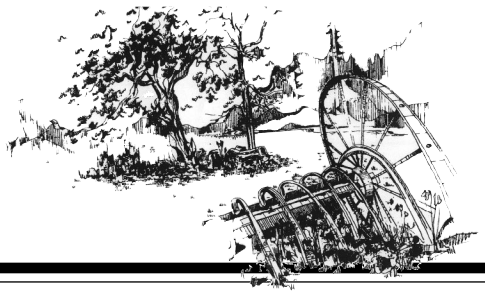
FALL 2026



BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Happy Fall, Barron Park!

By John King, BPA President



Fall is one of my favorite times of year in our neighborhood. The days begin to get a little shorter, the evenings a little cooler, and our community calendar fills with opportunities to get outside, reconnect with old friends, and meet neighbors we may not yet know.

We kicked off the season with our **Fall Ice Cream Social, Sunday, September 13**. It was wonderful to see neighbors of all ages come together to enjoy ice cream cones, conversation, and the simple pleasure of spending time together. Events like this remind me of what makes Barron Park so special: Despite being part of a busy and changing Silicon Valley, we continue to maintain the friendly, neighbor-to-neighbor spirit that has defined our community for generations.

And we have much more to look forward to this fall!

Our next community gathering will be **Movie Night, Sunday, October 18, at 6:00 p.m. in Bol Park.** We will be screening ***Shrek the Third*,** naturally! Bring your family, friends, blankets, lawn chairs, and something warm to wear as the evening cools down. Movie Night is a longstanding and fun Barron Park tradition and a great opportunity for families and neighbors to spend an evening together.

Then, on **Sunday, November 15, starting at 1:30 p.m.**, please join us for the **Barron Park Autumn Celebration and Craft Fair at Juana Briones Park!** This event celebrates the creativity and community spirit of Barron Park, bringing together neighbors, local craftspeople, families, and friends for an enjoyable fall afternoon. We hope you will come by, support our local participants, and enjoy another opportunity to connect with the neighborhood. Sign up to help or bring your crafts at bit.ly/BPAcelebration

Finally, we'll close out the year with one of our warmest traditions: the **Annual Holiday Caroling, Sunday, December 13, at 3:00 p.m. in Bol Park.** Whether you are an accomplished singer or simply an enthusiastic one, please come join your neighbors as we celebrate the holiday season together. It's always a wonderful way to finish the year and share some holiday cheer.

These gatherings are more than just dates on a calendar. They are part of what makes Barron Park the community it is.

For many decades the Barron Park Association has worked to preserve and strengthen the distinctive character of our neighborhood. From Bol Park and our beloved Barron Park donkeys, to our Native Habitat Garden, neighborhood communications, quarterly newsletter, community events, and advocacy on issues affecting Barron Park, the BPA continues to be a neighborhood organization powered largely by volunteers.

As Palo Alto continues to grow and change, the BPA also remains committed to representing the interests of our neighborhood and helping preserve the qualities that make Barron Park unique. Our semi-rural character, open spaces, creeks, trees, eclectic homes, and strong sense of community didn't happen by accident. Generations of Barron Park residents have worked to protect and enhance them, and it is now our responsibility to continue that tradition.

None of this happens without volunteers.

Continued on page 5

BPA Movie Night in Bol Park!
Sunday, October 18, 2026
at 6:00 P.M. Bring friends, family, and a picnic!



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Barron Park Neighbors and Friends: Douglas L. Graham

By Yvonne Boxerman

Behind this gentle and bright man is a story that in some ways echoes the history of Barron Park, and perhaps even Silicon Valley itself. Doug Graham was born in 1938 in Rochester, New York, the second child in an eventual family of four children. His mother was a college graduate, unusual in those days, but was happy as a stay-at-home mom. Doug's dad was a Ph.D. chemist, just beginning a long and prestigious career at Eastman Kodak in Rochester. In the late 1930s, he was instrumental in developing the new Kodachrome technology that became the color film standard.

In the 1940s, Hollywood was just opening up to brand-new technologies, like Kodachrome which introduced color film to the movie industry. Before long the Eastman Kodak Company asked Doug's father to become Kodak's technical representative to the industry, moving his job to Hollywood. The whole family relocated to Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, where Doug lived from fifth grade through high school. Doug said he really enjoyed his high school years in L.A., especially when he could go to the beach and bask in those warm, sunny days.

After high school, Doug decided to return with his family to upstate New York, bad weather apparently ignored, to attend the University of Rochester, where he spent two-and-a-half years, taking a one-semester break for basic army training. Doug first enlisted for a period of six months, but that got extended over time to an army career of 12 years. He commanded basic training companies and served 18 months on Okinawa as a staff officer.

