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MARCH 2025

SARATOGA

Spotlight



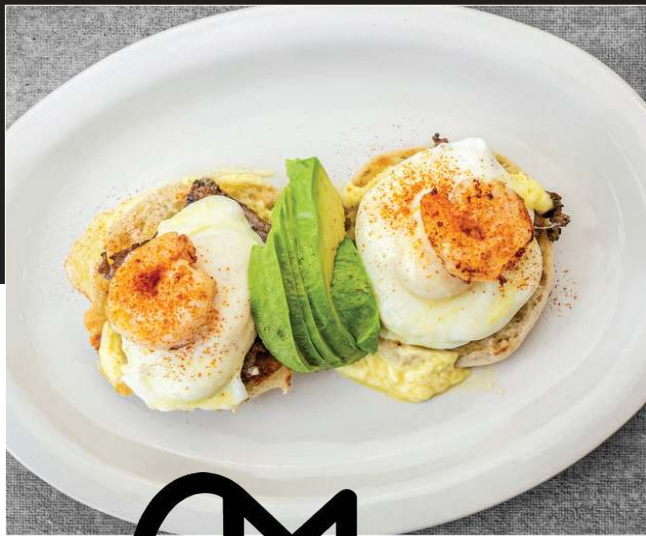
**MEET THE MILLERS
OF MANGIA MORNINGS!**

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Cover Photo by Dave Lepori



Good Food That Just Makes You Happy!

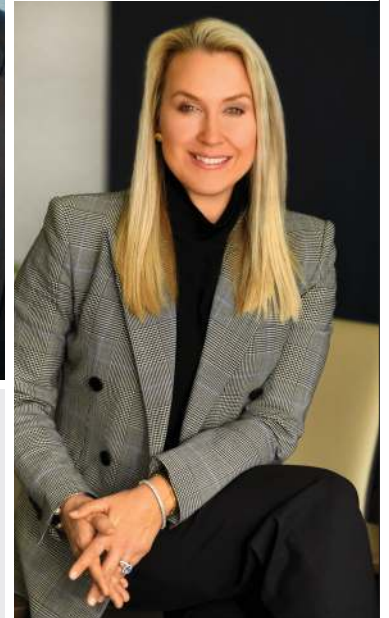
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SARATOGA

Spotlight

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Content Due:	Edition Month:
December 8	January
January 8	February
February 8	March
March 8	April
April 8	May
May 8	June
June 8	July
July 8	August
August 8	September
September 8	October
October 8	November
November 8	December

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THIS IS BIG - SO SAVE THE DATE

By Gay Crawford

Join friends to support pediatric cancer research 11:30AM, Saturday, April 12 at Sorelle Restaurant in Campbell. Sorelle owners have graciously offered to provide lunch and space for a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society's Courageous Kids Day, which supports some 500 kids with cancer and their families on Mother's Day. This year will be the 36th year.

Tickets: \$125 ea. For information, contact: Gay Crawford, gayc@aol.com.



MEET THE MILLERS OF MANGIA MORNINGS!

By Carol Gerwitz | Photos by David Lepori and Family Provided



(L to R) Nick Miller, his wife, Ashley Overhouse, and his folks, Trish and Brian Miller.

Saratoga has been the home of restaurant owner Nick Miller's family and extended family for three generations. Nick's late grandmother, Lavine Inserra, and her husband Carl raised their three children in Saratoga. Nick's parents, Trish and Brian Miller, raised their three sons—Nick is the middle son—in the Saratoga neighborhood north of West Valley College. Nick's uncle, Bill Inserra, and his wife, Laurie Inserra, also call Saratoga home. Nick's wife, Ashley Overhouse, grew up in Saratoga, and Ashley's grandparents, Nick and Lavonne Marafino (whose picture graced the cover of this magazine in September 2015) are long-time residents of Saratoga. The couple's grandmothers—Lavine and Lavonne—were friends involved in community projects and playing bridge together long before Nick and Ashley met!

