero Hill

neighborhoods; the original donkey pasture; the hay rake that became the BPA logo; remnants of the Bol Farm; views of the Bol cottage and Cornelis Bol’s studio; the old railroad bridge over Matadero Creek and its modern shared-use pathway; the Matadero Creek and Barron Creek flood diversion project and its 12-foot by 12-foot culvert buried under the pathway; the current donkey pasture; the site of the “Bol Barn” and how it got built, using parts of a house abandoned when its Japanese-American

owners were forced into a “relocation camp” in 1942; the site of a “hobo” camp in the Depression Years and homeless individuals in the 1970s; informal paths in the undeveloped south end of the park; access points to go down into the creek (both official and informal ones); the walk through the 50-year-old redwoods; and finally the 1933 Laguna Avenue bridge over Matadero Creek. Sixteen people enjoyed the second walk.



Bol Park area walk participants on the pathway bridge over Matadero Creek. Photo by Toni Gooch.

Participants in both walks were encouraged to make comments. These included some who had led or helped make the history and who offered significant input concerning aspects with which they had experience. We heard from a homeowner in the original Barron Park tract; from two participants, Linnie Melena and Art Liberman, who were instrumental in the creation of the Matadero well site park; from Melanie Cross of the Bol Park Native Habitat Committee; and from several people with experience of Matadero Creek. These spontaneous comments were remarkably interesting and added greatly to the value of the walk. Even Doug learned some interesting facts.

All participants on May 30 received a free copy of the self-guided pamphlet for their walk, with detailed directions and the history of each stop. If you missed one or

both guided walks and want to take them on your own, please request a copy of one or both pamphlets from Doug.

We'd very much appreciate donations from the May 30 walk participants as well as from those who request self-guided pamphlets. The funds will help defray the costs of our current book-publishing project: *The Centennial History of Barron Park*. The book will cover Barron Park history from 1919 through 2022, lavishly illustrated with photos, maps, diagrams, and tables. The lead author is Douglas L. Graham and the principal co-author is Robert (Bo) Crane.

Donations toward the book publication may be made by check to Douglas Graham. Contact: dgrahampaca@gmail.com; landline phone 650-493-0689; snail mail, 984 Ilima Way, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

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Summer/Fall Sustainability Events and Resources

By Hilary Glann

Here's a list of local sustainability and personal climate action this summer and fall:

- Enjoy an afternoon of interactive activities and presentations on sustainable technology and home living for all ages at the re:Maker Fair, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 10, at Mitchell Park Community Center. <https://palocalto.bibliocommons.com/events/6271b521f4e9e13600c1a691>
- Have questions about your new electric vehicle? Join a virtual workshop sponsored

by the City of Palo Alto:

<https://rideanddriveclean.org/event/ev-102-new-ev-owner-workshop-10/>

- Canopy offers drought tree planting and care resources. Visit <https://canopy.org/tree-info/caring-for-trees/trees-and-water/save-water-and-trees/>
- How will our 2022 Palo Alto City Council Candidates address climate change and climate adaptation in Palo Alto? Join a virtual Climate Forum hosted by 350 Palo Alto, Citizens' Climate League,

and other climate and faith organizations on Thursday, October 6, at 7 p.m. Register or submit a question at <https://www.350siliconvalley.org/climate-candidate-forum>

BPA EMAILS AND WEB LINKS SUMMER 2022

- **BPA Website:** <https://bpapaloalto.org/>
- **BPA Newsletter Archive:** <https://bpapaloalto.org/bpa-newsletter/>
- **BPA Membership (Join/Renew):** <https://bpapaloalto.org/join-the-barron-park-association/>
- **Membership Questions:** Lisa Berkowitz Landers at: barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com
- **BPA Email Lists:** Join at: <https://bpapaloalto.org/bpa-email-lists/> or write to: listmanager@bpapaloalto.org
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- **BPA Newsletter Editor:** Myrna Rochester at: mbrbpa@sonic.net
- **BPA Business Liaison:** Paul Yang at: pabloyang@yahoo.com
- **Support for Buena Vista neighbors during Covid-19:** Karen Ratzlaff at: karen.ratzlaff@hotmail.com
- **Welcoming Committee Chair:** Gwen Luce at: gluce@cbnorcal.com
- **Emergency Services Volunteer Program:** Maurice Green at: mauryg3@comcast.net
- **Barron Park Historian:** Douglas L. Graham at: dgrahampaca@gmail.com

