



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AGENDA
JANUARY 24, 2023
110 EAST MAIN STREET
LOS GATOS, CA
7:00 PM**

*Maria Ristow, Mayor
Mary Badame Vice Mayor
Matthew Hudes, Council Member
Rob Moore, Council Member
Rob Rennie, Council Member*

PARTICIPATION IN THE PUBLIC PROCESS

How to participate: The Town of Los Gatos strongly encourages your active participation in the public process, which is the cornerstone of democracy. If you wish to speak to an item on the agenda, please complete a “speaker’s card” located on the back of the chamber benches and return it to the Town Council. If you wish to speak to an item NOT on the agenda, you may do so during the “Verbal Communications” period. The time allocated to speakers may change to better facilitate the Town Council meeting.

Effective Proceedings: The purpose of the Town Council meeting is to conduct the business of the community in an effective and efficient manner. For the benefit of the community, the Town of Los Gatos asks that you follow the Town’s meeting guidelines while attending Town Council meetings and treat everyone with respect and dignity. This is done by following meeting guidelines set forth in State law and in the Town Code. Disruptive conduct is not tolerated, including but not limited to: addressing the Town Council without first being recognized; interrupting speakers, Town Council or Town staff; continuing to speak after the allotted time has expired; failing to relinquish the podium when directed to do so; and repetitiously addressing the same subject.

Deadlines for Public Comment and Presentations are as follows:

- Persons wishing to make an audio/visual presentation on any agenda item must submit the presentation electronically, either in person or via email, to the Clerk’s Office no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day of the Council meeting.
- Persons wishing to submit written comments to be included in the materials provided to Town Council must provide the comments as follows:
 - For inclusion in the regular packet: by 11:00 a.m. the Thursday before the Council meeting
 - For inclusion in any Addendum: by 11:00 a.m. the Monday before the Council meeting
 - For inclusion in any Desk Item: by 11:00 a.m. on the day of the Council Meeting

***Town Council Meetings Broadcast Live on KCAT, Channel 15 (on Comcast) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Rebroadcast of Town Council Meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
Live & Archived Council Meetings can be viewed by going to:
www.LosGatosCA.gov/TownYouTube***

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK DEPARTMENT AT (408) 354-6834. NOTIFICATION 48 HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING WILL ENABLE THE TOWN TO MAKE REASONABLE ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY TO THIS MEETING [28 CFR §35.102-35.104]

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is a hybrid meeting and will be held in-person at the Town Council Chambers at 110 E. Main Street and virtually through the Zoom webinar application (log-in information provided below). Members of the public may provide public comments for agenda items in-person or virtually through the Zoom webinar by following the instructions listed below. The live stream of the meeting may be viewed on television and/or online at www.LosGatosCA.gov/TownYouTube.

PARTICIPATION

To provide oral comments in real-time during the meeting:

- **Zoom webinar:** Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device: Please click this URL to join: <https://losgatosca.gov.zoom.us/j/82800061199?pwd=ZzhPZHJYTU1WMmJXSXNvbEx3b1REZz09>
Passcode: 569257. You can also type in 828 0006 1199 in the “Join a Meeting” page on the Zoom website at <https://zoom.us/join> and use Passcode: 569257.
- **Join by telephone:** Join by Telephone: Dial: USA 877 336 1839 US Toll-free or 636 651 0008 US Toll. Conference code: 686100
 - If you are participating by calling in, press #2 on your telephone keypad to raise your hand.
- **In-Person:** If you wish to speak during the meeting, please complete a “speaker’s card” located on the back of the chamber benches and return it to the Town Clerk. If you wish to speak to an item on the agenda, please list the item number. The time allocated to speakers may change to better facilitate the Town Council meeting.

When called to speak, you may be asked to provide your full name and your town/city of residence. This identifying information is optional and not a requirement for participation. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes, or such other time as the Mayor may decide, consistent with the time limit for speakers at a Council meeting. If you wish to speak to an item or items on the Consent Calendar, please state which item number(s) you are commenting on at the beginning of your time.

If you are unable to participate in real-time, you may email to Clerk@losgatosca.gov the subject line “Public Comment Item #__” (insert the item number relevant to your comment). Comments received by 11:00 a.m. the day of the meeting will be reviewed and distributed before the meeting. All comments received will become part of the record.

RULES OF DECORUM AND CIVILITY

To conduct the business of the community in an effective and efficient manner, please follow the meeting guidelines set forth in the Town Code and State law.

The Town does not tolerate disruptive conduct, which includes but is not limited to:

- Addressing the Town Council without first being recognized;
- Interrupting speakers, Town Council, or Town staff;
- Continuing to speak after the allotted time has expired;
- Failing to relinquish the microphone when directed to do so;
- Repetitiously addressing the same subject.

Town Policy does not allow speakers to cede their commenting time to another speaker. Disruption of the meeting may result in a violation of Penal Code Section 403.

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS *(Members of the public are welcome to address the Town Council only on matters listed on the agenda. To ensure all agenda items are heard and unless additional time is authorized by the Mayor, this portion of the agenda is limited to 30 minutes and no more than three (3) minutes per speaker. In the event additional speakers were not able to be heard during the initial Verbal Communications portion of the agenda, an additional Verbal Communications will be opened prior to adjournment.)*

OTHER BUSINESS *(Up to three minutes may be allotted to each speaker on any of the following items.)*

1. Affirm and/or Refine Existing Strategic Priorities and Determine the Priorities for New Ordinances.

ADJOURNMENT *(Council policy is to adjourn no later than midnight unless a majority of Council votes for an extension of time)*

Writings related to an item on the Town Council meeting agenda distributed to members of the Council within 72 hours of the meeting are available for public inspection at the front desk of the Los Gatos Town Library, located at 100 Villa Avenue, and are also available for review on the official Town of Los Gatos website. Copies of desk items distributed to members of the Council at the meeting are available for review in the Town Council Chambers.

Note: The Town of Los Gatos has adopted the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure §1094.6; litigation challenging a decision of the Town Council must be brought within 90 days after the decision is announced unless a shorter time is required by State or Federal law.



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 01/24/2023

ITEM NO: 1

DATE: January 19, 2023
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Affirm and/or Refine Existing Strategic Priorities and Determine the Priorities for New Ordinances.

RECOMMENDATION:

Affirm and/or refine existing Strategic Priorities and determine the priorities for new ordinances.

BACKGROUND:

Every year, the Town Council considers its Strategic Priorities for the next two years. In past years, Strategic Priorities consisted of specific policy efforts that could be completed within a relatively short time frame of a few months. More recently, Strategic Priorities have evolved to address more complex issues facing the Town that may involve multifaceted approaches, such as addressing transportation and traffic (see Attachment 1).

The Council's identification of Strategic Priorities is a critical step in the budget process for the next fiscal year by determining the policy priority areas. The next step is for the Town Council to provide specific budget direction for the preparation of the Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/24 Operating and Capital Budgets (scheduled for February 21, 2023).

The goal of the session is to affirm and/or refine existing Priorities. Given the work that is underway with existing Priorities, the Town organization has no staff capacity to add new items on top of the existing ones; however, there is capacity for refinements of existing Priorities as discussed in this report. In addition, the Town has limited financial capacity to add significant new items as Town revenues continue to be impacted by the pandemic and insufficient relative to expenditures.

This report discusses the Town's staff capacity, existing Strategic Priorities, accomplishments to date, work in progress, opportunities for refinements, and a list of recommended ordinances.

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

SUBJECT: Affirm and/or Refine Existing Strategic Priorities and Determine the Priorities for Ordinances

DATE: January 19, 2023

DISCUSSION:

Staff Capacity

The Town of Los Gatos provides the key local government services of Public Works, Parks, Library, Police, and Community Development with the necessary support services of Information Technology, Finance, Clerk, and Human Resources. The Town Manager's Office leads and guides these administrative duties and closely collaborates with the Town Attorney's Office to support the work of the Town Council. From the Council's priority setting, the work of the Town Departments and Commissions is aligned to meet these Priorities.

As a service organization, each Department devotes approximately 90% of its staff time and other budget resources providing core services to the community. These core services contribute to the quality of life in Los Gatos and were recently affirmed through a community survey. The community is accustomed to high quality municipal services provided by talented, skilled, and caring employees. Some of these services had to evolve given the COVID-19 pandemic and in response to the changing needs of the community. In addition, Town Departments have had to absorb new work required by State mandates without adding new employees. Based on the Council's leadership, staff is also implementing community vitality and economic recovery actions to assist businesses, residents, and non-profits during these challenging times.

The remaining 10% or so of Department resources are allocated to special projects, such as Strategic Priorities. All of these services and projects are supported by the Town's Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets.

As we learned last week, the same staff who work on these initiatives are also an integral part of the Town's response in an emergency. For all of these reasons, the Town organization has no idle capacity for big, new Priorities.

Existing Strategic Priorities

Attachment 1 depicts the Ongoing 2022-2024 Priorities, organized under the major topics of Safety, Prudent Financial Management, Quality of Life, and Traffic/Transportation. Per Council direction, the depiction of the Priorities show the interconnectedness of the major topics.

Accomplishments. Several items were accomplished during 2022, including the reinvigoration of community policing; sale of the Venue to Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District; entry into the lease for the Los Gatos Theatre; the construction of the Dittos Lane Affordable Housing Development; adoption of Objective Standards for multi-family development projects; voter approved measure to modernize the Business License Tax; funding for wildfire mitigation

DISCUSSION (continued):

vegetation management; and implementation of a pilot downtown business employee parking permit program.

Work in Progress. There are important efforts underway in each category. For **Traffic/Transportation**, these efforts include wayfinding for downtown parking; a nexus study for an update to the Town's Traffic Impact Fee and a potential Vehicle Miles Traveled Fee; and several active transportation improvements that are in the design and/or bidding phase.

Under **Prudent Financial Management**, the Town continues to put funding aside for future pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits obligations; the Finance Commission is discussing new revenue opportunities and other ways to address the Town's fiscal challenges; and the Town is working on the potential transfer of New York Avenue and other streets to the High School District.

With respect to **Safety**, the Police Department has made great strides in many aspects of public safety as discussed at the January 17, 2023, Council meeting. In addition, the Town is continuing to manage roadway vegetation to reduce the Town's risk of wildfire and seek funding for a siren system as identified in the Ad Hoc Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Emergency preparedness activities, including Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) recruitment and training, are ongoing. The Holiday Parade and the recent storms provided an excellent opportunity for Town staff to work with CERT and our Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to augment our lean resources.

A variety of efforts are underway in the **Quality of Life** category. The Town Manager's Office is taking the lead in preparing a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan as directed by Town Council, which should be finished in Summer 2023. The Senior Road Map is nearing completion by the Senior Services Committee. Economic and community vitality efforts are well underway, including the semi-permanent parklet program, the extraordinary rebounding of community events, and technical assistance to businesses seeking to locate or expand in Los Gatos. Town staff continue to enhance the variety of communication methods with the community to foster engagement in Town efforts, including but not limited to Farmers Market booths, expanded social media presence, website redesign, and pushing out information regarding community workshops, Council meetings, and other participation opportunities.

The Housing Element is scheduled for Council consideration next week with follow up work to refine the document in response to the California Department of Housing and Community Development comment letter. The Housing Element is the Town's affordable housing plan. Once the Housing Element is certified, the Town must begin to work on key implementation

SUBJECT: Affirm and/or Refine Existing Strategic Priorities and Determine the Priorities for Ordinances

DATE: January 19, 2023

DISCUSSION (continued):

programs as required by State law (e.g., rezoning the properties identified in the Sites Inventory). While the 2040 General Plan was adopted in 2022, a referendum on the Land Use and Community Design Elements necessitates further Council direction after the certification of the Housing Element. The adopted 2040 General Plan also contains a large number of Implementation Programs to be completed during 2020-2025, annually, or on an ongoing basis (Attachment 2). There are a lot of important items, including actions in the updated Environment and Sustainability Element; however, staff is not asking the Council to prioritize any of those items and add them to Strategic Priorities until the Housing Element work, including site rezonings, is complete.

The Council adopted an Ordinance to provide local rules for the implementation of Senate Bill 9 and directed additional work which is scheduled for Council consideration in February.

Opportunities for Refinements. The Council is welcome to refine the existing Priorities, clarify its objectives, and/or provide additional direction. For example, the Town Council may want to provide initial direction on two Town properties (224 W. Main and Pine/Calfhill Court) as part of the “sell or lease certain Town properties” under Prudent Financial Management.

List of Ordinances

A growing aspect of municipal governance is the proliferation of state mandated laws which require local ordinance development. In addition, decisions by the courts are mandating local ordinances to implement their rulings.

In coordination with all Town Departments, the Town Attorney has provided a list of potential ordinances to amend the Town Code in Attachment 3. This list is in priority order based on work already in progress, State laws, service delivery, and emerging conditions. The Council is welcome to adjust the priorities for this work.

Public Comments

Attachment 4 contains public comments received prior to 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 20, 2023. The comments include a mix of policy, service, and budget requests.

Priority Setting Process

After review of the materials and consideration of public testimony, the Council may take the following steps to set priorities:

1. Affirm and/or refine the current Strategic Priorities; and
2. Determine the priority order of potential ordinances.

SUBJECT: Affirm and/or Refine Existing Strategic Priorities and Determine the Priorities for Ordinances

DATE: January 19, 2023

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS:

The completion of the Strategic Priorities aligns the work of the Town Departments, Boards, Commissions, and Committees. The Council's affirmation of existing Priorities and any refinements inform the Council's budget direction discussion scheduled for February 21 and the preparation of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2023/24 Operating and Capital Budgets for Council consideration in May.

Specifically, on February 21, the Town Council is scheduled to discuss the Five-Year Financial Forecast and the sensitivity of the Forecast to changes in key revenue and expenditure assumptions (i.e., alternative scenarios). As part of this discussion, the Council may direct forecast revisions. The Five-Year Forecast provides important context to the Town Council's budget direction for the preparation of the Proposed Budget.

The Finance Commission is scheduled to discuss these same financial items at its February 13th meeting, providing any comments and recommendations for Council consideration.

COORDINATION:

The preparation of this report was coordinated with all Town Departments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The work of this session together with the Council's budget direction in February informs the preparation of the upcoming Fiscal Year 2023/24 Operating and Capital Budgets. The Priority setting session itself has no fiscal impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The Council's work associated with Strategic Priorities is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

Attachments:

1. 2022-2024 Strategic Priorities
2. Los Gatos 2040 General Plan Implementation Programs 2020-2025, Annual, and Ongoing
3. Ordinance List
4. Public Comments received prior to 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 20, 2023



Ongoing Strategic Priorities 2022-2024

SAFETY

- Community Policing
- Emergency Preparedness
 - CERT Recruitment & Training
 - EOC Readiness & Emergency Plan Development
- Fire Protection
 - Vegetation Management
 - Implementation of Ad Hoc Wildfire Mitigation Plan

PRUDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Address Pension & OPEB Obligations
- Explore New Revenue Opportunities
- Sell or Lease Certain Town Properties

QUALITY OF LIFE

- Community Vitality
 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Efforts
 - Community Where Older Adults Thrive & Senior Road Map
 - Events & Other Town-Wide Efforts
 - Community Engagement
 - Environmental Sustainability/Climate Resiliency
- Economic Vitality & Pandemic Recovery
 - Policies & Ordinances
 - Semi-Permanent Parklets
- Land Use Planning
 - General Plan 2040
 - Housing Element
 - Affordable Housing
 - Dittos Lane Affordable Housing
 - Objective Standards
 - SB9 Implementation

TRAFFIC/TRANSPORTATION

- Comprehensive Parking Study
 - Short, Medium, and Long-Term Actions
- Transportation Demand Management
 - Measure B Transportation Projects
 - Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements
 - Community Shuttle
 - Summer/Rush Hour/School Traffic
 - Regional Transportation Issues

Element	Programs		Responsible, Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	Annual	Ongoing
RSEJ	A	Community-Based Budget Process. Develop and facilitate a community-based budgeting process to provide the public an opportunity to identify funding priorities annually. This program could feature in-person and online engagement opportunities.	Town Manager		■	
RSEJ	B	Equity Evaluation of the Proposed Budget. Annually evaluate the proposed Capital Improvement Budget and any service expansion/contraction in the Operating Budget to ensure that all neighborhoods are treated equitably in the availability of services and infrastructure investment.	Town Manager		■	
RSEJ	C	Town Staff Diversity and Other Training. Require all Town staff to undergo on-going diversity and implicit bias training.	Town Manager	■		■
RSEJ	D	Expand Recruitment for Town Employment Opportunities to Attract Diverse Candidates. Determine effective recruitment strategies to attract diverse candidates to Town employment opportunities. Work with educational institutions and other entities to promote local government job opportunities with middle school, high school, technical school, and college students.	Town Manager, Human Resources	■		
RSEJ	E	Social and Racial Justice Equality Survey. Develop an annual survey which measures the successfulness of advancing social equity and diversity Town-wide.	Town Manager	■	■	
RSEJ	F	Social and Racial Justice Commission. Form a Social and Racial Justice Commission that will serve as an advisory board to the Town Council to advance the Town's racial equity work.	Town Manager	■		■
RSEJ	G	Racial, Social, and Environmental Justice Outreach. Develop clear and inclusive outreach materials to increase and advance racial, social, and environmental justice initiatives.	Town Manager	■		■
RSEJ	H	Career and Job Training. Coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations to organize an annual career and job fair with local employers to highlight local employment and employment training opportunities for Los Gatos residents.	Town Manager	■	■	
RSEJ	I	Diversity, Sensitivity, and Awareness Training. Develop diversity, sensitivity, and awareness training courses and curriculum for residents, business owners, and local organizations to take part in. Training could include, but is not limited to, an informational column in the weekly newsletter and/or links to recommended online material, lectures, and community engagement events.	Town Manager	■		■

Element	Programs		Responsible, Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	Annual	Ongoing
RSEJ	J	Citizens Police Academy. Implement a Citizens Police Academy, or similar program, to educate community members in law enforcement policies, practices, and problem-solving, as well as promoting the opportunity for one-on-one interaction with Department members in a relaxed environment.	Town Manager, Police Department	■		■
RSEJ	K	Community Engagement. Develop mechanisms to communicate and engage members of the community who are not typically active in civic issues to foster relationships with the Town and the Police Department. This can be accomplished by leveraging technology and by focusing resources on non-enforcement interaction with the community.	Town Manager, Police Department	■		■
RSEJ	L	Acceptance of Food Vouchers. Research the viability of increasing support for the acceptance of food vouchers at local food retailers and farmers markets.	Town Manager	■		
RSEJ	N	Capital Improvement Prioritization. Create a defined set of criteria that measures and prioritizes equitable distribution of Capital Improvement (CI) Projects Town-wide.	Parks and Public Works, Town Manager	■		■
RSEJ	Q	Expand Outreach and Communication Materials to Enhance Transparency and Participation. Develop clear and inclusive outreach materials, expand media campaigns, and implement other strategies to engage the public in the Town's processes.	Town Manager			■
MOB	A	Annual Progress Report. Provide a periodic progress report to measure whether the VMT implementation measures are successful at reducing the overall VMT.	Parks and Public Works	■		
MOB	B	Transportation Analysis Guidelines. Develop and adopt transportation analysis (TA) guidelines that define the VMT analysis methods, significant impact thresholds, TDM programs, and mitigation programs consistent with the requirements of Senate Bill 743.	Parks and Public Works	■		
MOB	C	Nexus Study to Implement the Transportation Impact Fee Program. Perform a nexus study and implement the Town's multimodal transportation impact fee (TIF) program to mitigate negative transportation impacts of new developments and redevelopments where appropriate.	Parks and Public Works			■
MOB	D	Community Shuttle System. Evaluate a community shuttle system to serve transit needs within the Town limits that is linked to and coordinated with other transit services.	Parks and Public Works, Town Manager	■		
MOB	E	Educational Programs on Safe Bicycling. Continue to coordinate with local organizations to provide educational programs on safe bicycling practices for cyclists of all ages and experience levels.	Parks and Public Works			■

Element	Programs		Responsible, Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	Annual	Ongoing
MOB	F	Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update. Update the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan periodically to reflect the Town's priorities.	Parks and Public Works			■
MOB	G	Sidewalk Maintenance Plan. Maintain sidewalks, ensuring hazard free sidewalk surfaces and the provision of adequate vertical and lateral clearance.	Parks and Public Works			■
MOB	K	Public Trails on Private Property. Monitor conservation easements for public trails on private property to ensure that trails are maintained.	Parks and Public Works			■
MOB	N	Address Cut Through Traffic. Develop and implement appropriate vehicle control devices to reduce the impacts of cut-through traffic such as safety hazards, speeding, noise, and other disturbances in accordance with the adopted Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy.	Parks and Public Works	■		
MOB	O	VTA System Enhancements. Coordinate with VTA to identify locations for and implementation of in-lane bus stopping at key locations with merge challenges and where queue jump treatments for busses at intersections would be possible and effective, and pursue funding for design and implementation of queue jump treatments from new development, either through individual project contributions or the Town's Transportation Impact Fee program.	Parks and Public Works	■		
MOB	Q	Maintain Emergency Access Points. Develop and adopt design standards and implement a maintenance program for emergency access points.	Parks and Public Works, Town Manager	■		
MOB	R	Review Parking Requirements. Periodically review Town Code parking requirements, standards, and parking controls to ensure that they are adequate to meet demand.	Police Department, Community Development			■
PFS	A	Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. Review and update the Town's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance with improved large landscape conservation programs and agency incentives for non-residential customers.	Community Development	■		
PFS	B	Water Audit Programs. In collaboration with efforts by local water purveyors, promote water audit programs that offer free water audits to single-family, multi-family, large landscape accounts, and commercial customers. Collaborate with purveyors to enact conservation programs for commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) accounts and create programs to install ultra-low-flush toilets in facilities.	Parks and Public Works, Community Development	■		
PFS	C	Artificial Turf. Determine the appropriate use of artificial turf and consideration of alternative ground covers.	Parks and Public Works, Community Development	■		
PFS	D	Dual Plumbing Incentives. Develop incentives for dual plumbing in new development.	Community Development	■		

Element	Programs		Responsible, Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	Annual	Ongoing
PFS	F	List of Priorities for Storm Drain System Improvements. Develop a list of priorities for improvements to the storm drain system based upon the Storm Drain Master Plan.	Parks and Public Works	■		
PFS	G	Green Stormwater Infrastructure. Incorporate Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) elements, such as infiltration and biotreatment, into Town projects to provide opportunities for stormwater collection and treatment, per the Town's GSI Plan.	Parks and Public Works			■
PFS	H	Green Stormwater in Complete Streets Policy. Modify the Town's Complete Streets Policy to include Green Stormwater Infrastructure.	Parks and Public Works	■		
PFS	I	Waste Education. Expand educational programs to inform residents about reuse, recycling, composting, waste to energy, and zero waste programs.	Parks and Public Works			■
PFS	J	Energy Saving Steps. Continue to adopt the following energy saving steps for Town facilities and operations: § Conduct, with assistance from PG&E, a thorough energy audit of all Town facilities to identify cost-effective opportunities for conservation and use of solar energy systems; § Establish realistic yearly goals for reductions in Town energy costs and keep Town personnel aware of program status; and § Establish a fuel conservation program for the Town vehicle fleet and require Gas Cap driver training for all employees who use fleet vehicles.	Parks and Public Works			■
PFS	K	Improve Efficiency in Existing Buildings. Study possible measures to improve energy and water efficiency in existing buildings.	Parks and Public Works	■		
PFS	L	Encourage Sustainable Purchasing Practices. Develop policies, incentives, and design guidelines that encourage the public and private purchase and use of durable and nondurable items, including building materials, made from recycled materials or renewable resources.	Finance	■		
PFS	M	Energy Conservation Requirements. Amend the Town Code to establish regulations, in addition to Title 24 requirements, that promote and require the conservation of energy and the use of renewable energy sources.	Community Development	■		
PFS	N	Outdoor Lighting Standards. Establish outdoor lighting standards in the Town Code to address energy efficiency, dark sky conservation, and healthy ecosystems.	Community Development	■		
PFS	P	Staff Training. Train all plan review and building inspection staff in green building and energy efficiency materials, techniques, and practices.	Community Development	■		