Nick and Ashley both grew up in Saratoga and unknowingly attended the same church. Years later, while looking at photos from their First Communions, they realized they had shared the sacrament together at Sacred Heart Parish. Their story began at a school dance in their junior year of high school. "It wasn't more than a day after that dance that I asked her out and we began dating," states Nick. They dated through high school but after graduation went to separate universities—UC Merced and UC Santa Cruz respectively—and eventually grew apart, following separate paths. However, ten years later their paths crossed at the wedding of a mutual friend. Their relationship grew and strengthened despite the pandemic, and Nick proposed on the banks of the Russian River. The two were married in November 2023, among the redwoods at Nestldown in Los Gatos. Despite the threats of rain, it was a beautiful event, a customized ceremony with family and friends as a testament to the couple's long years of friendship and courtship. A party catered by Le Papillon Restaurant capped off the special day. Nick says, "We have enjoyed an exciting first year of marriage and have adopted



a dog, a rescue pit bull named Eva, whose tail can create its own wind speed."

Growing up, Nick was fascinated by chemistry and learning how things are made on a chemical level. This interest led to a chemistry degree from UC Merced and then employment at Thermo Fisher in Fremont, first as a lab scientist and then interfacing with customers by visiting their labs, setting up equipment, and training. He realized that the aspects of the job he enjoyed most were interactions and training as he continued with this job for several years. However, Nick grew tired of the travelling and wanted to change career paths, so he turned his attention to his passion for cooking—a field he recognized as another expression of chemistry.

Like many other individuals, Nick made his career change during the pandemic. He attended Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts

for two years. To gain hands on, practical experience, Nick worked for local restaurants. One thing he gleaned from his time at those restaurants was a realization that, as much as he enjoyed cooking and being “on the line”, what he wanted was to own and manage his own restaurant. Nick began to search for a place to start his dream, which ultimately led him to a former tea shop on Big Basin Way in Saratoga Village. This location held special significance for him, as his family had celebrated numerous birthdays and anniversaries at restaurants in the Village over the years. He was thrilled at the prospect of opening his own restaurant there.

Now it was time to transform the tea shop into a restaurant. Although Nick had practical experience in preparing food, never had he opened a restaurant. “I didn’t know what I didn’t know,” said Nick with a grin. He is grateful for the help he received from the City of Saratoga as he applied for permits and licenses. All of the preparation and forethought proved fruitful when Nick opened Mangia Mornings in March 2024 with a dream of bringing everyone together to “mangia.” “Mangia” is Italian for “eat” and is a tribute to his Italian heritage. It is also an invitation from Nick and his family to enjoy their offerings of pastries baked daily in the restaurant, French toast stuffed with vanilla custard, loaded croissant breakfast sandwiches, or Cilbar (Turkish eggs), to name a few. Nick put his chemistry background to use in fine fashion while teaching himself to bake the pastries—of the two years he spent in culinary school, only two weeks were devoted to baking.

Nick is proud that his close-knit family collaborates and brainstorms better ways to feed the Saratoga community and is involved in all aspects of Mangia Mornings: dad Brian does a lot of the maintenance, mom Trish is the CFO, sister-in-law Katherine’s designs can be found on the menu and the chalkboard sign outside the restaurant, and wife Ashley provides invaluable input and “takes care of me,” says Nick with a grin. “The Mangia Mornings family truly believes that with close friends and a passion for good food, the possibilities are endless.”

Nick has fond memories of growing up in Saratoga. He attended school at Sacred Heart Parish where he met his lifelong friend, Tom Carine. He enjoyed walks with his dogs and brothers Andy and Luke and played a variety of sports at Congress Springs. Nick feels he greatly benefited from the small town feel of Saratoga, where he felt safe, supported, and loved. Nowadays it’s Ashley and puppy Eva who typically accompany Nick while hanging out in Wildwood Park or Gardiner Park or in a beach house with the rest of the clan.

Nick acknowledges that most of his time is spent at Mangia Mornings, which he says is a labor of love and his way of giving back to his hometown of Saratoga by providing good food and a place to gather. Nick is also supportive of his community by volunteering as a Board member of the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, where he hopes to inspire others to support local businesses and continue transforming the downtown Village into a thriving community that supports commerce and families.