- **BPA Webmaster:** Maurice Green at: bpawebman@bpapaloalto.org
- **Barron Park Donkeys:** To volunteer, donate, or purchase merchandise, go to: <http://barronparkdonkeys.org> or contact Jenny Kiratli at: barronparkdonkeys@gmail.com
- **Bol Park Native Habitat:** Donate to the Native Garden via the Bol Park Fund at: <https://friendsofpaparks.org/donations2> Or by mail or phone: Friends of the Palo Alto Parks (FOPAP), Bol Park Fund, 425 Grant Ave., Suite 27, Palo Alto, CA 94306; 650-327-7323. To volunteer, contact Rich Elder at: rich.e.elder@gmail.com

Mini May Fête Photos - May 30



Dancers training a volunteer. They include Suzanne Frank, Barbara Slone, and Jo Gent. Photo by Pasquale Bianculli.



Flanked by Amol Saxena, David Coale and John King, Karen Saxena announces the availability of ice cream cones. Photo by Myrna Rochester.



Dancers with flower arches prepare for their set. Photo by Leon Rochester.



Gary Breitbard, Hal Macbeth, Bill White, and Steve Hawker perform. Photo by Myrna Rochester.



Neighbors enjoy cold ice cream on a hot day. Photo by Pasquale Bianculli.

More May Fête Photos on Page 13

4 Ways to Save Water This Summer

Valley Water has called for a 15% water reduction (vs. our 2019 normal year). How to do it? Review this infographic for new ideas or twists on old ones!

1. Dig Into Your Water Bills

Look for water usage patterns and opportunities: log in to your Palo Alto Utilities account and download 3 years of usage data. Click on “Usage --> Water --> Export to Excel.” Choose gallons or CCF (1 CCF = 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons). (If you get an Excel error when downloading, you may proceed; the data is not corrupted.)



2. Dial Back in the Bathroom



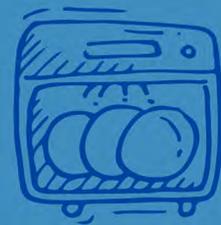
Your shower is the biggest indoor water user. The average shower is 8 minutes, or 14–20 gallons, depending on the shower head. Turn off the shower while soaping up, or set a timer for 5 minutes.

Older toilets consume 5-7 gallons per flush. Put a 1-liter plastic bottle filled with water and pebbles into the tank to reduce usage. Toilets installed after 2016 use 1.3 gallons. In either case, try to flush less often.

3. Cut Down in the Kitchen

Since new dishwashers use ~3 gallons per load (older ones, ~10) and handwashing uses ~13 gallons, use your dishwasher.

Use a sink strainer to minimize use of your garbage disposal. Shake the contents of the strainer into your kitchen compost bin.



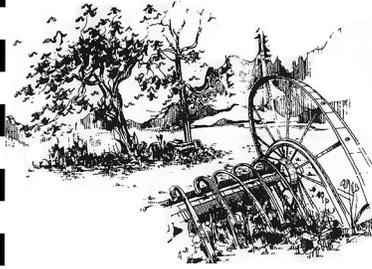
4. Prune Your Outdoor Water Use



UC Davis estimates that landscape irrigation accounts for 50% of residential water use, on average. Here are ways to save in the garden:

- Reduce or remove your lawn(s), which use 40-60% of landscape irrigation.
- Use an inexpensive moisture reader to check your soil before you water.
- Water deeply 2-3 times a week rather than daily. Water early in the morning.
- Water established plants less often, especially native plants, which can live on ½ gallon water 2 days in a row, then no water for 4 weeks.
- Get a free inspection of your irrigation system from Valley Water:

<https://www.valleywater.org/saving-water/rebates-surveys/water-wise-outdoor-surveys>



2022 Barron Park Association Membership

Thanks to all BPA members who have already joined for 2022!