Element	Programs		Responsible, Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	Annual	Ongoing
PFS	Q	Facilitate Green Building Practices. Identify and remove regulatory or procedural barriers to implementing green building practices in the Town, by updating codes and guidelines, and identifying incentives for LEED certification or similar.	Community Development	■		
PFS	S	LEED Exceptions Program. Establish a LEED Certification Exception Program and Checklist for small businesses who can prove it is financially infeasible to cover the costs for LEED Certification, but still want to reap the benefits, while implementing required sustainable building and construction practices.	Community Development	■		
PFS	T	Annual Review of Health and Service Programs Program Review. Annually review health services programs the Town supports to assure they meet the health needs of target groups.	Town Manager		■	
PFS	U	Identification of Missing Services. Identify health services that are not readily available in Los Gatos and add them to the Town's economic vitality efforts.	Town Manager	■		
PFS	V	Identify the Needs of Youth. Town staff shall meet with agencies as needed to identify the needs of youth in the community.	Town Manager, Library			■
PFS	X	Display of Youth Artwork. Encourage youth art by periodically displaying youth artwork in gallery space in the Town Council Chambers, Library, and the Civic Center.	Town Manager, Library	■		
PFS	Y	Develop Internet Safety Program. Work with the Library, Police Department, and LGS Recreation to create a program to educate youth about internet use safety.	Town Manager, Library, Police Department	■		
PFS	Z	Encourage Positive Behavioral Choices. Work with local schools and other community organizations to educate and encourage positive behavioral choices.	Police Department			■
PFS	AA	Promote Youth and Senior Programs. Continue to utilize traditional communication tools and new media and technology to promote youth and senior programs as best suited to meet their needs.	Town Manager, Library, Police Department			■
PFS	BB	Involve Youth Commission. Create additional opportunities to involve the Youth Commission with other Town Commissions.	Town Manager			■
PFS	CC	Continuation of Community Unity Program. Continue the Community Unity program to encourage youth and adult volunteer opportunities and access to resources.	Town Manager, Police Department			■
PFS	DD	Support Family Education. Support continuation of positive parenting and family relationship courses and programs provided by regional agencies and other resources.	Library, Police Department			■

Element	Programs		Responsible, Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	Annual	Ongoing
PFS	FF	Identification of Safety Improvements. Identify safety improvements that will allow for safe walking and bicycling to schools.	Parks and Public Works, Police Department	■		
PFS	HH	Collaboration with LGS Recreation. Collaborate with the LGS Recreation and other local organizations to develop a program to provide additional social, educational, recreational, and fitness programs for seniors.	Town Manager	■		
PFS	II	Connect with Seniors. Connect seniors with existing resources in the community.	Town Manager			■
PFS	JJ	Set Funding Priorities. Annually set funding priorities which include funds for senior needs.	Town Manager, Finance	■		
PFS	KK	Coordination with VTA. Seek funding and coordinate with VTA to provide lower prices or subsidized public transit fares for seniors.	Parks and Public Works, Town Manager	■		
PFS	MM	Update Disaster Preparedness Tools. Update as needed, communication tools to encourage disaster preparedness for neighborhoods, and make it available to all residents.	Town Manager, Police Department	■		
PFS	OO	Funding Opportunities for the Library. Investigate various funding mechanisms for ongoing operation and expansion of the library facility, services, and programs.	Library Services, Town Manager		■	
PFS	SS	Limit Alcohol and Tobacco Outlets. Explore establishing zoning code limitations on the density of alcohol and tobacco outlets near sensitive receptors such as schools, childcare facilities, senior housing, parks, etc., consistent with State law.	Town Manager, Community Development	■		
OSPR	B	Hillside Development Standards and Guidelines. Update the Hillside Development Standards and Guidelines as needed to include measures that address open space in new development.	Community Development			■
OSPR	C	Review Open Space Standards. Review and update the open space standards as needed, specifying the type and quantity of open space required for new developments.	Community Development			■
OSPR	D	Develop a Los Gatos Creek Restoration Plan. Work with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the California Department of Fish and Game, and Caltrans to seek, develop, and obtain funding for the restoration of channelized segments of Los Gatos Creek.	Parks and Public Works	■		
OSPR	E	Identify Los Gatos Creek Trail Access Opportunities. Identify additional opportunities and funding mechanisms for restoration projects and trail connection opportunities to increase access along the Los Gatos Creek Trail.	Parks and Public Works	■		
OSPR	H	Assess Existing Parks. Conduct an assessment of existing parks to identify any unmet recreational needs and implement new facilities as parks are upgraded.	Parks and Public Works	■		

Element	Programs		Responsible, Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	Annual	Ongoing
OSPR	I	Install Park Signage. Install interpretive signage at parks when feasible and appropriate, providing a description of features such as the park's history, native species that live in or near the park, accessibility indicator (level of difficulty), and existing or historic waterways.	Parks and Public Works			■
OSPR	J	Adopt Best Management Practices. Adopt Best Management Practice park service standards for the Town.	Parks and Public Works	■		
ENV	B	Tree Ordinance. Review the Tree Ordinance periodically and update as necessary to ensure regulations meet leading standards for tree health practices.	Parks and Public Works, Community Development			■
ENV	C	Williamson Act. Work to maintain Williamson Act agricultural preserve contracts in the Town and SOI.	Community Development			■
ENV	D	Re-Designation of Properties Not in Williamson Act. Designate all Williamson Act properties Agriculture and remove the Agriculture designation for those properties that are no longer under the Williamson Act.	Community Development			■
ENV	E	Ecosystem Protection. Promote and support ecosystem protection and environmental education programs for residents and developers.	Parks and Public Works			■
ENV	F	Landscape Maintenance Education. Develop and provide education programs for Town staff, residents, and developers regarding landscape maintenance, soil health and retention, and irrigation practices that protect the urban forest and wildlife species, along with water supplies.	Parks and Public Works, Community Development			■
ENV	L	Recreational Trails. Limit development of recreational trails in riparian corridors.	Parks and Public Works			■
ENV	N	Bird Safety Ordinance. Adopt a Bird Safety Ordinance to reduce bird collisions with windows that provide development standards and performance measures that regulate building design and lighting implementation.	Community Development	■		
ENV	O	Dark Skies Ordinance. Adopt a Dark Skies Ordinance that addresses light pollution, building lighting design, and impacts to wildlife.	Community Development	■		
ENV	P	Air Quality Standards. Adopt standards that target reduction of very fine particulate matter (PM2.5) through a combination of incentive programs and control measures, as well as establishing standards for other criteria pollutants.	Community Development	■		
ENV	Q	Development Near Heavily Traveled Roads. Implement BAAQMD standards for designing buildings that will be situated near heavily travelled roads to minimize exposure to vehicle emissions.	Community Development	■		

Element	Programs		Responsible, Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	Annual	Ongoing
ENV	S	Particulate Matter. Promote understanding of health impacts from particulate emissions and offer information to residents and businesses about steps for reducing particulate matter, such as reducing or eliminating wood-burning stoves and fireplaces or transitioning to “green” dry cleaning facilities.	Community Development	■		
ENV	T	Alternatives to Individual Auto Use. Develop a comprehensive TDM program to encourage ride sharing, biking, walking, and other alternatives to individual auto use.	Parks and Public Works	■		
ENV	U	EV Charging Stations. Update the Zoning Ordinance to establish a ratio for electric vehicle charging stations as a ratio of total required parking for new projects or substantial renovations.	Community Development	■		
ENV	V	Electric Vehicle Parking Incentives. Provide incentives, such as giving priority in plan review, processing, and field inspection services, for new and existing commercial and residential projects that provide parking spaces reserved for electric vehicles and have a charging connection.	Community Development	■		
ENV	W	Sustainability Information Center. Establish and maintain a “sustainability information center” at Town Hall to inform the public and distribute brochures and provide information.	Community Development	■		
ENV	Y	Design Review Standards for GHG Emissions. Develop applicable Planning and Building design standards to evaluate a project’s contribution to GHG emissions and bring all planning materials into line with these standards.	Community Development	■		
ENV	Z	Continually Assess Local Climate Change Vulnerabilities. Every five years, Town staff shall reassess progress toward GHG reduction goals and update the Sustainability Plan to ensure continued progress in reducing GHG emissions from operation of Town facilities and services and from the community.	Community Development			■
ENV	AA	Green Building Initiatives. Develop an incentive program to encourage individuals and businesses to complete green retrofits on properties through incentives such as tax credits and financing opportunities.	Town Manager	■		
ENV	BB	Heat Island Mitigation Guidelines. Prepare specific heat island mitigation building guidelines in line with the Sustainability Plan and the Green Building Ordinance (Ordinance 2257). Amend applicable building and remodel Commercial Design Guidelines to integrate these specific guidelines.	Community Development	■		

Element	Programs		Responsible, Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	Annual	Ongoing
ENV	CC	Plant Based Education. Develop and implement a plan to educate and support residents about the environmental, economic, and social benefits of shifting to a plant-based diet, examples of which may include informational materials, educational programs, community events, coordination with schools and businesses, or guidelines for procurement.	Library, Town Manager	■		
ENV	DD	Climate Change Education. Work with local organizations to support educational programs that raise awareness about climate change and resiliency actions, including ways residents and business owners can contribute to GHG reduction, including increased recycling opportunities (hazardous household waste, e-waste, and large household items).	Town Manager, Parks and Public Works	■		
ENV	FF	Regional Cooperation. Collaborate with large regional employers to increase availability of ride share and other programs from Los Gatos to corporate campuses and central areas in Silicon Valley cities where the employers are located.	Town Manager			■
ENV	GG	Upgrade Town's Vehicle Fleet. Identify opportunities to increase and/or change the Town's vehicle fleet to maximize the use of alternative fuels.	Parks and Public Works	■		
ENV	HH	Green Building Technical Assistance. Provide technical assistance, directly or through referral services as appropriate, to developers and homeowners wishing to incorporate green building techniques.	Community Development	■		
ENV	KK	Solid Waste Reduction. Adopt programs that reduce the number of materials entering the solid waste stream to achieve Statewide waste reduction targets.	Parks and Public Works	■		
ENV	LL	Recycling Access. Revise recycling facility requirement to include a variety of waste-reduction facilities, including food and garden composting and hazardous waste.	Parks and Public Works	■		
ENV	MM	Zero Waste Education. Provide ongoing education about the environmental benefits of reducing wasteful consumption and avoiding products with excessive packaging, recycling, refilling empty containers, separating food and yard waste for composting, and using rechargeable batteries, among other topics.	Parks and Public Works, Town Manger			■
ENV	OO	Solar Implementation in Los Gatos. Incentivize installation of roof-top solar and onsite energy storage on all new construction, including parking facilities, using the latest in green building technology.	Community Development	■		
ENV	RR	Adaptive Reuse. Develop a policy to address adaptive reuse of historic buildings including mixed-use, arts spaces, and other innovative uses that help preserve the historic nature while making the buildings usable spaces.	Community Development, Parks and Public Works	■		

Element	Programs		Responsible, Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	Annual	Ongoing
ENV	SS	History Archives. Seek funding to support preservation and curation of the local history archive at the Los Gatos Public Library.	Library	■		
ENV	TT	Indigenous People Language. Review and update language used in the Environment and Sustainability Element in regards to Indigenous People to be consistent with the Town's work on a land acknowledgement.	Community Development, Town Manager	■		
ENV	WW	Water Reuse. Develop an ordinance and guidelines to provide for the installation of grey water reuse in residential and business uses, particularly for landscape irrigation.	Community Development	■		
ENV	YY	Sustainable Water Practices. Educate residents and businesses about low-water landscaping, limited pesticide application, and other water-sustaining practices. Implement these in municipal practices.	Parks and Public Works, Community Development			■
ENV	ZZ	Water Audit Programs. In collaboration with efforts by local water purveyors, promote water audit programs that offer free water audits to single-family, multi-family, large landscape accounts, and commercial customers. Collaborate with purveyors to enact conservation programs for commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) accounts and create programs to install ultra-low-flush toilets in facilities.	Parks and Public Works, Community Development			■
ENV	CCC	Require Noise Buffers. Amend the Town Code to require buffers or separation between noise-generating uses and noise-sensitive uses.	Community Development, Parks and Public Works	■		
ENV	GGG	Study Gardening Equipment Ban. Study a ban that requires gardening equipment to be mitigated when it creates adverse noise.	Community Development	■		
SAF	A	Plan Review. Annually review and refresh key staff on the contents of the Los Gatos Hazards and Safety Element, the Santa Clara OAHMP, and the Los Gatos HMP to ensure processes and procedures are streamlined and coordinated.	Town Manager, Community Development, Parks and Public Works, Police Department, SCC Fire Department		■	
SAF	B	Review Emergency Services. Regularly review the adequacy of emergency services in the Town. Plan and develop law enforcement infrastructure and technology according to overall need and Town growth.	Town Manager, Police Department, SCC Fire Department			■
SAF	C	Evacuation Routes and Planning. Develop, evaluate, maintain, and update evacuation routes and protocols for high-risk fire hazard areas, SRA's, and VHFHSZ's that are consistent with AB 747 and local ordinances (Title 14, CCR, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, Articles 2 and 3 (commencing with section 1273.00)). As necessary prepare improvement plans that identify appropriate mitigation measures to further implementation of evacuation routes.	Town Manager, Police Department, SCC Fire Department	■		■

Element	Programs		Responsible, Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	Annual	Ongoing
SAF	D	Emergency Drills. Conduct emergency hazard drills with key stakeholder organizations, community groups and organizations, outside agencies, and local and County officials across the community to improve preparedness for known threats and hazards.	Town Manager, Police Department, SCC Fire Department			■
SAF	E	Hazard Preparedness. Coordinate with regional agencies to update and distribute information on how to prepare for and lessen the potential impact of earthquakes, floods, fires, public health emergency, and other safety hazards. Help and encourage all households to prepare for two weeks of self-sufficiency	Town Manager, Police Department, SCC Fire Department	■		
SAF	F	Fire Safety Education. Provide public education on fire safety, including wildland and structural fire prevention, evacuation protocols, and guidelines for defensible space and other hazards around structures.	Town Manager, Community Development, Fire Department			■
SAF	G	Wildfire Protection Plan. Create a checklist for applicants to complete and submit a fire protection plan to assess and mitigate fire risks for all new development within SRA's and VHFHSZ's. Fire protection plans shall include: 1. Risk analysis; 2. Fire response capabilities assessment; 3. Fire safety requirements (i.e., defensible space, infrastructure, and building ignition resistance); 4. Mitigation measures and design considerations for nonconforming fuel modification; 5. Wildfire education strategies; and 6. Plan maintenance and limitations.	SCC Fire Department, Community Development	■		
SAF	H	Review of Fire Related Ordinances. Update the Town's development standards to either directly adopt or meet the minimum standards of title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1-5 (commencing with section 1270) (SRA Fire Safe Regulations) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations) for SRAs and/or VHFHSZs.	Town Manager, SCC Fire Department	■		■
SAF	I	Hillside Roadway Assessment. Coordinate with Santa Clara County Fire Department to assess hillside roadway access to allow efficient evacuation for residents and access for emergency personnel vehicles.	Parks and Public Works, SCC Fire Department, Town Manager			■
SAF	J	Disaster Recovery. Ensure the Town has a disaster recovery plan in place that is reviewed and updated as needed, at a minimum of every five years. The plan should include an interim recovery strategy, model post-disaster recovery ordinance, and a post-disaster re-development plan.	Town Manager, Community Development, Parks and Public Works, SCC Fire Department	■		
SAF	K	Test Essential Bridges. Every five years, assess the Town's bridges whose destruction would cause serious access and other problems after an earthquake.	Parks and Public Works			■

Element	Programs		Responsible, Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	Annual	Ongoing
SAF	L	Ensure Earthquake Safety in Essential Town Buildings. Ensure Town structures that house essential functions are earthquake safe.	Town Manager, Community Development			■
SAF	M	Retrofit. Provide information for seismic retrofits of structures throughout the Town, particularly those building types that would affect the most people in the event of an earthquake.	Community Development, Parks and Public Works			■
SAF	N	Review Flood Zones. Annually review all areas subject to flooding as identified by FEMA or the State Department of Water Resources, as required by AB 162.	Parks and Public Works, Community Development		■	
SAF	O	Prevent Inappropriate Development in Flood Areas. Adopt floodplain zoning to prevent inappropriate development in areas subject to flooding.	Community Development	■		
SAF	P	Flood Mitigation. Implement flood mitigation requirements of FEMA in Special Flood Hazard Areas as illustrated on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps.	Community Development, Parks and Public Works			■
SAF	Q	FEMA Community Rating System. Participate in FEMA's Community Rating System to reduce flood insurance for local residents and businesses.	Community Development, Parks and Public Works			■
SAF	R	Public Health Messaging. Collaborate with community partners and stakeholders to develop, test, and disseminate timely public health messaging to targeted populations through trusted representatives or spokespersons.	Town Manager			■



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
OFFICE OF THE TOWN ATTORNEY

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Councilmembers
From: Gabrielle Whelan, Town Attorney
Date: January 20, 2023
Subject: Ordinance Priorities

The Town Attorney's Office is continually evaluating the Town Code for needed updates and provides this memorandum to assist the Town Council in its Priority Setting Session. The list is in order of recommended priority. As you know, issues may arise during the year that can alter these priorities.

1. Amendment to Town's Concealed Carry Weapons Ordinance and Adoption of "Sensitive Places" Ordinance

The Town Code includes an ordinance authorizing applications for "concealed carry weapons" permits. This ordinance needs to be updated in order to comply with a recent Supreme Court decision (New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen) holding that requiring "good cause" for the issuance of concealed carry weapons permits is unconstitutional. In addition, staff recommends that the Town Council consider adoption of an ordinance prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons in "sensitive places" such as public buildings and schools.

2. Various Zoning Code Amendments to Comply with Updated Housing Element.

State law requires that General Plans and Zoning Codes be internally consistent. The Town will need to update its Zoning Code to comport with the Town's Updated Housing Element.

3. Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance

The Town should update its accessory dwelling unit ("ADU") ordinance to comply with recent changes to State law, which include the following:

- a. Allowance of separate conveyance of ADU under specified conditions;
- b. Reduced application review time; and
- c. Exemptions and limitations on impact fees.

4. Density Bonus Ordinance

The Town should update its density bonus ordinance to comply with recent changes to State law, which include the following:

- a. Reduced parking requirements; and
- b. Limits on impact fees charged to affordable units.

5. Lot Merger/Adjustment Ordinance

Lot Mergers occur when two or more parcels are combined into a single legal parcel. The Town's existing process to merge parcels does not comply with the State Subdivision Map Act, which preempts local ordinances, and must be revised. The Planning Commission has reviewed and recommended the proposed ordinance and the proposed ordinance is scheduled for introduction at the Town Council's February 7th meeting.

6. Sign Ordinance

The Town's Sign Ordinance was adopted in 1976 and was last updated and amended in 1992. Based upon the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Reed v. Town of Gilbert, the Town's current Sign Ordinance should be revised to remove content-based regulations. In addition, the Sign Ordinance should be updated to clarify where temporary signage (such as campaign signage) may be located.

7. Subdivision Ordinance

The Town's subdivision ordinance needs to be clarified in a number of technical respects in coordination with an update to the Town's standard specifications regarding road width and drainage.

8. E-Bike Ordinance

E-Bikes have proliferated in the Town and staff recommend adopting an ordinance addressing their use, including requiring the use of helmets, imposing speed restrictions, and restricting E-Bikes in specified areas such as trails. The Youth Commission is currently developing proposed ordinance provisions with the Police Department.

9. Wireless Facilities Ordinance

The Town's current Wireless Facilities Ordinance was adopted in 2003 to conform to the 1996 Telecommunications Act. It should be updated to comply with the ongoing changes to State and Federal legislation. AT&T is proposing installations in the public right of way. Such installations could be on existing Town-owned structures, such as streetlight poles, or could involve the companies putting in their own new poles. The amendments should include siting

and design standards to preserve the aesthetics of the Town but to also facilitate providing competitive, varied, and high-quality wireless communications service infrastructure.

10. Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

The Town needs to amend its water efficient landscape ordinance to comply with updates to State law.

11. Parking Space Requirements Ordinance

The Town's parking space requirement should be updated. For example, staff recommended reducing the number of requested parking spots in hillside developments to reduce the need for grading.

12. Noise Ordinance

The Town's Noise Ordinance was adopted in 1991. With the changes to the Town's Entertainment Policy, the Town needs to analyze and determine whether the noise levels set forth in the Noise Ordinance adequately protect the residents of Los Gatos from unnecessary, excessive, and disturbing noise and vibration.

13. Tobacco Retailer Ordinance

The Town has partnered with the County of Santa Clara to establish a tobacco retailing program that regulates the sale of tobacco products and prohibits the sale of specified tobacco products to minors. The County has recently updated the countywide ordinance and the Town needs to update its ordinance to match County requirements in order for the County to continue enforcement in the Town.

14. Public Nuisance /Blight/Administrative Abatement Hearing Ordinance

It would be helpful to develop a comprehensive public nuisance ordinance to clearly define public nuisances and clearly set forth the Town's enforcement mechanisms. Also, the Town's Administrative Abatement of Violations section should be updated.

January 12, 2023

Los Gatos Town Council
110 E. Main St.
Los Gatos, CA, 95030
CC: Town Clerk

Honorable Mayor and Esteemed Town Council,

The Chamber of Commerce continues our efforts to keep an open dialogue with Town Council and Staff regarding certain initiatives we have identified as critical to our membership and the business community at large. We have previously discussed some of these same priorities with individual council members in November of 2021. As we head into this new post-election year, we would like to revisit that list and provide an update on our 2023 priorities. At the same time, we will reflect on some of the strides and progress we have made in the last two years. We look forward to working with the new Council and Staff in 2023, and as always offer our help and resources. We have learned we are much stronger and more efficient when we work together.

Priority #1 –2040 General Plan Land Use and Community Design Elements & HCD Housing Elements

As you are aware, a referendum was filed by the Los Gatos Community Alliance to repeal these two elements for the time being. Understandably, in order to move things along, Council voted to revert back to the 2020 GP as it related to these two elements, but that is not a solution. These elements are critical in that they provide the framework in which any new or proposed project can move forward. We need to bring new businesses to Town and we need new residents who will support our existing businesses and our workforce.

The Chamber of Commerce expects the Town Council will prioritize revision of these two elements of the General Plan as its highest priority to ensure they are in line with the vision of the citizens and business community. Revisions will also need the support of all advocacy groups including the LGCA and the Chamber of Commerce. We urge the Council to give clear direction to staff to call as many meetings, study sessions, special roundtables or whatever methods are necessary to engage with the aforementioned groups and the public to revise these elements and certify them along with the rest of the already certified General Plan.

To that end, we expect the withdrawal of the referendum by the LGCA once the public is satisfied with the revisions. Under no circumstances does the Chamber of Commerce or the business community believe it is reasonable for the referendum to remain in place and be put to a vote of the citizens in November 2024. We believe such a delay will continue to cause unnecessary wait times for potential projects which will greatly enhance and benefit our Town in multiple ways. This outcome would be an egregious demonstration of negligence by the Town, especially in light of all of the previous excessive delays the 2040 General Plan has experienced.

Acceptance of Housing Elements Plan By HCD

It goes without saying that the Council must prioritize the passage of our Housing Element – whatever it takes. Amendments to our current plan will need to be made and accepted before the end of March as we do not want to be exposed to any liability for non-compliance. Development standards will need to be determined to address concerns raised by the LGCA and others. It has come to our attention that

revisions may need to include more density in certain areas. Swift decision making, leadership and communication are crucial here.

Priority #2 – Budget

The structural budget deficit is of great concern to the Chamber of Commerce, the Business Community and to all residents. Cutting services as suggested will greatly impact the quality of life here in our Town as we know it and frankly, we cannot stand by and watch our vibrancy threatened. It is one of the goals of the Chamber to identify if funding will in fact be lost. Have we worked hard enough and collaborated enough to figure out other ways that we might save dollars or raise more? We have seen that with focus and collaboration progress happens. Over the past three years, Los Gatos has become more vibrant and is thriving. We cannot afford to lose the momentum we have built together. We need to take the necessary steps to not only maintain this momentum but look for new creative ways to find new revenue sources and truly be an innovative leader in Silicon Valley.

Priority #3 – Permit and Processing Streamlining

The Community Development and Economic Development departments made great strides in permit streamlining with policy changes made in 2018. Council Member Rennie alluded to this success in his comments at the December 13 Town Council meeting. This was a major milestone and we have seen the results with new businesses opening all over Town that have taken advantage of those updated policies. We still have a long way to go to create a healthy process and unfortunately, we feel we have lost some ground since the 13 policy changes went into effect.

At the moment, the biggest issue facing any business owner, developer, or home builder is the amount of time it takes to issue building permits for new projects. While we understand there are other agencies involved, such as SCCDEH and SCCFD, who are not necessarily under the Town's control, we still should be doing better. We need to work harder to improve the permit processing timelines. People will not pursue opening businesses to do business here if we do not remedy this situation soon. There has been some discussion previously, but we have yet to make any progress. Businesses opening translates to increased revenue, we should get them open as fast as possible!