MAYOR'S CORNER - THE HEART OF SARATOGA: A COMMUNITY ROOTED IN NATURE

By Mayor Belal Aftab

Each year, our City Council carefully crafts a budget that balances essential services with emerging challenges. As we move forward in 2025, I want to take a moment to update you on our city's financial outlook and the discussions underway to ensure Saratoga remains safe, vibrant, and fiscally responsible. Budget season is a time for reflection and planning - it is when we align our financial resources with our community's needs and priorities. None of the items discussed here are final decisions; they remain under consideration as part of our ongoing budget process.

This process starts with a retreat in January, where we discuss citywide priorities that the Council and city staff have identified. Through a series of meetings and hearings with the City Council and Finance Advisory Committee meetings, we take in recommendations from staff and community feedback before ultimately adopting a budget by the end of June that will ensure Saratoga continues to thrive while preparing for the financial challenges ahead.

Saratoga operates on a fiscal year that runs from July 1 to June 30. Our city budget is approximately \$30 million for a population of ~31,000 residents. Like all cities in California, Saratoga receives only a small portion of the property taxes collected—just 6.7 cents of every dollar. This means we must be thoughtful in how we allocate resources to maintain essential services while addressing new and ongoing priorities.

I'll discuss a few priorities and how they're reflected in our budget below.

Traffic safety remains a top concern, particularly for our children. Our Safe Routes to School program, which helps kids walk and bike safely, is being considered for continued investment. We are also implementing traffic calming measures across the city and reviewing a proposal for a new

traffic signal at Herriman Avenue to address community concerns.

Saratoga's neighborhoods are the foundation of our community. To ensure their long-term resilience, we are discussing options to increase funding for hillside stability projects, which help prevent erosion and landslides. Investing in our neighborhoods will protect homes and infrastructure while preserving the natural beauty that makes Saratoga special.

A dynamic Saratoga benefits everyone. One initiative under discussion is expanding the Secured Community Event Grant Program, which supports projects that bring people together. Additionally, we are looking at ways to enhance our downtown vibrancy and are welcoming new ideas from residents and businesses on how we can improve our shared spaces.

Recent wildfires in California have underscored the importance of preparation. While Saratoga is making efforts to reduce fire risk, it's important to note that the responsibility for fire prevention lies primarily with the Santa Clara County Fire Department, which receives 14 cents of every dollar in property tax revenue. That said, the City Council is considering allocating an additional \$200,000 toward wildfire prevention efforts to further enhance safety in our community. In January, I visited Congressman Sam Liccardo's office in Washington, D.C., to advocate for federal support to ensure Saratoga has the resources to protect our homes and open spaces. Fun fact: Congressman Liccardo grew up in Saratoga!

Beyond these priorities, we must also address a significant financial challenge: Saratoga's structural deficit. Our main sources of revenue—property taxes and service fees—are not keeping pace with rising costs. For example, public safety contracts have increased

by nine percent annually, and insurance costs have jumped by 30 percent. These growing expenses require us to make difficult choices.

A city budget is more than just numbers—it is a reflection of our values. While some services are mandated, others provide immense value to our quality of life. At some point, we will need to make strategic decisions to ensure financial stability, whether through proactive cost-saving measures or more urgent adjustments in the future.

As we navigate these financial discussions, community input is critical. Over the next few months, the City Council will consider feedback from residents to help guide our choices. I encourage you to stay engaged—attend meetings, share your thoughts, and be part of the process. By working together, we can make informed decisions that keep Saratoga strong for years to come. The decisions we make today will shape the Saratoga of tomorrow, ensuring its vibrancy and resilience for future generations.

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TALK ON EARLY HISTORY OF SILICON VALLEY

By Annette Stransky

The Saratoga Historical Foundation is sponsoring a lecture by Paul Wesling on "The Origins of Silicon Valley: Why and How It Happened Here on March 25th at 7:00 PM.

