

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Lynnie Melena, BPA President



New Housing Proposed for Barron Park

After a long period of relative inactivity within our borders, Barron Park is now the target destination for two large proposed new housing projects. One is a 180-unit rental apartment project that would replace the Buena Vista mobile home park on Los Robles. The other is a low-income senior housing development (and some single-family houses) at the corner of Clemo and Maybell.

Buena Vista Mobile Home Park

The Buena Vista redevelopment proposal would remove a small community that has been a part of Barron Park for many years. The Buena Vista Mobile Home Park began as a tourist stop, the Buena Vista Auto Camp, in 1926. This little cluster of more than 100 mobile homes of varying ages and conditions and 11-12 permanent units is now home to about 375 people. Many of us in Barron Park may not be familiar with it because it is self-contained and largely hidden from view by the fence along Los Robles and the commercial buildings on El Camino Real. But the people of Buena Vista are a part of our neighborhood. If you have children who attend any of the Bar-

ron Park schools, your children probably know children of Buena Vista residents. They comprise 16 percent of the enrollment at Barron Park School.

There are two discrete steps in the potential redevelopment of this four-acre site. One step is a process for closing the park and helping relocate existing residents in compliance with a City procedure. This step has been initiated by the property owner, Joe Jisser. The other step is review of the development application which the City Council must ultimately approve. Prometheus Development Co. is the developer.

Closure Process. The City's Mobile Home Park Conversion Ordinance lays out the process a property owner must follow in closing down a mobile home park. It requires that a relocation specialist prepare a Relocation Impact Report, and that financial relocation assistance be given to residents. At the end of November, the City sent out a (bilingual) notice to residents announcing that the closure application had been submitted. The City was also interviewing potential "relocation specialist" firms.

The property owner is expected to schedule meetings with the residents in December or January where the relocation

specialist and City planning staff will also be present. After that, the specialist would meet individually with each resident/family, and an appraiser, approved by the City, would determine the value of each unit.

The Relocation Impact Report is expected to be completed in the spring. It will spell out relocation assistance, either for moving units to new locations, or to help cover the costs of renting in a new location (first and last month's rent, security deposit, etc.), as well as loss of investment and remaining mortgage payments for units that cannot be moved.

Within 60 days of the report being completed, the City will hold a hearing on the adequacy of the report and the appraisal and relocation approach. The decision can be appealed to the City Council, which would then make the final determination. Once a final action is taken, a minimum of six months is allowed for relocation. The

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]

Save February 10 for BPA Annual Meeting

The Barron Park Association's annual meeting is set for Sunday, February 10, 2013 at the Barron Park School multipurpose room. It will be from 2 to 4 p.m. The topic is not finalized yet, so watch for a postcard (and emails) in January for details.

INSIDE

4

BPA-Issues
List

5

Art in the
Park

6

Ten Barron
Park Pioneers

10

The New BPA
Website

11

El Camino
Business
Update

12

Juana Run

13

Emergency
Preparedness
& Safety

[PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]



City expects the entire process to take a year, at least.

Impacts of Closure. Closure of Buena Vista would result in a difficult and painful transition for the residents and would represent a significant loss to the City of Palo Alto's supply of low income housing. Although current residents will receive financial assistance to relocate, it is not likely they will find affordable housing in Palo Alto. Their children will lose their ties to Palo Alto schools and residents may lose other local services. They will also lose the support of a close-knit community. For those reasons, discussions are taking place (as this article is being written) on options for preserving the mobile home park.

Development Project. Prometheus' current plan is for 180 units of 1- and 2-bedroom rental apartments in a cluster of 2, 3 and 4-story buildings, with the tallest buildings in the center of the site. Most of the

parking will be in an underground garage. There will be an internal perimeter road. Prometheus has prepared a conceptual site plan (see drawing) as part of its submittal to the City for a "pre-application screening" and a study session with the City Council in January or February. The site is 4.5 acres and does not include an area directly behind Valero. This half-acre area will be retained by the current property owner, who could incorporate it into any future development plans he may have for the rest of his land fronting on El Camino (none are being proposed).

The main auto entry to the Prometheus project would be from Los Robles, closer to El Camino than the current main access point. Residents could also access El Camino via a gated entry across the commercial property (next to the Valero station) as is currently allowed for Buena Vista. The developer is planning pedestrian-scaled front porches for ground-floor apartments facing

Los Robles, as well as a landscaped buffer strip and other pedestrian and bicycle improvements on that street frontage. The design would be reviewed by the Architectural Review Board.

As part of the environmental review, Prometheus is required to perform a traffic study. Prometheus will be looking to the neighborhood and the City for guidance on the design of the Los Robles street frontage with a goal of upgrading conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists for this Safe Route to School corridor.

Review Process. In order to build this project, Prometheus will have to obtain City Council approval of a rezoning from RM-15 to RM-40 (indicating the allowed number of units per acre). The zoning on nearby residential parcels along El Camino is RM-30. The required environmental review will also cover issues such as impacts on noise, air quality, public services, utili-

ties and schools and whether the project complies with the Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan, including the Housing Element. Because of a lawsuit affecting all cities in California with Below-Market-Rate housing ordinances, rental housing projects are not required to provide any affordable housing units or pay a fee into an affordable housing fund.

Depending upon how the issues evolve, we anticipate featuring the proposed project at a community meeting sometime in late spring or early summer next year.

Senior Housing—Maybell Orchard

The other large development is a proposed senior housing project to be built at the corner of Maybell and Clemo avenues where there are now single-family houses and an orchard. The Palo Alto Housing Corporation (PAHC), a nonprofit affordable housing developer, is proposing a rental apartment building with approximately 60 apartments affordable to extremely-low to low income senior households (for single persons, annual incomes between \$22,050 and \$44,100). The proposal also includes 15 for-sale, market-rate single-family homes on 4000 square-foot lots.

The total site is 2.46 acres. PAHC plans to subdivide the property and apply for Planned Community zoning—which would lock in the proposed site plan and uses, *i.e.*, affordable senior and single-family houses on small lots.

One acre would be assigned to the senior housing project (see preliminary plan). The senior housing would include 59 1-bedroom apartments with an average size of 600 square feet and one 2-bedroom apartment for the on-site manager. There would also be common areas such as a community room with computer lab, laundry room, manager's office, a resident services office, as well as outdoor common area. In addition to its in-house property manager, PAHC has a Resident Services Program staff to meet its tenants needs.