The Chamber of Commerce requests that the Town Council prioritize conversations between Town Staff, the Chamber, business owners, and industry professionals to collaborate on new ways to get through the permitting process more quickly and efficiently. Taking 1-2 years to get a business open is unacceptable. We need to target a goal of 3-6 months.

Additionally, residents have started to engage the Chamber with their frustrations regarding their personal residential projects. This frustration affects local businesses such as architects, engineers, and contractors who are valued members of the Chamber of Commerce. We are compiling a list of some real examples of unnecessarily delayed projects that have been brought to our attention. At a macro level, it appears that the commercial and residential projects combined are overwhelming our Town staff. Town staff and the deciding bodies need to collaborate more closely and rely more on the recommendations of the licensed design professionals. There are no licensed design professionals on the deciding bodies which is causing unnecessary delays on non-critical issues. We hope we can collaborate and come up with effective ways to significantly shorten these permitting timelines. We believe we can leverage technology and create processes that will help and that we can then share those with neighboring cities. We are in the heart of Silicon Valley after all, so the resources to achieve this are certainly within reach.

Priority #4 – Destination Marketing

The Visitor and Information Center staff has worked hard to build the Visit Los Gatos brand, the destination marketing arm for Los Gatos. The social media and the destination website, in addition to the brick-and-mortar visitor and information center, are Visit Los Gatos. The money from our annual \$55k Contract for Services plus the \$55k ARPA 'one-time emergency destination marketing funds' that we received in 2021 helped us build this foundation over the past 18 months.

After successfully building the Brand with that increased funding, we have seen a direct positive impact on visitor spending ie: sales tax and TOT revenue. The Council needs to determine whether or not we want to be competitive to increase our share of the domestic travel market and potentially become a first-tier tourist destination.

If we truly want to be a shopping, dining, and tourism destination we need to come up with a strategy to achieve that together. Events programming, economic development, and destination marketing are key factors to achieving this goal. The Chamber of Commerce supports this effort and recommends that this should be one of Town Council's strategic priorities going forward. We urge Council to convene a work study session with stakeholders, Town staff, Chamber, Visit Los Gatos CA, Finance Commission, and hotel representatives to consider the direction going forward. Councilmember Hudes has suggested this type of roundtable discussion numerous times.

We are hopeful the Town Council recognizes the importance of this priority and quickly allocates time and resources. This is another area that can directly improve revenues realized by the Town.

Priority #5 – Parking Program

The Chamber of Commerce congratulates the Town Council and Staff on its initial efforts to implement the recommendations found in the Dixon Study. Although slow to start, it appears that the employee parking permit program is working well and we have received positive feedback thus far. We would like to ensure that the next steps in the program are moving forward. We assume that in the first half of 2023, you will continue to direct staff to follow the Dixon Report Roadmap. For example, we would like to see the installation of the Wayfinding Signage prior to any implementation of Pay to Stay programs. There is good evidence from other jurisdictions that it is prudent and cost effective to follow the Roadmap as it is laid out. As the aforementioned initiatives progress, we will see more shoppers, diners, and visitors come to Town. Being proactive with parking is critical to make sure they have an enjoyable experience and return.

Thank you for your consideration of the five issues that the Chamber believes are most important to the business community at this juncture. We look forward to our first Mayor-Town Manager-Chamber Meeting at which time we would like to also address a few of our secondary concerns. These include: the growing homeless crisis in Town; the fractured communication gap between the Chamber staff and the Town staff; special event collaboration for Promenades, Sounds of Summer, carriage rides, holiday parade and the reintroduction of a PBID, BID, or TID.

Sincerely,



Jim Foley
President - Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

From: Sue Ahmadian [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 12:36:25 PM
To: Maria Ristow <MRistow@losgatosca.gov>; Mary Badame <MBadame@losgatosca.gov>; Matthew Hudes <MHudes@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Moore <RMoore@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Rennie <RRennie@losgatosca.gov>
Cc: Steve Hall <STEVE.hall613@gmail.com>; Timothy O'Rorke <tj@timororke.com>
Subject: Designating an Overnight Warming Center in Los Gatos - 1/17 public comment email follow up

EXTERNAL SENDER

Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council members, this is the follow up email promised after my Public Comment at the 1/17 LG Council meeting. Our group, the St Vincent de Paul conference out of St Mary's Los Gatos would like to partner with the Council and any other group interested in designating an Overnight Warming Center (OWC) within Los Gatos during weather emergencies. In December, we identified just a few OWC's available to the homeless: Seven Trees Community Center (at capacity during the weather emergency) and Camden Community Center (almost at capacity). There were OWC's at Roosevelt Community Center and West Valley Branch Library on a referral basis. The VTA offered free rides to these OWC's.

We received calls and visits (usually after a weekday mass) from our homeless neighbors in December reporting washed out camps, destroyed tents and water soaked clothing, sleeping bags and blankets. We provided laundry vouchers via Los Gatos Laundry and as much material support as we could. In some cases we offered overnight lodging. We partner closely with St Lukes and Los Gatos United Methodist in their services to the homeless.

It was not easy or possible during the most recent severe weather days/nights for our local homeless to get to the closest OWL, Camden Community Center. When our members visited that site during the weather crisis the site was near capacity. They gave the site high marks for their efforts and services. We must have an additional space within Los Gatos that our neighbors can get to and stay overnight during a severe weather crisis that we know are becoming more frequent.

Our conference is very interested in any next steps you can propose. We are willing to partner with all interested groups and County agencies.

Thank you again for your time and service,
Sue Ahmadian
President, SVdP conference, St Mary's Los Gatos
cc: SVdP members; Steve Hall, Tim O'Rorke

From: Blake <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 1:37 PM
To: Council <Council@losgatosca.gov>
Cc: Police <Police@losgatosca.gov>
Subject: Re: [Belwood Belgatos] Traffic Safety on Blossom Hill Road

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

Thank you for your time and attention in last night's Town Council meeting and for hearing out the concerns of the Belwood-Belgatos community regarding traffic safety on BHR.

The turnout of both speakers and attendees far exceeded what I expected and we appreciate you providing the time and forum for us to express feedback.

I would also like to express thanks to LGMSPD. In recent days our neighborhood has observed an increase in traffic enforcement activity and officer visibility in this stretch of BHR. This is appreciated.

Looking forward, I would like to make a push to have some inclusion of this issue in the 2023 2025 Strategic Priorities.

The Council should expect to receive more written feedback from the community prior to the January 24th discussion, as well as in the meeting itself.

Without any change, it's only a matter of time before the next life-impacting event occurs on this stretch of road. When that occurs, I would like to think we are doing everything within reason to make improvements — and that it aligns with our priorities as a town.

I recognize and understand that interfacing with San Jose provides an additional challenge, but just because this is less straightforward does not take away from the importance and impact any improvements would make.

Thanks,
Blake Thornberry

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 2:40 PM Blake [REDACTED] wrote:
Los Gatos Town Council,

As you have likely heard from other constituents in the Belwood-Belgatos neighborhood, there was a tragic traffic accident yesterday at the intersection of Blossom Hill and Belgatos roads.

While many on both the LG and SJ sides of Blossom Hill Road were extremely saddened to witness this event on an otherwise quiet Sunday morning, I don't believe many of us were surprised.

The unsafe conditions presented by the **antiquated traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road** have been a common topic of discussion since I moved to Los Gatos in 2015.

I have documented in the attached PDF some of my concerns with traffic safety along Blossom Hill.

For the sake of my neighbors, friends, and family — and for the visitors to our neighborhood enjoying the beautiful Belgatos park or dropping their kids off at Mulberry School — I hope we can begin looking at ways to make safety improvements.

Driving to and from our neighborhood should not be the terrifying experience it is today.

My neighbors and I look forward to discussing this more with the council.

Thank you for your time.

Blake Thornberry

[REDACTED]

Laurel Prevetti

From: vidisha rai [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 8:08 PM
To: Council
Subject: [Strategic Priorities] BHR-Belgatos Traffic Safety

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accident on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you.
Vidisha Rai

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Laurel Prevetti

From: Panteha Saban [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2023 10:09 AM
To: Council
Subject: Blossomhill Road and Belgatos Road

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accident on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. There have been several accidents that I have personally observed in this area (specifically turning left from Belgatos to Blossomhill Road. Sadly, my family and I witnessed the aftermaths of the the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm. The town's awareness of this risk can also put the town for potential legal liability in the future should another person be seriously hurt or killed.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you.

Panteha & Daniel Saban

[REDACTED]
Los Gatos, CA 95032)



NEW MUSEUM LOS GATOS

ART ■ INNOVATION ■ HISTORY ■ BAY AREA

408.354.2646 | 106 E. Main Street, Los Gatos CA 95030 | numulosgatos.org

Los Gatos Town Council

The Honorable Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and Council Members Hudes, Moore, and Rennie
110 E. Main St.
Los Gatos, CA 95030

January 17, 2023

Dear Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and Council Members Hudes, Moore, and Rennie,

We are writing today to encourage you to treat NUMU | New Museum Los Gatos as an integral part of the Town of Los Gatos' strategic priorities by removing rent payments from NUMU's lease with the Town. Now more than ever, NUMU provides critical services to the Town that makes Los Gatos an incredible place to live, work, play, and learn, in addition to attracting visitors from the greater Bay Area. **We are asking the Town to reduce rent for 106 E. Main Street to \$1 per year to support NUMU's ongoing responsibility to maintain and steward the Town of Los Gatos' history collection and provide arts, history, and cultural educational services to the Los Gatos community.** This arrangement is in line with other museum/city partnerships in our region. By retaining the funds that NUMU obtains through donations and grants, it will allow us to recirculate them into more services and programs that ultimately serve the Town of Los Gatos with art, history, and culture.

We want to express our ongoing gratitude for forgiving our rent this past three years, which has helped us not only navigate the pandemic, but deepen our ability to serve our community. Rent forgiveness has enabled NUMU to achieve several key mission-aligned goals that directly support the Town's priorities for local history, community vitality, and inclusivity. NUMU is also a key feature of the Town Culture initiatives in the [2040 Town Plan](#). The 2040 General Plan for Los Gatos commits to "Enrich the Town by making visual arts, the performing arts, literary arts, and other cultural Tx amenities more accessible to the Town's residents." We have been working tirelessly on critical areas that support these goals such as the Los Gatos History Project; delivering the high-visibility *ArtNow* high school exhibition and program; and collaborating with local community partners and beyond, like the Los Gatos Library, CASSY, and LGS Recreation. **The Town's rent forgiveness has been a true lifeline for all of these efforts, and is a testament for what we can achieve together.**

We can continue to achieve all this and more with your increased support:

- The Los Gatos History Project makes our permanent art and history collection accessible in-person and through an online database. We display, steward, protect, and in the future, will loan our collection of art and history objects that represent Los Gatos. The staff has decades of cumulative experience in collections care and display. The collection includes unique objects and archives from Los Gatos history, including the world's most comprehensive collection representing the lives of prolific artists and life partners Frank Ingerson and George Dennison, and their home, Cathedral Oaks, a mountain destination for creatives in mid 20th century Los Gatos.
- We are hosting the exhibition, *Reclamation*, a partnership between the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe and San Jose State University, featuring Los Gatos and Bay Area places of significance to the Tribe. It amplifies the Muwekma Ohlone Tribal Council's efforts to gain visibility and federal recognition.
- The *ArtNow* high school exhibition program creates visibility for Los Gatos with high schools county-wide, and attracts a large audience to the Museum and the Town. The program features teen artists from Los Gatos and across the county, and provides scholarships for award winners.



NEW MUSEUM LOS GATOS

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- We completed a Packard Foundation-funded, year-long diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion (DEAI) strategic planning process that will help us shape our exhibitions and programs, educate our audience about the untold histories of Los Gatos, and help us build alignment with Town DEAI initiatives.
- NUMU collaborates with local community partners like the **Los Gatos Library, LGS Recreation, the Chamber of Commerce, Los Gatos Art Association, CASSY, and Mosaic America** to implement programs and exhibitions that provide a platform for underrepresented artists and communities. We run the Footbridge summer camp program in partnership with LGS Recreation to enhance the Town and involve students in local history.

As we are all learning, NUMU, like other arts and culture organizations, will not fully recover by July 2023; in fact, full recovery will take years. Starting rent payments in July 2023 will paralyze our ability to become a truly world-class destination for art and culture in the Bay Area. Moreover, we will be unable to adequately steward the history collection and it will once again languish, hidden away in boxes. This domino effect would decimate our ability to serve Los Gatos with history, culture, and art.

There is no better time to re-imagine the Town's relationship with its community museum. NUMU is in the Town's 2040 Plan both as a steward of the collection and a center for arts and culture. These proposed lease amendments not only ensure that the museum will exist in 2040, but will be able to thrive for decades to come. Nominal rent would be in line with virtually every museum in our area (see appendix), and signal to the region that Los Gatos values inclusivity, community, and culture. **Please vote to reduce rent for 106 E. Main Street to \$1 per year to support NUMU's critical role in maintaining—and expanding—the Town's cultural footprint, moving toward a deep and permanent partnership.**

NUMU's relationship with the Town of Los Gatos is vital to us and our ongoing ability to serve our community. Thank you from all of us for your continued support.

In partnership,

DocuSigned by:

 Ami Davis | Executive Director

DocuSigned by:

 Jillian Trachtenberg | Vice President

DocuSigned by:

 Maureen Cappon-Javey | Board Member

DocuSigned by:

 Allison Railo | Community Representative

DocuSigned by:

 Jan Schwartz | Board President

DocuSigned by:

 Florence Cheung | Treasurer

DocuSigned by:

 Barney Davidge | Board Member

DocuSigned by:

 Matt Schechter | Board Member

Museum Name	Most Recent Operating Budget (FY18)	Total Expenses	Total Revenue	Contributed Income	Earned Income	Total Facilities	Utilities	City Rent	Add hyperlink to 990 form	Add'l Info/NOTES
San Jose Museum of Art	2016	\$4,317,176	\$4,582,092	\$3,278,807	\$491,871		\$66,630	\$1 per year		receives funds from the TOT : https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/7010/636844210957800000
Saratoga History Museum	2016	\$23,658	\$66,544	\$48,800	\$17,744			\$0		
Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History (MAH)	2016	\$1,864,470	\$2,457,382	\$1,935,159	\$514,713			\$0		
Montalvo	2017	\$6,196,158	\$6,293,180	\$2,422,323	\$2,534,318	\$445,451	\$114,197	owns	http://montalvoarts.org/document/12	
Tech Museum - San Jose	2017	\$21,777,974	\$26,382,036	\$20,438,835	\$5,635,454				https://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/942/942864660/942864660_201706_990.pdf	As of May 2019, it is known called "The Tech Interactive"
Computer History Museum	2016	\$12,796,532	\$9,252,904	6 574 509	\$1,078,019			Per a 9/18/2002 NYT article, the museum "acquired" its current space - formerly the home of Silicon Graphics - in 2002	https://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/770/770507525/770507525_201706_990.pdf	
Los Altos History Museum	2015	\$467,109	\$527,797	\$285,985	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	https://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/942/942542813/942542813_201606_990.pdf	bldg owned by city, no utilities or rent. Treated like Police Dept, Town Hall. Do pay weekly cleaning service. FREE admission
Palo Alto Art Center	2017	\$778,213	\$989,841	\$757,421	\$129,638	city funded - no utilities or rent	city funded -	\$0	https://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/942/942382459/942382459_201706_990.pdf	City funded - no utilities or rent

Museum Name	Most Recent Operating Budget (FY18)	Total Expenses	Total Revenue	Contributed Income	Earned Income	Total Facilities	Utilities	City Rent	Add hyperlink to 990 form	Add'l Info/NOTES
Quilt & Textile Museum	2017	\$740,416	\$487,707	\$429,162	\$32,213		\$37,000	owns	https://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/770/770123939_201706_990.pdf	
Campbell Museums (Ainsley + History Museum)	2018	\$410,826	\$410,826	\$346,696	\$64,130		\$21,000	\$0	https://www.ci.campbell.ca.us/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/1122	Page 180 of the City of Campbell budget highlights the most information. Parks and museum trust: \$142,952
Pacific Art League	2018	\$1,011,789	\$1,176,348	\$200,920	\$565,764	97,300 incl. utilities	\$9,000	\$0	i used budget	
De Saisset Museum								\$0		
Triton Museum	2016	\$684,131	\$716,296	\$486,178	\$76,166	\$12,499	Electric from City; budget gas \$25K/year, usually under based on usage	\$1/year	https://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/946/946122076_201706_990.pdf	Triton houses city art & historic artifacts; gets rent & elec in recognition



LGS | RECREATION

Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education & Recreation
123 East Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030
Phone: (408)354-8700 Fax: (408)775-8366
www.lgsrecreation.org

January 16, 2023

Town of Los Gatos
Attn: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
110 E. Main Street
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Reference: ARC / YRC Lease Abatement Proposal

Hello Laurel,

In preparation for the Town Council's priority setting meeting on January 24th, I'm reaching out on behalf of the LGS Recreation (the "Agency") and our Board of Directors to reaffirm the permanent lease abatement proposal of April 2022 (attached). As the 2022 proposal outlined, the Agency is seeking a partnership in which the Town provides permanent lease abatement, and the Agency provides the staffing, financial management, programs and services. The arrangement is one in which Town leadership has a stake in the Agency and position of authority and governance.

As background, in 2009 the Agency entered into an agreement to lease the ARC facility. The agreement obligates the Agency to provide certain 55+ programs and services. It costs the Agency \$750K per year to pay the leases on Town-owned ARC and YRC facilities (\$250K) and support the 55+ programs (\$500K).

In the past, The Agency used the profits from other program areas such as childcare and youth sports to offset lease and 55+ expenses; this is no longer feasible and will not be supported by our Board. Additionally, School District partners have made concessions to their facilities fee structure that serves as an Agency subsidy. District partners are focused on youth and are unwilling to have their concessions used to pay for leases and the senior programming.

The 2023 Agency budget forecasts \$7.8M in revenue and will break-even; it does not include resuming lease payments to the Town. After the temporary lease abatement ends June 2023, any future payments will be treated as a variance and prompt difficult decisions. Without permanent lease abatement, the Agency will be forced to evaluate use of the Town facilities and the associated staffing and financial obligation to provide core 55+ services.

We share the vision of creating a community where older adults are engaged, have a sense of belonging and have inclusive opportunities to thrive. Benchmarking by the Town's Senior Services Committee has demonstrated all State-wide 55+ programs are a combination of free, low cost and subsidized programs as a cost-recovery effort of up to 30-40%.

The 55+ programs associated with the lease are specifically aligned with Town Council 2022 – 2024 community vitality strategic priorities:

- Diversity, equity and inclusion efforts
- Creating community where older adults thrive
- Special events
- Community engagement

The Agency also serves as the Town's de facto recreation department, serving 31.6K customers in 2022 with programming for all ages. No other recreation departments in the State pay a lease for the use of space to serve their community. Philosophically it does not make sense for the Town to charge rent to the Agency. By retaining our revenue, we are in a stronger position to create new programs that provide even greater value to the community. Town government is not able to efficiently use these funds to offer something of greater value. Diverting our revenue to lease payments makes an immaterial difference to the Town's budget and compromises the Agency ability to reinvest revenue.

Recreation is an anchor institution and a social driver of enrichment and connection; we add to the Town's unique identity, community vitality and sense of belonging. Our only mission is to curate specialty programs and services that are unduplicated in the surrounding area.

We recognize this is a defining moment for the Town and budget tradeoffs must be made. Decisions made now will affect the community for generations to come. Partnership between the Town and LGS Recreation is essential to supporting strategic priorities and over 31K customers.

Sincerely,



Nancy Rollett
Executive Director
Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation
208 E. Main Street
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Cc:

Assistant Town Manager, Arn Andrews

Town Mayor, Maria Ristow

Town Vice Mayor, Mary Badame

Council Members: Matthew Hudes, Rob Rennie and Rob Moore

Attachment:

Lease Abatement Proposal April 14, 2022



April 12, 2022

Town of Los Gatos

Attn: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager

110 E. Main Street

Los Gatos, CA 95030

Reference: Lease Abatement Proposal

Hello Laurel,

On behalf of the LGS Recreation Board of Directors and the Agency, I want to thank the Town of Los Gatos for the lease concessions provided to the Agency during the more restrictive COVID shelter-in-place. The concessions enabled the Agency to conserve cash and continue to fund operations. It is our understanding the full lease expense is expected to resume effective July 2022. This proposal will demonstrate that the Agency's fundamental business model has changed and we're seeking support to continue operating in the community. I'm writing to request the Town become a stakeholder with the Agency and consider a permanent lease abatement for the use of the Adult Recreation Center (ARC) and Youth Recreation Center (YRC) buildings. Background has been provided to support the request along with a scenario for consideration.

Background

In 1956 the Agency was formed as a Joint Powers Authority by the three Los Gatos and Saratoga School Districts to serve an unmet need in the community. The Agency has been serving as Los Gatos' de facto Recreation Department and Adult and Senior Services resource center for 66 years. The Agency leases the ARC and YRC buildings from the Town and is required to provide certain Senior Services as governed by the ARC lease. The cost to the Agency to provide those services is approximately \$500K / year. The Agency is the only Recreation Department in the State of California that must pay for use of space to conduct programs, including buildings and parks. The Agency is also the only Recreation Department that does not receive subsidy for the cost of Senior Services. As a basis of comparison, all other California Recreation Departments are tucked under a Town or City with a 60-70% cost recovery model and free use of building and park space. (Note: The focus of this proposal is lease abatement, not subsidy. Benchmarking and gap-analysis of Senior Services is expected to be complete by summer 2022).

The ARC lease (in effect until 2029) is expected to resume at \$18,249 / month. The YRC lease (month-to-month) is expected to resume at \$2539 / month. In total, the Town will receive \$250K in lease payments, \$20K in park use fees and approximately \$500K in services per year. The \$770K in annual payments and services is no longer sustainable and will result in a more rapid depletion of cash reserves, accelerating the timeline to close the Agency. Most importantly, the current arrangement of lease and service obligations does not align with a more traditional philosophy of Recreation and Senior Services as a community asset that is worth supporting. In effect, the value of recreation programming to the Los Gatos community is greater than the incremental revenue from the building leases.

Economic Model

The Agency was the only Recreation Department in Northern California to continue operating in a virtual manner throughout the pandemic. In 2021 we served 25,070 Los Gatos community members (counting Los Gatos participants not households; excluding Aquatics, Vasona Boating and Clubhouse Childcare). However, several developments compromise our long-term economic model and jeopardize our financial sustainability:

- The Agency's 2022 Budget and 3-year Pro Forma Forecast (attached) reflects nearly \$1M in losses each year (2022 \$655K loss offset by the current \$328.5K ARPA grant for Senior Services).
- Operations have been funded by cash reserves since March 2020. The Agency Available Cash Balance Forecast (attached) demonstrates cash reserves will be depleted by 2023 year-end (PERS unfunded pension liabilities and some contracts require setting aside the remaining fund balance).
- The pandemic posed an impediment to in-person programming. Although we're experiencing growth in some program areas, building utilizing is 43% of normal and total revenue is down by 30%.
- The Agency's more profitable Clubhouse revenue used to offset less profitable program areas; this is no longer the case. Parents have found ways to work remotely and no longer need traditional aftercare tuition plans.
- Leases for 5 out of 9 Clubhouse site have reverted to SUSD and Union School Districts to conduct childcare; Only 4 Clubhouse childcare sites remain under the Agency.

The Agency has pivoted over the last two years to adjust to the hardships. The following illustrates the sacrifices made to continue the business:

- Rolled back Leadership Team salaries 20%.
- Full or partial furlough of Staff.
- Operating with 30% fewer Staff in 2022 than pre-pandemic levels; All remaining Staff have taken on additional duties.
- Increased all program prices effective January 2022; testing limits of customer price elasticity.

Regrettably, these steps are insufficient to forestall either greatly reducing our presence in the Los Gatos community or closing our doors entirely.

In addition, JPA District partners are willing to aid the effort as stakeholders of community recreation and are developing a Facilities Master Plan with concessions to the facilities cost of conducting programs on their campuses. As an interim solution, each District has made a commitment to extend a one-time \$95K facilities credit to shore up Agency cash reserves, a total of \$285K. This credit is likely to be used within the next 12-18 months. However, the Districts have made it clear they will not subsidize what they view should be Town support for community recreation.