The story goes back to the early 1910's to local ham radio operators trying to break RCA tube patents, angel investors, the sinking of the Titanic, Fred Terman and Stanford University, local invention of high-power tubes, WWII and radar, and the San Francisco Bay Area infrastructure that developed. These factors determined that the semiconductor and IC industries would be located in the Santa Clara Valley and that the Valley would remain the world's innovation center as new technologies emerged -- computers, then software, biotech, virtual reality and now autonomous vehicles -- and it would become the model for innovation worldwide.



Paul Wesling has observed the Valley for decades as an engineer, executive, resident, and educator. In this non-technical presentation, he provides the colorful history of technological development that began in Palo Alto, then spread across the Santa Clara Valley during and following WWII. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance at the Saratoga History Center's website, www.saratogahistory.com, and will also be sold at the door, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. The lecture is sponsored by the Saratoga Historical Foundation, IEEE, AAUW, and Stanford Alumni. Proceeds go to the Saratoga Historical Foundation and youth scholarships.

For more information go to www.saratogahistory.com.

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LOVE AND “MARRIAGE”: EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIPS ON YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

By Lisa Bryant

Many people assume that if you have been a couple for a long time in California, that you eventually become legally married under common law. California does NOT recognize common law marriage regardless of how long you have been together, and/or if you declare to others that you are married. There are certain circumstances where a common law marriage may be recognized if you were living in another state that recognized common law marriage at the time you decided to be married; however, even in states that recognize common law marriage, you must meet very specific criteria to be considered married by common law.

As a result, unless you provide specifically for your life partner in your estate plan, they can face very dire financial circumstances if your estate is probated according to intestacy laws (California's plan for your estate if you do not make a will or trust). Under California intestacy laws, unless a couple is legally married or has a legal domestic partnership, the surviving life partner is not provided for by the estate. Additionally, your life partner will have no authority to handle your remains unless you specifically identify them as your agent. California law will default to “next of kin” to handle your remains unless you legally appoint agents.

Your life partner may also lose or not be entitled to pension benefits (e.g., Social Security, Veterans benefits, private sector benefits, etc.) that they need to sustain their current standard of living, or to pay debts you accrued together as a couple.

Instead of marriage, some couples elect to pursue registered domestic partnerships. Domestic partnerships are permitted for all same-sex couples and for opposite-sex couples who are 62 and older. Domestic partners have same state rights and responsibilities as married couples. A registered domestic partner will have the same rights that spouses do regarding probate and for making medical decisions. It is important, however, to ensure that you follow the steps to become officially “registered” by the State of California. It is also important to note that many benefits of community property (such as full stepped-up basis on appreciated assets if one inherits jointly held property) do NOT apply to domestic partners.

As you approach retirement as a committed couple, it is essential to consider your relationship status and how you need to plan to ensure there are no unintended consequences should something happen to either of you.

Please visit our website at www.BryantElderLaw.com, or call (408) 286-2122 to schedule your complimentary consultation if you would like to discuss planning options.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSESSOR - PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND LIFE EVENTS

By Larry Stone, Santa Clara County Assessor

The death of a property owner is a life-changing event that can be accompanied by complex legal and financial matters. For many residents, property ownership represents a significant part of their estate, and understanding how property assessments work in such situations can help ease the transition during a challenging time.

In California, Proposition 13 (Prop. 13) offers protections for property owners by limiting property tax increases. Under Prop. 13, a property's assessed value can only be reassessed upon a change in ownership or when new construction is completed. However, certain life events—such as marriage, divorce, and inheritance—may qualify for exclusions from reassessment. One of the most impactful changes for families inheriting property came with Proposition 19 (Prop. 19), which made substantial updates to the rules governing intergenerational property transfers.

What is Proposition 19?

Approved by California voters in 2021, Prop. 19 reformed the exclusion from reassessment requirements for property transfers between parents or grandparents and their children or grandchildren. These transfers, commonly referred to as intergenerational transfers, are often triggered by the death of a property owner.