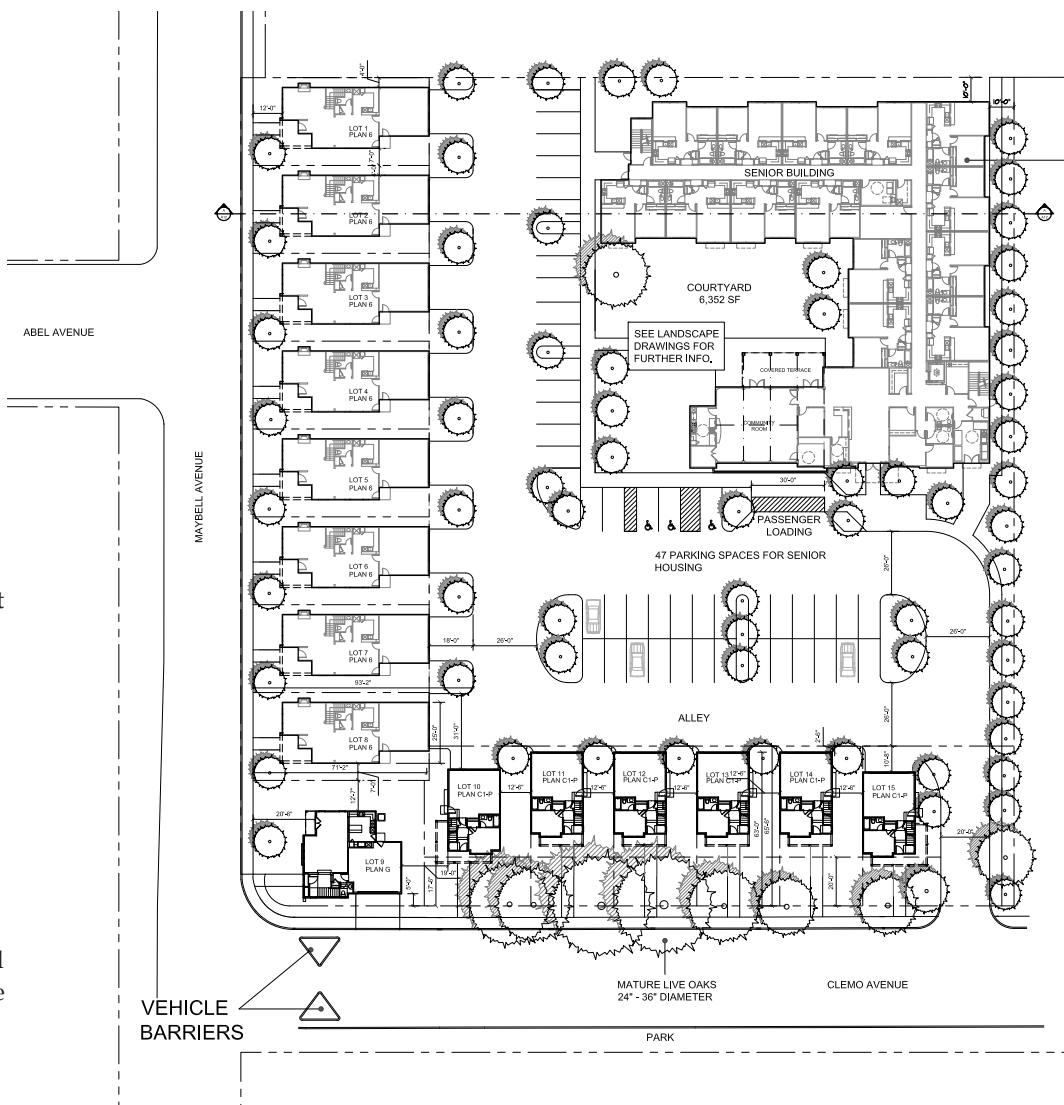
The market rate units would be located on the remaining 1.46 acres, around the perimeter of the property, fronting on Maybell and Clemo Avenues. House sizes would be 2,000-3,200 square feet.

In order to reduce traffic and parking impacts on Maybell and Clemo Avenues, garage parking would be provided at the rear of each unit, accessed by an alley in the interior of the lot. To provide equity for the senior affordable housing development, PAHC anticipates selling the subdivision to a developer once the entitlements have been obtained, rather than constructing the units itself and then selling the completed units.

Review Process. The PAHC held a neighborhood meeting to introduce this project last summer, and a study session with the City Council in September. The Architectural Review Board was expected to conduct a preliminary review of the plans in December, and the Planning and Transportation Commission is tentatively schedule to review plans in January. There will be further public hearings in the next six months.

In the meantime, the City Council has approved a loan of \$3,220,000 from its housing funds (collected as impact fees on commercial and residential projects) to pay for land acquisition and may approve another \$2,600,000 for a short term loan. Other sources of funding for this non-profit project are Santa Clara County housing impact funds (resulting from approval of the Stanford General Use Permit a number of years ago), tax credits and other sources associated with affordable housing projects.

PAHC manages over 600 units of affordable housing in Palo Alto, including Arastradero Park which is affordable family housing adjacent to the proposed senior project. According to the Silicon Valley Council on Aging, there are 3,800 seniors in Palo Alto with incomes that would qualify for the housing in this project.



BPA-ISSUES LIST

by Art Liberman



Several email "discussions" in recent months on one of our email lists, BPA-misc, had many interesting comments and responses from the community. There were so many in fact that they completely crowded out other conversations and requests for information that normally are posted on that list. The purpose of BPA-misc email list is actually to handle more mundane requests for help and advice—house repair advice, nannies, house-sitters and the like.

The BPA has another email list, BPA-issues, that was created expressly to host discussions of news items and issues of concern to Barron Park residents. For some reason, it never became a popular choice as the

email list for posting these sorts of messages and for holding online discussions and fell into disuse. Many people have forgotten about it and others have not subscribed. One of the topics that generated so much discussion recently on BPA-misc was transferred to BPA-issues, but the discussions did not continue.

We want to kick-start this email list. We urge Barron Park residents, and BPA members in particular, to subscribe to BPA-issues and post your messages there on topics that you think others in the community might want to chime in their views. Let's have some lively conversations there. How to subscribe: go to www.BPAPaloalto.org and click on the "BPA email list" tab. Enter your email address and click on 'subscribe.'

BPA NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

We have created PDF files of past newsletters. See the complete newsletters, including full-color photos!

The web editions of the BPA Newsletters usually appear one or two months after the paper editions are mailed. The files may take awhile to download (sizes given in advance).

BPA Website: <http://www.bpapaloalto.org>

Help Support the Barron Park Donkeys!

All those who care about Perry and Niner seek to guarantee their proper on-going care and shelter, as well as to ensure that funds will be available for health concerns as the donkeys age. The handlers hope that those generous neighbors who have contributed in the past will consider increasing their support this year. Contributions for the donkeys' care may be sent to: The Palo Alto Donkey Project, ACTERRA (Action for a Sustain-



able Earth), 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303-4303. The check must be made out to "ACTERRA-Palo Alto Donkey Fund." All of the above must be included.

For further information about making a contribution on behalf of the donkeys, or if you would like information about how to become one of the volunteer donkey handlers, please call Bob Frost, 493-8272 or email at bobfrost34@yahoo.com.