Proposal

The Agency proposes an arrangement whereby the Town of the Los Gatos becomes a partner of the JPA to re-imagine recreation in the community and come together with the JPA District stakeholders and City of Saratoga as a coordinated effort. Under this scenario, the Town of Los Gatos would become a JPA member with a leadership role in the governance and direction of the Agency, our programs, and use of facilities. The goal is to create a single solution to provide robust 'cradle to grave' community programs under the Recreation Department. The proposal is what is required to remain in business and continue to serve over 25K+ participants annually in Los Gatos. The JPA Agreement (attached) outlines the current arrangement.

Scenario

The Agency Scenarios (attached) reflects the programs and services that will cease without lease concessions. The model reflects significant Staff layoffs which will cease programming in Los Gatos. What remains is Aquatics, Vasona Boating and the 4 Clubhouse sites. Minimal remaining Staff would be consolidated to support the 5-year agreement to provide recreation services for the City of Saratoga. It would result in 2022 projected revenue going from \$6.5M to \$3.1M and prevent us from serving the Los Gatos community.

Under this scenario, the Agency Board has discussed the option of ceasing the use of the ARC and re-examining the month-to-month lease terms at the YRC in an effort to have some presence in Los Gatos. However, all ARC Staff would be displaced under this scenario and it would prompt a layoff of all Staff assigned to 55+ and Senior Services.

Timing

The Agency Board requires the Leadership Team to re-plan the 2022 budget from July to December once there is more clarity about facilities use agreements with the Districts and Town. The anticipated timing for this effort is in early July for review at either a July Special Board Meeting or no later than the August 25th Regular Board meeting.

Lease Conditions

A discussion about the ARC agreement leads to an opportunity to change the list of services governed by the lease. Please see the Senior Services Scope of Work (attached) for a current list of programs. We recommend modifying the current agreement to reflect the following list of direct services in order to remain flexible to community need and still observe the spirit of the agreement.

Direct Services:

Game Day (weekly)

Exercise Class or Group (weekly)

Social Discussion Group (weekly)

Newsletter (monthly)

Themed Event or Entertainment (quarterly)

Thanksgiving Lunch (annual)

Summer Picnic (annual)

Management and recruitment of indirect service providers or guest speakers (ongoing)

Management and recruitment of program facilitators and volunteers (ongoing)

Dedicated office hours and phone line for program information + referrals to other resources (ongoing)

This proposal to the Town comes at a defining time for the Agency; we are challenged with financial hardship and risk of closure. Although a departure from past practice, financially supporting the Recreation Department that serves the community is an expectation and priority of other Towns / Cities in California. The Leadership Team and I have been and will continue to be strongly committed to the Agency's success and would embrace the opportunity to serve alongside the Town of Los Gatos. We are available to meet with Town Leadership and the Town Council for further discussion. Please let us know if you have questions or feedback on the proposal.

Regards,

Nancy Rollett

Executive Director

Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation

208 E. Main Street

Los Gatos, CA 95030

Attachments:

Agency 2022 Budget and 3-year Pro Forma Forecast

Agency Available Cash Balance Forecast

JPA Agreement

Agency Scenarios

Senior Services Scope of Work



LGS | Recreation

Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education & Recreation
123 East Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030
Phone: (408)354-8700 www.lgsrecreation.org

1/13/2023

Laurel Prevetti
Town Manager
Town of Los Gatos
110 E. Main St.
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Dear Laurel,

Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation, and specifically the 55 Plus Program, greatly appreciate the ARPA grant opportunity and support of the Town of Los Gatos Council, the Community Health and Senior Services Commission (CHSSC), and the Senior Services Committee (SSC). The commitment of resources in 2022 aided our efforts in restoring pre-pandemic services and further demonstrated what can be achieved through partnership. We share the vision, guided by the CHSSC and SSC analysis and recommendations, of creating a vibrant community where older adults are engaged, have a sense of belonging, and have inclusive opportunities to thrive.

We offer a proposal in support of a Town/LGS Recreation partnership, in which the demonstrated success of the 55 Plus and ARPA funded programs over the last 15 months will continue. In good faith, staff and programming levels were increased to support the ARPA grant effort and it is our goal to avoid difficult facility, staffing, and program decisions based on the currently fiscally unsustainable model.

The full burden of the cost to operate the 55 Plus Program at current service levels is now on the Agency. We are committed to operate at the current staffing and programming level until it becomes clear if Town Council prioritizes the 55 Plus effort and identifies sources of partnership and support. The Agency is unable to absorb the forecasted loss of ~\$457k in 2023, which considers minimal 2023 revenue via membership fees and additional grants. The fully burdened cost to operate at the current level is \$501k. By mid-year 2023 in the new Council budget cycle, decisions must be made by the Agency about the sustainability of the effort including use of facilities, staffing and program levels.

The attached proposal has been carefully crafted to consider staffing levels, the SSC survey results, and their proposed 1, 3, and 10-year roadmap. This proposal does not easily lend itself to mixing items or services as staff FTEs are tied to the overall program levels, not individual activities. We are in a unique position to support and implement many of the projects outlined as priorities in the SSC roadmap.

Most Towns and Cities recognize it's the expectation of the community to have recreation, enrichment and 55+ programs. Benchmarking by the Town's Senior Committee has demonstrated all State-wide 55+ programs are a combination of free, low-cost and subsidized programs as a cost-recovery effort of up to 30-40%. No other recreation departments in the State pay a lease for the use of

space to serve the community; the Town lease and associated programs are an unnatural arrangement that can no longer be supported.

We recognize that the SSC draft document has not been provided to Council yet and the governance elements may have a material impact on our proposal, but it is essential to provide our recommendations to Council in a timely manner for consideration in their priority setting meeting on January 24th.

Sincerely,



Emily Sprugasci
Recreation Manager



Lianne Kennedy
Recreation Coordinator

LGS Recreation
208 E. Main Street
Los Gatos CA 95030

Cc:
Assistant Town Manager, Arn Andrews
Mayor, Maria Ristow
Vice Mayor, Mary Badame
Council Members: Hudes, Rennie and Moore

Attachments:
LGS Recreation 2023 Proposal for 55+ Programming and Services
LGS Recreation Final ARPA Grant Report



1/13/2023

LGS Recreation 2023 Proposal for 55 Plus Programming and Services

LGS Recreation is seeking a partnership with the Town of Los Gatos to continue the momentum, program level and success of the 55 Plus Program. In the partnership the Town provides funding, and the Agency provides the staffing, financial management, programs, and services. It is not a vendor relationship but one in which Town leadership has a stake in the Agency and the seniors in the community. The 55 Plus program is aligned with Town Council 2022 – 2024 strategic priorities in the areas of: building community where older adults thrive, special events, and community engagement. We share the vision of creating a community where older adults are engaged, have a sense of belonging, and have inclusive opportunities to thrive. We encourage Council to support the sustainability of core senior services of social, enrichment, educational, and wellness activities provided by LGS Recreation and the 55 Plus Program.

In 2022, LGS Recreation received ARPA grant funding from the Town of Los Gatos intended to aid the 55 Plus Program to restore services to pre-pandemic levels. During 2022 the program has evolved beyond expectation as we have seen exciting growth in membership, engagement, programs offered, and a greater sense of community. The 55 Plus program attracted hundreds of new members! In the past 5 years we have had under 400 members, but in 2022 we had 730 members! As of January 18th, there are already over 320 members registered for 2023. In 2022, 55 Plus offered 1267 programs and had 9172 encounters. The ARPA grant has highlighted what is possible for older adults in this community with Town support of the 55 Plus Program.

LGS Recreation 55 Plus Program

The 55 Plus Program is dedicated to ensuring free or low-cost access to recreation, education, socialization, and wellness opportunities for older adults throughout Los Gatos. Our goal is to create a sense of belonging by providing opportunities to make connections in the community and participate in meaningful recreation programs that address social, psychological, physical, and cognitive needs of older adults. In Los Gatos, the largest demographic living in poverty are females over 75, followed by females aged 55-64 and then males aged 65-74. By offering free and low-cost recreation programs and allocating building space to local services we are eliminating financial barriers and increasing participation and access to services. Older adults who participate in recreation and leisure activities preserve cognitive function, physical function, and mental health, therefore contributing to successful aging. In a review Rivera-Torres et al. found that the "older old" or older adults aged 80-89 are at the highest risk for social isolation and loneliness and lower engagement in physical leisure and recreation activities. 80% of our members are over the age of 70 and 42% of members are considered "older old" (80+). We are in a unique position to address seniors at the highest risk of social isolation and meet the recreation needs of this demographic to improve behavioral health and connectedness.

Our Senior Center also acts as a hub of information to connect older adults or caregivers with services and resources. Resources for seniors are available on the HUB webpage or through our 55 Plus office, email,

and phone line. **The HUB resource page for Seniors has had over 1,000 visits since it was launched, averaging 270 visits per month.** From May – December 2022, the 55 Plus Office received 1,222 inbound calls. **This is an average of 175 calls/month.** This does not include seniors who contact the main office line or the Recreation Coordinator directly. Therefore, this is likely an under representation. Additionally, we also receive emails to 55plus@lgsrecreation.org and directly to the Recreation Coordinator. We average 5 senior walk-ins (either Seniors or Family Members) daily that come to the front desk or 55 Plus office to inquire about services. We promote and refer people to other local senior services like Live Oak Nutrition (menu available and on display at reception each month), Live Oak Day Program, Saratoga Day Program, and RYDE. 55 Plus staff schedules appointments and allocates space for external services for seniors that are open to the public.

- **External Programs/Referral Services hosted at the ARC available to public**
 - AARP Tax Aid
 - AARP Drivers Safety Training
 - HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program)

Program Fiscal Sustainability

The 55 Plus program generates minimal revenue (forecast \$44K revenue in 2023). Historically, LGS Recreation subsidized the 55 Plus program from the profits of fee-based programming from other departments within our Agency. This approach is no longer financially sustainable.

- In 2023 the Agency is taking the following actions to offset a portion of the costs of the 55 Plus Program:
 - Membership fee increases from \$25 to \$30 (Campbell, Saratoga, Cupertino range from \$25-30)
 - Seek out additional grant opportunities (ex. El Camino Health)
 - Increase donation opportunities from members of the community. Donation button available on our website. Donation campaigns will roll out throughout 2023.
- Adult Recreation Center Lease
 - Temporary lease abatement ceases at the end of June 2023. **Permanent abatement is required to sustain programming.**
 - Benchmarking by the Town's Senior Committee has demonstrated all State-wide 55+ programs are a combination of free, low-cost, and subsidized programs as a cost-recovery effort of up to 30-40%. No other recreation departments in the State pay a lease for the use of space to serve the community; the Town lease and associated programs are an unnatural arrangement that can no longer be supported.

An ongoing commitment of resources from the Town of Los Gatos is needed to support the 55 Plus program in our efforts to meet the physical, social, and emotional health needs of older adults in our community.

Proposed Financial Plan

Below is a 3-tiered proposal of Town / Agency partnership. The mid-plan is a continuation of the ARPA funded level of programing over the last 15 months. The mid-plan will also include a Social Worker/ Case Manager who will aid in providing mental health services and resource guidance.

TOP Plan	MID Plan	LOW Plan
Financials		
\$680,866	\$501,043	\$251,433
Brief Program Model Overview		
The program and community will benefit from a full time Case Manager/ Social Worker who can help aid many of the objectives of the Senior Services Committee Roadmap and be a tremendous resource to seniors in Los Gatos. This service would not be limited to 55 Plus members. The Case Manager would be housed in the Adult Recreation Center to create ease of access. -Monthly Socials, Guest Speakers, and Dances -New and innovative programs with evidence-based practice can be added ex. Music Therapy and SAIL -Annual Health Fair	Office Hours 8am-5pm -Programs will benefit from reliable and consistent staff lead, in-house, programs and socials which are more cost effective than hiring contractors and offer more variety. -Bimonthly Socials, Bimonthly Dances, Guest Speakers -Weekly programs to continue (bold programs below that have additional fees) -Staff training opportunities	-Office Hours 8am-12pm -Programs will rely on volunteer facilitators (or cease without volunteer support) -Highlighted programs below will be removed or reduced due to program supplies or staff costs. -Quarterly Socials
Staff Model - FTE		
1.0 FTE Case Manager 1.0 FTE Recreation Coordinator 1 1.0 FTE Recreation Coordinator 2 2.0 FTE 55+ Office Technician 0.5 FTE Activity Leader 1 0.5 FTE Activity Leader 2 0.35 FTE Activity Leader 3 ---- 6.35	1.0 FTE Recreation Coordinator 1 1.0 FTE Recreation Coordinator 2 1.0 55+ Office Technician 0.5 FTE - Activity Leader 1 0.5 FTE - Activity Leader 2 0.35 FTE - Activity Leader 3 0.2 FTE – Case Manager ---- 4.55	1.0 FTE - Recreation Coordinator 1 0.5 FTE - 55+ Office Technician 0.5 FTE - Activity Leader 1 0.35 FTE - Activity Leader 2 ---- 2.35
The above model illustrates FTE allocation directly to 55 Plus. Additional Agency staff play a critical role aiding the 55 Plus Programs. For example, custodial, IT, Marketing/Print Publication, Executive Director, Recreation Manager, Finance, etc.		
CURRENT 55+ PROGRAMS: Membership increased to \$30 annually and includes access to a variety of social events, players groups, programs, classes, social events, guest lectures, exclusive fitness classes, and access to services.		

WEEKLY:

- **Hands on Art Workshop**, St. Mary's Bridge, Democracy Tent, Stay Fit, Balance Awareness, Our Democracy in Peril, Hand and Food Canasta, Tuesday Town Walk, Mah Jongg, Pinochle, **Game Day**, Ping Pong, Mexican Train, **Coffee Corner**, Artist Workshop, Current Event Group, Art and Music Appreciation, **ZUMBA**

MONTHLY:

- **Reader's Theatre**, **Single Again (Widow support group)**, **Women's Artist Connection**, 55+ Social Committee, Movie in the Lounge, **BINGO**, Tech with Teens, Jeopardy/Armchair Travel/Who What Where, Book Club

SEASONAL PROGRAMS:

- **Dances, Socials, Summer Water Workout at the Pool, Guest Speakers, July Picnic, Thanksgiving Lunch, Vasona Boating and BBQ, NUMU walking field trips, etc.**

**Programs that are bold have additional fees that would be unsustainable without funding.*

Senior Services Committee Roadmap Goals and Draft Projects

Our organization values the insight of the Town of Los Gatos Community Health and Seniors Services Commission and the Senior Services Committee. We attend monthly meetings, listen to what is important, and act. For example, at the beginning of the year communication about senior services was highlighted as being lacking. We expanded the number of pages dedicated to 55 Plus in our Brochure (giving seniors more attention on the front and back cover), emailed out to our database of >7000 people over the age of 55 to announce the 55 plus program, expanded the PRINT content and delivered to key places around town as well as flyers for upcoming events, and worked on outreach at community events or gatherings. The creation and development of the HUB is a demonstration of our willingness to work with the CHSSC or SSC to reimagine senior services and meet gaps in service for older adults in Los Gatos. LGS Recreation, and specifically the 55 Plus program, is in a unique position to be the central point for seniors in the community as well as support and implement many of the projects outlined as priorities in the roadmap developed by the Senior Services Committee. Below we have provided a brief outline of how LGS Recreation and specifically the 55 Plus program can act on the proposed roadmap detailed by the Senior Services Committee. The Adult Recreation Center is centrally located in Los Gatos and close to Town buildings. It is already viewed and utilized as a central point for seniors in Los Gatos.

Below is a brief outline indicating how LGS Recreation can work in partnership with the Town of Los Gatos Senior Services Committee to meet projected Roadmap Goals.

We recognize that the Senior Services Committee roadmap document has not yet been provided to Council. Based on the information publicly available on January 10th in the Senior Services Committee Agenda on the draft roadmap document, excluding section 8 Governance, LGS Recreation has developed this below outline. Governance elements may have a material impact on our proposal and further edits may be needed, but it is essential to provide our recommendations to Council in a timely manner for consideration in the priority setting meeting on January 24th.

Senior Services Committee Roadmap Goals w/ Draft Projects	TOP Plan	MID Plan	LOW Plan
Communications and Engagement:			
PROJECT C1: Information Hub Development and Deployment	- Full Time Case Manager/Social Worker at the ARC -CM to run support groups as need develops in community (ex. Cancer Support, Widow Support, Caregiver Support Groups, Mental Health workshops, etc.) -CM would add input and monitor edits to HUB, working with IT. -CM to attend socials and key events to build rapport with Seniors in Community -Host an annual Health Fair -Monthly Guest Speakers	-Rec Coordinator to monitor HUB edits monthly as well as update and search for resources based on incoming calls or requests. NEW-Case Manager available 8 hours/wk for appointments with Seniors and Families (55+ Staff to schedule appointments) -HUB launch health fair with Service Providers attending -Rec Coordinator to coordinate bimonthly guest speakers	-Staff managed 55+ Office/Phone/Email -Host external programs/services at the ARC: HICAP, AARP Tax Aid, Live Oak, AARP Driver Safety Courses, SJSU Nursing Students and West Valley College Classes -Rec Coordinator to edit HUB yearly
PROJECT C2 Name: Events Calendar	-Rec Coordinator to Work with Committee and service providers to identify what events/ programs to combine into online event calendar		-Continue to include community events in the PRINT publication each month
PROJECT C3 Name: Promotion of Community Opportunities for Seniors	-CM to promote services and resources available to Seniors in the community	-Rec Coordinator to seek opportunities to partner for community events to advocate to make senior friendly -Activity Leader to continue to lead "meet up" groups for seniors that want to attend community events as a group	-Continue to include community events in the PRINT publication each month

PROJECT E1 Engage Older Adults in Community Activities		-Rec Coordinator to seek opportunities to partner for community events to advocate to make senior friendly -Activity Leader to continue to lead “meet up” groups for seniors that want to attend community events as a group -Partner with Local Service Providers and Volunteer groups to enhance socials/events -55 Plus presence in Parade -Rec Coordinator to attend community events to advertise for 55 Plus	-Great Getaway Adult Day Trips -Post community events in the PRINT
PROJECT E2 Establish and Engage Seniors in Social Activities	-Monthly Dances -Monthly Socials/Entertainment -Monthly Guest Speakers -Seniors seeking social worker/case manager can find aid and be encouraged to join other 55 plus activities if appropriate	-Bi-Monthly Dances -Bi-Monthly Socials/Entertainment -Continue to add interest groups and players groups. -Survey community to understand programming wants/needs. -PRINT distributed to key locations in community. -Staff able to prepare and engage seniors in more in house activities	-55+ Program -55+ Office Phone & Email, in person drop ins to office -Monthly PRINT & reminder emails out to members -Promote use of Live Oak Nutrition, RYDE, Live Oak/Saratoga Day Program -Quarterly dance or social
PROJECT E3 Conduct and Engage Seniors in Healthy Living Activities	-Monthly Guest Speakers -Case Manager to Support Seniors Seeking Assistance with Health/Skills -Offer drop in pickleball/badminton weekly in the large hall	-Bimonthly Guest Speakers -Budget for healthy options at socials/dances -Continue to offer dances and exclusive low-cost fitness classes (Zumba gold, summer water workout).	-Work with WVC to offer relevant classes -Promote SCCF programs -SJSU Nursing Student Program
PROJECT E4 Establish and Engage Seniors	*Research and allocate funds to expand and add	-Have Activity Leader complete SAIL training (Stay Active and	

in Life Learning and Life Skills Development	shuffleboard and putting greens.	Independent for Life) to be able to offer in house classes and avoid gaps in service from WVC instructors -Increase teen volunteers for more tech support options	
Appealing and Inviting Facility (Renovate or Build) Subcommittee:			
PROJECT F1 Needs Analysis		-Rec Coordinator to provide input and collect feedback from users	
PROJECT F2 Fundraising	Work with Committee and other service providers for Fundraising events, Donation Collection, raising public interest, etc.		
PROJECT F3 Optimize Existing Space		-Rec Coordinator to provide input into modifications and collect feedback from users	-Decorate the current space to be appealing to community
PROJECT F4 Facility Direction			
PROJECT F5 Facility Design (Renovate or Build)		-Rec Coordinator to provide input into design and collect feedback from users	
PROJECT F6 Facility Construction (Renovate or Build)		-Rec Coordinator to help communicate with senior community about new facility	
PROJECT F7 Facility Operations	LGS Recreation currently runs recreation programs and community events at multiple locations. Experienced staff and relevant personnel.		
Core Senior Services for Older Adults:			
PROJECT S1 Support Continuation of Social, Educational,	-Monthly Themed Socials for Seniors -Monthly Dances *Monthly Birthday Party Lunches	-Bimonthly Socials, Dances/Entertainment, Guest Speakers -Continuation of current programs and services	-55+ Program limited social opportunities weekly -Continue to promote Live Oak Nutrition and

Healthy Living and Meals Services for Older Adults	-Weekly hands-on art classes with materials provided -Monthly Guest Speakers -Case manager/Social worker to host support groups in coordination with Rec Staff (ex. Care givers support group in lounge while spouse engaged in activities in large hall)	-Host yearly HUB resource fair at ARC with other core providers -HUB Launch Party -Monthly Hands-on art classes	Live Oak Adult Day Center -Refer to meal services in HUB resources -SJSU Nursing Students
PROJECT S2 Support Re-establishment of Adult Day Services	-Case manager/Social Worker to facilitate caregiver support group	-Rec Coordinator to assist with Fundraising Event to be held at ARC	-Refer seniors/families to Live Oak Adult Day Center via walk ins and 55+ phone line. -Help advocate for the need for service.
PROJECT S3 Support Continuation of Other Core Services	Social Worker/Case Manager to refer people to other core services in town and county	-Rec Coordinator to build relationships with other service providers and attend relevant meetings.	
PROJECT S4 Expand Use of Parks and Facilities by Older Adults	-Rec Coordinator to dedicate more time working in partnership with Parks Commission and attend relevant meetings	-Rec Coordinator to work with Parks Commission to host 55 plus events in the local parks. Ex. Bocce Ball in Oak Meadow Park Ex. Vasona Boating BBQ and Boats day for 55 Plus	
PROJECT S5 Health and Welfare Assessment	Social Worker/ Case Manager Position to be present full time in ARC to support individuals and families	Social Worker/ Case Manager Position to be present in ARC 8 hours/wk to support individuals and families	
Enhance Transportation Options for Older Adults Subcommittee:			
PROJECT T1 Implement and Promote Transportation Awareness and Use	-Case Manager/Social Worker able to help direct seniors or help them fill out necessary applications and relay reoccurring concerns to	-55 Plus staff to connect seniors with resources	-Resources on HUB

	Town Counsel, CHSSC or SSC. -Case Manager to help people apply for VTA/RIDE. -LGS Rec would like to have a 55+ Ride Group (like walking group), coordinator to work with community groups to make ARC a start location. Support with bike repair service used at Library or Summit Cycles for Seniors yearly at ARC parking lot.		
PROJECT T2 Advocate for a Walking Plan for Older Adults		Coordinate support for the 55+ Tuesday Town Walk Group	Resources on HUB
PROJECT T3 Expand Mobility Options Including Evenings and Weekends		Resources on HUB	Resources on HUB
Volunteer Support and Engagement Subcommittee			
V1: Establish Volunteering Task Force	-Engage and collaborate with local Volunteer groups (Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary)	-Host a Volunteer Fair at the ARC for LGS Rec and other Community Groups -Host a Volunteer Appreciation lunch for ~20 volunteers and volunteer facilitators. -Continue hosting monthly Volunteer Committee Meetings to present 55+ opportunities. -Build relationship with LGHS for ongoing student volunteers and	-Continue efforts with 55+ Volunteer groups to support in house and community events. -Continue working with Volunteer Facilitators to Run Programs.
V2: Recruit and Build a Volunteer Community with the Ad Hoc Task Force			
V3: Establish a Volunteer Corps			

		intergenerational programs. -Establish work tasks within 55 Plus for volunteers in the community seeking options. -Engage and collaborate with local Volunteer groups (Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary)	
Senior Housing Subcommittee			
H1 Identify and Inventory Residential Options for Seniors PROJECT			
H2 Enable Development of Affordable Housing for Seniors PROJECT	Case Manager/ Social Worker able to help direct seniors in need and relay reoccurring concerns to Town Counsel, CHSSC or SSC.		Make resources accessible on the HUB
H3 Establish Aging in Place Programs (Including a Los Gatos Village)			Resources on HUB
H4 Facilitate Crisis Housing PROJECT			Resources on HUB
H5 Monitor and Evaluate Housing Needs and Stock			
Notes: In our Senior Community we are noticing that more support is needed for Caregivers (respite, finances, support group). Specifically, people over 55 who are caring for another senior with little support. Members have also recommended having a Cancer Support Group on site. We believe this is another benefit of having a case manager on site at the Adult Recreation Center and embedded in the 55 Plus Program.			