It was during his attendance at an eight-month advanced army intelligence officer course in Baltimore that Doug met his wife Verna, a teacher in Baltimore County. He had been set up to meet another young woman, but instead fell for her roommate! Doug's next assignment was a year in Vietnam as an intelligence staff officer, during which Doug and Verna's romance flourished in near-daily letters. In the meantime, showing considerable prescience, Verna had moved to San Francisco. Doug resigned his commission and took a "gangplank (early) separation" in May 1969 in Oakland, meeting up with Verna at Union Square in San Francisco.



Doug and Verna Graham. Photo courtesy of the Graham family.

Doug had already applied to and been accepted at a number of top business and law schools for an advanced degree. In the end he selected the MBA program at the Stanford School of Business. Verna accepted his proposal, and they were married in Palo Alto in 1970.

Once Doug had his MBA in hand, he applied to and was immediately hired by the then-Syntex Laboratories. Until his retirement in 2008, Doug's story is like that of so many others in Silicon Valley in the 1980s, working with early and later successful pharmaceutical and vaccine companies, start-ups, and also expanding concerns.

Family is extremely important to Doug, who so lovingly speaks of his wife, children, and grandchild. Doug and Verna's son, Tony, was adopted from an orphanage in Bogota, Colombia, and their daughter Molly followed eighteen months later. Nowadays Tony and his family split time between Palo Alto and Reno, Nevada, while Molly and her husband reside in St. George, Utah.

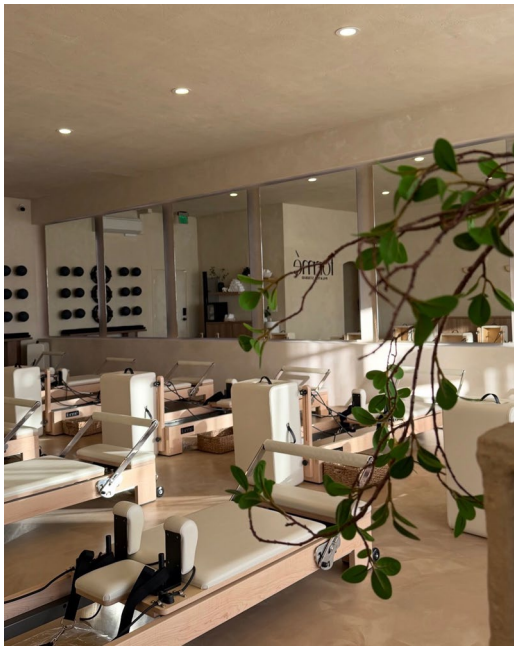
Since 1973, Doug has worked tirelessly for the Barron Park neighborhood as an active member of the Barron Park Association. He was the fourth President of the BPA and served in that capacity for three years. Doug guided the BPA into taking an active role in issues around our local creeks. He founded the Barron Park Association Newsletter, organizing the print distribution system that preceded our present hybrid (online and print) distribution. For more than 40 years, in conjunction with his work at the Palo Alto

Continued on page 5

Business Spotlight: Formé Pilates Studio

By Emma Davis





Photos courtesy of Formé Pilates Studio.

There's something special about a neighborhood business that grows from a personal passion and a desire to contribute to the community. For the founders of Formé Pilates Studio, opening a boutique Pilates studio in Barron Park was an opportunity to combine years of experience in movement, wellness, and community-building with a place they felt was the right fit for their vision.

The idea for Formé grew from the founders' own experiences with Pilates and wellness and their belief that movement can positively impact both physical and mental well-being. They wanted to create a studio that felt different from a traditional fitness facility: more personal, welcoming, and connected to the people who walk through its doors.

Their vision was to create an intimate neighborhood studio where clients feel supported rather than intimidated, instructors can build genuine relationships with their clients, and familiar faces can become friends. Whether someone is completely new to Pilates or has been practicing for years, Formé was designed to be a place where everyone can feel comfortable taking time for themselves and working toward their own goals.

When choosing where to open, Barron Park felt like a natural fit. The neighborhood's welcoming, residential character and strong sense of community reflected the environment the founders hoped to create. They were drawn to the opportunity to become part of an established neighborhood and build relationships with local residents, not simply operate a business in the area.

For Formé, community extends beyond the workout. The studio plans to host wellness and social gatherings, including sound baths, latte experiences, mommy-and-me mornings, and other events that encourage members to connect with one another.

Starting a small business has been an exciting journey for the founders, requiring hard work, creativity, and a commitment to building something meaningful from the ground up. They are especially excited to grow alongside their Barron Park neighbors and create a studio that feels like a true part of the community.

At its heart, Formé Pilates Studio is about helping people feel stronger in their bodies while creating a welcoming space where people can move, connect, and feel at home.

The team welcomes Palo Alto and Barron Park neighbors to visit Formé, meet the instructors, and experience the studio for themselves.