If you have not yet renewed for 2022, your membership can be renewed online with PayPal at: <https://bpapaloalto.org/join-the-barron-park-association/>

To pay by personal check, mail this membership form and your check to:

BPA Treasurer, 724 Barron Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306

Memberships renewed after October 1, 2021, are valid through 2022.

To check your membership status please email: barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com

Name(s):	Primary email address:
Address:	Secondary email address:
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter: I want the online edition instead of a mailed copy for Summer, Fall, and Winter.	Phone:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fellow \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Member \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$15 | |

- Additional Contribution: \$ _____ If sending a personal check, pay to: Barron Park Association.
 Total Contribution: \$ _____ Note: Membership and contributions are not tax deductible.

BPA Neighborhood Committees: Please check your volunteer interests

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Issues: Work on a specific neighborhood environmental issue or identify, create and implement sustainable environmental solutions in our neighborhood. | neighborhood school issues and activities. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May Fête: Help with the annual Spring neighborhood event in Bol Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors: Join us for lunch or serve as a volunteer to help other Barron Park Seniors. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Safety and Emergency Preparedness: Work with the Emergency Preparedness Chairperson to prepare the neighborhood to handle major emergencies. | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Cultural Events: Organize volunteers, coordinate neighborhood events, assist with planning. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter: Contribute photos, articles, creative works; interview Barron Park neighbors/businesses for articles; proofread. | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic and Streets: Work with City and neighborhood to review traffic issues, present plans for traffic calming and other safety-related changes within Barron Park and on adjacent major streets. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Creeks: Work with City and neighborhood to review park and creek issues, maintenance and improvement projects. | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming: Greet new residents with an informational packet to introduce them to our caring community. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Liaison: Coordinate BPA affairs and news with | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning and Land Use: Be informed about urban design studies or multi-family, commercial, or mixed-use developments proposed in and near our neighborhood; attend meetings and provide input to project sponsors. |

The BPA encourages all residents and businesses in Barron Park/Green Acres 2 to join our volunteer neighborhood association. Our BPA events are slowly starting up again. Your membership dues support the BPA quarterly Newsletters and community programs that include: the Bol Park Native Garden, Welcoming New Residents, Senior Lunches, the Bol Park Donkey Project, Buena Vista Scholars, Summer Camp, and Food Drive, and Emergency Preparedness efforts.

History of the Driftwood Market

By Douglas L. Graham, Barron Park Historian

Barron Park's Most Popular Delicatessen

The Driftwood is probably Barron Park's most popular "sandwich shop." It was originally a market for the convenience of hotel customers, and of course it still is. But it also has a large and regular clientele of lunch customers from the Stanford Research Park and all-day customers from the Barron Park and Ventura neighborhoods.

Where Is It?

It would be easy, driving either direction on El Camino Real, to pass by Driftwood Market without seeing it. It is located at 3450 El Camino Real, on the south side of the Creekside Inn. Driving south on El Camino, you pass it just before the intersection and traffic light at Matadero Avenue. To park, you enter the Creekside Inn's driveway and turn toward El Camino into a small parking lot. The Driftwood is also within a short walk of about a quarter of Barron Park, half of Ventura, and a sizeable portion of the Stanford Research Park, and offers space for bicycle parking.

Ambiance and Layout

Customers can enter from El Camino, passing between the ice cream bar on their left and the bank of drink coolers on their right, then approaching the deli counter in the back. Today's incarnation still has the "homey" feeling of the original Driftwood Market. If you enter from the parking lot, you first pass through the patio seating area, then enter the building in front of the deli counter. Currently there is no inside seating. Customers prefer the patio seating, partly due to COVID concerns. Masking is optional under current Santa Clara County regulations, but many staffers are regularly masked.