One of the most important changes introduced by Prop. 19 is the one-year deadline for filing the Homeowners' Exemption to maintain the original assessed value of the property. If a property is transferred due to the death of the owner, the date of death becomes the official date of transfer under California property tax law (Property Tax Rule 462.260).

For families managing a property in a trust,

it's essential to understand that having the property in a trust does not alter the requirements or deadlines imposed by Prop. 19.

When a property owner passes away, there are specific steps that families must take to comply with California property tax regulations and maintain property assessment protections. Here are some important steps:

1. Notify the Assessor's Office

After the death of a property owner, the family must file a Death Statement with the County Assessor within 150 days of the date of death. This ensures that the Assessor's Office is aware of the change in ownership status.

2. File an Affidavit of Death

In addition to notifying the Assessor, an Affidavit of Death may need to be filed with the Clerk-Recorder's Office. Filing an Affidavit of Death with the Clerk-Recorder does not serve as notification to the Assessor's Office—both steps must be completed separately.

3. Review Proposition 19 Intergenerational Transfer Requirements

To benefit from full or partial exclusion from reassessment under Prop. 19, eligibility criteria must be met, including:

- **Principal Residence Requirement:**

The property must have been the principal residence of the deceased parent or grandparent, and the inheriting child or grandchild must make the property their principal residence within one year of the date of death (the date of transfer).

- **Homeowners' Exemption:**

The transferee must file for the Homeowners' Exemption within one year to be eligible for the exclusion. Although the exclusion application under Prop. 19 can be filed within three years, meeting the one-year principal residence requirement is crucial to securing the benefit.

During the Prop. 19 application process, families should be prepared to receive a supplemental tax bill. This bill reflects the interim assessed value of the property before the exclusion is applied. Once the application is approved and the exclusion takes effect, a new tax bill will be issued, and any taxes overpaid will be refunded.

We're Here to Help

The Santa Clara County Assessor's Office is committed to providing support and resources during life events that impact property assessment. While the Office cannot offer legal advice, the trained staff can assist with questions related to property tax exclusions, filing deadlines, and understanding eligibility for Prop. 19 benefits.

For more information, visit the Santa Clara County Assessor's Office website at www.sccassessor.org. You can also contact the Office via email at assessor@asr.sccgov.org, or phone 408-299-5500, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., holidays excluded, to connect with expert staff who are ready to help.

Understanding property assessment laws in California is key to making informed decisions after the death of a property owner. By knowing the steps to take and the deadlines to meet, families can ensure a smoother process while applying to preserve the property's tax benefits.

Assessor Larry Stone

VETERANS WEEKLY FRIDAY SUPPORT BREAKFAST

By Clyde R. Horn, PhD

I was numb when I returned from the Vietnam War that I served in from 1967-68. I am a combat-wounded soldier who was wounded in action and experienced a war that was unpopular with hard repercussions. I was not the same person who left. My whole DNA was on fire returning with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress), exposure to the toxin, Agent Orange, rift with anxiety, depression, night terrors, and no support.

Upon my return I was able to finish my education with a number of degrees, including a BA, MA in Education, Theology, Psychology, and finishing up with a PHD in Clinical Psychology. I was good at my work but helpless in my personal life. I could not connect, I preferred to be alone, and my social life was a mess. There were no services for veterans, like me, until I discovered in 2009 the Veterans Administration was reaching out to veterans to be evaluated for PTSD and service-connected disabilities.

It was in 2009 I joined a group therapy program in the San Jose VA that changed my life. I discovered I felt safe being with fellow war veterans who understand what I and others have experienced. A group of us decided we enjoyed being around one another so much we started a small breakfast group meeting at several restaurants having breakfast together, sharing our experience with our therapies, engagement of being evaluated for disability services, and encouraging one another.

We discovered, by word, other veterans heard about our group, and it grew. We needed each other. We realized no one other than those who had been to war had a clue how hard it was to adjust to the world we lived in. We shared our stories, and we got better, healing despite the health issues we experienced from being exposed to death, toxins, and PTSD.