Formé Pilates Studio

3780 El Camino Real

Palo Alto, CA 94306

theformepilates.com

info@theformepilates.com

Barron Park Association Newsletter, Winter Deadline!

Tuesday, December 1, 2026

Please submit articles (in Word if possible) for the Winter 2026 issue of the BPA Newsletter, with photos/images separate from text, by **Tuesday, December 1, 2026** (*i.e.*, during the first week of December ☺) to Myrna Rochester at: mbrbpa@sonic.net

Find out if your BPA membership is up-to-date at bpapaloalto.org or write to barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com Also, you may wish to send a query in advance with your idea – for an article, story, report, update, interview, profile, announcement, review, anecdote, or artist's page – to mbrbpa@sonic.net

Announcements for activities should be for events scheduled *after* **January 15, 2027.** The Winter issue will be available in January to members of the BPA, online and by U.S. mail.

Elliot Margolies, Photographer

Artist Statement

Portrait photography has intrigued me since I received a photography book by Diane Arbus at the age of 15. Later in life, my twin sons provided me with endless photo opportunities, using my Pentax K-1000 and my spare time in a darkroom I rented by the hour. I was – and still am – a passionate amateur.

Professionally, I was Executive Director of the Midpen Media Center on San Antonio Road in Palo Alto during its first 11 years. I subsequently produced grant-funded storytelling projects that feature Immigrants, Dreamers, and Refugees. When time allowed I have also produced film documentaries.

You can see my full range of photos at flickr.com/photos/elliotmar/

You can see and hear a number of Dreamer and Refugee stories and a few of my documentaries at: youtube.com/@Elliot_Margolies

Elliot Margolies

elliot.margolies1@gmail.com



Deborah, an anchor and inspiration. All photos by Elliott Margolies



Rafael, activist.



Sari greets me at her Chicago door. Our mothers were best friends too.



Two buddies at a concert.

Elliot Marogolies ontinued on page 5

Doug Graham, continued from page 3

Historical Association (PAHA), Doug has contributed a informative, detailed Barron Park history article to nearly every issue of the BPA Newsletter. (You'll find Doug's histories of Barron Park in the BPA Newsletter Archive at: bpapaloalto.org/bpa-newsletter/ and bpapaloalto.org/news-archives/

However Doug's biggest achievement, he says, and the one he is most proud of, is the flood control project created after the flood of 1983, when Matadero and Barron Creeks overflowed, causing damage to homes and erosion to the general area. Doug remembers walking the streets of Barron Park during the height of the flood late at night observing flood flows. Most interesting was a conversation with a Palo Alto police officer, sitting in water up to his chest in his squad car on Barron Avenue and calling the police station for help on his radio.

Post-flood, Doug was for many years active as a volunteer with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (now Valley Water), including service as President of the public agency set up to float the bonds that paid for our local flood control project, as well as many others in Santa Clara County.

The Grahams have lived in the same house on Ilima Way for 53 years. When you first enter Doug and Verna's home you can't help but notice there is a large, striking picture of Yosemite's Half Dome hanging in their hallway. "Who captured the beauty and essence of that Valley?" I asked, expecting to be told it was some well-known local artist. "Well actually, I painted that," Doug modestly answered. Although he no longer paints, he is proud of this accomplishment and of other paintings he has done over the years.

It was a pleasure to speak with this erudite and intelligent gentleman, who has an astonishing and clear memory of people and places throughout his life. Not only is he a historian in general, but he is truly the chronicler of Barron Park's history over the last 50 years!

President's message, continued from page 1

I want to thank our BPA Board members, committee members, event organizers, newsletter contributors, and the many neighborhood volunteers who give their time and energy throughout the year. Whether it's helping at an event, writing an article, caring for one of our neighborhood treasures, welcoming a new neighbor, or simply setting up and cleaning up afterward, every contribution makes a difference.

I also encourage you to join or renew your membership in the Barron Park Association. Membership supports our community events, newsletter, email lists, website, and the many other activities that keep our neighborhood connected. Even more importantly, your participation helps ensure that the BPA continues to be a strong voice for Barron Park.

If you're new to Barron Park, welcome! Please introduce yourself at one of our upcoming events. If you've lived here for many years, I hope you'll make an extra effort to introduce yourself to someone you haven't met before. That's how a neighborhood becomes a community.

So, time to mark your calendars for:

Sunday, October 18 – Movie Night, Bol Park, starting 6:00 p.m. – *Shrek the Third*

Sunday, November 15 – Barron Park Autumn Celebration & Craft Fair, Juana Briones Park, starting 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 13 – Annual Holiday Caroling, Bol Park, starting 3:00 p.m.

Looking forward to seeing you around the neighborhood and at our upcoming events. Thank you for being part of what makes Barron Park such a wonderful place to call home.