The Menu

In the long-standing deli tradition, the menu is posted on a large blackboard on the wall behind the food preparation area and in full view of the customers. It is also presented in classic menu form on the Driftwood website (<https://driftwooddeliandmarket.com>). The specialties of the house are sandwiches; some of the most popular are described at the end of this article.

History of the Driftwood Market

But the primary purpose of this article

is to explore the history of this popular establishment. My task has turned out to be more difficult than expected, because there are practically no written sources. I strongly urge any readers who know anything about Driftwood's past, especially its founding, to contact me so that we can add the information to our records. The following section covers what I have been able to dig up.

Land Parcel History

The large parcel (1.865 acres) presently occupied by the Creekside Inn, Cibo Restaurant, and Driftwood Market was subdivided from the property of Driscoll and Reiter (former Barron Estate) sometime in the early 1920s. The 1926 Parcel Map shows the big parcel further subdivided into two, both with El Camino frontage. The east-west dividing line was approximately between the future (and current) motel and restaurant building (0.505 acres) and the future Driftwood Market building, patio, and parking lot (1.45 acres).

The Grove Auto Camp

The first occupant of the land was reported to be the Grove Auto Camp, which was probably founded in the early 1920s when Driscoll and Reiter sold the large parcel. Driscoll and Reiter were likely pleased to get rid of the parcel, since it was covered with large oak trees and brush, and was clearly unsuitable for growing strawberries. Worse yet, it would have been an awkward piece of land to sell for any use, because it had Matadero Creek cutting diagonally across it from south to north. This stretch of the creek was (and still is) flowing straight north, while Matadero Avenue and the parallel streets south of it are angled about 38 degrees east from true north. The stretch was also deeply incised into the land, probably almost as much as it is today, making it a serious obstacle for crossing – but this might not have made much difference to an auto camp owner, who doubtless knew he could quickly throw up a flimsy wood bridge and join the two pieces of land. At this location, in those days, the creek was dry most of the year.

The Grove Auto Camp was founded around the same time as the Buena Vista Auto Camp at Los Robles Avenue. Between them, the

landscaped "park" area (about 30 acres) was sold by the Driscoll interests in 1923 to Colonel Sebastian Jones for his Military Academy. In 1925, Colonel Jones laid out the original Barron Park commercial and residential subdivision on part of that land. Thus, from 1919 to 1925, the future layout of Barron Park, from the Stanford lands to Los Robles Avenue, was established.

The Flamingo Motel

The Grove Auto Camp morphed into the Grove Auto Court and soon became the site of a more profitable business – the Stanford Motor Court, one of the first motels in the Palo Alto area. This was more or less at the same time that the Buena Vista owners were building an early motel structure. The Stanford Motor Court was succeeded by the Flamingo Motel, a larger and more modern structure. It must have been remarkably successful, for it soon had a second building "south" of the creek (as compass directions are known along our stretch of El Camino Real). Then the owner built more structures across the creek to the north and the whole complex began to resemble the current Creekside Inn. We have a copy of an insurance company map showing the footprint of the Flamingo Motel. It is the same as the current layout of the Creekside, except for the main high-rise building. That was erected later, after acquisition of more land to the west, including the land behind the R-1 properties at the "east" end of Chimalus Drive.

When Was the Driftwood Market Founded?

The Driftwood building shows up on an insurance company map from 1962. The land was (and still is) owned by the motel, now the Creekside Inn. The building was probably constructed in the 1950s, with space for a small market and two "offices," one of which was occupied for many years by the Henschel family real estate business, founded by Clarence Henschel, who was succeeded by his daughter Mary. Between them, they probably sold (and resold) most of the parcels in Barron Park from the late 1940s until the 1980s. The main tenant of the new building was the market, which sold groceries and convenience items and had a butcher shop.



Photo A: Steve Rezvani serves a customer at the Driftwood deli counter. Photos courtesy of Steve Rezvani.