References

- <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0225006>
- <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/23337214211036776>

Additional Considerations:

LGS Recreation Adult Programs

In addition LGS Recreation is the longstanding Recreation provider in Los Gatos for people of all ages. For adults aged 18 and older, LGS Recreation offers a wide variety of fee-based fitness, sport, and enrichment activities in addition to the 55 Plus program. Many of these activities are geared towards or attended by adults over the age of 55.

- LGS served 1717 Individuals and 7261 registrations over the age of 55 in 2022.
 - These adult programs take place at several locations in Los Gatos and in Saratoga (Joan Pisani Community Center, Adult Recreation Center, Youth Recreation Center, Friendship Hall Saratoga, Vasona, La Rinconada Park, Oak Meadow Park, Redwood Middle School, Los Gatos High School, etc.)
 - For example, our fee-based “Great Getaway” adult day trips offer an opportunity for both social interaction and remove the barrier of transportation. In January, the average age of attendees was 72, the youngest person being 61 and the oldest being 88.
 - Pickleball Membership in 2022 reflects 36% over 55
- Adult fee-based program and participation levels have increased throughout 2022 when compared to pre-pandemic levels.
 - 69% increase to the number of fee-based classes in which those 55 and older participated.
 - 25% increase to the number of fee-based classes in which those 55 and older could participate.
 - 27% increase to the number of unduplicated individuals 55 and older who attended a program.
 - 119% increase to the number of registration records for those 55 and older.
- Data reflected for adult fee-based programming, in addition to the expansion of 55 Plus program, support the gentrification of Los Gatos and that up to a third of the citizen of Los Gatos will be over the age of 55 within the next 10 years.
- Adult fee-based programming
 - Forecasted 2023 review is \$440k, with a yielded gross margin of 40%
 - Of that 40% operating costs must be covered staffing, facilities costs, utilities, program supplies, marketing, software systems, etc.

*Note that if a birthday is not entered in the system the age defaults to 0 and as a result this number is likely an under-representation. An individual is not duplicated, whereas a registration may be duplicated, for example, Sally takes golf lessons, painting classes and yoga. Sally is counted as one individual and three participants.

Los Gatos Saratoga Department of Community Education and Recreation
Proposed Operating Expense - Senior Services

	Service Level		
	High	Mid	Low
Operating Expenses			
Compensation & Benefits			
Compensation	388,780	270,664	147,059
Employee Benefit	95,059	54,783	37,914
Compensation & Benefits	483,839	325,447	184,973
Telecom & Office Supplies	3,105	3,105	3,105
Program Service	22,500	22,500	12,250
Travel, Meals, and Entertainment	7,460	7,460	3,710
Outside Services	40,810	42,010	6,130
Facilities & Equipment	5,660	5,660	4,160
Subscription & Fees	345	345	345
Employee Development	300	300	300
Depreciation & Amortization	332	332	332
Total Direct Expense	564,351	407,159	215,305
Ovehead Allocation	116,515	93,884	36,128
Total Operating Expenses	680,866	501,043	251,433

**LGS Recreation Final ARPA Grant Report**

Prepared For: Town of Los Gatos Community Health and Senior Services Commission
Prepared By: Lisanne Kennedy, Recreation Coordinator, lkennedy@lgsrecreation.org
Prepared On: 1/9/2023

The purpose of this document is to provide a final update regarding 55 Plus Program activity following the ARPA Grant received in September 2021 through December 2022.

Fiscal Update

Los Gatos Saratoga Recreation, and specifically the 55 Plus Program, greatly appreciate the ARPA grant opportunity and the continued support of the Town of Los Gatos Council, the Community Health and Senior Services Commission, and the Senior Services Committee. This commitment of resources has aided our efforts in restoring pre-pandemic services.

Expenses funded by the ARPA grant (vendor invoices, compensation, benefits) are recorded to our financial system (Intacct) with the project ID "ARPA2122". An Intacct report built to filter and present, based on a user entered date range, those expenses recorded to that Project ID is reviewed to ensure accuracy and completeness. Compensation and benefits are allocated as described in the grant application. Invoices are then provided to the Town of Los Gatos.

- As of December 31st, 2022, the full grant amount of \$328,500 has been assigned to the following ARPA funded categories.

Category	Funds Awarded	Assigned *As of 12/31	Variance
Compensation and Benefits	\$275,037	\$285,102	(\$10,065)
Recall Compensation Allocations • Recreation Coordinator - 0.5, Recreation Manager - 0.25, Office Tech 1,2,3 - 0.5, Executive Director & Finance Director – hourly Additions: • Activity Leader 1 - NEW HIRE JUNE 2022– non classified part time position - Supporting in House Programs and Activities • Activity Leader 2 – NEW HIRE JUNE 2022 - part time – Supporting Coordinator with special projects such as building HUB resource page and Instructing Summer Art Series (on maternity leave from September-December)			
Contractors	\$32,300	\$28,485	\$3,815
Supports the following programs: • Wednesday Game Day, Social Dance Instruction, Prime Timers Social Support Group, Single Again but Not by Choice (Widow Support Group), Reader's Theatre, Women's Artist			

Connection, Guest Speakers, Special Program Contractors (ex. Art Instruction), and Fitness Instructor (Zumba, Summer Water Workout) • Primary contractor is moving towards retirement and reduced hours/involvement. • \$1275 in instructor fees included for Zumba GOLD			
Program Equipment Rental	\$3,802	\$3,802	-
Annual Summer Picnic on Civic Center Lawn (tables, chairs, linens)			
Program Meals & Supplies	\$17,360	\$19,294	(\$1,934)
Funding has supported new and existing programs and socials, including but not limited to: software resources for programs (Jeopardy, Neurobics challenge, Armchair Travel, monthly puzzles in newsletter, BINGO, etc.), Table Game supplies (Mah Jongg sets, Mexican Train Sets, Bunco Supplies, BINGO supplies, Chess Sets, Decks of Cards), refreshments for socials, indoor lawn game supplies, Water Workout supplies, Thanksgiving Luncheon supplies, Summer Picnic supplies, Vasona boating picnic, and more.			
TOTAL	\$328,500	\$336,683	(\$8,183)
IMPORTANT NOTE: this figure is not a complete representation of the total operating cost of the 55 Plus program in 2022. Due to the categories and stipulations of the grant, certain program or personnel costs are not reflected in the figures above. For example, marketing expenses, custodial support, IT support, Rec Coordinator full FTE, etc.			

Marketing or the publication of the 55 Plus newsletter The PRINT was not funded by the ARPA Grant. Our monthly newsletter has increased from 4 to 8 pages from the beginning of 2022. This is our key communication tool with both members and the community.

The PRINT – Monthly Newsletter

Associated Costs

Supply Costs *toner/ink, paper	\$2,685
Staffing Costs: *Rec Coordinator – planning of calendar of events and content, writing content, editing, electronic distribution and physical distribution *Coordinator of Marketing and Promotions – input content, formatting, printing & website distribution *Recreation Manager and Office Technician Edit	\$21,165
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$23,850

55 Plus Program Update

55 Plus Membership Participation and Programs

- Membership as of 12/31= 730 members

Membership Historical Data: 2017- 395 2018 - 394 2019- 372 * 2020 – 270 2021 – 277	Membership is annual and expires in December, typically the largest growth in membership is within the first quarter. *LGS membership numbers were 372 at onset of the SASSC outsourcing agreement in 2019, at the conclusion of the SASSC contract membership numbers were 270 as reflected in Q1 of year 2020. The onset of COVID 19 Pandemic in March 2020 prevented rebuilding of membership.
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55 Plus Program Statistics from January 2022-December 31, 2022

Participants sign in for programs. These numbers are then tracked by the Recreation Coordinator and Activity Leader to better monitor participation. Please note, these metrics include programs and events as well as phone calls and drop-in visits to the 55 Plus Office.

Month	Total # Programs/ Services Offered	Total Participant Encounters	Total Members	Notes: New Members & Program Highlights
January	57	313	335	2021 Members given 2022 Membership 31 New Members (not including rollovers) *COVID 19 Omicron Variant impacted programs)
February	84	607	363	28 New Members (not including rollovers)
March	119	846	393	35 New Members
April	122	924	441	48 New Members *Art Theme: Workshops with guest teachers & Mural Project *ARC Bar (85 ppl) & NUMU Tour
May	126	817	475	34 New Members *Music and Dance Theme with 4 special programs *Mother's Day Social (45 ppl)
June	130	968	527	52 New Members *Vasona Boating Picnic Day (20 ppl), Summer Art Series, Water Workout
July	129	1173	563	36 New Members *Annual Summer Picnic (180 ppl), Social Dance (50 ppl), Adult Day Trips returned
August	128	1059	602	39 New Members * Social Dance, BINGO, BUNCO, Social Committee for in-house volunteers
September	125	1043	628	26 New Members *Zumba classes began
October	124	1105	654	24 New Members

				*Halloween Monster Mash & Country and Western Line Dance Social
November	61	827	704	50 New Members *New flooring in ARC disrupted programs and closure *Thanksgiving Lunch serving 150 meals, Veterans Day Ceremony
December	62	595	730	26 New Members *New flooring in ARC disrupted programs and Holiday closure *Christmas Morning Social
TOTAL	1267	9172	730	

Special Events: Top 5 Attended 55 Plus Programs in 2022

Below is a list of the top social events held in 2022 by participation. Not listed we also held: Veterans Day (40), Halloween Monster Mash (30) & Vasona BBQ & Boats (20). The Annual Summer Picnic and Thanksgiving Luncheon have been marquee events for at least ten years. We hope that these additional social events can continue in 2023 and become annual events as well.

Title	Participants	Estimated Cost of Delivery	Fee to Attend
Annual Summer Picnic	200	\$3800 Rental Furniture \$175 LG Lawn Permit \$1200 Catered Sandwiches \$1500 Supplies, Sides and Beverages \$650 Entertainment --- \$7,325 Total + Staff Costs and Volunteer Support (coordinate event, coordinate volunteers, purchase supplies, hire entertainment, advertise, day of set up, serving, clean up, etc.)	Typically, no fee to attend – Member Appreciation
Thanksgiving Luncheon	150 +leftovers donated to Live Oak Nutrition	\$2378 Catered Food \$430 Beverages/Supplies/Dessert \$200 Entertainment --- \$3008 Total +Staff Costs and Volunteer Support	Canned food item to be donated
Mother's Day High Tea	50	\$200 Art Supplies/Instructor \$322 Supplies/Food --- \$522 Total + Staff Costs	No Fee

Christmas Morning Social	50	\$210 Food and Supplies + Staff Costs	No Fee
Monthly Social Dances	35-50	\$200 Instructor \$150 Food & Beverages (Non-Alcoholic) \$200-400 Entertainment (depending on DJ/band) --- \$350-750/event Total +Staff Costs	\$5 for members \$10 for public

Ongoing Programs – Top 5 Attended 55 Plus Programs in 2022

Title	Participants	Frequency	Estimated Cost of Delivery	Fee to Attend
Game Day	Avg. 48	Weekly	\$330 Facilitator \$72 Activity Leader \$402 + Coffee Supplies & Material Fees (Cards, Scorepads, etc.) + Additional Staff Costs for set up/take down and coordination	\$5 donation at the door
Zumba Gold	24 participants (full class)	Weekly	\$75 for instructor each class +Staff to coordinate	\$5/class
WVC Fitness Classes (Balance Awareness and Stay Fit)	15-20 participants	Twice a week	Staff costs to coordinate with WVC and manage class roster	No Fee
Tuesday Town Walk	10-18 participants	Weekly	Volunteer Facilitator	No Fee
Players Groups: Pinochle, St. Mary's Bridge, Mexican Train, Mah Jongg,	6-12 Participants each group	Weekly or Twice a Week	Staff to coordinate Material fees Volunteer Leaders	No Fee

Canasta, Ping Pong, etc.				
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55 Plus Program:

LGS Recreation 55 Plus Program provides comprehensive free or low-cost programs for people ages 55 and over. For a full listing of programs visit The PRINT archive www.lgsrecreation.org/55-plus/the-print/. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm for drop-in and calls to 55 Plus Office.

55 Plus Phone Line

Note: In May we switched to a new phone system that allows us to track monthly incoming calls. From May 2022 – December 21, 2022, the 55 Plus Office received 1,222 **inbound** calls. **This is on average 175 calls/month.** This does not include seniors who contact the main office line or the Recreation Coordinator directly. Therefore, this is likely an under representation. Additionally, we also receive emails to 55plus@lgsrecreation.org and directly to the Recreation Coordinator. It should also be mentioned that we average 5 senior walk-ins (either Seniors or Family Members) each day that come into the front desk or 55 Plus office for assistance, either members or public.

- **The HUB resource page for Seniors has had over 1,000 visits since it was launched, averaging 270 visits per month.**
- **External Programs/Referral Services hosted at the ARC available to public**
 - AARP Tax Aid – free service open to public, 55 Plus office schedules all appointments and provides free use of space 1x/week from February through April.
 - AARP Drivers Safety Training - free service open to the public, 55 Plus office schedules all appointments and provides free use of space. Bimonthly.
 - HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program) - free service open to public, 55 Plus office schedules all appointments and provides free use of space

2023 Budgeting and Program Sustainability

- The 55 Plus program is nearly non-revenue generating. Historically, our Agency subsidized the 55 Plus program from the profits of fee-based programming from other departments within our Agency and this approach is no longer financially sustainable.
- This past year LGS Recreation continued to commit funding to staffing and marketing efforts, in addition to ARPA funds.
- The Agency is taking the following actions:
 - Membership fee increases
 - Seek out additional grant opportunities
 - Increase donation opportunities from members of the community
- The ARPA grant has highlighted what is possible with Town support of the 55 Plus Program
- Adult Recreation Center Lease
 - Temporary lease abatement ceases at the end of June 2023. **Permanent abatement is required to sustain programming.**
 - Benchmarking by the Town's Senior Committee has demonstrated all State-wide 55+ programs are a combination of free, low-cost and subsidized programs as a cost-recovery effort of up to 30-40%. No other recreation departments in the State pay a lease for the

use of space to serve the community; the Town lease and associated programs are an unnatural arrangement that can no longer be supported.

Our intention is to continue to offer a thriving 55 Plus Program, but partnership and financial support will be required to make the program fiscally sustainable.

Feedback from Members on 2022 Programs and Services

Twice a year we survey members to collect feedback on programs. Below are the statistics and a sample of the comments collected. We also collected responses to be able to measure loneliness using the UCLA 3-Item Loneliness Scale, these were not included in this report.

My experience has been positive as a result of joining 55+ programs and I would recommend it to others (5 being strongly agree)	Responses: <i>*91% strongly agree or agree</i> 79% 5- Strongly Agree 13% - 4 Agree 4% - 3 Neutral 4% - 1 Strongly Disagree
I feel more connected to people and services as a result of the 55+ Programs (5 being strongly agree)	Responses: <i>*90% strongly agree or agree</i> 60% 5- Strongly Agree 31% - 4 Agree 6% - 3 Neutral 2% - 2 Disagree Somewhat 1% - 1 Strongly Disagree
Favorite Moments of 2022:	Summer BBQ Thanksgiving Veterans Day Friday Night Dances BINGO Weekly Music Classes Learning to Play Hand and Foot and Mexican Train Hands on Art Classes Senior Trips ARC Bar Christmas Sing a Long Friday Morning Workshop Pinochle Group
We asked Members: Please provide any program feedback, comments, or concerns. We would love to hear about your positive experiences!	
NOTE: <i>comments along the lines of “when Lisanne took leadership” coincide with ARPA grant funding being received and utilized. Participants recognize the increase in staffing, programs, and communication.</i> I moved to Los Gatos about six months ago and did not know anyone living here. After seeing an advertisement for the 55+ I stopped by the office and immediately was made to feel welcome. Since joining I have started meeting people and participating in various activities that in the past I would not have done. The variety of activities and their scheduling has	

provided me many opportunities to meet new friends and do new things. I am looking forward to this new year and more LGS Rec opportunities.

- The Picnic & the Thanksgiving Dinner & The Veteran's Day Celebration all made my life a little brighter.
- Since Lisanne Kennedy assumed the helm, she has injected energy and excitement into the program. Fun excursions, more daily programs, improved communications.
- I find everything offered is quite extensive & meets my needs.
- Three of you ladies are doing a great job. I look forward to coming to the center to play cards and do many other activities. I enjoyed it immensely. Keep up the good work ladies you make my day.
- The staff is so caring and so in tune with the needs of seniors. I feel like I found a new community of friends.
- The program has immensely improved. The staff is friendly and extremely dedicated to the senior population. I personally have no family near & rarely go to stores, so I enjoy the socialization offered at the center.
- The encouraging, friendly, and supportive 55+ team are special and every activity I attended has been rewarding.
- Everything is well run and for the benefit of the senior members.
- My dad loves the rec center. This has been a great social interaction opportunity for him. He takes the music class on Wednesday which he loves. He has also really enjoyed all your events. Keep up the good work! I am filling this survey out on behalf of my dad.
- What a wonderful improvement Lisanne and her team have created for the 55+ community
- Lisanne has brought true leadership to Over 55 and trebled Mah Jongg participation while encouraging participation in other events.
- I loved events with live music, Veterans Day celebrations, trip to horse races.
- I have found the staff to be particularly welcoming as well as professional. The programs are varied and although I don't participate in many of them it's important to me that they are there and available.
- Fun programs!
- I would like to share my experience in Zumba Gold class. The instructor was energetic and attentive to all class members. I always left in high spirits as the music and the dance were great!
- I love Friday morning art workshops, which offer a great environment to work art.
- The staff is incredibly helpful and friendly.
- Programs are interesting and enjoyable.
- I particularly enjoyed the Friday night ballroom dancing.
- I enjoy this group and have encouraged my friends to join.
- Everything that I have attended I have had a wonderful experience with. I think the Staff at Los Gatos Senior Center is doing a fantastic job!

LGS Recreation is grateful for the support received from the Town of Los Gatos. Community Health and Senior Services Commission, and the Senior Services Committee. ARPA funds were intended to aid the 55 Plus program to restore services to pre-pandemic levels. As indicated in this report we have successfully restored services and have also seen exciting growth in our community in terms of membership and program expansion. The full burden of the cost to operate the program at current

service levels is now on the Agency. In good faith we will operate at the current staffing level and programs until it becomes clear if / how Town Council prioritizes the 55 Plus effort and identifies sources of partnership and support. By mid-year 2023 in the new Council budget cycle, decisions must be made about the sustainability of the effort.

January 17, 2023

Los Gatos Town Council

Attn: Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and Council Members Hudes, Rennie and Moore
110 E. Main St.
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Reference: LGS Recreation Lease Abatement Proposal

Dear Mayor Ristow and Council Members,

As an LGS Recreation Board Member, I am seeking your support to make the Agency a strategic priority in the upcoming budget cycle.

LGS Recreation (the "Agency") is proposing a partnership in which the Town provides permanent lease abatement of the ARC and YRC. The arrangement is one in which Town leadership has a stake in the Agency and position of authority and governance and the Agency provides staffing, financial management, programs and services.

The Town should not charge a lease to non-profit partners. This revenue should stay with the Agency to curate more programs and extend our reach. The current cost to the Agency is \$250K for leases + \$500K to provide 55+ Senior Services governed by the ARC lease. This amounts to a \$750K benefit to the Town and is fiscally unsustainable for the Agency. No other Recreation Department in the State pays for the use of space to conduct programs for the community. It's an unnatural arrangement and does not support the philosophy as a community asset worth supporting.

What is housed in the Adult Recreation Center is much greater than the services provided by the 55+ program. The Community Center at 208 E. Main supports enriching programs for adults of all ages, families, community services and longstanding events, in addition to the essential work of our Administrative, Human Resources, and Finance Departments. It is in this space where collaboration with community partners is forged, and operation of the Agency is sustained.

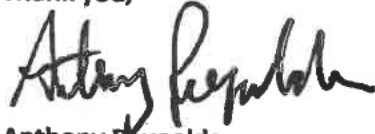
Recreation is an anchor institution and a social driver of enrichment, connection, resiliency, and wellness. It offers engagement for people of all ages, abilities, cultures, and interests. We add to the Town's unique identity, community vitality and sense of connection. Having an economically viable recreation department demonstrates proof of Town values and strategic priorities.

The use of the ARC facility to offer the 55+ program is reflected in the Town's 2022 – 2024 strategic priorities under *Community vitality in which older adults thrive, Special events and Community Engagement*. The Agency has a past practice of writing grants to support 55+ programs. We have also established a 55+ donation campaign. Permanent lease abatement will demonstrate Town support for its own strategic priorities.

I recommend Council set as a 10-year strategic priority re-envisioning the community center as a cultural center with multi-year plan to accomplish the goal. Establishing a plan as part of the GP2040 makes the community more charming and desirable and creates a space to come together.

Please support LGS Recreation's proposal for partnership and lease abatement as a Council strategic priority in the next budget cycle.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Reynolds".

Anthony Reynolds



Cc: Town Manager, Laurel Prevetti
Asst. Town Manager, Arn Andrews



Governing Board
Theresa Bond
Steve Chen
Dr. Misty Davies
Alex Shultz
Katherine Tseng

Superintendent
Bill W. Sanderson

January 17, 2023

Los Gatos Town Council
Attn: Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and Council Members Hudes, Rennie and Moore
110 E. Main St.
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Reference: LGS Recreation Lease Abatement Proposal

Dear Mayor Ristow and Council Members,

As the Superintendent of Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District, I am writing as a partner in this community to seek your support of the LGS Recreation Agency.

LGS Recreation (the "Agency") is proposing a partnership in which the Town provides permanent lease abatement of the ARC and YRC. The arrangement is one in which Town leadership has a position of authority and governance, as well as a stake in the Agency. Additionally, the Agency provides staffing, financial management, programs and services that benefit the Town.

In the recent past, the Agency has been characterized as discretionary and non-essential. LGS Recreation is an enrichment center with a mission to provide recreation and 55+ programs for the benefit of the community. In 2022 we served 31.6K customers. The Town is enriched because of our role. Our organization adds to the uniqueness and draw of the Town, just like the Library and NUMU. Recreation is an essential component of a thriving community and needed to meet the physical, mental health, and social-emotional needs of the citizens we serve.

The Town should not charge a lease to non-profit partners. This revenue should stay with the Agency to curate more programs and extend our reach. The current cost to the Agency is \$250K for leases + \$500K to provide 55+ Senior Services governed by the ARC lease. This amounts to a \$750K benefit to the Town and is fiscally unsustainable for the Agency.

As a policy matter, it makes no sense for the Town to charge rent to the Agency. By retaining these funds, LGS Recreation is in a stronger position to curate new programs that deliver higher community value. The Town government is unable to efficiently recycle these dollars for something of greater value.

The 2023 Agency budget forecasts \$7.8M in revenue and will break-even; it does not include resuming lease payments to the Town. After the temporary lease abatement ends June 2023, any future payments will be treated as a variance and prompt difficult decisions. Without permanent lease abatement, the Agency will be forced to re-evaluate use of the Town facilities

17421 Farley Road West • Los Gatos, California 95030 • (408) 354-2520 Phone • (408) 354-4198 Fax

and the associated staffing and financial obligation to provide core 55+ services to its community. Easily accessible recreation and senior services are the expectation of a Town. The Agency is the Town's de facto recreation department and a community asset worth preserving.

What is housed in the Adult Recreation Center is much greater than the services provided by the 55+ program. The Community Center at 208 E. Main supports enrichment programs for adults of all ages, families, community services, and longstanding events, in addition to the essential work of our Administrative, Human Resources, and Finance Departments. It is in this space where collaboration with community partners are forged, and operation of the Agency is sustained.

The Agency is an anchor institution and a social driver of enrichment, connection, resiliency, and wellness. It offers engagement for people of all ages, abilities, cultures and interests. LGS Recreation adds to the Town's unique identity, community vitality and sense of connection. Having an economically viable recreation department demonstrates proof of Town values and strategic priorities.

The use of the ARC facility to offer the 55+ program is reflected in the Town's 2022 – 2024 strategic priorities under *Community vitality in which older adults thrive, Special events and Community Engagement*. The Agency has a past practice of writing grants to support 55+ programs. We have also established a 55+ donation campaign. Permanent lease abatement will demonstrate Town support for its own strategic priorities.

In contrast to another community asset, the Town Library incurred \$2.8M in operating expenses and took in only \$89K in revenue. This does not include the \$1M the Town pays annually on the construction loan for the Library. The Agency's proposal for lease relief is a relative value by comparison, as demonstrated in 2022 through the provided programs to 31.6K citizens of all ages from Kinder to Seniors. Diverting our revenue to lease payments makes an immaterial difference to the Town's budget and compromises the Agency ability to reinvest revenue to grow programs.