Please feel free to contact me directly about any BPA matters at: johnwadeking@gmail.com

Have a happy and enjoyable fall!

Elliot Margolies, continued from page 4



Gayle, friend of 50+ years . . . artist.



Bill, at his son's coming-of-age gathering.

Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, ESVs and You!

By Dan Adams

We all read about disasters striking in different ways in places around the world. Those affected were living their normal lives until days or even seconds before the disaster struck. Immediately after, some victims' lives were turned upside down for days, weeks, or even years.

If a major earthquake or other disaster caused a loss of power, water, and food supply for a week or two in Palo Alto, how would you fare? Would you be able to stay in your home to shelter in place, or would you have to move to a public shelter or even leave the Bay Area? Can you imagine working together with your neighbors to collectively fare better?

In a large-scale emergency, the city and local first responders will likely be overwhelmed. Would you be a burden on the city's critical resources, or could you be an asset to Palo Altans in time of urgent need?

A disaster or emergency situation could happen at any time, so it makes sense to prepare now rather than wish later that you had!

There are some basic ways we can all prepare to become more resilient in a disaster or an emergency. There are also local city and volunteer systems in place to help Palo Altans in such circumstances.

Be prepared!

The Palo Alto Emergency Services website provides excellent information and resources to help anyone become more prepared to be self-sufficient while our local infrastructure is disrupted. For instance:

- If you have food, water, medications, and other supplies at home, you can shelter in place and not be a burden on the emergency support systems helping others in need.
- If you have some cash at home, you may be able to purchase what you need, even if ATMs, credit card readers, and smartphone payment systems are out of service.
- If you know the people on your block, the people around you already constitute a community that can more quickly and effectively provide mutual help.

Here is a link to a supplies list from the Palo Alto Office of Emergency Services to help you prepare for possible disruption of goods and services:

paloalto.gov/files/assets/public/v/2/oes/preparedness/emergency-preparation-supplies-for-your-home.pdf

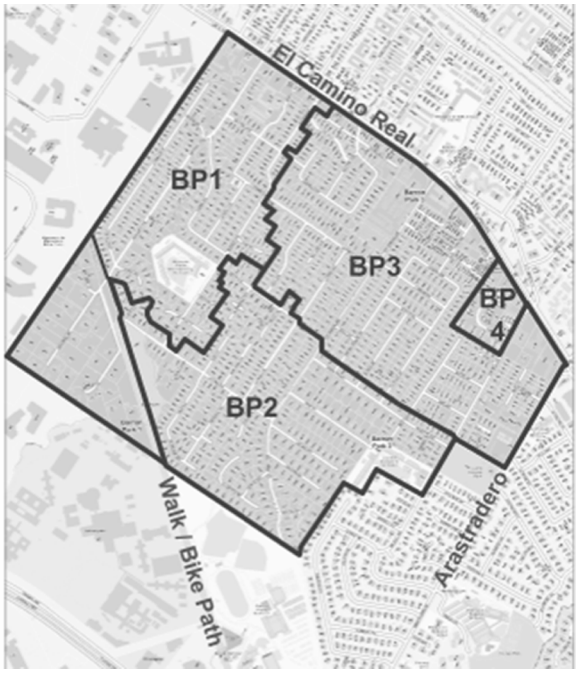
paloalto.gov/Departments/Emergency-Services/Emergency-Preparedness/Be-Prepared-Individuals-and-Families

See the following site for broader information about preparedness:

ESVs: In a disaster or emergency, the Emergency Service Volunteers (ESVs) are a bridge between you and the help you might need.

In a disaster, if normal communications are down, how will the first responders know where to focus their efforts across the city? How will individuals in Barron Park who require help get the help they need until professional first responders are available?

The Palo Alto ESV program has volunteers at the block level (Block Preparedness Coordinators, or BPCs) and at the neighborhood level (Neighborhood Preparedness Coordinators, or NPCs). These volunteers are trained to assess critical needs in your neighborhood, to coordinate block-level volunteer response activities, and use radio to communicate critical needs and local information to the city's central response coordinators.



The four Neighborhood Preparedness Coordinator (NPC) coverage zones in Barron Park. (Derived from the Palo Alto Neighborhood [NH] Map by Nathan Rainey, Palo Alto Office of Emergency Services ESV Field Operation guides.)

- **NPCs (Neighborhood Preparedness Coordinators)**: In a large-scale emergency, NPCs will establish an incident command center in their neighborhood and will coordinate the activities and information flow of the ESVs in their designated area.
- **BPCs (Block Preparedness Coordinators)**: BPCs are trained to be the local "eyes and ears," relaying urgent information from their block to the NPC. To be most effective, BPCs are encouraged to know the people on their block, to learn who might be particularly vulnerable or have particular needs, and also to know who has particular skills and/or resources to offer in an emergency situation.
- **CERTs (Community Emergency Response Teams)**: These volunteers have additional training to provide basic disaster response

skills such as light search-and-rescue, small fire suppression, and disaster medical operations to support others while professional responders are not available.