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION

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■

BPA meetings are held the 3rd

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

Call Lynn Melena for location: 493-2135

www.bpaonline.org

ART IN THE PARK—KRISTEN OLSEN

By Jen Hess

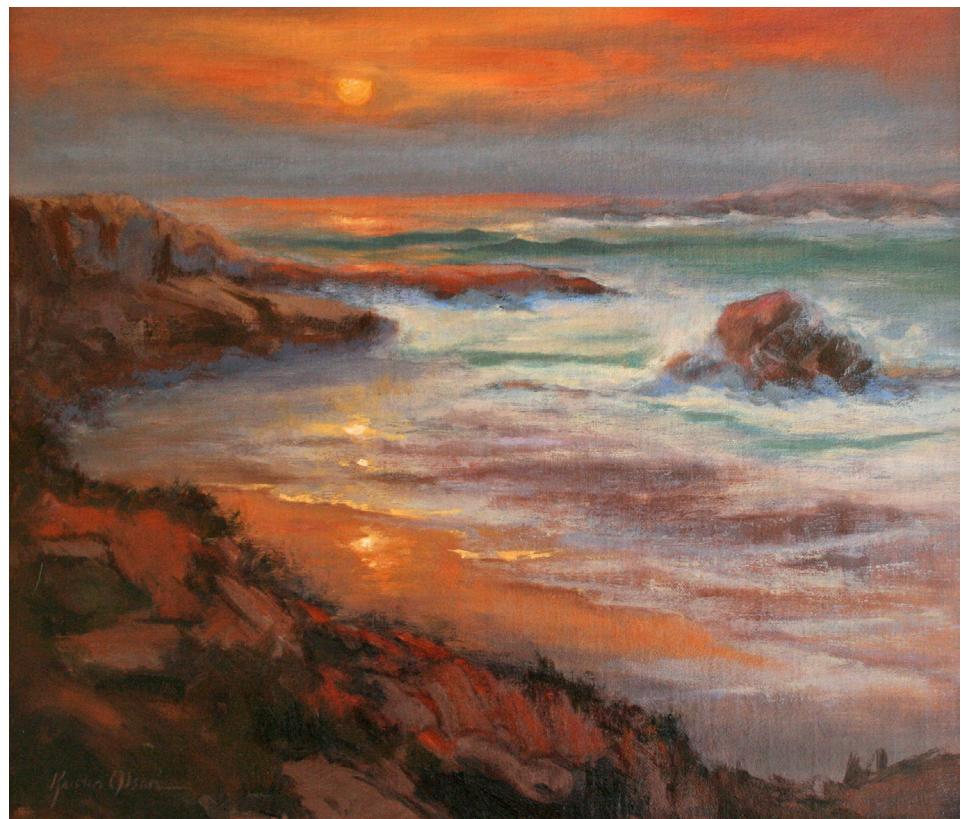
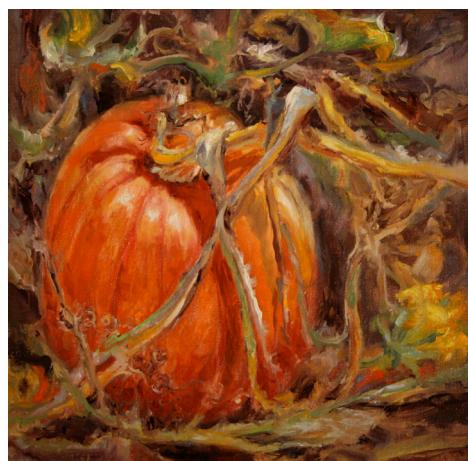
Kristen Olson primarily paints impressionist landscapes in oil. Impressionist painting focuses on conveying an idea and not a detailed exact realistic rendering of a landscape or thing. It is the idea of a place and time, say sunset at Monterey Bay, or Pumpkin season in Half Moon Bay. Impressionist painting has an emphasis on accurate depiction of light in its changing qualities (often accentuating the effects of the passage of time) on common, ordinary subject matter.

Kristen Olson grew up in a household of musicians. The sounds of music and the sights of museums and culture filled her childhood. She was always interested in art. Drawing and doodling as a young child. Encouraged (ok maybe a bit prodded) to learn an instrument. Because of this background she has a deep personal connection between music and art.

When Kristen begins a painting, she will sometimes hear music in her head. The same tune may play over and over in her head as she paints. The song resonates her soul's reaction to the place and as she listens to it the painting takes shape.

Kristen is one of those rare artists, who is able to create the art she wants and sell it. Her business includes galleries, workshops, print sales and participation in a variety of events. She has somehow combined the artistic spirit with good old American business ingenuity. It's hard to be an artist and a sales person.

Artists really focus on color, light, mood, and connect deeply to their subjects. Since art is so personal, it can be hard to put your



work up for public viewing. To be successful at selling your art not only must you put your work out to be seen by perfect strangers, you must also talk about your art with complete strangers. This takes a rare person. Of course, to be able to have a positive cash flow as an artist, you need to have all of these skills.

Kristen's paintings invite you the viewer to place yourself in the landscape.

Because of this invitation, it is hard for me to not be moved by Kristen's art. She has a knack for capturing the spirit of a place. I have always felt a close affinity to the ocean and many of her paintings have that as their primary subject. When I see these paintings, I can almost smell the ocean air and hear the waves breaking on the rocks.

Kristen also teaches. One of her students writes: "Kristen Olson is a truly remarkable teacher. Not all great artists are great teachers but Kristen Olson is both. She tailors her teaching to each student by expertly identifying how each student can achieve their best. Her understanding of painting and painting techniques is unpar-

alleled. Kristen's knowledge of contemporary artists is also impressive, she often references this in her teaching."

Speaking from personal experience, it is hard to find a good artist who also makes a good teacher. Too often Artists are only interested in either their own style of work, or on teaching their methods and not encouraging you to find your own. I'm sure this is mostly because they only know what works for them. Finding someone who is willing to encourage you to find your own path and your own voice can be difficult.

On a local note, Markus Fromherz and Heike Schmitz have given Kristen a large commission for their home in our neighborhood. The commission is to create unique iconic California Landscapes. I am sure she will be more than up to the task! We are lucky to have such a unique individual and artist in our neighborhood.

Contact information:
 Kristen Olson
<http://kristenolson.net>
 kristenpaints@gmail.com
 650-427-0591

Ten Barron Park Pioneers—Part One

By Douglas L. Graham, Barron Park Historian

Among the many thousands of people who have lived in Barron Park over the years were seven men and three women who innovated or conserved, built or developed and greatly influenced what our land was to become: ten pioneers in the broadest sense of that much-used word. **Jose Pena** was a pioneer in the usual sense of the word in American History, being the first man to live here and run cattle after the Native Americans had been removed to the missions. **Secundino Robles**

a mine owner and community leader and cattleman next purchased the land. **Juana Briones**, the first independent Latina businesswoman in California, established a nearby rancho and was also a renowned folk-healer. **Elisha Crosby**, a lawyer who helped craft California's Constitution was the first man to build a home in what is now Barron Park. **Sarah Wallis**, the prominent Suffragist built a mansion here and was the California pioneer in woman suffrage. **Edward Barron** pioneered the meat

packing industry in San Francisco and went on to win a second fortune as a silver mine president in the Comstock Lode of Nevada. **Richard F. Driscoll**, a Watsonville "capitalist" who was one of the founders of the Driscoll strawberry empire purchased the Barron Estate and subdivided it into berry patches and fruit orchards. **Colonel Sebastian Jones**, who bought the mansion, created the Military Academy and platted the Barron Park subdivision—the first in our neighborhood. **Cornelis Bol**, a Stanford scientist who bought land along Matadero Creek, ran the Barron Park Water Company, and invented the Mercury Vapor Lamp. His wife **Josina Bol** took his vision of a park for the people and sold land along the creek at far below market value to help it become a reality. These were ten truly exceptional people who made major impacts on our local history.

The Earlier Inhabitants

Before the Spanish and other Europeans colonized the San Francisco Bay Area, our land was occupied by the Puichon. They were a tribelet included in the group of Native Americans known to the Spanish as the Ohlone. There was a village or campsite on the southeast bank of Matadero Creek in the upper part of the current donkey pasture and probably extending upstream into the Veterans Affairs Hospital property. However, we know very little about them: they had no written history, but a few artifacts have been uncovered. An arrowhead was discovered on a residential lot in Barron Park just last month.

Jose Pena, Artillerist, Teacher and Ranchero

Jose Pena was the first owner of record of our land. He first appears in the local records as an artilleryman at the Presidio of San Francisco. When he retired from the army, he moved to Santa Clara, becoming a teacher at the "Book School" (the forerunner of Santa Clara University). In 1822 he petitioned the Mission for permission to occupy two square leagues or about 4,400 acres of the mission grazing lands in south Palo Alto. It was granted, but nothing is known of Pena's use of the land for the next 20 years.