It may have been known as the Driftwood Market from the start – we haven’t found any records of the founding and early days of the business. One website claims the Driftwood has served the area for “more than fifty years.” Steve Rezvani, the current owner, started as an employee there in 1987; by then it was a long-established market.

The Current Owner

Steve Rezvani bought the Driftwood Market from his brother-in-law, Edward Rang, in 1995 – 27 years ago. Edward had purchased it in 1987 and almost immediately hired Steve to help in the store.

Steve had come to the U.S. from Iran in 1984 at age 17 and lived with his older sister and her husband Edward Rang in Barron Park. He attended San Francisco State, graduating in 1991 with an EE degree. From 1987 he worked part-time, then full-time, at the Driftwood while keeping up with his classes at the University. Soon, he was in effect the manager of the Driftwood as Edward turned responsibilities over to him. After graduation, Steve worked several months as an electrical engineer but didn’t enjoy the work. However, he did enjoy managing the Driftwood. By 1995, Edward wanted to leave the business and sold it to Steve. (See Photo A above, Steve Rezvani serving a customer at the deli counter)

Steve’s life isn’t all work. He met and married his wife Bahar in 1996. They have two children and live in Sunnyvale. Their 21-year-old son Romtin attends Chapman University in Orange, California, and their 13-year-old daughter Tiara is in middle school in

Cupertino.

Changes Over the Years

In an interview with me on May 25, 2022, Steve said “the market had a homey feeling, and I didn’t want to change that,” but he recognized that it needed updating to meet the needs and desires of a changed clientele, so he started to modify

the business. It had been a primarily a market with a small deli section. Bread and milk were big items, but Steve’s sandwiches were becoming so popular that it was obvious they were the growth part of the business. One of the reasons for this success is the always-fresh bread that Steve brings in from the Pacific Coast Baking Company in South San Francisco. He told Karen Michael, who interviewed him for a story in the Winter 2007 issue of this Newsletter, “when you serve day-old bread it really takes away from your sandwich. After all, what is the first thing you taste when you bite into a sandwich?”

Steve responded to the sandwich boom by rebuilding the whole back end of the store as a deli counter, and he hired deli assistants. According to Karen’s 2007 article, the deli “. . . provides catering for parties and company lunch meetings as well as handling a large lunch crowd that enjoys choosing from over 40 sandwiches at reasonable prices . . . and he is adding an espresso bar selling Tully’s coffee . . .”

Favorite Sandwiches

Steve reports that about 70% of the customers choose Dutch Crunch for their sandwich bread. The overall “Customers’ Favorite” has turkey, pastrami, pepper jack cheese, bacon, avocado, and Chipotle pesto spread and, of course the classic mayonnaise, lettuce, and tomato. (See Photo B, the Customers’ Favorite Sandwich”) Another favorite, “Kevin’s,” has roast beef, melted cheddar, barbecue sauce, bacon and mayo, lettuce, and tomato. Other favorites include the “Vegetarian Delight,” the “California



Photo B: The Driftwood “Customers’ Favorite” sandwich.

Club,” the “Chicken Salad Sandwich,” and the “Bay Bridge Club” (served collapsed, with one half horizontal and the other leaning on it). The Driftwood website has photos of many of the sandwiches. They make me drool.

Here’s the spot for some journalistic honesty. I am a longtime customer of the Driftwood sandwiches – my favorites are more mundane, like roast beef or egg salad on Dutch Crunch.

The Ice Cream Bar

Steve also intended to expand beyond the traditional deli concept. In 2007 he installed an ice cream bar along the left-hand side (as you look in from El Camino). This addition also became quite popular! Lee Hanson wrote in the Fall 2007 Newsletter; “The Driftwood Deli and Market . . . recently put in an ice cream section – twelve flavors with a counter and stools like the old-fashioned ice cream store of the distant past. Steve Rezvani of the Driftwood Market has had the store for twelve years or more. The neighbors have watched gradual expansion with additional seating and a wide variety of sandwiches, soups, and salads. The ice cream ‘parlor’ is the latest addition.”