Like any group we grew with some dying, leaving, moving away, or joining other organizations. I formalized the group that has existed since 2009 to this day. We meet weekly at a local Denny's, 1140 Hillsdale Ave, CA 95118, every Friday at 9:00 AM in their conference room. Our meeting starts with a joke to help us laugh, breakfast to share breaking bread together, and we go around the room to share our week, any support we need, and I give a brief talk on issues that relate to veterans. Feedback is encouraged. Then we disband looking forward to the next week. We have been recently supported by the Veterans Memorial and Support Foundation in Los Gatos, CA and Open Doors to Future

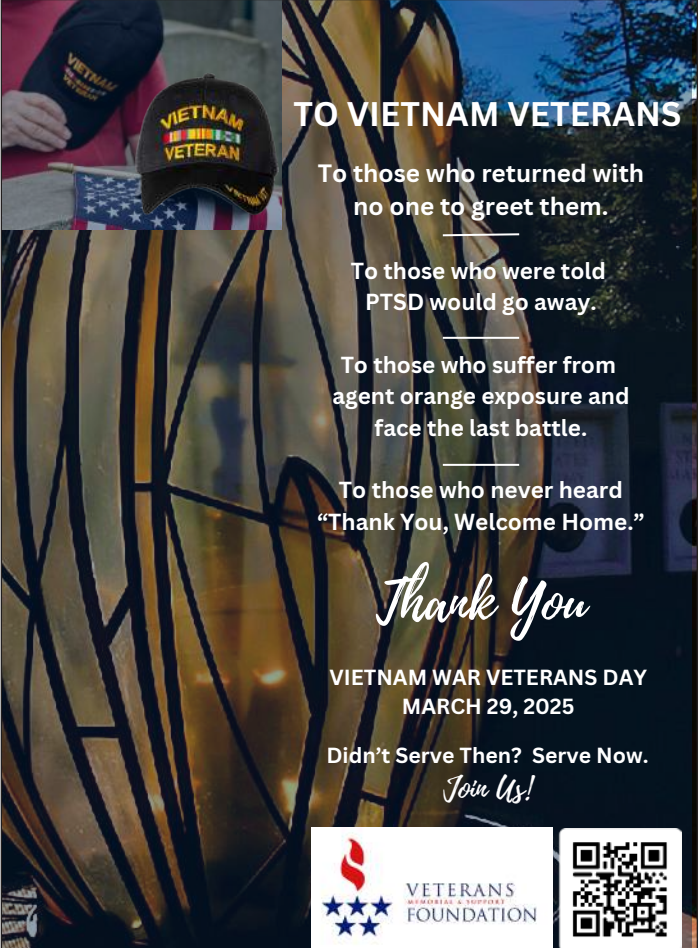
Possibilities, in San Jose, CA, and the Kiwanis Club of Los Gatos, CA.

I have discovered veterans need veterans in their lives. We welcome all veterans including those who were not in wars and all branches of the Military. We have some who have aides bringing them to the meetings, some who are in wheelchairs, and some who are in their eighties. We also have younger veterans and welcome women veterans.

My passion is to help veterans to enjoy one another, help with getting them into the disability system if they have service-related disabilities, get rated for their disabilities, and hear their stories that allow them to heal.

If you know a veteran, have any in your family, or have a veteran friend, let them know The Veterans Support Breakfast Group is a safe and fun group to join.

For more information, please visit HonorAVet.org



TO VIETNAM VETERANS

To those who returned with
no one to greet them.

To those who were told
PTSD would go away.



To those who suffer from
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Thank You

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SARATOGA VILLAGE GARDENERS - CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

By Jill Hunter

In the winter of 2004, the Saratoga Village Development Council was formed to increase communication and foot traffic amongst the merchants in the Village. I was named chair of the group. During our 2 meetings a month, the look of the Village was considered. Because I had studied to be a landscape architect and had worked extensively on the Saratoga School and Redwood School landscaping, I offered to take it on. I put a letter to the editor in the Saratoga News asking for volunteers and we named ourselves the Gardening Gorillas of Saratoga, later to be changed to the Saratoga Village Gardeners. John Marian, a local chiropractor, came on board shortly after, as did Laurel Perusa and Ron Pisani. This happened 20 years ago, and we are still going strong.