Know your local volunteer resources. And become one!

Who is *your* NPC in Barron Park?

Identify your Neighborhood Preparedness Coordinator (NPC) by locating your Barron Park area number (from **BP1** to **BP4**) on the map provided. Add the NPC contact details into your cell phone and computer.

BP1 Marianne Strickfaden marianne_str@hotmail.com

BP2 Vacant [contact Marianne Strickfaden when needed]

BP3 David Creemer, david@zachary.com

BP4 Maury Green, mauryg3@comcast.net

Who is your BPC?

Identify your own Block Preparedness Coordinator (BPC) by contacting your Neighborhood Preparedness Coordinator (NPC). See the list above. Barron Park is very short on BPCs! So, please consider volunteering to cover your own block or street, either as the primary or as an alternate BPC. Contact your NPC to sign up. This role involves collecting voluntary information from each household and knowing your neighbors on your block. When an emergency occurs, you will help build situational awareness by walking the block to identify any HELP signs posted in windows or significant structural damage, communicating with any neighbors where possible, and relaying your assessments to your NPC.

If you can, please volunteer in one of the ESV roles to help boost Barron Park and Palo Alto resilience. Here are three excellent city resources to help you understand this important system:

paloalto.gov/Departments/Emergency-Services/Emergency-Volunteers

paloalto.gov/Departments/Emergency-Services

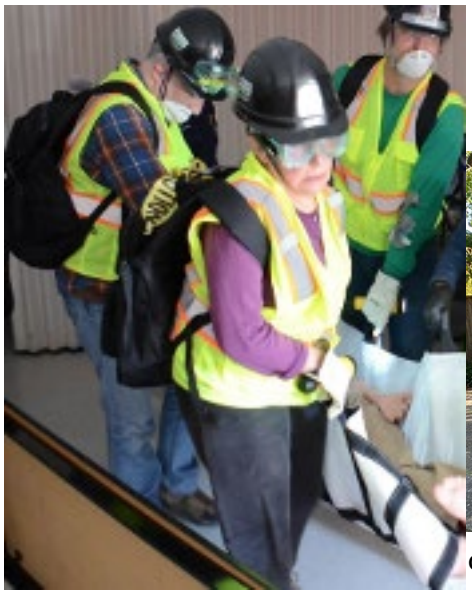
This video explains the Palo Alto Emergency Service Volunteer system: youtube.com/watch?v=PCWxlPIAs9A

ESV Training Drill in Barron Park

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Noon to 4:00 p.m.

On October 25, 2026, between noon and 4:00 p.m., there will be a city-wide emergency response drill for Emergency Service Volunteers. Barron Park (area BP1) will be one of the three city focus areas for the drill activity. A temporary Incident Command post will be set up on Julie Court off of Matadero Avenue, and drill activities will be happening nearby. If you are curious about what ESVs do, observers are welcome! Come see what ESVs would do if deployed.



ESV CERTs practice evacuating wounded during a training drill. Photos courtesy of Palo Alto CERTs.



CERTs training in suppression of small fires

ARE YOU AN ARTIST OR WRITER?

Do you enjoy the creative work featured in the BPA Newsletter? Would you like to see your art, photography, crafts, music, published (or unpublished) writing, etc., 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: mbrbpa@sonic.net

Fun Times Ahoy!





Chimalus Drive Block Party August 15, 2026. Founded by Pat Steck more than 20 years ago, then continued by Sue Benjamin, Karen Ratzlaff, and others. All three Chimalus photos by Karen Ratzlaff.



Jena Rauti and Gary Breitbard provide music for the September ice cream social. All ice cream social photos by Myrna Rochester.



Longtime Chimalus residents, as well as (gasp!) neighbors from Matadero and Tippawingo having potluck and chatting.



April reminds all neighbors to show up in Bol Park at 3:30 pm on Saturday, October 31 for the annual Bray Parade! Photo courtesy of the Donkey Project.



Neighbors enjoyed very cold ice cream on a very hot day.

A Reminder from Project HumaneKind: Never Leave a Dog in a Hot Car

By Carole Hyde and Leonor Delgado

The weather may be getting cooler, but the temperature inside a parked vehicle can rise quickly and become dangerous—or deadly—for an animal.

Project HumaneKind reminds our community to never leave a dog unattended in a vehicle when conditions could put the animal at risk. Cracking the windows is not enough to keep a parked car safely cool.