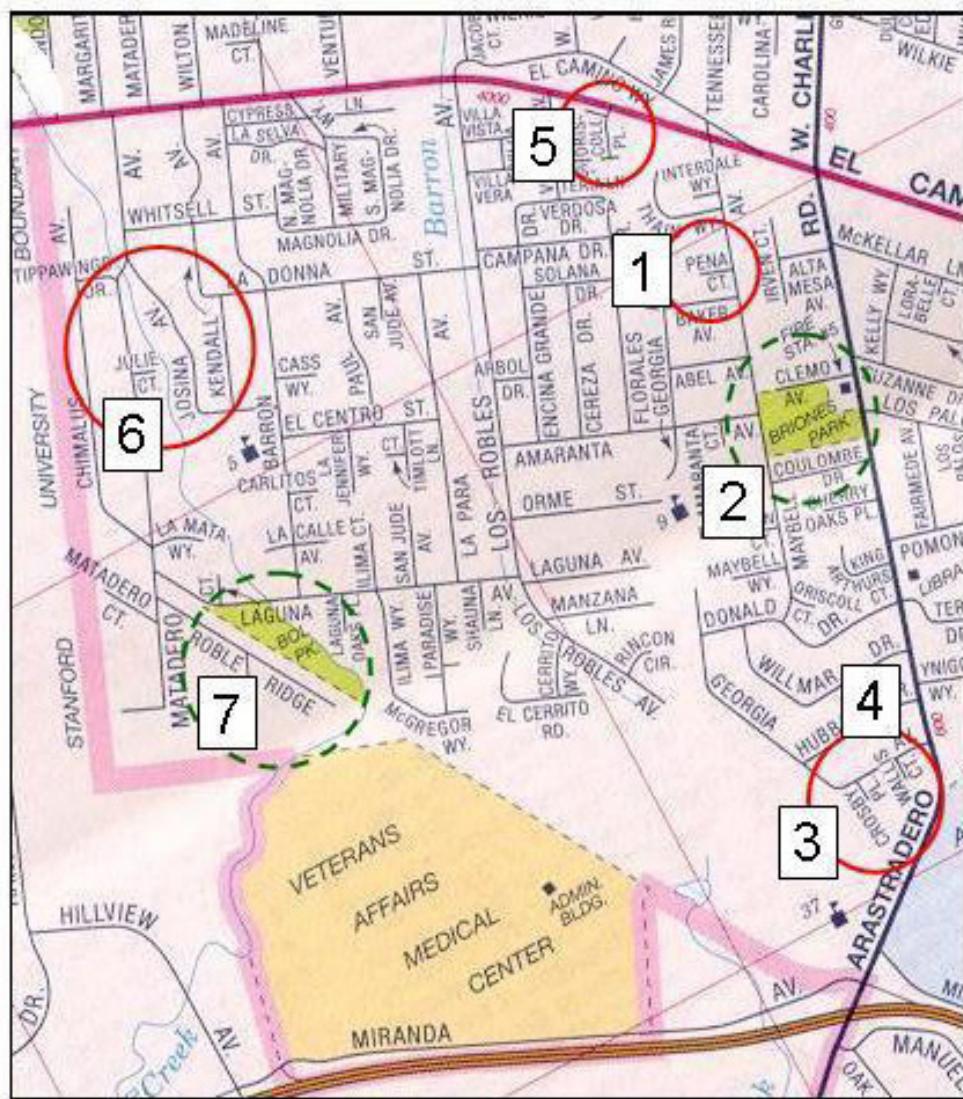


Illustration A: Pioneer namesakes in Barron Park.

- 1: Pena Court 2: Juana Briones Park 3: Crosby Court 4: Wallis Court
- 5: Driscoll Court 6: Josina Avenue 7: Cornelis Bol Park

After secularization of the Missions and the Californios' takeover of the provincial government in Monterey, Pena applied for title to the land he had been using. In 1841, when Jose was 64 years old, he was granted 8,500 acres by Governor Alvarado. Pena named it Rancho Rincon de San Francisquito (the ranch in the bend of the Little Saint Francis (Creek). It had three structures on it; a wood house on the present-day Stanford campus, a herdsman's hut near the San Antonio Road overpass at Alma Street, and a corral for mares on Adobe Creek (probably near Middlefield Road). Pena held the rancho only six years before selling it in 1847 to Don Secundino Robles and his brother Teodoro for \$3,500, or about 40 cents an acre.

Phyllis Filiberti Butler, author of *Old Santa Clara Valley*, describes Pena as "one of the most ambitious, intelligent men of California's Mexican period...He left his unique mark up and down Alta California. As lieutenant of artillery, elector, teacher, commissary and acting administrator, he served at San Diego, Monterey, San Francisco and (in) his last years at Santa Clara."

In Barron Park, Pena is memorialized by Pena Court, a 1992 cul-de-sac running off Maybell Avenue near El Camino Real (see map, Illustration A)

Secundino Robles, Ranchero and Community Leader

A fantastically rich mercury mine yielded the fortune that enabled the Robles brothers to purchase Pena's rancho in 1847. Secundino and Teodoro Robles jointly owned one-sixth of the shares in the new Almaden cinnabar mine south of San Jose. Cinnabar is a rich mercury ore, soft and easy to dig and refine. Both brothers were involved in the development of this mine, which had been originally discovered by local Native Americans. The brothers probably sold their shares for \$3,500 to \$13,000, and paid Jose Pena in cash.

Secundino Robles was tall, blue eyed and handsome and was said to be the finest rider in the valley. He could pick up a row of silver dollars placed six feet apart on the ground while riding at a full gallop. He served briefly in the army, then was majordomo (manager) of the Santa Clara Mission property at age 30. Along the way, he had married Maria Antonia Garcia, who gave him eight children who lived to adulthood and 21 others who didn't make it. Their six surviving daughters were renowned for their hospitality and friendliness. Secundino affectionately nicknamed

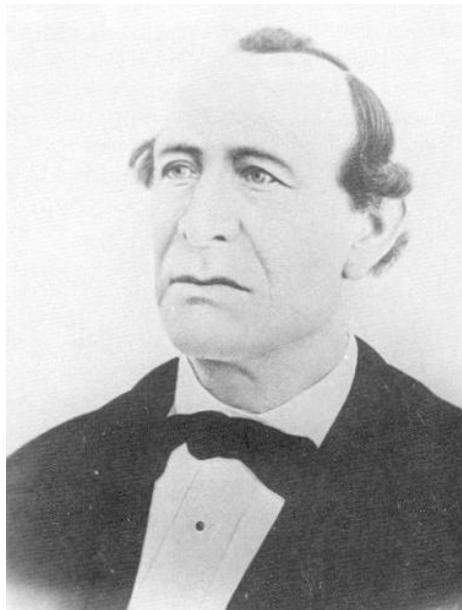


Illustration B: Secundino Robles.

his land "Rancho Santa Rita" after one of his daughters. The Don was a friendly host, and the *aguardiente* (fire water) and *vino* flowed freely during fiestas, which including open-air dancing on the flat roof of the ranch house (see photo of Don Secundino, Illustration B)

Life at the rancho revolved around the cattle herd, which was the source of their wealth. During the last years of the Rancho era, the annual roundup or rodeo was conducted jointly with the neighboring ranchos. Secundino Robles was a community leader and an exemplar of the early-day California "Spanish Don". He is memorialized by Don Secundino Robles Park, 4.7 acres on Park Boulevard between West Meadow Drive and Charleston Road.

Juana Briones, Independent Ranchera and Folk-Healer

Juana Briones was an extraordinary woman of her culture for the times when she lived. She was born in the 1790s, the first European child born on the Monterey Peninsula. Her family moved to the Presidio of San Francisco, where their house has been the objective of a recent archeological dig. In 1819 or 1820 she married Apolinario Miranda, the Lieutenant of Cavalry at the post. During their stormy 27-year marriage, seven children were born.