Of course, at the beginning we had no funds to buy flowers, so we had a huge garage sale which helped a lot. I begged for donations on the SVDC listserv that Brian Berg had started for our group. People ordered "birthday pots" for a loved one along Big Basin. We now have 75 pots that were purchased, many by the city who had come to recognize the advantage of flowers for the Village. Flowers went into the tree wells as well, most of them donated by residents who liked the look we were trying to achieve. We

included the care of Blaney Plaza along with Big Basin to Fifth St. as our area to improve. In 2015, we entered the US program of America in Bloom with the enthusiasm of the city and won a number of awards for our Village. Cities across the country entered the competition and we were gratified when we won in our category. We stayed in the program for three years and in the end determined we knew what to do to improve our Village landscape without spending the money on the program.

The Saratoga Village Gardeners happily accept new gardeners whether or not they garden. We deadhead, prune, sweep, and water. We celebrate our birthdays and become fast friends as we spend an hour or two every Tuesday together.

Do come join us, we'd love to have you. We will be celebrating our 20th anniversary this March. All are welcome to celebrate with us.

Jill Hunter

For more information, please email
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MEDICARE, ESTATE/RETIREMENT PLANNING, AND TAXES

By Lucille Maravilla



Periodically I write about the importance of planning and coordination as you near Medicare enrollment. Here in Silicon Valley, life on a day-to-day basis keeps us very busy. Managing a business or career, spending time with our families, home upkeep, etc. all take our time and make planning for the future, just that. We will make a plan in the future.

Those of us who advise clients and field questions regarding the future know that the time to plan begins now. This is especially true if you are in your mid-fifties or just turning 60. It starts with a conversation about what is important: What kind of a lifestyle do you want as you slow down or retire? Do you want to stay in your house or move away? Do you need to or want to provide for children or family members? Do you have health issues or expect future health problems because of sports or overwork? The answers to these questions and many others may change over time. What's important is that you begin taking stock. Your decisions have financial and tax implications.

Your planning should not be made in a vacuum. Once you begin creating a picture of the future, you will want to gather information and ask questions of experts such as an estate planning attorney, an attorney specializing in elder law, a financial advisor, an insurance veteran, a Medicare agent, a CPA, and a home care company. Depending on your needs and decisions, you should coordinate and integrate your planning with all or some of these experts. They are your team. Each contributes their particular experience and expertise with the understanding that each is part of an overall plan.

For example, if you report a high income on your taxes, you may pay extra for your Medicare Part B and Part D. Working with a CPA, you might plan how to reduce the high income or spread it out over time. Maybe an insurance professional could suggest instruments that create possible income streams that aren't taxed. Or a financial advisor could create ways to invest money where you pay taxes on your current income but fund a Roth IRA, whose payouts are not taxed. If you expect longevity, a home care company might give you information about the cost of care if you

want to remain in your home instead of going to assisted living. A Medicare agent can estimate the long-term cost of coverage as well as advise what costs are not covered by Medicare. The estate planning attorney and elder law attorney might suggest ways to shelter your real estate and investments. Ultimately, all of this information needs to be coordinated and shared. It's been my experience that no one professional has all the answers and that each expert brings something to the table.

This magazine's publisher is committed to informing its readers about resources in their community. So are those of us who write articles for it.

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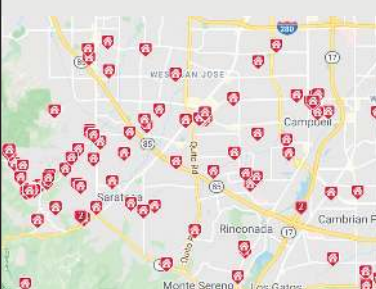
On Friday, April 25, the Kiwanis Club of Los Gatos, Saratoga & Monte Sereno will descend upon the West Valley College campus with almost 3,000 people celebrating the 45th Annual Kiwanis Special Games!