If you see a dog that appears to be in distress alone in a vehicle, act quickly. Note the vehicle's location and license plate, try to locate the owner, possibly at a nearby business, and contact local law enforcement, the fire department, animal control, or 911.

California law also allows a bystander to take reasonable steps to remove an animal from a locked vehicle when the animal is in imminent danger. Under California Penal Code § 597.7, a person may forcibly enter the vehicle if there is no other reasonable way to remove the animal and the person reasonably believes immediate action is necessary. Before forcibly entering the vehicle, the person must contact law enforcement, the fire department, animal control, or 911. The person must use no more force than necessary, remain with the animal in a safe location near the vehicle until emergency responders arrive, and turn the animal over to the responding authorities.



Image courtesy of Project Humanekind

A few minutes can make all the difference.

Project HumaneKind: Promoting compassion, respect and humane treatment for animals.

projecthumanekind.org

Editors' Note: Some EVs can run heating or A/C inside the car when the car is parked and locked. Several EVs can also show live videos of the pet to the owner. However, technology and individuals can fail, so please be responsible for the safety of your pet.

BPA EMAILS AND WEB LINKS

FALL 2026

- **BPA Website:** bpapaloalto.org/
- **BPA Newsletter Archive**: bpapaloalto.org/bpa-newsletter/
- **BPA Membership (Join/Renew)**: bpapaloalto.org/#join
- **Membership Questions**: Lisa Berkowitz Landers at: barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com
- **BPA Email Lists**: To join, go to: bpapaloalto.org/bpa-email-lists/ for sign-ups and information, or write to: listmanager@bpapaloalto.org
- **BPA President:** John W. King at: johnwadeking@gmail.com
- **BPA Treasurer**: John W. King at: johnwadeking@gmail.com
- **BPA Newsletter Editor**: Myrna Rochester at: mbrbpa@sonic.net
- **BPA Business Liaison**: Paul Yang at: pabloyang@yahoo.com
- **Support for Buena Vista Neighbors:** Karen Ratzlaff at: karen.ratzlaff@hotmail.com; Buena Vista Partners (non-profit) at: buenavistapartners.org
- **Foster Plants for Buena Vista Residents** Chris Witzel at: cnwitzel@sbcglobal.net
- **Welcoming Committee:** Star Teachout at teachout@sonic.net
- **Emergency Services Volunteer Program:** Maurice Green at: maurygg3@comcast.net and Star Teachout at: teachout@sonic.net
- **Barron Park Historian**: Douglas L. Graham at: dgrahampaca@gmail.com
- **BPA Webmaster:** Maurice Green at: bpawebman@bpapaloalto.org
- **BPA Activity Interest and Survey**: Star Teachout at: bit.ly/BP-Survey25 *or* Contact teachout@sonic.net
- **Barron Park Neighborhood Referrals:** Lisa Berkowitz Landers at: barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com
- **Barron Park N2N (Neighbor to Neighbor):** Jaya Pandey at: bpa-n2n@googlegroups.com
- **Barron Park Donkeys:** To donate or volunteer, go to: barronparkdonkeys.org *or* contact Jenny Kiratli at: barronparkdonkeys@gmail.com To purchase donkey merchandise: barronparkdonkeys@gmail.com
- **Bol Park Native Habitat Garden:** To volunteer, contact Rich Elder at: bpnativegarden@gmail.com Donate to the Native Habitat Garden through the "Bol Park Fund" at: friendsofpaparks.org/donations/p/bol-park-native-plant-garden By USPS 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.

The Bol Park Native Habitat Garden: 100% Powered by Volunteers

By Linda Elder



Work party crew at the Bol Park Native Habitat Garden, January 24, 2026. Photo courtesy of Jeff Burch.

The smell of fall is in the air, and we have set the volunteer work party schedule for Bol Park Native Habitat Garden maintenance. We are continuing to begin our "Fall" maintenance in early Winter, because delaying deadheading and pruning helps protect overwintering insects. Letting flowering plants go to seed also provides food for birds—and if you enjoy the look of seedheads in the garden, it adds beauty for people too.

All work parties are on Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, at the Native Habitat Garden in Bol Park:

- Saturday, December 5, 2026
- Saturday, January 16, 2027
- Saturday, March 20, 2027
- Saturday, April 24, 2027

Volunteer tasks may include weeding, pruning, deadheading, and path cleanup. No prior gardening experience is needed.

We would love it if you could join us! If you can't come for the whole time, just come when you can. Any amount of time you can help is greatly appreciated! This is a guilt-free event!

To volunteer and learn by working alongside experienced gardeners, please email bpnativegarden@gmail.com We will add you to the volunteer list and send reminders before each work party. Thanks!

We value all comments about the garden that helps us to shape our garden plans and design. To share your ideas, suggestions, or comments about the garden, please contact: bpnativegarden@gmail.com

To donate funds to the Bol Park Native Plant Garden

Please make personal checks out to "Friends of the Palo Alto Parks."