Juana moved out of Miranda's house in 1836 or 1837, pioneering a plot of ground in North Beach near the present corner of Powell and Filbert Streets (there is a state historical monument to her there). She was the first settler outside of the Presidio

or the Mission Dolores, and thus qualifies as the first resident of the Pueblo of Yerba Buena (the village that was to become San Francisco in 1846).

She soon became well-known as "the Widow Briones", and was very popular. She did well in farming and ranching, and perhaps did some tailoring too. She learned herbal medicine and was regularly sought out to treat the ailments of travelers and neighbors, as there were no doctors or hospitals. She aided runaway sailors who "jumped ship" in Yerba Buena, developing life-long friendships with some.

Thus, when more trouble with her husband arose in 1842 and 1843, she prevailed with the Alcalde (Justice of the Peace), and Apolinario was ordered to leave her alone. At one point his property was seized for "not living harmoniously with his wife". In another hearing he was referred to as "Senora Briones' husband."

Juana purchased Rancho la Purisima Concepcion (in today's Palo Alto Hills and Los Altos Hills) in 1844 or 1845 for \$300, but she was still living in Yerba Buena in 1846 when the American flag went up over the Alcaldia. Soon after that, Juana took the children on horseback and loaded their furniture and possessions on oxcarts for the three-day journey down the peninsula to the rancho. Juana's house was on a hilltop above a spring area (one of the sources of Barron Creek). It was built at least partly of "encajando" construction (having large redwood corner posts and walls of tamped adobe soil between redwood boards). It was built in 1846 or 1847 as the main house



Illustration C: Juana Briones.

on the rancho. At that time, there was no other building in this end of the county except for a few temporary herder's huts. It was located at 4155 Old Trace Road. Until its demolition in mid-2012, it was the oldest structure in this end of the county.

Juana lived at the ranch house until 1885 when she moved to a small house at the corner of Washington (now Oregon Expressway) and Birch in Mayfield.

See the recently-discovered photo of Juana (Illustration C)—it is strikingly different from the sketch we are familiar with that was used by the City for the sign at Juana Briones Park (based on a description and the memory of a niece).

Juana Briones has been honored by the naming of one each of the two parks and schools in the Barron Park neighborhood. Although our land was not part of her rancho, her name is one of the most prominent in our historical heritage. She pioneered in San Francisco and Palo Alto, and pioneered the way for women to be independent managers of their own lives in California.

Elisha Crosby, Lawyer and Convention Delegate

In April of 1853, Secundino Robles deeded 250 acres of Rancho Rincon de San Francisco to his lawyer, Elisha O. Crosby (see photo, Illustration D). The land transfer was probably in payment for Crosby's services in defending Robles' land title against the claims of numerous squatters. Crosby named his land "Mayfield Farm", perhaps to celebrate its appearance at the time he took ownership.



Illustration D: Elisha Crosby.

Crosby was a lawyer from New York, who emigrated to California with the forty-niners (see photo Illustration D). He represented Sacramento at the Convention in Monterey in 1850, helping draft the new State Constitution. He was instrumental in the Convention's decision to impose the "American system", based on English common law. He wrote the best memoirs of the convention. Later, he ran the first state election in the gold districts, managing half of the vote tallying. He served as Sacramento's State Senator in the First Legislative session in San Jose.

He became well off financially through gold dust trading, investments and lucrative attorney's fees for protecting the California Rancheros' interests before the Federal Land Commission. During the period 1850–1857 he argued 100 of the 812 cases before the Land Commission.

Crosby built a substantial, but unpretentious farmhouse on their portion of "Rancho Santa Rita." This was the first house built on the land that is now Barron Park. There is no documentary evidence that he actually resided there, but it seems unlikely that he made no use of what was probably an expensive house. In any case, his ownership came to an abrupt and unfortunate end when he went bankrupt during the banking and business crisis of 1857. The farm was sold for \$10,701 to John W. Armstrong, who was acting as agent for his sister Sarah Wallis in collecting a \$10,300 debt owed to her by Crosby.

Elisha has been memorialized by the naming of Crosby Court, a 1972 cul-de-sac running west from the 4100 block of Georgia Avenue in the L'Hermitte subdivision (see map, Illustration A).

Sarah Wallis, Pioneer Emigrant, Community Leader and Prominent Suffragist

Sarah Wallis was born and raised on the frontier as it moved westward from Indiana to Missouri. In 1844 when she was an 18-year-old bride she walked from Missouri to California with her gunsmith husband, Allen Montgomery. They traveled with the Stevens Party, who pioneered the main emigration route across the Sierras and discovered "Donner" Pass. This was the first group to take wagons across the mountains. Although (like the Donners two years later) they got stuck in November snowstorms, they eventually made it to Sutter's Fort without loss of life. Sarah was noted for enjoying the trip more than any

other woman in the party, recalling that it was "very pleasant until we came into the mountains" (meaning the Sierra Nevada).

Sarah spent the next two years at Sutter's Fort and in a lonely cabin at Sutter's Mill in the mountains where the gold discovery was later made. While at the fort, she learned to read and write by listening in while another woman taught children. She began show her leadership abilities when she hosted, at her remote cabin, a quilting bee in January 1846 (probably the first in California history). During this time, Allen was often gone, looking for work or marching with one of the rag-tag "armies" involved in a "revolution" of the Californios against the Mexican Governor. After the Bear Flag Rebellion in 1846, he was with Fremont's California Battalion occupying Los Angeles, or, as one critic wrote, he was one of the "motley array of drunkards in the ciudad of wine and aguardiente."

In 1847 Montgomery returned to Sutter's and took Sarah with him to the village of Yerba Buena to find work. Unsuccessful, he abandoned Sarah and took ship to Hawaii. After the passage of a year without word from him, it became generally assumed that he had been lost at sea. Meanwhile, Sarah was considered a respectable "widow" and "pursued almost every acceptable means of livelihood... (she) fed boarders, rented rooms, took in washing and did sewing." When the gold discovery news hit Honolulu, Allen returned to San Francisco but avoided contacting Sarah or communicating in any way. He disappeared into the goldfields and was never seen again.

In October, 1849, believing Allen to be dead, Sarah married Talbot H. Green, a widely respected businessman, 15 years older than her. Green is memorialized in San Francisco by the street of that name. He told Sarah that his "insane wife" in the east had died. For a year and a half they were happily married. Then, when Green was running for Mayor, he was exposed as Paul Geddes, a fugitive bank embezzler and bigamist from Pennsylvania, where his wife and family were very much alive. He left San Francisco April 15, 1851 on a steamer, swearing that the accusations were untrue and that he would clear things up. He left Sarah some money and some valuable city lots. Abandoned again, Sarah took in boarders. One source of comfort was her younger brother John, who now showed up from Missouri (they had been separated as children when their father died).