I recommend the Council create a 10-year strategic priority re-envisioning the community center as a cultural center with a multi-year plan to accomplish the goal. Establishing a plan as part of the GP2040 makes the community more charming and desirable and creates a space to come together.



Governing Board
Theresa Bond
Steve Chen
Dr. Misty Davies
Alex Shultz
Katherine Tseng

Superintendent
Bill W. Sanderson

Please support LGS Recreation's proposal for partnership and lease abatement as a Council strategic priority in the next budget cycle.

Sincerely,
Bill W. Sanderson
Superintendent

Cc:
Town Manager, Laurel Prevetti
Asst. Town Manager, Arn Andrews

Los Gatos Union School District
17010 Roberts Road
Los Gatos, CA 95032
Phone: (408) 335-2000
Fax: (408) 395-6481
www.lgusd.org
Paul Johnson, Superintendent



January 17, 2023

Los Gatos Town Council

Attn: Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and Council Members Hudes, Rennie and Moore
110 E. Main St.
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Reference: LGS Recreation Lease Abatement Proposal

Dear Mayor Ristow and Council Members,

As an LGS Recreation Board Member and Superintendent of the Los Gatos Union School District, I would like to thank you for your service to the town of Los Gatos and the entire school district community. LGUSD has been the direct recipient of a long-standing cooperative relationship, and I appreciate all of your efforts. I value our relationship and I believe it can become even stronger.

I am seeking your support to make the Agency a strategic priority in the upcoming budget cycle.

LGS Recreation (the "Agency") is proposing a partnership in which the Town provides permanent lease abatement of the ARC and YRC. The arrangement is one in which Town leadership has a stake in the Agency and position of authority and governance and the Agency provides staffing, financial management, programs and services.

In the recent past the Agency has been characterized as discretionary and non-essential. We're an enrichment center with a mission to provide recreation and 55+ programs for the benefit of the community. In 2022 we served 31.6K customers. The Town is better off because of our role and our organization is what makes this Town unique, just like the Library and NUMU.

The Town should not charge a lease to non-profit partners. This revenue should stay with the Agency to curate more programs and extend our reach. The current cost to the Agency is \$250K for leases + \$500K to provide 55+ Senior Services governed by the ARC lease. This amounts to a \$750K benefit to the Town and is fiscally unsustainable for the Agency.

No other Recreation Department in the State pays for the use of space to conduct programs for the community. It's an unnatural arrangement and does not support the philosophy as a community asset worth supporting.

The Agency does not simply exist to bring in revenue for the Town of Los Gatos. The lease revenue makes an immaterial difference in the Town budget. Funds should go towards building community assets.

Board of Trustees: • Melissa Crow • Courtney Monk • Peter Noymer • Stephen Parsons • Daniel Snyder



As a JPA-member School District Partner we have made concessions to our facilities fee structure that serves as an Agency subsidy. For the Los Gatos Union School District, this amounted to \$95,000 this past year. School Districts are focused on youth education. We are unwilling to use our concessions to pay for Town building leases and the 55+ senior program.

The 2023 Agency budget forecasts \$7.8M in revenue and will break-even; it does not include resuming lease payments to the Town. After the temporary lease abatement ends June 2023, any future payments will be treated as a variance and prompt difficult decisions.

Without permanent lease abatement, the Agency will be forced to evaluate use of the Town facilities and the associated staffing and financial obligation to provide core 55+ services. Recreation and senior services are the expectation of a Town. The Agency is the Town's de facto recreation department and a community asset worth preserving.

In my twenty-two years as a public school district superintendent, I have not seen such an arrangement where a town and recreation/senior services are separate. I am accustomed to the town and recreation department working side by side for the benefit of the community. It is ironic that I as an educator am asked to make decisions regarding senior services.

In my meetings with Town Manager Laurel Prevetti, I have repeatedly suggested that the town join the JPA as a full contributing member. This makes more sense, since senior services should not be driven by public school educators. Having the town offer permanent lease abatement is a step in the right direction, but I would argue that having the town join the JPA as a fully contributing partner is the right vision for the future. I know I would greatly appreciate this as Superintendent of the Los Gatos Union School District.

Please support LGS Recreation's proposal for partnership and lease abatement as a Council strategic priority in the next budget cycle. I am willing to be a fully supportive partner to help bring the Town of Los Gatos to the table regarding senior services and recreation in our wonderful community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Johnson
Superintendent
Los Gatos Union School District

Cc:
Town Manager, Laurel Prevetti
Asst. Town Manager, Arn Andrews

Board of Trustees: • Melissa Crow • Courtney Monk • Peter Noymer • Stephen Parsons • Daniel Snyder



LGS | RECREATION

Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education & Recreation
208 East Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030
Phone: (408)354-8700 Fax: (408)775-8366
www.lgsrecreation.org

January 17, 2023

Los Gatos Town Council
Attn: Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and Council Members Hudes, Rennie and Moore
110 E. Main St.
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Reference: LGS Recreation Lease Abatement Proposal

Dear Mayor Ristow and Council Members,

As an LGS Recreation Community Board Member for 7 years, I am seeking your support to make the Agency a strategic priority in the upcoming budget cycle.

LGS Recreation (the “Agency”) is proposing a partnership in which the Town provides permanent lease abatement of the ARC and YRC. The arrangement gives Town leadership a stake and position of authority and governance in the Agency, while the Agency provides staffing, financial management, programs, and services.

In the recent past the Agency has been characterized as discretionary and non-essential; in actuality, we’re an enrichment center with a mission to provide recreation and 55+ programs for the benefit of the community. In 2022 we served 31,600 customers. It is an unnatural arrangement to expect the Agency to pay a lease for the use of space to serve the community. No other recreation departments in the State are charged this fee. Instead, the lease charges should stay with the Agency to create more programs and extend our reach. The Town benefits from our role and our organization.

Currently, the Agency pays \$250K for leases and \$500K to provide 55+ Senior Services governed by the ARC lease. This amounts to a \$750K benefit to the Town and is fiscally unsustainable for the Agency. The 2023 Agency budget forecasts \$7.8M in revenue and will break-even; however, it does not include resuming lease payments to the Town. After the temporary lease abatement ends in June 2023, any future payments will be treated as a variance and prompt difficult decisions. Without permanent lease abatement, the Agency will be forced to evaluate use of the Town facilities and the associated staffing and financial obligation to provide core 55+ services.

The use of the ARC facility to offer the 55+ program is also reflected in the Town’s 2022 – 2024 strategic priorities under *Community vitality in which older adults thrive, Special*

events and Community Engagement. Permanent lease abatement supports the Town's own strategic priorities.

Recreation is an anchor institution and a social driver of enrichment, connection, resiliency, and wellness. It offers engagement for people of all ages, abilities, cultures, and interests. We add to the Town's unique identity, community vitality and sense of connection. Having an economically viable recreation department demonstrates proof of Town values and strategic priorities.

Please support LGS Recreation's proposal for partnership and lease abatement as a Council strategic priority in the next budget cycle. It is your responsibility to support your community.

Thank you,



Anjali Sridhar
LGS Recreation Community Board Member



Cc:
Town Manager, Laurel Prevetti
Asst. Town Manager, Arn Andrews



Letters of Support from 55 Plus Members for LGS Recreation 55 Plus Proposal

Name

***If no name
 they wish to
 remain
 anonymous**

Comment to Council

Honorable Council Members:

My wife and I look forward to each Wednesday morning as a time for getting together with newly found friends to play bridge in a warm and welcoming setting. The 55 Plus program has given us a renewed sense of community and belonging, which means a great deal to us as we navigate life in our mid-70s.

The staff at the recreation center has been exceptionally gracious, always greeting us with a smile and a personal attention that one rarely encounters in today's rushed society. And we have met many new like-minded members of our age group, some of whom have become good friends. We cannot think of another venue where we could have such benefits.

Allotting budget money to the youth is often justified as an investment in the future. Perhaps you can justify allocating money to us seniors as paying a dividend to your elders who have earned it by devoting their working years to making the experience of living in Los Gatos richly rewarding.

Please be generous to the 55 Plus program, a much-appreciated use of taxpayer funds.

Respectfully submitted, **Byron Foster & Josie Wenecke**

**Byron Foster &
 Josie Wenecke**

Los Gatos Town Council,

Upon retirement 5 years ago from my occupation that I committed 42 years to, I was steered toward the 55+ program from a friend. I immediately found a volunteer position which helped in my transition to my life without 6am to 6pm responsibilities, but yet, I still found purpose. I was able to find new friends who had similar interests, and I was challenged by new activities offered by the program. The senior trips have been a high point for me, and I have enjoyed many. The trip venues are difficult for single seniors to plan and take on themselves, and I feel the choices and guidance by the 55+ 2022 staff have been excellent. I so enjoyed the senior trip to the USS Hornet, which I had never seen before. The programs presented by the Fire Department have been beneficial to me. As a result of attending a meeting (before Covid), I was able to receive five 10 year smoke alarms free. I have since attended the fire safety meetings in 2022 because of the close proximity of the recent wild fires. I thanked the 2022 staff for providing that opportunity,

Linda Speizer

because I came close to evacuating my home. I also attend an Art and Music class which delights me in learning fresh and new ideas about age old art and composers. I attend Gold Zumba class and plan to sign up for yoga. As a health care provider, I know how important mobility and exercise are in the senior population.

The staff prepared and followed through with Friday once a month social dances, a wonderful Christmas music program as well as a New Year's party with a live band. There is nothing like enjoying music with a group of friends where you can sing and dance. Where is there a safer environment for that senior activity? This has now been established with the present staff, and if these programs were lost, there would be profound disappointment.

I would like to commend the 55+ staff in "pulling it together" in 2022. From 2020 to 2022, I felt that there was a shadow of the former 55+ program. I sensed the struggle as many programs disappeared, and the office was often closed. Even if a program was announced, it could be cancelled. The ground swell to get the 55+ group going again with necessary programs is so welcomed by the senior community. I see a return of those who went away a couple of years ago. My friends want to return to ping pong and bridge, and I will encourage them to do so because I expect those programs to stay. The seniors in this Los Gatos community want to be assertive and viable as they voice their needs. I would like the Los Gatos Town Council to listen.

Syd Dunton	I encourage each of you to support the proposal for the 55+ program. It is such an important offering physically, mentally, and socially. I'm in my 80's and have just signed up for the new year. My wife passed on and I feel a little out of the scene and am looking forward to the activities offered. Thanks for your consideration.
A resident in my 70's	I am most concerned that the fastest growing sport in the US—pickleball, is not supported here by having playable courts. Campbell has several including play in the community center gym, but Los Gatos has just a few poorly maintained courts at Rinconada tennis courts with little availability for open play. This is shameful since we have a large, active senior population who want to play! There is ample park and open space in Los Gatos to construct courts which could be used by all our residents. Just do it.
	My father is widowed and recently joined this group about a year ago. He has so much fun meeting new and returning people with this program. Being that he is now 80 years old, there are very limited options around town for his age group. This is so much fun for him and he looks forward to all of the different activities the program has to offer. Please and I mean please, keep this program going!!! Thank you!
R Seifert	since I retired in 2019 I've had limited resources and the meal programs and activities give me much needed socialization and I realized recently that the 55 Plus program is vital for others that don't have family and working friends nearby. Feeling alone without others my age and without local activities would be detrimental to my health. Some of the other members are driven by caretakers to get lunch and spend time with friends. It gives all of us hope for a happier and healthy future living here in Los Gatos. I grew up here in town and always been proud to be part of this wonderful community that has always given help and respect to the aging population.
	Having access to other individuals of a similar age group as in the 55+ program adds to life psychologically, physically, and spiritually no matter the differences that may exist between each other. It's a program that adds to being a part of a community!
Eleanor Schoenberger	After being cooped up during two years of covid, it was great to be able to come to the center for our bridge games. It is something that all of who attend look forward to each week. Please keep the program and the great staff going. Thank you.
Irmi Bloching	Since my family lives in Europe, the 55+ Program IS MY ONLY SOURCE (and I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO THE AGENCY for it!!!) to

- meet other seniors in a neutral and very friendly environment,
- while attending their various very interesting and helpful programs e.g.
- Tech with Teens
- Stay Fit exercise, Walking, Ping Pong and other sports programs
- cultural events
- discussion groups of various topics
- painting, art
- wood carving
- games
- musical programs
- work shops
- travel programs

Every senior will FIND SOMETHING THAT MEETS THEIR INTEREST AND MAKE FRIENDS !!!
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR IDEAS TO MAKE LIFE MORE ENJOYABLE !!

As we age and friends pass on, the 55+ programs provide a social setting to meet people with similar interests.

I only learned of the LGR 55+ program last summer and I thoroughly enjoy it. I joined with 3 other friends but I through the different programs, I have made several new friends.

I currently enjoy playing Bingo, Hand & Foot, Mexican Train, and Bunco when offered. I loved the Thanksgiving dinner and holiday party. March 4, I will participate in my first trip.

I love this program and would be willing to pay more if the programs continue.

I would like to comment. That I came from another community senior center, which was not open as due to Covid. I live in Los Gatos and I decided to join the senior center. They welcomed me with open arms, accommodate our card group, and I am so grateful for that. They were so happy that we came to choose them.

First of all, I want to comment on the staff excellent can't find anybody better. I also feel it's very important we have this program, this gives us someplace to go and people to meet. We had numerous favorite moments. I've been to most of all the events and they were entertaining, fun and thoroughly enjoyed. The staff has done a great job in initiating all these events.

The only thing I can add is we do need a heating and air-conditioning system and some of the rooms but the staff have accommodated us very well and we really appreciate what they're doing for us. They had supplied us all the things that we needed to enjoy those days.

For any reason, the senior program was canceled all of us will be lost. I look forward to coming there and enjoying my time with new friends and being with very good staff members and they're always cheerful and

I know the programs you have that could help us are very appreciative. Please continue with all what you're doing. We appreciate all the trips and hopefully they're more to come. Thank you again.

Marie
Catalano

I and my husband are new to the 55+Program but have been very impressed with the programs they offer and have noted how many people are enjoying all these activities. With the number of seniors in Los Gatos, this is definitely a service that should be protected in the budget or even expanded in the future.

David
Osterlund

I belong to a group of wood carvers that meets at the senior center. It's open to anyone interested in wood carving. My group could afford to pay more, but there are some that can't.

	The staff are very helpful. But we do need more programs , supports and fund like other cities senior programs. Sometimes i have to join other cities' classes and programs!!
Judy Attard	I support funding for the 55+ program for the senior community in Los Gatos. It's a nice way for seniors to get together and enjoy each other's company. Especially, if they have no family here. The staff is wonderful and the members are a lot of fun. I look forward to going every week.
	Please support the 55+ program. My mother has just returned to LG after a long absence and we are looking forward to her spending time learning, exercising, and socializing within the community.
	A 55+ program provides structure and a safe place for retirees and aging seniors to continue making friends and having fun.
	This program has enabled me to meet new friends and alleviate some of the loneliness I feel.
	It is an opportunity to interact with others.
Sandra Will	I hope you all realize that seniors comprise a large portion of the Los Gatos community and the services of the 55+ program is vital to the mental and physical welfare of these members of our village.
	We need to keep this important program for our mental, social and physical health.
	To say that the 55+ program is important to me and other seniors is an understatement, to say the least. Without the connections we had made before the pandemic lockdown, many of us would have been desolate, possibly affecting our health, mentally and physically. I am one of the fortunate people who have consuming hobbies and volunteer work to keep myself busy, but having friends made at the senior center to connect digitally or by phone definitely boosted my day during the dark period of lockdown.
	Our generation is all about not wasting and doing the best with what's available, so we can be depended upon for assisting the 55+ staff stretch the budget.
Coco Bonneville	Your consideration for the 55+ program will be greatly appreciated.
Donna Henderson	Los Gatos 55+ program offers an amazing collection of social, learning, athletic and travel opportunities for a senior community that needs such outlets to maintain health and mental well being! They have an equally amazing director in Lisanne who greets, welcomes, and participates all people in such a way as to make you want to return often. It would be a devastating loss to the community if this program were not funded. Please take the necessary steps to preserve this valuable treasure. Thank you.
	I have been a member since I moved here in 2017. I love the idea that I get to meet people, there is so much variety in programs. I have met some great friends. I play bridge every week and that is what I love to do the most. The staff are great. I would be very disappointed if the program did not exist anymore, it is a place I come to for a lot of enjoyment.
Erin Burns Harris	My dad loves this program. He is a widower and lives alone and the LGS 55+ program gives him the socialization that he needs to keep him from being lonely. He has attended so many well put together social events in 2022 such as the Thanksgiving and summer luncheons as well as the Christmas breakfast. He also attends the weekly music class which he loves as well as speaking engagements on pertinent topics. The staff here is amazing and does such a great job with the program. Please continue to fund the program in 2023 as it gives so much joy to its participants.
	I enjoy coning to the Center for programs but I also find comfort with the people (staff and fellow seniors) that helps balance my life in as a single person all alone in an apartment. Seniors should feel grateful to have this wonderful resource available for so little cost.
	I "discovered" the Senior Rec Center last Spring. I attend several events every week and I have enjoyed it immensely! I have met many new friends and I really enjoy them. I am grateful to the staff for their friendliness and helpfulness. I would be very sad if these services disappeared,
Frances and Bill Feete	My husband and I are 93 years old and depend on this Senior program for exercise and companionship. We have found it to be pretty vital to our remaining active both mentally and

physically.

The staff are amazing with their ability to communicate with and interest older adults in many kinds of activities.

Please do your best to keep this wonderful program going.

Thank you,

Frances and Bill Feeter



Frank W.
Schneider

I urge you to support funding for the 55+ senior program. I am 81 years old and have been active in the current program for 3-4 years participating actively in the Wednesday morning bridge program and in the pickleball club. In addition, I attend many of the senior lunch and social events.

January 18, 2023

Los Gatos Town Council

Attn: Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and Council Members Hudes, Rennie and Moore

Cc:

Town Manager, Laurel Prevetti

Asst. Town Manager, Arn Andrews

110 E. Main St.

Los Gatos, CA 95030

Reference: LGS Recreation Proposal for Funding for 55 Plus Programming and Services

Dear Mayor Ristow and Council Members,

As [\(a 55 Plus member of x years\)](#), I am seeking your support to make the LGS Recreation 55 Plus Program and therefore the seniors of Los Gatos a strategic priority in the upcoming budget cycle.

I have found the 55+ Program have given me a place to come to and meet with like-minded individuals who are interested in the activity I would like to pursue. This center and the various programs offered is important for the senior community who live in Los Gatos, especially as we baby boomers are getting on in years. The additional funding can be used to streamline and improve the quality of the programs offered as also add to the choice of programs. I think much can be done to make this program more accessible and broad-based so we attract more of the Los Gatos 55+ population.

I have certainly benefitted from the Music and Art appreciation program sponsored by West Valley College, and it has prompted me to re-started my journey and sharpening my music skills and have enjoyed being part of the Christmas Singalong guitar group. I also enjoyed attending the various celebratory functions/ parties arranged by the 55+ Staff, and the occasional Table Tennis game in one of the back rooms. We definitely need the additional funds to expand and refine the many offerings that exist at this program, and I have no doubt that the additional funds will help to keep the programs up and running effectively.

Please support LGS Recreation's proposal for partnership and financial support of the 55 Plus Program as a Council strategic priority in the next budget cycle.

Thank you, and look forward to your support

Claudette Chander

Los Gatos

18 January 2023

Los Gatos Town Council
110 E. Main St.
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Subject: Town Policy on LGS Recreation Facility Rent

Honorable Mayor Ristow and Council Members,

I am writing to express my personal opinion as an older adult resident of Los Gatos for the past 10 years. My wife, Danice, and I have participated in many LGS Recreation programs over our time here and we have certainly found them to enrich our lives as members of the community.

I note that other cities in our area with recreational or senior programs in partnership with nonprofit providers do not charge rent for the use of their facilities. I do not think our provider, LGS Recreation, should be paying for the use of Town facilities either. Their work is not a for-profit (nor money-making) endeavor like that for a concessionaire, but rather a contribution to the lives of the Town residents. What recovery they are able to obtain through fees should be retained to cover the costs of their services and to put back into programs for the benefit of the community. If there are concerns with this partnership approach perhaps the Town might seek to become more actively involved in the non-profit through closer contact or representation on their board.

I respectfully request the Town to consider this perspective on no rent requirement.

Sincerely,

Tom

Tom & Danice Picraux


January 18, 2023

Los Gatos Town Council

Attn: Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and Council Members Hudes, Rennie and Moore

Cc:

Town Manager, Laurel Prevetti

Asst. Town Manager, Arn Andrews

110 E. Main St.

Los Gatos, CA 95030

Reference: LGS Recreation Proposal for Funding for 55 Plus Programming and Services

Dear Mayor Ristow and Council Members,

As 56 year old and active member of the community and town, I am seeking your support to make the LGS Recreation 55 Plus Program and therefore the seniors of Los Gatos a strategic priority in the upcoming budget cycle. LGS should be a partner not a vendor.....without them you would be paying millions to run a Recreation department.

Please support LGS Recreation's proposal for partnership and financial support of the 55 Plus Program as a Council strategic priority in the next budget cycle.

Thank you,

Kyle Park

[REDACTED]

Laurel Prevetti

From: Janette Judd
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 9:46 AM
To: Laurel Prevetti
Subject: FW: My speech last night

Hi Laurel,

Message received on the TM e-mail. This was already cc'd to Council Members (note some to personal not Town e-mails), to Arn, and to the Attorney.

JJ

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 9:41 AM
To: Matthew Hudes Town Council <matthew@matthewhudes.com>; Rob Rennie <RRennie@losgatosca.gov>; Mary Badame <MBadame@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Moore [REDACTED]; Maria Ristow <MRistow@losgatosca.gov>
Cc: Arn Andrews <aandrews@losgatosca.gov>; Town Manager <Manager@losgatosca.gov>; Gabrielle Whelan <GWhelan@losgatosca.gov>
Subject: My speech last night

EXTERNAL SENDER

I decided not to speak at the end of the session thinking most people would be gone and you would all be emotionally wiped out with the loss of Arn. Let me say how disappointed that I am losing one of the best employees this town has ever had. He was universally liked and respected, even when we had our differences. I shall miss him. We have now lost just about every top manager in the past couple of years. What is the source of this problem? Is this happening to all cities and towns?

What would be another tragedy would be to lose Ms Rollett (ARC) and/or Ms. Davis (NUMU), two cornerstones to this towns community spirit and inclusiveness. One or both will be out of business without immediate Council support. These two entities are not discretionary, but rather mandatory in any well run town.

This is what I was going to speak about last night:

My purpose in speaking tonight is to encourage the Council to put both the Adult Recreation Center and NUMU high on your priority list on the

24th of this month. They two organizations are two town treasures that provide recreation, education, art, community, inclusiveness, etc. etc. to thousands of our residents and to 1000's of visitors who come to see the Town's growing museum.

My family is now in its third generation of using ARC. You will hear over the course of the next week that the ARC has to change its business model; ie, they are no longer able to be a revenue source for the town by paying rent while at the same time incurring the cost of a seniors program that is growing rapidly. The increased efforts by Ms Rollett and her team are paying off with more seniors participating in the programs. They are closing in on 100% growth over the past year. However, growth also has its costs that can no longer be paid for with the current financial structure of the ARC.

You have two very talented, intelligent, hard working individuals in Ms. Rollett and Ms. Davis who are wholly dedicated to the Town's citizens that participate from a very young age to what they call an, old, old age. When people say, "I love Los Gatos", in part, it comes from the caring and forethought the Council and staff gives to its citizens. That has been manifested through the efforts of the ARC and NUMU as well as the many talented Commissions and Committees we have.

Just recently I was introduced to the Senior Services Committee and was totally wowed by what this talented group is doing along with the CHSSC and ARC. With the cooperation of the ARC, the senior committee and the services commission, they are now melded into a cohesive unit by combining their knowledge with advice given by two of the town's councilmembers. They are providing the leadership, bench marking, and gap analysis while creating a road map as to how to create a bigger and better community center over the next 10 years.

It's my opinion that the ARC has been steadily building a platform upon which this community center can be launched with an already solid base of leadership, membership and participation. I realize the Town has had some serious financial issues, but the "ask" of the ARC and NUMU is a mere ~1% of the total budget. The five year forecast was

recently reduced from \$20 million over 5 years to \$10 million. We should be able to manage another \$750K.

However, I don't think they will be able to do that without some serious work by the Council, staff, Commissions and Committee's if they are an afterthought as opposed to a becoming a priority. Once a priority, all eyes are focused on how to make that entity stronger and better. They already have great leadership and they have a long record of success with our citizens. No other towns nor cities charge rent to their departments just as town does not charge rent to the library. They provide a service to the community. Please give up the rent and the administrative costs. Let them continue to grow stronger.