Other Changes

Steve then converted the right-hand side of the market to a long line of tall coolers holding an astounding array of bottled soft drinks and juices. Space between the coolers and the deli holds racks of bagged snacks.

Along the way, he dropped the old magazine section, which had been a lot of work for little profit. He was shrinking the “market” itself with each new feature, but appealing to the changing clientele.

The Changing Clientele

As the customer base turned from the hotel to the adjoining neighborhoods and the Stanford Research Park, Saturday slowly shifted from the slowest day to be the busiest. Steve has advertised in the BPA Newsletter for more than 25 years, but has never advertised in commercial print media or radio. However, the Driftwood has extensive “advertising” on its own handsome website and an impressive presence on Yelp, Facebook, and other internet sites. Yelp included 445 reviews as of May 29, 2022, with an overall positive rating of 4.5 out of a possible 5.0. Trip Advisor also rates the deli at 4.5. The Google review is 4.9. The customer base now even includes high school students – but don’t worry, senior citizens still outnumber them.

Barron Park Connections

Besides advertising in this Newsletter, Steve

has maintained other connections with the BPA. Karen Michael mentioned that he “. . . provides food at a special price for the Barron Park Senior lunches and last year (in that case, 2006) participated in the May Fête by selling sandwiches and donating to the event . . .” He told Karen that “. . . I like the interaction with people. When I go out with friends, about 99% of the time I run into people I know from here – even once in Las Vegas!”

In 2007, Steve was concerned about the future possibility of losing his lease from the Creekside Inn (then due to expire in 2015). He told Karen, if that happened, he would “. . . find another location on El Camino in Barron Park where we will still be able to get the Best Sandwiches in Town.” He still feels that way.

Questions, Comments, Corrections?

Please contact me at dgrahampaca@gmail.com, [dgrahampaca.com](http://www.dgrahampaca.com), landline phone at 650-493-0689, or snail mail at 984 Ilima Way, Palo Alto CA 94306.

Fall BPA Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, September 1, 2022

To All Our Past and Future Contributors: Please submit articles (Microsoft Word is best) for the Fall 2022 issue of the Barron Park Association Newsletter, along with photos/illustrations (separate from text), by **Thursday, September 1, 2022**, to Myrna Rochester at mrbpa@sonic.net

Make sure your BPA membership is current. If your idea is a query (for an article, story, report, update, interview, announcement, review, anecdote, or artist’s page . . .), please contact us in advance.

The Fall issue will be available in early October 2022, online to requesting members and print copies by U.S. mail.

Announcements should be for events scheduled *after* October 15, 2022. Please keep this in mind, especially for neighborhood and school activities. Thanks!

May Fête photos—continued from Page 8.



Vincent Tsai savors the last scoop of ice cream. Photo by Hilary Glann.



Neighbors enjoy music and connecting with each other. Photo by Sky Runser.



Local kid flies her ribbons. Photo by Myrna Rochester.



Audene Merrilees, from the dance group Kitchen Sink Molly. Photo by Myrna Rochester.

View this Newsletter in Full Color!

Read this issue in full color and with live web links at <https://bpapaloalto.org/bpa-newsletter/> as soon as it’s posted. While you’re there, check out our Archive of past Newsletters.

Thanks! The Editors

Art in Your Yard

Stone and Wood Sculpture

By Chris Stafford

I started wood carving about 25 years ago. I always loved working with wood and collecting small wooden pieces, then one day I decided to try making my own. I got a lot of help from some older, seasoned wood-carvers at a club in Redwood City who were happy to be able to pass on their knowledge.

About seven years later, I discovered stone carving. I attended a week-long symposium where we learned all the basics. The following year, I found out about a symposium down the coast in Cambria, so I signed up and was hooked! These days, I work mostly in limestone and soapstone, but have also tried harder stones.

Over the years, I have done a few commissioned pieces in both stone and wood, but much prefer to work for fun and give my creations away.