In the memo line of the check, write "Bol Park Native Plant Garden."

Mail checks to: Friends of the Palo Alto Parks, PO Box 60103, Palo Alto, CA

OR Donate online at friendsofpaparks.org/donations/p/bol-park-native-plant-garden

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
FALL 2026

Barron Park Association
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Palo Alto, California 94306

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PRINTER
Prodigy Press

National Night Out Action!

Barron Park neighbors showed up for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4, 2026! The event featured Palo Alto first responders, a snake, donkey swag, and a Palo Alto all electric Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV), which can be used in disaster zones, for search and rescue, or for remote utility and infrastructure inspections.



A family enjoys Palo Alto's UTV at National Night Out. All photos by Myrna Rochester.



Sitting in the driver's seat of a fire truck is always a popular activity.



One of the four "ambassador snakes" from the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo made a special apperance at Bol Park's National Night Out event.



A mighty member of the Palo Alto Emergency Services Volunteers answers emergency preparation questions from neighbors.

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS Fall 2026

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Secretary, Jaya Pandey
Treasurer, John W. King

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Richard Elder
Maurice Green
Christian Kalar
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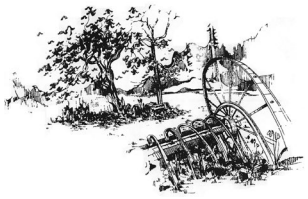
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Environment: Jaya Pandey
Events: Vacant
Barron Park History: Douglas L. Graham
Membership: Lisa Berkowitz Landers
Neighborhood Safety & Emergency Preparedness: Maurice Green
Parks & Creeks: Christian Kalar
Native Habitat: Richard Elder
Shared Pathways: Doug Burns
Schools Liaison: Vacant
Senior Connections: Jaya Pandey
Traffic & Streets: Doug Burns
Webmaster: Maurice Green
Welcoming: Star Teachout
Zoning & Land Use: Vacant
P.A. Neighborhood (PAN) Liaison: Doug Burns

BPA Board Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of most months at 7:00 p.m. All neighbors are welcome.

For schedule and location write to: johnwadeking@gmail.com

■

bpapaloalto.org



The BPA needs your support! Join, Renew, or Donate Now!

Check your membership status on our website: **bpapaloalto.org**

Join or renew your membership at our website: bpapaloalto.org/#join

Personal check? Complete this form; mail your check payable to: **Barron Park Association** to

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

Name(s):	Primary email address:
Street Address:	Secondary email address:
❑ **Newsletter:** I'd like the full color **online** edition (*instead* of a print copy). ❑ ***NEW!*** **Household Referrals and Babysitter Listings:** I want to share a referral/listing. The BPA will email you for the information.	Phone Number (s):

- ☐ **Sponsor** $100
- ☐ **Patron** $50
- ☐ **Additional Contribution**: $_____

Total Contribution: $_____

- ☐ **Member** $35
- ☐ **Senior (62+)** $20
- ☐ **Business** $50

The Barron Park Association is your volunteer neighborhood group serving the interests of our very special community. All residents of Barron Park and Green Acres are encouraged to join. If you have questions about the BPA or cannot confirm your membership through the website, please email: barronpark.paloalto@gmail.com

Your BPA membership supports many Barron Park community events and interests including: May Fête, Movie Night in Bol Park, Ice Cream Socials, Babysitter and Household Service Listings, Neighbor Support Networks, Emergency Preparedness, Quarterly Newsletters, and Email lists.

Calling Local Business Owners!

Do you have a business in Barron Park? Are you a business owner living in Barron Park? A **BPA Basic Business Membership ($50/year)** gives you one complimentary ad in a quarterly BPA Newsletter. You may also place a "Spotlight" article about your business. Plus, you'll be listed on the home page of the BPA website.

At another level, **Business Sponsors ($350/year)** may place an ad in **each** of our quarterly Newsletters. For more information, contact our BPA Business Liaison, Paul Yang at: pabloyang@yahoo.com

A Bike Ride Past a House with No “For Sale" Sign

By Kat Alioshin



Kat holding a painted Jack head in front of the *Evil Scientist* kitchen cupboard. The Cupboard is a set prop from *The Nightmare Before Christmas* with the original jar that Sally holds. The lettering on the Deadly Night Shade jar is by Kat. Photos courtesy of Kat Alioshin.

Our magical Barron Park story began in the summer of 2007, when we moved from San Francisco to Palo Alto. We rented at Stanford Villas on Alma Street while exploring different neighborhoods on foot and by bicycle, trying to figure out where we might someday put down roots. One Saturday, riding through Barron Park, we spotted a 1949 Eichler on Josina Avenue. There was no “For Sale” sign, but the house appeared vacant, and we immediately fell for the enormous Japanese maple in the front yard. We loved the name Josina, too, and later learned that it was the name of Cornelis Bol’s spouse.