Both entities, ARC and NUMU are cornerstones to the success of our Town.

The Los Gatos Community Alliance is in full support of the ARC's and NUMU's. Future success.

Jak Van Nada

Los Gatos Community Alliance

Laurel Prevetti

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 5:11 PM
To: Maria Ristow; Mary Badame; Matthew Hudes; Rob Rennie; Rob Moore; Laurel Prevetti
Subject: Los Gatos Senior Centre

EXTERNAL SENDER

the senior Centre is an important asset to the town and very important to a lot of the people living here.

.....trixie bentley, [REDACTED]

Laurel Prevetti

From: RICHARD WENDELL - [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 7:59 AM
To: Maria Ristow; Mary Badame; Matthew Hudes; Rob Rennie; Rob Moore
Cc: Laurel Prevetti; Arn Andrews
Subject: Please support the 55+ program

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Los Gatos Town Council,

We, who are both in our seventies, are healthier and happier today because of the reenergized 55+ program this past year. Ping pong twice a week at the Adult Rec Center, ballroom dances, a book club, special events like the "Name this tune" party and summer picnic in front of the library are some of the things that we personally have enjoyed this past year. We meet other seniors who do art, card games, discussions etc. Towns with vibrant senior programs are desirable for locals of all ages—please support the 55+ program when you meet to discuss funding priorities next week.

Thank you for all you do to make our town a wonderful place to live,

Vicki and Richard Wendell

[REDACTED]
Los Gatos, CA (5030

From: Byron Foster [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 9:33 AM
To: Maria Ristow; Mary Badame; Matthew Hudes; Rob Rennie; Rob Moore
Cc: Laurel Prevetti; aandrews@losgatosca.go
Subject: Support for 55 Plus Program

EXTERNAL SENDER

Honorable Council Members:

My wife and I look forward to each Wednesday morning as a time for getting together with newly found friends to play bridge in a warm and welcoming setting. The 55 Plus program has given us a renewed sense of community and belonging, which means a great deal to us as we navigate life in our mid-70s.

The staff at the recreation center has been exceptionally gracious, always greeting us with a smile and a personal attention that one rarely encounters in today's rushed society. And we have met many new like minded members of our age group, some of whom have become good friends. We cannot think of another venue where we could have such benefits.

Allotting budget money to the youth is often justified as an investment in the future. Perhaps you can justify allocating money to us seniors as paying a dividend to your elders who have earned it by devoting their working years to making the experience of living in Los Gatos richly rewarding.

Please be generous to the 55 Plus program, a much appreciated use of taxpayer funds.

Respectfully submitted,

Byron Foster & Josie Wernecke

Laurel Prevetti

From: Bluewing [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 10:28 AM
To: Laurel Prevetti
Subject: LGS Recreation - 55Plus

EXTERNAL SENDER

As a very aged senior who has been a member of the 55Plus program for almost ten years I have found the program to have a very positive impact on my life. I have made a few special friends in participating in the programs offered and being able to join with other like-minded people on a weekly basis has been good for me as it keeps me connected. The closure during 2021 was very difficult so I was thrilled when we 'opened for business' in 2022.

Living on Social Security means that my income is somewhat limiting so I have really appreciated the wonderful services offered by the 55Plus program.

I hope you will consider funding this program as you have in the past.

Sincerely yours,

Micaela de Boer



LGS | RECREATION

Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education & Recreation
208 East Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030
Phone: (408)354-8700 Fax: (408)775-8366 www.lgsrecreation.org

January 19, 2023

To: Los Gatos Town Council
Attn: Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, Council Members Hudes, Rennie and Moore

Reference: LGS Recreation Lease Abatement Proposal

Dear Mayor Ristow and Council Members,

As an LGS Recreation Board Member and Saratoga Union School District Superintendent, I am seeking your support to make the Agency a strategic priority in the upcoming budget cycle.

LGS Recreation (the "Agency") is proposing a partnership in which the Town provides permanent lease abatement of the ARC and YRC. The arrangement is one in which Town leadership has a stake in the Agency and position of authority and governance, and the Agency provides staffing, financial management, programs and services.

As a JPA-member School District Partner we have made concessions to our facilities fee structure that serves as an Agency subsidy. School Districts are focused on youth education. We are unwilling to use our concessions to pay for Town building leases and the 55+ senior program. The 2023 Agency budget forecasts \$7.8M in revenue and will break-even; it does not include resuming lease payments to the Town. After the temporary lease abatement ends June 2023, any future payments will be treated as a variance and prompt difficult decisions. Without permanent lease abatement, the Agency will be forced to evaluate use of the Town facilities and the associated staffing and financial obligation to provide core 55+ services.

Please support LGS Recreation's proposal for partnership and lease abatement as a Council strategic priority in the next budget cycle.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kenneth Geisick
Los Gatos Saratoga Recreation Chairperson
Saratoga Union School District Superintendent

20460 Forrest Hills Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070
kgeisick@saratogausd.org
(408) 867-3424, ext. 503



LGS | RECREATION

Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education & Recreation
208 East Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030
Phone: (408)354-8700 Fax: (408)775-8366
www.lgsrecreation.org

January 19, 2023

Los Gatos Town Council
Attn: Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and Council Members Hudes, Rennie and Moore
110 E. Main St.
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Reference: LGS Recreation Lease Abatement Proposal

Dear Mayor Ristow and Council Members,

As an LGS Recreation Board Member (a community member of ~2 years), I am seeking your support to make the Agency a strategic priority in the upcoming budget cycle.

LGS Recreation (the "Agency") is proposing a partnership in which the Town provides permanent lease abatement of the ARC and YRC. The arrangement is one in which Town leadership has a stake in the Agency and position of authority and governance and the Agency provides staffing, financial management, programs and services.

The Agency is an enrichment center with a mission to provide recreation and 55+ programs for the benefit of the community. In 2022 we served 31.6K customers. The Town is better off because of our role and our organization is what makes this Town unique, just like the Library and NUMU.

Most Towns and Cities recognize it's the expectation of the community to have recreation and enrichment programs. No other recreation departments in the State pay a lease for the use of space to serve the community.

The 2023 Agency budget forecasts \$7.8M in revenue and will break-even; it does not include resuming lease payments to the Town. After the temporary lease abatement ends June 2023, any future payments will be treated as a variance and prompt very difficult decisions that directly impact community members.

The ongoing use of the ARC facility to offer the 55+ program is reflected in the Town's 2022 – 2024 strategic priorities under *Community vitality in which older adults thrive, Special events and Community Engagement*. The Agency has a past practice of writing grants to support 55+ programs. We have also established a 55+ donation campaign. Permanent lease abatement will demonstrate Town support for it's own strategic priorities.

Please support LGS Recreation's proposal for partnership and permanent lease abatement as a Council strategic priority in the next budget cycle.

Thank you,

Rob Caruso



Cc:

Town Manager, Laurel Prevetti

Asst. Town Manager, Arn Andrews

Laurel Prevetti

From: Lydia Norcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 2:56 PM
To: Maria Ristow; Arn Andrews; Mary Badame; Rob Rennie; rmoore@losgatosca.gov; Matthew Hudes; Laurel Prevetti
Subject: Request for the Town of Los Gatos to prioritize, support and fund the Los Gatos 55 Plus Program and all programs for the senior residents of Los Gatos.
Attachments: 2023 55 Plus - Support for Proposal for Town Funding.html

EXTERNAL SENDER

Help for the seniors in Los Gatos - please see the attachment.

The Los Gatos 55 Plus Program helps to support seniors and assists them with some of the following issues:

isolation

loneliness

nutrition

health checks with RN

senior exercise classes to enhance and extend life expectancy.

safety issues - home and phone check ups

55 plus recreation events and travel to assist seniors with safe and fun activities.

assists seniors to create and maintain friendships.

educational classes to help seniors maintain intellectual acuity.

classes to assist them with brain functioning.

Support program for widows and widowers.

body balance exercises classes for safety bone strength.

2023 55 Plus - Support for Proposal for Town Funding

Los Gatos Town Council is meeting in a Special Session on Tues., January 24th at 7pm to set priorities for the 2023 / 2024 budget cycle. Please help support LGS Recreation's proposal for funding for the 55 Plus program.

- Importance of the 55+ Program to you as an individual
- Importance of the 55+ Program to the senior community in Los Gatos
- Improvements or changes to the level of service and programs that you experienced in 2022
 - Note: please refrain from referencing individual staff names, and instead use "staff"
- A positive experience or favorite moment from 2022
- Impact it would have on you as an individual or the community if the 55+ Program did not exist or was greatly reduced

Here is more of background about this request:

LGS Recreation does not receive tax dollars or subsidy to support the 55 Plus Program. It is unnatural for community Senior Services to not receive funding, as demonstrated by the Senior Services Committee benchmarking. With the philosophy of offering free or low-cost programs and services, the 55 Plus program generates minimal revenue. Historically, LGS Recreation has subsidized the 55 Plus program from the profits of fee-based programming from other departments within our Agency. This approach is no longer financially sustainable. LGS Recreation is seeking a partnership with the Town of Los Gatos to continue the momentum, program level, and success of the 55 Plus Program experienced in 2022. In this partnership, the Town would provide funding, and the Agency provides the staffing, financial management, programs, and services. In 2022, LGS Recreation received \$328.5K ARPA grant funding from the Town of Los Gatos intended to aid the 55 Plus Program to restore services to pre-pandemic levels. The ARPA grant has highlighted what can be achieved with Town support of the 55 Plus Program. We are seeking a similar level of funding and service for 2023 and are asking the Town to continue to prioritize Seniors in Los Gatos.

Immersive Reader in Microsoft Forms allows you to hear the text of a form title and questions read out loud while following along. You can find the Immersive Reader button next to form title or questions after activating this control. You can also change the spacing of line and words to make them easier to read, highlight parts of speech and syllables, select single words or lines of words read aloud, and select language preferences.

Page 96 e *LEAVE BLANK IF YOU PREFER TO REMAIN ANONYMOUSSingle line text.



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 01/24/2023

ITEM NO: 1

ADDENDUM

DATE: January 23, 2023
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Affirm and/or Refine Existing Strategic Priorities and Determine the Priorities for New Ordinances.

RECOMMENDATION:

Attachment 5 contains Council Member comments and Attachment 6 contains public comments received between 11:01 a.m. Friday, January 20, 2023, and 11:00 a.m. Monday, January 23, 2023.

Attachments received with the Staff Report:

1. 2022-2024 Strategic Priorities
2. Los Gatos 2040 General Plan Implementation Programs 2020-2025, Annual, and Ongoing
3. Ordinance List
4. Public Comments received prior to 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 20, 2023

Attachments received with this Addendum:

5. Council Member Comments
6. Public Comments received between 11:01 a.m. Friday, January 20, 2023, and 11:00 a.m. Monday, January 23, 2023

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

From: Rob Moore <RMoore@losgatosca.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 11:25 PM
To: Laurel Prevetti <LPrevetti@losgatosca.gov>
Cc: Wendy Wood <WWood@losgatosca.gov>; Janette Judd <jjudd@losgatosca.gov>
Subject: Strategic Priorities Addendum

Hi Laurel,

Please correct me if any of this is not the correct procedure.

I would like to include the two attached documents as an addendum to for Tuesday's Strategic Priority Special Meeting. The first is a document outlining my proposed refinements as well as direction on existing strategic priorities. The second is a scan of my mark up of the 2022-2024 Strategic Priorities to make my proposed changes as clear as possible.

Thank you very much!

Take care,

Rob

Rob Moore
Councilmember, Los Gatos Town Council

Strategic Priorities Refinements Addendum

Proposed by Rob Moore

Language changes:

- Change “Transportation Demand Management” to:
 - “Traffic Calming”
- Change “Community Where Older Adults Thrive & Senior Road Map” to:
 - “Community Where Older Adults Thrive & Support Implementation of Senior Road Map”
- Change “Affordable Housing” to:
 - “Affordable Housing Partnerships/ Homeless Support”
- Delete “Semi-Permanent Parklets”
- Delete “Dittos Lane Affordable Housing”
- Delete “Objective Standards”

Refinements/ Direction

Below is additional elaboration/ direction on existing strategic priorities and on proposed refinements:

- Traffic Calming
 - The reason for this change is to move the emphasis from traffic demand management closer to the idea of “complete streets.” This better aligns our strategic priorities with the 2040 General Plan (ex. Complete Streets and Reduce Vehicle Speeds as outlined in 5.3 MOB-4) and addresses growing community concerns related to traffic safety.
 - Given the recent traffic fatality on Blossom Hill Road and other concerns with speeding throughout all areas of Los Gatos, the Town should be investing in traffic calming efforts. These could include roads diets, slow streets, and/ or greater enforcement.
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements
 - Among other important Bike and Ped improvements, staff should seek out improvements and upgrades to streetlight and sidewalk infrastructure, especially in historically underinvested parts of the town. Neighborhoods in Los Gatos that were annexed relatively recently from Santa Clara County often have no sidewalks and few streetlights, despite having just as much need for these important safety features.
- Sell or Lease Certain Town Properties
 - The Town should be very intentional when it comes to the use of Town-owned properties. The Town owns few properties and a significant portion of land in Los Gatos has been built on.
 - As such, the Town should explore options and partnerships for using the parcel of Town-owned land located at 224 W. Main for affordable housing. The

facilitation and creation of affordable housing is a major goal of our draft Housing Element and our 2040 General Plan as a whole. Space is often the greatest constraint, so Town-owned property should be seriously considered for use as affordable housing.

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts:
 - Town staff are currently working hard to complete a town Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan which should be finished in Summer 2023, as identified in the staff report. Completion of this report, then implementation of tangible actions, should be a top DEI priority.
 - These actions include those already identified in the 2040 General Plan like the creation of a Social and Racial Justice Commission and in-person diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings for staff and Council.
- Community Where Older Adults Thrive and **Support Implementation of Senior Road Map**:
 - First, the grammar and verbiage in this bullet is a little confusing. I'd be interested to hear from other Councilmembers who have been intimately involved with senior issues what changes to this language make the most sense.
 - With the Senior Road Map nearing completion, the emphasis on this item should be shifted to support the actions identified in the completed report.
 - Additionally, the Town should continue to explore ways to empower existing senior service providers and ensure the highest level of care and services for our older adults in Los Gatos.
- Affordable Housing **Partnerships/ Homeless Support**
 - This language change will help clarify Council's intentions when it comes to affordable housing and supporting disadvantaged community members.
 - The creation of affordable housing is an important priority for many groups and community members including the Los Gatos Community Alliance, the Los Gatos Anti-Racism Coalition, and local faith groups. As such, Town staff should proactively reach out to various organizations in the community like nonprofit housing developers, housing advocacy groups, philanthropic housing funders, and the Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing to create partnerships in order to facilitate affordable housing development in Los Gatos.
 - The Town should also explore options to provide greater support to our residents who are experiencing homelessness. As of now, there are few options and resources provided by the Town to help these vulnerable community members. The Los Gatos faith community is interested in being a partner to accomplish this, as are local nonprofits who experts at supporting those experiencing homelessness. Town staff should explore housing options (both permanent housing and temporary housing, such as an extreme weather shelter) as well as best practices for providing services under serious resource constraints.

Other direction:

- Empowering commissions:
 - Once we get to budget setting, I would like to devote a few thousand dollars to each “project oriented” commission. This will give them a greater ability to work on the projects they have identified as important for the year. We have already allocated \$1,500 per year for this purpose to the Arts and Culture Commission. This should be expanded to include commissions like Complete Streets, Parks, etc.



Ongoing Strategic Priorities 2022-2024

SAFETY

- Community Policing
- Emergency Preparedness
 - CERT Recruitment & Training
 - EOC Readiness & Emergency Plan Development
- Fire Protection
 - Vegetation Management
 - Implementation of Ad Hoc Wildfire Mitigation Plan

PRUDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Address Pension & OPEB Obligations
- Explore New Revenue Opportunities
- Sell or Lease Certain Town Properties

QUALITY OF LIFE

- Community Vitality
 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Efforts
 - Community Where Older Adults Thrive & Senior Road Map
 - Events & Other Town-Wide Efforts
 - Community Engagement
 - Environmental Sustainability/Climate Resiliency
- Economic Vitality & Pandemic Recovery
 - Policies & Ordinances
 - ~~Semi-Permanent Parklets~~
- Land Use Planning
 - General Plan 2040
 - Housing Element
 - Affordable Housing Partnerships / Homeless Support
 - ~~Dittus Lane Affordable Housing~~
 - ~~Objective Standards~~
 - SB9 Implementation

TRAFFIC/TRANSPORTATION

- Comprehensive Parking Study
 - Short, Medium, and Long-Term Actions
- ~~Transportation Demand Management~~ Traffic Calming
 - Measure B Transportation Projects
 - Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements
 - Community Shuttle
 - Summer/Rush Hour/School Traffic
 - Regional Transportation Issues

Support
Implementation of

Laurel Prevetti

From: Ashleigh Coffeng [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2023 11:12 AM
To: Council
Subject: Blossom Hill Road Traffic Safety Mitigation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a lifelong , 51 year member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

I have not only live in Belwood for 15 years, I grew up on Francis Oaks Way just up Blossom Hill Road. I have spent my entire life pulling out onto Blossom Hill Road. I have never experienced traffic so bad in terms of how fast people drive and how unsafe it is for bikers, pedestrians, motorists and especially the residents living along this road.

I now have teenage drivers and after the recent fatality near our home, I have told them to not make a left across Blossom Hill Road to exit our neighborhood at Westhill Drive because a large truck is always parked along the houses on BH Road and it makes it impossible to see oncoming traffic to the left. This is also where the road goes from one to two lanes and people speed up and pass each other. There is no U turn sign at the light at Leigh and Blossom Hill intersection so, I now have my children and I doing illegal u-turns just so we do not have to take a dangerous, blind left hand turn out onto Blossom Hill Road and face an accident or death.

Having no parking allowed along Blossom Hill Road from Union Ave to Harwood Road and having a dedicated turn lane along the entire length of roadway would make our entire corridor a much safer place for all who utilize this extremely busy and well utilized road. Also adding a "do not block" section at Westhill Drive before and after the light at Leigh on Blossom Hill Road would allow for safer entering and exiting traffic during commute hours.

As a little back history, I have been working on behalf of our Belgatos/Belwood neighborhood to get safer bike paths, sidewalks and road safety for the past 15 years. I have worked with the Parks and Public Works (Kevin Rohani), town traffic engineers, the mayors at the time (Rob Rennie and Joe Pirzynski), the LGPD and the town council to no avail. I was always told the area doesn't serve enough residents to warrant any changes. My main goal was to get a side walk or path along the hillside of Blossom Hill Road from Heritage Oaks to the Union Avenue light so my children could walk to Union Middle School safely and for us to be able to walk to the Safeway shopping center on Union Ave so we did not have to drive. Over the past few years I have tried to get parking along this roadway prohibited and traffic mitigation addressed, again to no avail.

Since I have been a 51 year resident of this town, I have seen all of the traffic, bike and pedestrian safety measures the town has invested in in every part of town that serves the local LGUSD schools. East Los Gatos has been largely overlooked and forgotten. The 25 million dollar pedestrian overcrossing being built over highway 17 near blossom hill road is another example of items that

precede our needs. We already have Blossom Hill Overpass as a bike and pedestrian crossing as well as the pedestrian crossing into old town from the high school and the Main Street overpass.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, hiking trails and school.

Over the years there have been many serious accidents on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

I have a running joke that says, "I have spent my entire life chancing death turning left onto Blossom Hill Road and I will likely spend the rest of my life doing the same." Please make turning left onto Blossom Hill Road safer for us all.

Sincerely,
Ashleigh Coffeng

From: Jan English-Lueck

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2023 11:30 AM

To: Town Manager <Manager@losgatosca.gov>

Cc: Maria Ristow <MRistow@losgatosca.gov>; Mary Badame <MBadame@losgatosca.gov>; Matthew Hudes <MHudes@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Moore <RMoore@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Rennie <RRennie@losgatosca.gov>; Laurel Prevetti <LPrevetti@losgatosca.gov>; Arn Andrews <aandrews@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: Advocating a shift in financing NUMU through reduced rent

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council

The Honorable Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and Council Members Hudes, Moore, and Rennie

110 E. Main St.

Los Gatos, CA 95030

January 20, 2023

Dear Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and Council Members Hudes, Moore, and Rennie,

I am a faculty member at San Jose State University, an anthropologist of Silicon Valley, and a longtime collaborator with New Museum Los Gatos, NUMU. My colleagues, such as the late Pat Dunning, and I have worked with the Forbes Mill History Museum of Los Gatos since the early 2000s. As you know their collections moved to NUMU. In 2017, I worked with them on the exhibit Cement Prairie, capturing the stories of Native American relocated to the Bay Area. I am working with them now on their collaboration with the Muwekma Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area and Mosaic America. I am writing today to encourage you to treat NUMU | New Museum Los Gatos as an integral part of its strategic priorities by removing rent payments from NUMU's lease with the Town of Los Gatos.

The institution is a vital part of the region's ecosystem of museums. They are a leader in museum studies and they amplify the voices of artists not usually recognized. They take the time to learn about the communities with which they work, such as our region's Native Americans. I have watched them mentor dozens of San Jose State University students over the years, and hope they will be in a strong position to mentor them in the future. I'm aware that NUMU is asking the Town to reduce rent for 106 E. Main Street to \$1 per year to support NUMU's ongoing responsibility to maintain and steward the Town of Los Gatos' history collection and provide art, history, and cultural educational services to the Los Gatos community. What would Los Gatos be without NUMU? I fully support this arrangement and hope that the Town can financially prioritize NUMU for years to come.

Thank you,

Dr. Jan English-Lueck
Anthropology Department
San Jose State University

--

Dr. Jan English-Lueck (she, her, hers)

Author, [Cultures@SiliconValley 2nd edition](#)
Professor of Anthropology
San Jose State University
San Jose CA 95192-0113
(email to arrange phone or Zoom calls)

From: jaimin desai
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2023 2:37 PM
To: Council <Council@losgatosca.gov>
Subject: [Strategic Priorities] BHR-Belgatos Traffic Safety

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accidents on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you.

Jaimin Ketan Desai

From: [Cindy Walker](#)
To: [Town Manager](#)
Subject: Town Traffic
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 5:35:31 AM

EXTERNAL SENDER

1. Enforce sound ordinance for vehicles. Too many modifications to muffler systems w sports cars racing around town making loud and disturbing sounds.
2. More crosswalks on Arterial Streets and Speed Flashing Light monitors.
3. Reduce speed limits around town to 30mph and 25mph within a mile of schools.
4. 25mph around curves. On all Arterial Streets.

Cheers, Cindy ♀ Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sweta Desai](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [Strategic Priorities] BHR-Belgatos Traffic Safety
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 7:06:29 AM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood. We are located at the intersection of Westhill Dr and Belgatos road and merging onto Blossom Hill Road from Belgatos Road is nearly our only accessible routine.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accident on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you.

Sweta Desai.

From: [Debbie Sy](#)
To: [Town Manager](#)
Subject: Traffic safety at Harwood Rd. & Belhaven Dr.
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 8:27:55 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Manager at Town of Los Gatos,

Thank you for soliciting input from Los Gatos residents about traffic safety in the town. It is wonderful that the town is being proactive in preventing accidents.

I live on Belhaven Dr. and find that drivers frequently do not stop at the stop sign when they go down Harwood Dr. (at the intersection of Harwood Rd. and Belhaven Dr). Even if I am stopped first at the Belhaven stop sign, they don't always stop when driving down Harwood. One day, my neighbor posted her son at the intersection to tally how many people actually made stops at the intersection. Only about 50% of the drives stopped at the sign!

There is also a dip at Harwood which makes it difficult to see how fast a car is moving because it creates a blind spot for drivers stopped at the Belhaven stop sign. Combined with people not stopping at the sign, it's an accident waiting to happen.

I would love to see a speed bump at the stop sign on Harwood Dr. for drivers driving downhill at the intersection of Harwood & Belhaven. Please keep the many hikers, cyclists, dog walkers, drivers, and children walking to school in my area safe. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debbie Sy











From: [steve scurry](#) [REDACTED]
To: [Town Manager](#)
Subject: Traffic Safety observation
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 10:31:40 AM

EXTERNAL SENDER

As a VanMeter parent, I've always been very concerned with kids (and some adults) bicycling the wrong way down south-bound Los Gatos Blvd. in front of the Old Adobe barbershop in the mornings.

As parents in cars are exiting Van Meter after drop-off, they are looking over their left shoulders to look for a break in a traffic & not expecting there to be a child in a bike going the other way in the bike lane. But lots of kids headed to VM and Fisher that live on the West-side of LGB don't want to take the time to cross LGB.