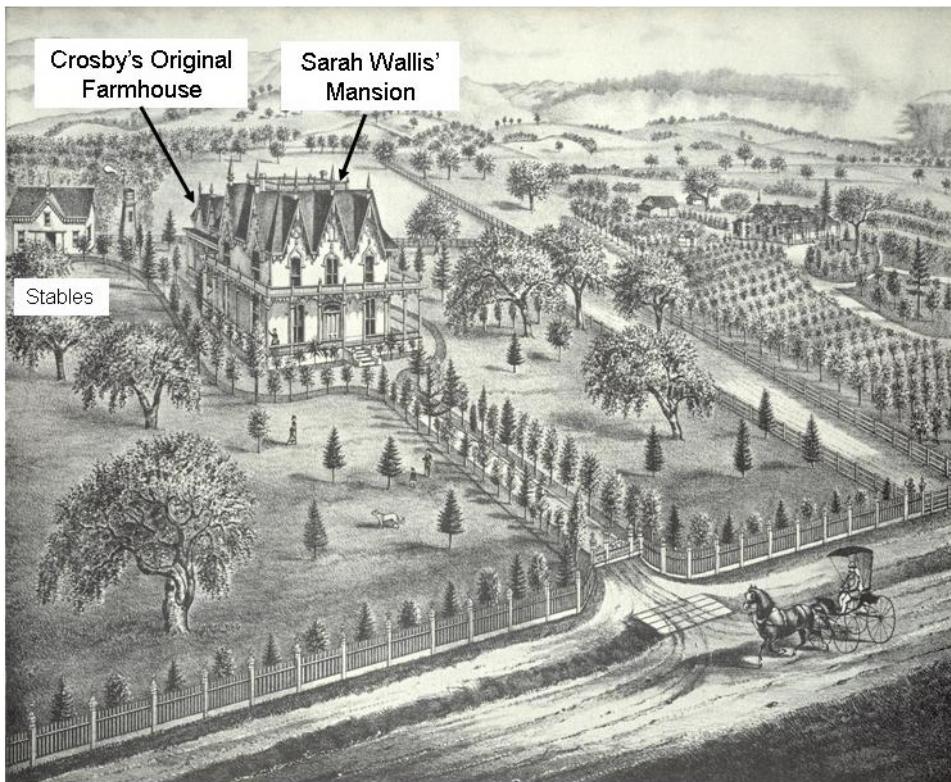


Illustration E: Sarah Wallis' Mansion.

Sarah divorced Green in 1854 and six months later married Joseph S. Wallis, a clerk in the city who had come west during the gold rush. Wallis adopted Sarah's son by Green as his own, and, supported by Sarah, took up the study of law. In the meantime, Sarah had accumulated modest wealth from the sale of the city lots, and her brother John Armstrong had become a lawyer. Sarah had apparently lent money to Elisha Crosby, who went bankrupt in the crash of 1856. John Armstrong successfully sued Crosby for \$10,300 on behalf of Sarah (women could not bring suits in law), and Mayfield Farm was deeded over to her late in 1856.

Sarah and her husband Joseph, who was now a Judge and a State Senator, moved into Mayfield Farm. Sarah built an elaborate Victorian "Wedding Cake" mansion onto the front of Crosby's home, leaving the farmhouse to serve as the kitchen and servant's quarters (see the lithograph, Illustration E).

Sarah became one of the leaders of society in the Mayfield region. She enjoyed people and gave many lavish parties, entertaining notables including, in 1878, President Ulysses S. Grant. Sarah and Joseph entered fully into local community life, influencing the naming of the town of Mayfield when it was platted in 1867. When the railroad reached the Mayfield area in 1863,

residents were outraged to find that the station was sited a mile away (at present-day Churchill Avenue). Sarah worked for two years to get the station moved to the village of Mayfield (modern-day California Avenue), and was honored for years afterwards by the people as a true pioneer for their town's interests.

Sarah became interested in Susan B. Anthony's 1860 campaign to achieve property rights for married women in New York. She subscribed to the radical publication *The Revolution*. California historian Dorothy Regnery observed that, in the late 1860s, Sarah began to devote her life to promote women's rights and equality with men. The suffrage movement in California started when Anna E. Dickenson gave a series of lectures, which Joseph and Sarah attended. Several suffrage societies were formed, the most active being Sarah's in Mayfield. At a joint meeting in San Francisco in January, 1870, Sarah was chosen as joint (State) President. Also that year, Sarah and Joseph traveled across the continent on the new railroad to Washington for Joseph's swearing-in as a member of the bar of the U. S. Supreme Court.

In 1871, both Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton came west to fire up the suffrage movement on the coast. Sarah helped support them financially and each of the eastern leaders came to Mayfield Farm. When Anthony was a guest, Sarah

hosted a meeting attended by an "omnibus load of supporters" from San Jose. The affair included musical entertainment, a ball, and a midnight supper. The California State Woman Suffrage Educational Association was incorporated July 10, 1873 with Sarah Wallis as President. Sarah lobbied the state legislature and the 1878 State Constitutional Convention. She was a major pioneer in the woman suffrage movement.

However, in the meantime, the Wallis fortune was lost in the 1875 depression, and she was forced to sell Mayfield Farm. The Wallises built a townhouse in Mayfield and Sarah continued to work locally in the suffrage movement. When Joseph died in 1898, the bank foreclosed the mortgage and Sarah was evicted from their home. Her son provided a house in Los Gatos where Sarah lived until her death on January 11, 1905.

One of the remarkable things about Sarah is that there is no known portrait of her—neither drawing, lithograph or photograph. Another remarkable thing is the extreme degree to which she has been lost to history. She wrote little, apparently refused to be photographed, became impoverished and died almost alone.

Sarah Wallis is probably, along with David Packard, the most notable person to have lived in Barron Park. She is memorialized by the State Historical Marker erected October 11, 1986 on La Selva Drive in Barron Park, near the footprint of her mansion. There is a tiny city park named for her, at the corner of Ash and Grant Streets near the site of her house in old Mayfield. She is also remembered in the naming of Wallis Court, another 1972 cul-de-sac in L'Hermitte close to Crosby Court.

Conclusion

I hope you have enjoyed this summary of the achievements of the five of the ten people I have selected to rate as our greatest "pioneers". Each one of them was the "first" or the "best" at what they did - they were standouts above their peers. They were, each in his or her individual way, innovators, leaders or pioneers: two women and three men for us to be proud of.

Part Two in Next Issue

Part Two will appear in the next issue of this newsletter (Spring, 2013) and will cover the remaining five pioneers. If you have comments or questions, please address them to me at 984 Ilima Way, Palo Alto 94306, or *dgrahampaca@gmail.com*, or call me at 650-493-0689.