A Life in Stop Motion

My San Francisco years had been the beginning of my career in stop-motion animation. I landed a production position on *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, but my path into animation had begun much earlier, in the late 1980s, when I started working with Spike and Mike and their legendary *Festival of Animation*.

Watching those films was an education in what animation could be. Artists created entire moving worlds by hand—with clay, paper, wire, and sand—and often relied on visual storytelling and great soundtracks rather than dialogue. Those handmade, frame-by-frame films profoundly influenced how I think about storytelling.



Over 400 PEZ dispensers!

Over the years, I've worked on *The Nightmare Before Christmas, James and the Giant Peach, Monkeybone, Corpse Bride, Coraline,* and *The Inventor*, along with television projects, commercials, and Primus’s *The Devil Went Down to Georgia* music video.

People often ask which stop-motion film was the most interesting to work on. For me, the answer is *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. None of us knew we were making a future classic. We were simply solving problems as they appeared—dealing with costumes, lighting, unusual sets, and every other quirk that came our way. Looking back, that improvisation was part of the magic. Fellow crew member Todd Lookinland and I now co-host The *We Know Jack Show,* a podcast about the film.

From Hollywood to the Bay Area

Palo Alto has allowed me to continue working in stop motion while staying connected to the Bay Area community. The region has a remarkable animation history, with studios such as Industrial Light & Magic and San Francisco's 7th Street Studio, where *Nightmare* and *James and the Giant Peach* were filmed. More recently, I commuted to Berkeley to work with Tippett Studio on stop motion for The *Mandalorian and Grogu*. I continue to work on television projects, including projects with Oakland-based Mystery Meat Media.

Stop by the House

If you're walking the dog, heading home after dropping the kids at Barron Park Elementary School—or, even better, picking them up—stop by our house and take a look at our massive PEZ collection. You’ll also find props and artifacts from films I’ve worked on, including the Ladybug from *James and the Giant Peach*. These handmade pieces have stories behind them, and I love sharing them with neighbors rather than keeping them hidden away. There’s also a Little Free Library at the end of the driveway. Take a book, leave a book, and maybe stop for a little animation history while you’re there.

From San Francisco to a Japanese maple on Josina Avenue in Barron Park, and from clay and wire to modern filmmaking, it’s been a remarkable ride. And somehow, it all started with a bike ride past a house that didn’t have a “For Sale” sign.

You can get in touch with me at:

Kat Alioshin

Producer/Director

alioshin@mac.com

(415) 794-0105

Here’s the link to my newest project: madeofirondocumentary.com



Our November Barron Park Celebration is a new late Fall multi-cultural event at Juana Briones Park. Please bring a potluck dish (perhaps special to you) to add to the snacks/drinks provided. There will be a Zumba instructor!

Craftspeople, please sign up to bring your work and display tables.

Volunteers are also needed in several other capacities.

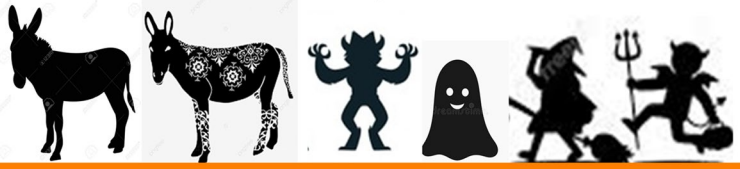
Rain moves us to the Barron Park Elementary School Multipurpose Room!

Sign up to help or participate in our Fall Celebration event by clicking on the image above or at bit.ly/BPAcelebration

BPA EMAIL LISTS

The Barron Park Association offers three Email Lists for any Barron Park or Green Acres resident to post and read: (1) *bpa-news* for news, information, and announcements; *bpa-misc* for neighbor requests, queries, recommendations, freebies, etc.; and (3) *bpa-issues* to express opinions or initiate discussion on topics of interest. They are hosted on Google Groups. To join one or more lists, go to: bpapaloalto.org/bpa-email-lists/ for sign-ups and information, or write to: listmanager@bpapaloalto.org

Join the Barron Park Donkeys for some Halloween fun!



Halloween Bray Parade

Saturday, October 31, 2026
3:30pm - Meet in Bol Park

We will parade along Laguna to Paradise to the bike path and end back at Bol Park

All ages and costumes welcome

Barron Park

Holiday Caroling

Come with your friends and family!
Enjoy caroling and holiday cheer
with your neighbors!

Dec 15th 2-4 pm
Meet @ Bol Park

Bring a water bottle or
thermos to wet your whistle.
Please bring holiday treats
or fruit to share!

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