If you like supporting Special Olympics, you'll love Special Games. Kiwanis Special Games started 45 years ago with a couple of local Adaptive Physical Education teachers who were looking for something challenging and fun for their special students to participate in. Starting with just a classroom or two, in the parking lot of a school in Los Altos, the event at West Valley now hosts over 1,000

kids with special needs that come from all over Silicon Valley. They come for fun, camaraderie, competition and pageantry. It takes place on just one morning, but the memories last all year, until the next one comes around. For the kids and the volunteers, this is one of those events that makes everybody smile, and for more than just the day.

The Kiwanis partnership with West Valley College and the Santa Clara County Office of Education is the true definition of "collaboration." Making a difference in kids' lives is what Kiwanis is all about. For more information, go to www.kiwanisspecialgames.org or www.lgkiwanis.org.

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A Little *Etiquette* While Practicing

By Brian McDonald, PGA of Canada

Etiquette is what makes the game more enjoyable for all participants. We've always heard about etiquette on the golf course; now allow me to share some etiquette while practicing.

True Spirit of the Game

For the most part, golf is played unsupervised and this also applies to the practice facilities. As on the golf course, the spirit of the game relies on the integrity of each individual to be respectful toward other golfers' quality leisure time. All players should conduct themselves in a courteous manner, demonstrating civility at all times. This is the spirit of the game.

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Consideration for Other Players On the Driving Range

Remember, you are in close quarters here, so keep your bag, range balls, buckets, and personal effects inside your hitting area. When the range is busy, it's unfair to subject others to your untidiness. If you need a little more space, simply place your bag a few steps behind your bay. Players should not disturb practice time by talking loudly or making any unnecessary noise, even music. If you must take a call, keep it to yourself or simply excuse yourself from the range for a minute.

On the Putting Green

Be mindful not to stand or walk across other people's lines. If you don't do it on the course, don't do it on the practice green. Normally, you want to use no more than three balls and if the green is busy, don't practice 60-foot coast-to-coast (to win the Masters) putts. Remember this is a common space, a shared area. If you want to quietly work on a couple of putting drills around a specific hole or to have a little contest with a friend, do so later in the day.

Care of the Turf

Only use the designated areas as the course superintendent has a rotation schedule for the practice tee. When hitting iron shots from the turf, try to hit your next shot from the back of the previous divot. This way you will only damage a small patch and protect the surrounding turf. If the turf is scarce, you can use a tee as you would on a par-3. There is no shame in using a tee on

the range as this will assure a perfect lie every shot. Technically, this will also make you reset your grip, posture, stance, and ball position for each shot.

Some courses have a separate chipping green but if that's not the case, you should avoid chipping onto the putting green entirely. Chipping will leave ball marks and scars on the green and spoil everyone else's putting experience. Also, do not stay in the exact same spot for a prolonged period of time because you will kill the grass on a surface as delicate as a putting green.

Safety

Players should ensure no one is standing close by or in a position to be hit by the club or a ball when on the practice tee. Be aware that shafts can brake and clubheads can fly off the shaft so always hit from the defined area.

Etiquette starts as you pass the gates and the fine-trimmed lawns. Players that embrace this make the entire golfing experience more pleasurable and safer for everyone.



REMEMBERING BLOSSOMS OF '64

By Bill Peck

My teacher chooses me leader
In a 5th grade evacuation drill,
Gives me pale green arm band.
As air raid siren sounds, I lead
Younger students down grey
Halls and onward to homes
And family fallout shelters.
We walk through orchards
Under white blossoms; we
Hear the low hum of bees.
Once a quail cries but no one
Answers and a white dove
Flies into sky of cobalt blue
I lead them to their homes,
Or Fallout Shelters and once
I see all my charges safe,
I stride home alone, knowing
Saratoga has always answered
The call to prepare for war for
I've seen the Blackout Shades
For drills following Pearl Harbor
Gathering dust in our attic.
I wait, searching the sky but
The Russian bombers like
The Japanese ones forty
Years before, never appear.

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