The New BPA Website: www.BPApaloalto.org

by Art Liberman and Nancy Hamilton Website co-administrators

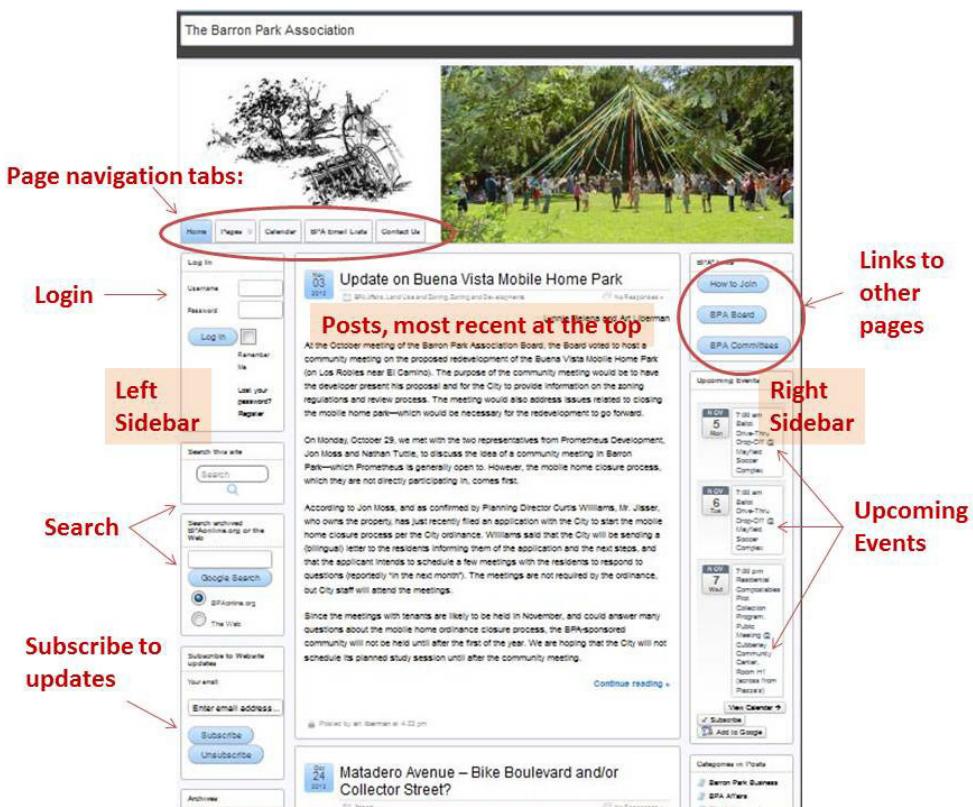
The Barron Park Association has a new, updated website. www.BPApaloalto.org. This site allows everyone in our neighborhood to find current information about community affairs, events and BPA activities. Our new site doesn't replace any of BPA's existing avenues of communication—email lists, newsletter—just adds to them. The previous BPAonline website continues to operate for users and as an archive of material. We have tried to make the information on the new site readily accessible and the material visually appealing. The site has been publicly available since September—if you haven't done so yet, take a look and check it out. In this article, we'll explain some of its features using the figure here of our home page as guide.

Posts:

When you access the site, you will see our homepage. In the center, underneath the banner with our logo and a marvelous maypole photo (by Nancy Hamilton), are 'posts.' These are medium length articles on current issues or announcements of upcoming events, with the most recent post at the top. They may contain pictures or links to other content. If the post is longer than a page view, you may see a "Continue Reading" link that you can click on to read the entire post.

The website publishes posts from Barron Park Board members on various topics of interest to the community. We also welcome posts contributed by our members, just as we do with articles published in our Newsletter – if you are interested in publishing a post on our website, contact any BPA Board member or one of the webmasters through the link at the bottom of each page.

Below each post is a place where anyone can write a comment about that post. We encourage readers to comment and create a civil and constructive dialogue on the issues in the post. To shut out spammers, we limit comments to registered users of the website. Also at the bottom are some but-



tons where you can print the post, or share it (email, Facebook, Twitter..).

Navigation Tabs:

Right under the logo picture is a horizontal set of tabs that appear on every page. Next to the Home page tab is one called Pages. This tab has a drop down menu with links to several pages: About the BPA, Meet the BPA Board, BPA Committees, BPA history and a page that explains how you can Join the BPA using an online membership form (more about this below). Next is the Calendar page tab, then a tab that is a link for signing up to the popular BPA Email Lists, and finally a tab to our Contact Us page, which we would like you to use for sending us your comments and suggestions.

Sidebars:

On either side of the page are 'sidebars'. At the top of the left sidebar is a box where you can log in to the website and become a registered user. It is not required to log

in to view the website content, but it is required if you want to publish a comment to one of the posts. Below the log-in box are some search functions, where you can search for information on this website or on the BPAonline website archive, and then a box where you can sign up to subscribe to "Website updates." If you subscribe, which requires you to supply your email address, you'll receive an email with the first few lines of the post and a link whenever a new post is published. Going down further on the left sidebar (not shown in the figure) is a box listing the current Barron Park Association business members (actually links to their websites) and below that is a box with links to some local websites we feel are of interest to the Barron Park community.

On the top of the right sidebar are three blue ovals that appear on every page. Each is a link to other pages within the website.

- How to Join—takes you to a page to start

our two step online membership process, where you first pay your dues with PayPal and then fill out your membership form;

■ BPA Board—takes you to a page with photos and short bio of each of the BPA Board members. You can contact any Board member through the email link next to each Board member's name;

■ BPA Committees—takes you to a page that lists our Committees: May Fete, Organize Social Events, Welcoming, Parks and Creeks, Seniors, Emergency Prep, Traffic and Streets, Land Use and Zoning, Environmental Issues/Green Team, BP Business Liaison, and (new) Schools Liaison. When you are on the BPA Committee page, you can click on the name of each committee and open a page where

you can read about its recent activities. Currently some of the Committees do not have an active chairperson, and we welcome Barron Park residents who have an interest in one of those committee activities and a willingness to volunteer to step forward and consider taking a leadership role. Read the information in the right sidebar on the Committee page and maybe you will decide to join the Board!

Below these links, are panels with the date and abbreviated information of several upcoming events. These are filled in automatically from the Calendar page (go to the Navigation tabs and click on the Calendar page tab). We add events to the Calendar that we know are of interest to

the community. If you have an event that you would like us add, send us a note and we'll be happy to add it to the calendar – and let us know if you'd like us to publish a post about the event as well. The default view on the Calendar page is of the current month, but you can change that. In the left sidebar, just under the word "Calendar," is a link where you can select other ways to view the calendar; some people like the 'poster-board' view, which just shows 'posters' of upcoming events..

We hope you feel that our new webpage adds something positive to our community by presenting information about neighborhood topics and upcoming events in a timely fashion. We'd love to hear from you (click on the Contact Us navigation tab), to hear what you think about the website, and perhaps some suggestions of some things we should add to make it an even better resource for the Barron Park community.

El Camino Business Occupancy Update

by Bob Moss

There have been several new businesses opening or working on renovating spaces for future openings along El Camino, and a few businesses have left. The overall vacancy rates are little changed from May.

On the Barron Park side the vacancy rate is 2.3%, up from 1.9%. On the Ventura side the vacancy rate is 10.5%, up from 10.1%. Overall vacancy rate including El Camino Way is 6.4%, down slightly from 6.5% in May because the vacant offices and retail on El Camino Way by Jacobs Court were demolished so that construction can begin for the expansion of Palo Alto Commons senior housing.

In late October Foot Solutions at 3789 El Camino by Curtner quietly closed and the site is vacant. In early November Foot Solutions re-opened at 3489 El Camino, the former site of United Carpet & Flooring which closed in mid-summer. The hair store at 3535 El Camino changed its name from Q Hair Design to Lovely Hair Solutions. Thai City at 2691 El Camino by Wilton did close after the owners said last year that they were just tired of the business. It was replaced by Hong Kong Restaurant this summer. The former 3-Day Blinds store at 2951 El Camino that closed

more than a year ago was replaced by Urban Sleep bedding store this summer. Trader Vic's at 4269 El Camino by Dinah's Court closed in August and was replaced by The Sea, an upscale seafood restaurant that opened in early November. Front of the pack Bikes at 3944 El Camino also closed this summer. It will be replaced by VCA Animal Hospital. Work to remodel the interior has been going on there since October. Work is continuing on modifying the former Blockbuster space at 3990 El Camino to a health spa. It is expected to open next spring. When the animal hospital and spa open in a few months the vacancy rate on the Barron Park side will be below 2%, and the overall vacancy rate will be under 6%, assuming that no other businesses close or open before then. Vacancy rate of 5% or less is considered essentially fully occupied.

The latest sales tax summary showed that from the 2nd quarter of 2011 to 2nd quarter of 2012 sales taxes on El Camino increased from \$867,868 to \$1,074,079 or 23.7%, by far the greatest increase in Palo Alto. Town & Country sales taxes increased by 15%, Stanford Shopping Center sales taxes increased 3.8%. Other business areas had little increase in sales taxes.