Most of my pieces are small and on display indoors, but you can see outdoor pieces in my yard at 655 Josina Avenue.



Photos courtesy of Christine Stafford.



ART IN YOUR YARD



We know that Barron Park has many examples of outdoor or "yard" art, either made by you or other artists. We'd love

to see photos of them in upcoming newsletters. Please send reproducible photos to Myrna Rochester at: mbrbpa@sonic.net Tell us something about the art, but you don't need to include your street address.

Thirty Years of Barron Park Memories

By Dan Lilienstein

The meter-reader rolled in on a one-wheeled, self-balancing electric skateboard, casually flipping up the concrete cover and recording the water usage in some app on his iPhone.

I was reflecting on how much has changed since the spring of 1992 when we broke ground on our house. Not too much seems to have been altered on our street, a dead-end still canopied by graceful, arching camphor trees. Yet in fact, change has been substantial, though gradual, over 30 years: Five of the 15 houses are fully new, and three others completely renovated. Six of the families living here when we arrived are still here; the rest of the houses have changed ownership, some more than once. The street itself has been disfigured by a drainage project that saw a permanent ditch installed at the entrance, requiring an awkward, lurching, bumping maneuver each time a vehicle goes in or out.

Even in my own backyard, cycles of transformation have taken place, overlapping themes and disappearing features that I can only remember when looking at old pictures: The garden areas have moved as trees grow and shade different zones. New irrigation, new plantings, and again new irrigation. Paving and hardscape altered, trees removed, and other trees installed. The workshop area and upper deck are covered, the covered patio appears, and the garage becomes a studio. A *trompe l'oeil* landscape is painted on the back garage wall, only to disappear a few years later. A lawn covers the weed and mud patch. New fences, new neighbors' houses crowd the visual space, looming over the side and back yards. At age 13, my son and his buddy put their own stamp on the concrete under the hot tub, which has been filled with the naked bodies of our and his friends at numerous parties these many years.

Near-constant building on this and nearby streets have made us feel as if we live in a workshop. I don't see that trend abating any time soon. Noise from the VA construction projects has ended, and the VA doesn't seem to be running loud diesel generators at night anymore; a good change. Several years ago, the FAA implemented a routing change on



The Liliensteins' (former) *trompe l'oeil* landscape painted with neighbors on a garage wall, fronted by two (former) real trees. Photo courtesy of Dan Lilienstein.

the glide path to San Francisco Airport, which plows a groove right over us: At some times of day the jet noise is almost constant and truly annoying; not a good change, and the government has been noticeably uninterested in addressing this, in spite of organized efforts to get it fixed.

Nearby restaurants and markets have changed out (mostly): Rodolfo's (now housing), Chez Louis (formerly L'Ommie's, now Walgreens), All-American Market (became Blockbuster Video and is now Immersion Spa). El Camino in the vicinity of Los Robles has changed on every stretch, from motel to private high school, new housing, a synagogue, senior housing, and more apartments.

It's hard to imagine that we built our house without doing any shopping or searching on the internet. There was the phone (attached to the wall!), thumbing through stacks of phone directories and in-person searching, poking around local supply houses and construction sites for ideas, word of mouth recommendations. Paper catalogs, products you could see in pictures if you found them some way.

It was not unusual to reach an actual live person when calling a business: a secretary

perhaps (not an "admin"!), who could direct your call or get a message to the person you needed. The robotic phone receptionist had not been invented. Nor had voicemail: We had an answering machine with a cassette tape, clumsily beeping on the kitchen desk.

The Amazon was a river. Tesla was a brilliant, eccentric scientist.

Comments? Reactions? Memories? You can reach Dan Lilienstein at dlilienstein@gmail.com

ARE YOU AN ARTIST OR WRITER?

Do you enjoy the creative work in the BPA Newsletter? Would you like to see



your art, photography, crafts, writing, published (or unpublished) book, etc., featured in a future issue? Please send your idea with a draft Artist's

Statement and reproducible samples or a description of your work to Myrna Rochester at: mrbpa@sonic.net

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