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Barron Park Association

724 Barron Avenue

Palo Alto, California 94306

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17TH ANNUAL JUANA RUN MARCH 2, 2013

Registration Deadlines and Fees	EARLY ENDS Feb 14 (INCLUDES T-SHIRT)	PRE-RACE ENDS Feb 22 (INCLUDES T-SHIRT)	DAY OF RACE March 2 (NO T-SHIRT GUARANTEED)	DAY OF RACE REG. TIMES
Kids' races (must be under 12)	\$10	\$13	\$15	8:30-10:00
5 mile (certified 8K)	\$25	\$30	\$35	7:00-8:15
1 mile	\$15	\$20	\$25	8:30-11:00
5 mile & 1 mile (1 person, 2 races)	\$35	\$40	\$45	7:00-8:15
Kids race & 1 mile (1 person, 2 races)	\$20	\$25	\$30	8:30-10:00
Challenger race (special needs)	\$5	\$5	\$5	8:30-10:30
Kids race +8K	\$30	\$35	\$40	7:00-8:15

RACE HOTLINE: 650-599-3434

www.juanarun.org (on-line registration ends February 28)

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Contributors:
FishMarket
Sports Basement

- Location: Parking is available at Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto (Foothill Expwy & Arastradero). Enter on Arastradero and follow the signs to Juana Briones School.
- PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Join your fellow runners for pancakes following the 8K race.
- Automated timing.
- All Races will run Rain or shine, no refunds. No t-shirt pick-up after race day. Race numbers will not be mailed, available at registration on race morning.
- Please be at the start area 15 minutes before scheduled race time
- Prize divisions: Male and female divisions for each age group. 8K and 1 mile: Age: 0-6, 6-8, 9-12, 13-19, 20-29 ... 80+. Kids' race: prizes by grade, ribbons for all finishers.
- All proceeds benefit the Gunn High School Sports Boosters, Terman Middle School PTA and registered participating schools.
- Scholarships are available for kids' races. Contact [juanarun](#)
- Listed in the top 100 road races by Ujena fit club: [www.bestroadraces.com](#)
- Bag check for 8K racers will be provided at Registration.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out form completely. Submit a **separate** signed form for **each** runner.

Make checks payable and **Mail to:** Juana Run, c/o 3530 Whitsell Street, Palo Alto, CA 94306

First Name _____

T-shirt size: YS ____ YM ____ YL ____

Last Name _____

AS ____ AM ____ AL ____ AXL ____

Address _____

Event(s): 5 mile(8K) ____ 1 mile ____

City/St/Zip _____

kids race ____ challenger race ____

E-mail _____

Age on race day _____ Sex: M ____ F ____

Kids race indicate grade: _____

School/Team(opt) _____

Phone (____) _____ USATF#: _____

You MUST read, understand and agree to the following statement, then sign and date below. Unsigned entries will be rejected. I know that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity and that I should not enter unless I am physically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of race officials relative to an activity, safety, completion, etc. I assume all risks associated with participating in this event including, but not limited to, race contact with other participants, the effects of weather, including high heat and/or high wind, traffic and the conditions of the roads, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of your accepting my entry for myself and anyone entitled to action on my behalf, I waive and release the Gunn High School Sports Boosters, Gunn High School, Terman Middle School, Terman Middle School, Juana Briones Elementary School, the Palo Alto Unified School District, the City of Palo Alto, and all the race sponsors, their representatives and successors from all claims and liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in these events or carelessness on the part of the persons named in this waiver. I acknowledge that should the race be cancelled due to circumstances outside the control of the race, that no refunds will be given. Further, I grant full permission to all the foregoing to use of any photographs, motion pictures, recordings, or any other record of this event for legitimate purposes.

Signature (Parent or guardian if under 18)

Date

Registration Fee	\$ _____
Juana Run Cap (\$15)	\$ _____
Sponsor a child	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

(Make check payable to Juana Run)

Are you a tourist in your own home town?

By Lydia Kou, Co-Chair, Emergency Preparedness & Safety Committee



On October 27th, while vacationing in Hawaii and after enjoying a luau, on the way back to our hotel, we heard a "tsunami warning" alert over the car radio, further explaining an earthquake off the coast of Canada near Queen Charlotte was the cause for the possible tsunami coming to the State of Hawaii. I thought it was a joke. Then, the alert came over the radio again. I still did not believe it. But then, the wail of sirens from the outdoor warning system went off, it was loud, very loud...I realized this was no joke! Now, we paid attention to the alert from the Offices of Emergency Services over the radio, the message said that the tsunami was expected to hit the islands of Hawaii at approximately 10:09PM. It was, 8:32PM when we learned of this emergency and the need to evacuate.

John and I were on Maui, staying in the town of Ka'anapali. It's a tourist town and almost everyone vacationing was frantic not knowing what they should do. You can see the frantic confusion, disbelief and just simply, panic in people's actions and faces! So you can imagine it became chaotic pretty quickly. No more polite courtesies, people drove their cars erratically, people started gathering at the front desk and were shouting at the front desk clerk for information, and as the clerk tried to respond, someone who is a know-it-all answered instead and gave incorrect information; it was mob mentally. Not able to find out what the emergency procedures/ protocols were and not wishing to waste time not getting answers, John and I went back to our car to see if we could get information from the radio stations. We found out that evacuation was necessary for beach front properties and for those living in high-rises on the 3rd floor and below. Now understanding that we do not have to evacuate, John and I went back to our hotel room on the 7th floor and looked at what we had; 2 boxes of cream waver biscuits, 1 bag of mixed nuts, 2 loaves of banana bread and 1 gallon of water. We spoke about rationing and what to expect. We also discussed perhaps we had time to run to the nearby market to pick up some cans of tuna, so we decided it best we walked so



that we do not add to the congestion that existed. It was an experience, because drivers were so panicked, none lets us through at the pedestrian crossing. In any case, finally getting to the market, we found the employees were shutting and locking down the market because they wanted to get back to their own homes to take care of their own families. On the walk back to the hotel, we heard car braking screeches and crashes, we saw people running around frantic without information, we saw drivers with young children in car seats driving like maniacs, we heard Police and Fire and perhaps EMT sirens...John and I decided it was most safe in our hotel room, so we hurried back there and stayed cocooned. Well, as you know now, the tsunami did not arrive and all was well.

Upon coming home to Palo Alto, we caught up with news of the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy. The news said some towns/cities have not experienced this sort of devastation in the last 100+ years. "Superstorm Sandy: Dramatic footage shows trail of destruction" at Telegraph.co.uk (<http://bit.ly/VkTUF5>)

For both the tsunami and hurricane, there was notification to expect these disasters. However, even with the lead time to evacuate and prepare for what is coming their way, lives were lost, homes destroyed. What do you do when you are in Mother

Nature's pathway? You can plan ahead and prepare ahead.

Nothing has happened in Palo Alto...yet. Don't live in the world of "Could have... Would have...Should have"!

Lastly, on vacation in Hawaii, I was a tourist and had to figure out what to do should that tsunami really come through, I ask you...Are you a tourist in your own home town? Do you know what to do? For yourself and for your family, the young and the elderly? Do you know what the procedures are?

You don't have to be a tourist in your own home town...Have a Plan, prepare with a Kit and, last but not least, learn what the emergency procedures are and learn who and where the Emergency Services Volunteers are. It's in your hands.

EMAIL LISTS

The BPA has four email lists: bpa-news, bpa-issues, bpa-misc and bpa-jobpostings. They are hosted at Google Groups. To join, go to the BPA Website: BPApaloalto.org and click on the tab "BPA Email Lists." This provides an easy means to subscribe, and information about the lists.

BARRON PARK ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2012-2013

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