I hope that's clear — thanks for all you do!

Steve Curry
[REDACTED]

From: Patricia Baker

Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 2:50 PM

To: Maria Ristow <MRistow@losgatosca.gov>; Mary Badame <MBadame@losgatosca.gov>; Matthew Hudes <MHudes@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Rennie <RRennie@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Moore <RMoore@losgatosca.gov>

Cc: Laurel Prevetti <LPrevetti@losgatosca.gov>; aandrews@losgatosca.gov

Subject: Support for LGS Recreation Proposal for 55 Plus Programming and Services

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Mayor Ristow and Council Members,

As a member of the 55Plus group I am requesting your support of the LGS Recreation 55 Plus Program and therefore the seniors of Los Gatos in the upcoming budget cycle. While I understand our town faces many challenges and claims on its resources. Please consider financially supporting the 55 Plus program. I have appreciated the support I have received from the 55 Plus Program. It is the go to resource for services and programs for my age group.

Sincerely,

Patricia Baker

From: Patricia Baker

Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2023 3:07 PM

To: Maria Ristow <MRistow@losgatosca.gov>; Mary Badame <MBadame@losgatosca.gov>; Matthew Hudes <MHudes@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Rennie <RRennie@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Moore <RMoore@losgatosca.gov>

Cc: Laurel Prevetti <LPrevetti@losgatosca.gov>; aandrews@losgatos.gov

Subject: RE: Support for Designating an Overnight Warming Center in Los Gatos for Homeless

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Mayor and Town Council,

While rarely in the front lines of service to the homeless, I have over the years supported those who do work directly with the homeless in Los Gatos. I have been impressed with the resources available from our faith communities to assist those in need as well as with members of the Los Gatos police who work in this area. As the new budget process gets into full gear, please prioritize our homeless residents. Specifically, designation an overnight warming center is critical in the winter months. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Patricia Baker

From: [Debbie Sy](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [Strategic Priorities] BHR-Belgatos Traffic Safety
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 3:39:21 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accident on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you.

Debbie Sy

From: [Erica Engin](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Strategic Priority - BHR- Help us keep our community safe
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 4:41:03 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Our children cross Blossom at Harwood and Leigh to attend local schools. There have been efforts to address Blossom traffic near the Blossom Hill elementary and we would like to see the same consideration for our growing family filled community.

Over the years there have been many serious accident on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you
Erica Engin

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sriram Narayanan](#)
To: [Council](#)
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 5:02:48 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accidents on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road, in particular, the stretch between the intersections of Leigh Ave and Harwood Rd. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sriram Narayanan
Resident of Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood

From: [Sriram Narayanan](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Los Gatos resident: Road safety on Blossom Hill Road
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 5:05:40 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Resending with the subject line this time...

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accidents on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road, in particular, the stretch between the intersections of Leigh Ave and Harwood Rd. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sriram Narayanan
Resident of Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood

From: [Blake](#)
To: [Town Manager](#)
Subject: [Traffic Safety] Belwood-Belgatos
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 5:17:10 PM
Attachments: [PastedGraphic-1.png](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER

Download full resolution images
Available until Feb 20, 2023

Town Manager Prevetti,

Thank you for reaching out to the town citizens for input on traffic safety.

In addition to the traffic safety issues along Blossom Hill Road that were highlighted previously in the Verbal Comment time of the 1/17 Town Council meeting, I do have five observations for my immediate neighborhood I thought would share for your visibility.

1. Excessive speed along Belgatos Rd. This is a 0.3 mile stretch of uninterrupted straight road without stop signs or any speed mitigation. The northbound direction is also a downhill slope (-3%) On weekdays most of the traffic is going to and from Mulberry School by parents dropping their kids off as part of their commute. On weekends we have many visitors to the park (see item 5).
2. J-walking. The location of crosswalks (Leigh and Harwood) is simply not convenient for school kids or pedestrians traveling to our park. The existing traffic pattern on BHR lends itself to an increase in J-walking.
3. Crosswalks at the corner of Belgatos & Belvue are almost always overlooked by motorists. Relating to item (1) above, cars are also typically traveling above the speed limit. I live here at the corner of this intersection and make this frequent observation.
4. The stop sign at Belwood Gateway and Harwood is frequently ignored, especially by motorists on Harwood — and particularly by those traveling downhill in the northbound direction.
5. Parking at the Belgatos park is limited. My observation is that the park became more popular during the pandemic. As such, parking always spills out onto the surrounding streets on weekends. Parking capacity is maybe only ~35% of peak demand.

The PDF attached contains information on the five items discussed above, as well as the previously-communicated item regarding Blossom Hill Road.

Thank you for your concern!

Best,
Blake Thornberry

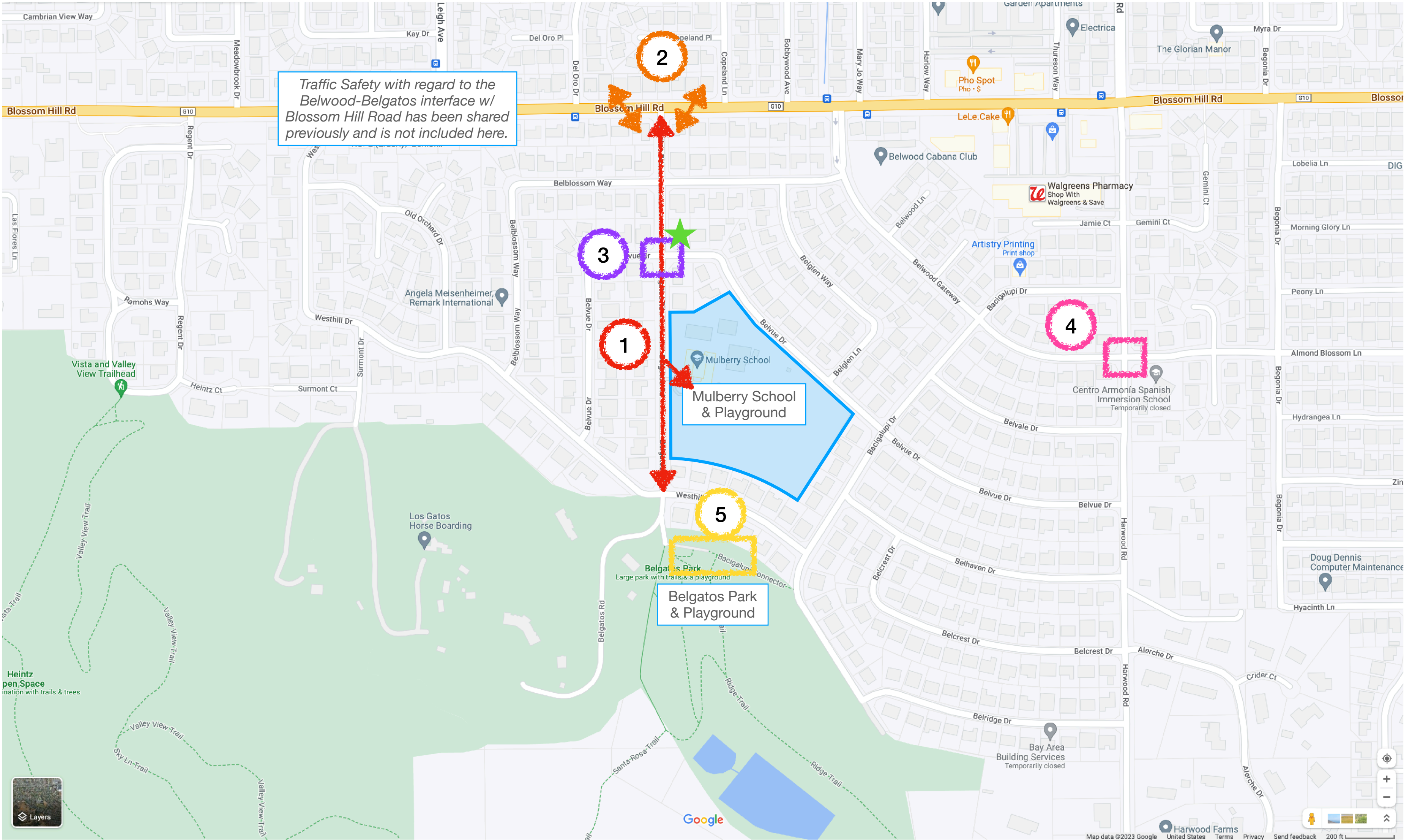
Traffic Safety Observations

Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood

Los Gatos, CA

Jan. 21st, 2023

Belwood-Belgatos Traffic | Additional Observations



1 **Excessive speed** very common. 0.3 mile stretch straight stretch (-3% grade) of residential road without a stop sign. Lots of traffic connecting to Belgatos Park and Mulberry School.

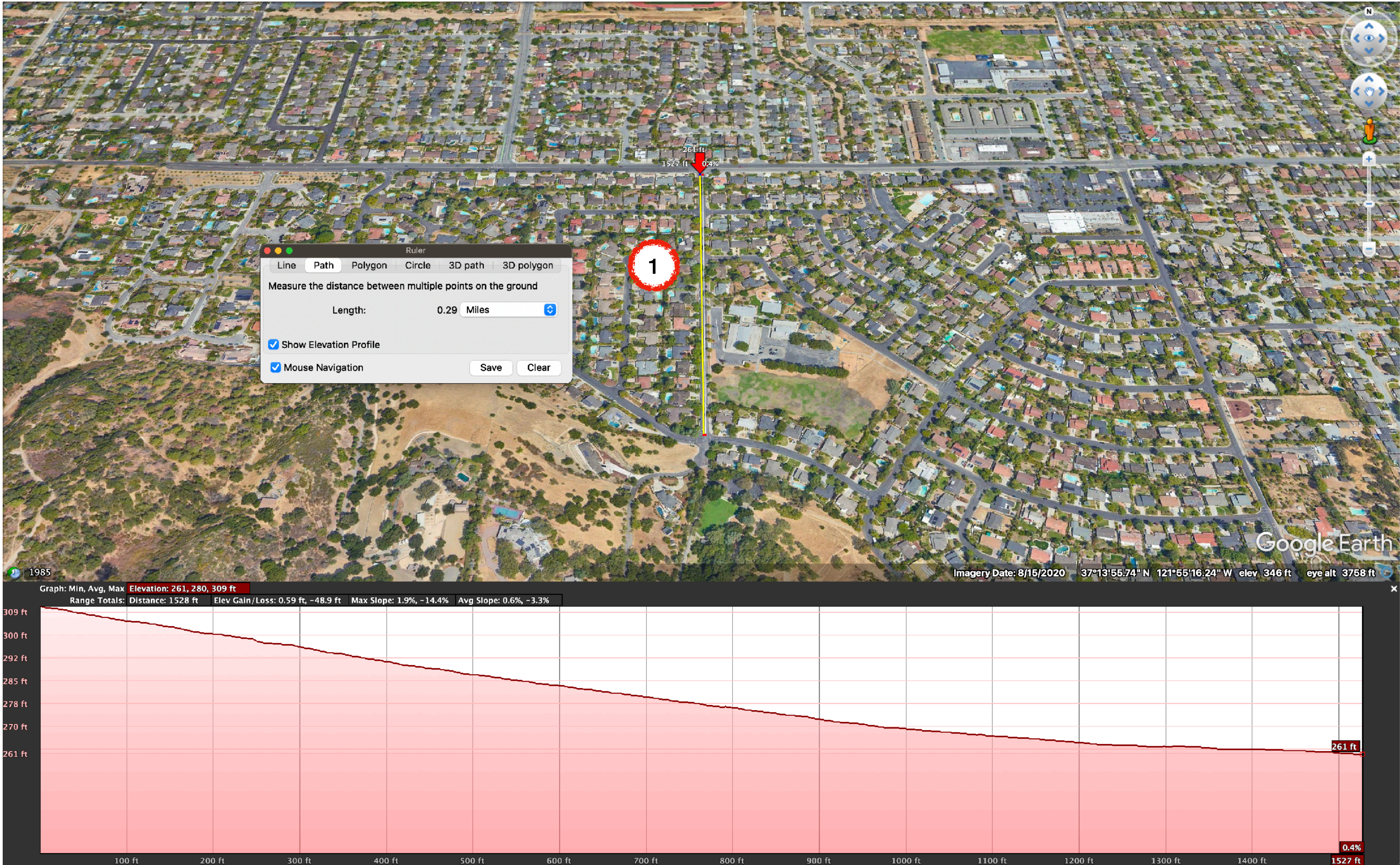
2 **J-walking.** School kids crossing to/from School (Leigh, Noddin, Union). Hikers and recreational users of the Belgatos Park

3 **Disregard for cross-walks.** Cars driving fast up and down the street often disregard cross-walks, imperiling pedestrians.

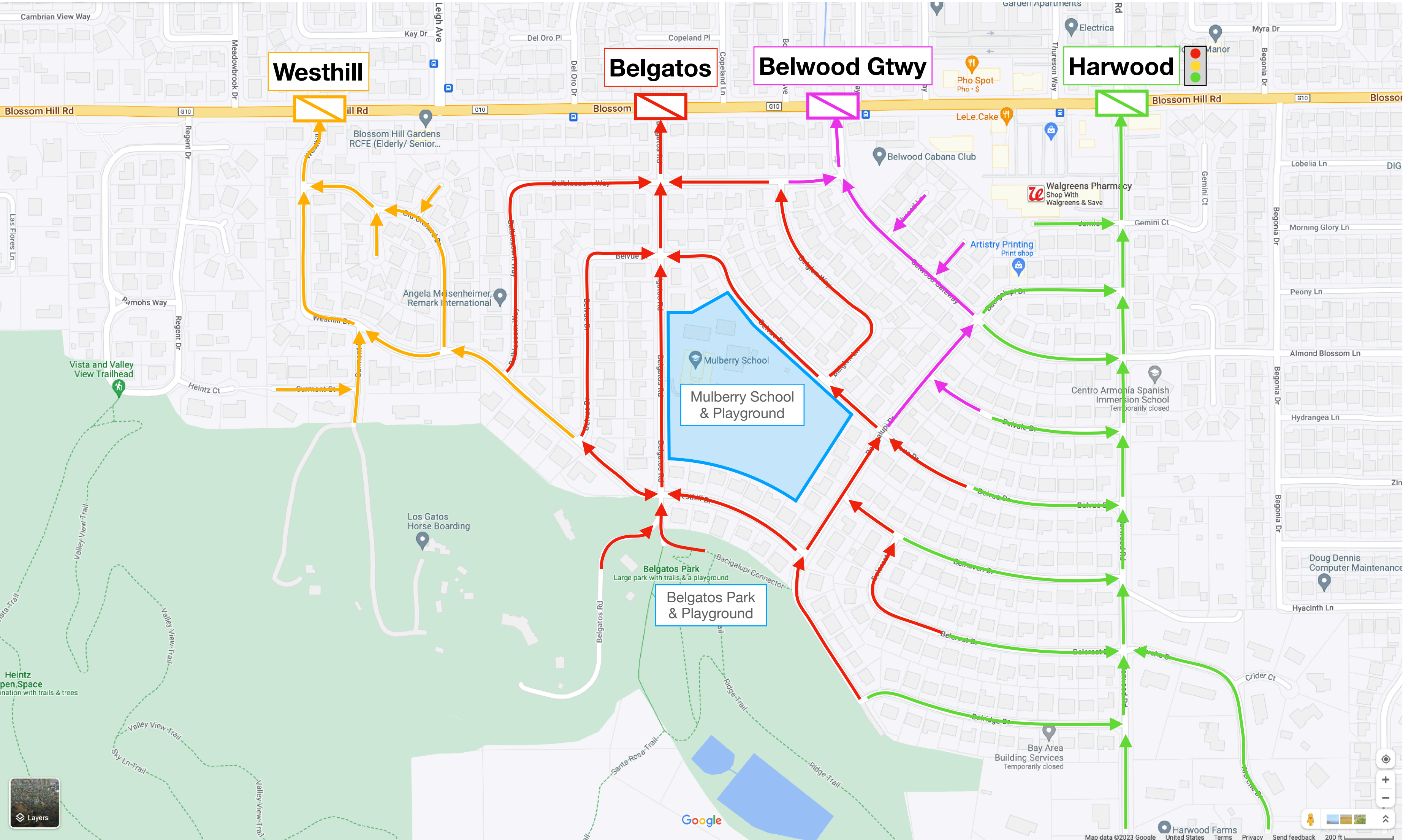
4 **Running of stop sign.** Cars in the North-South direction frequently run the stop sign. Cars traveling northbound are coming down a hill and usually at high speed.

5 **Limited parking.** The park has become more popular of the years and weekend traffic almost always spills out onto surrounding streets.

★ My Home, 199 Belvue

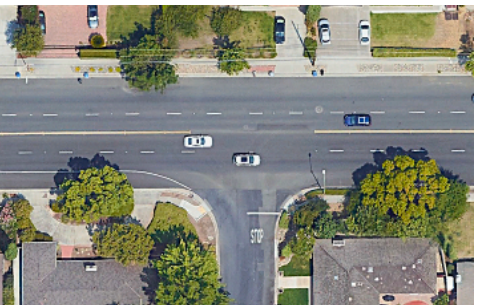


1 **Excessive speed** very common. 0.3 mile stretch straight stretch (-3% grade) of residential road without a stop sign. Lots of traffic connecting to Belgatos Park and Mulberry School.



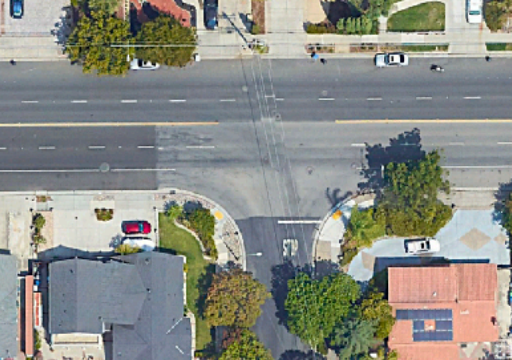
(1) Westhill

- **No BHR traffic controls**
- 4-lane cross traffic
- No BHR turn lane
- No BHR bike lane or demarcated shoulder



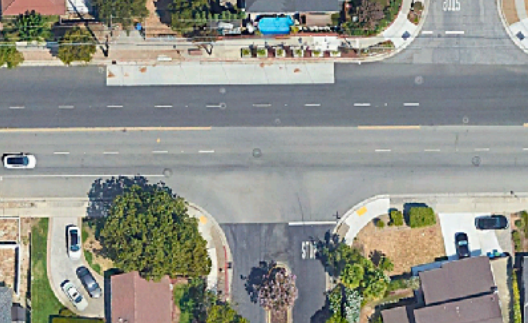
(2) Belgatos

- **No BHR traffic controls**
- 4-lane cross traffic
- No BHR turn lane
- No BHR bike lane or demarcated shoulder



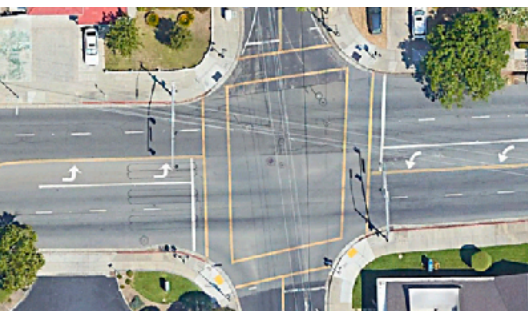
(3) Belwood Gateway

- **No BHR traffic controls**
- 4-lane cross traffic
- No BHR turn lane
- No BHR bike lane or demarcated shoulder

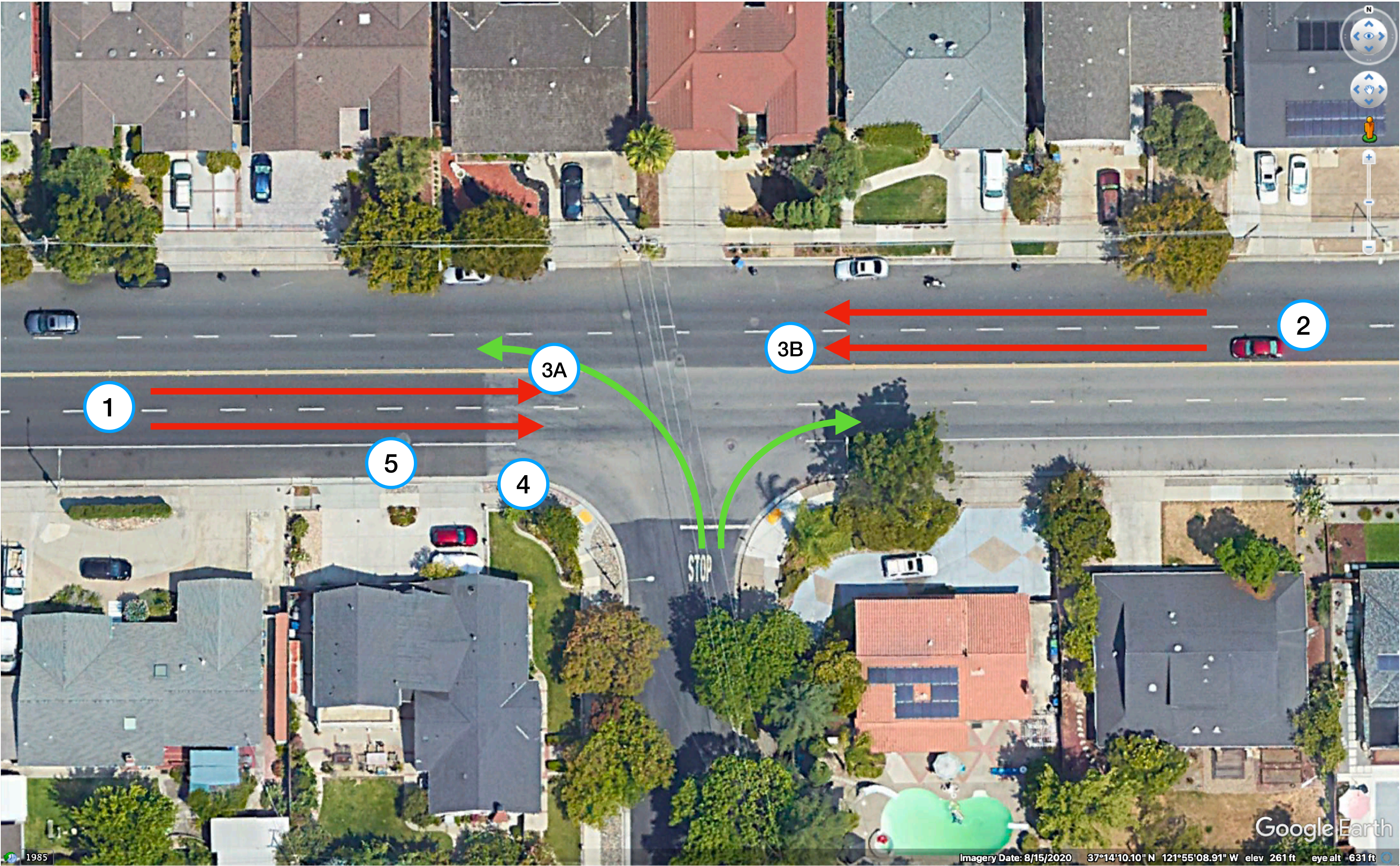


(4) Harwood

- Stoplight traffic controls
- 4-lane cross traffic
- Yielded left turn onto BHR
- No BHR bike lane or demarcated shoulder



- Four primary access points from the neighborhood to BHR: (1) Westhill, (2) Belgatos, (3) Belwood Gateway, & (4) Harwood
- Three-of-four access points have zero traffic controls against BHR traffic, affecting the majority of the neighborhood
- BHR is a 4-lane cross-traffic road with no turning lane or demarcated shoulder for bikes / parking
- Only the Harwood point of access has stoplight controls, but it not convenient for the majority of the neighborhood



- 1 **Excess Speed**
 - two lanes of traffic lends itself to higher rates of speed and aggressive passing behavior from motorists
- 2 **Cross Traffic**
 - two lanes of traffic in both directions leads to task saturation in the motorists turning onto BHR
 - complexity of light traffic increases
- 3 **No Turning Lane**
 - **(A)** There is no turning lane to aid motorists in making a left turn on to BHR
 - **(B)** Motorists taking a left from BHR to Belgatos risk being rear-ended
- 4 **Limited Line-of-Sight**
 - vegetation and parked cars obstruct view of oncoming traffic from the left.
 - concurrent left/right turning (two cars turning at once) limits visibility for both cars
- 5 **Poor or Non-existent Shoulder Markings**
 - Bicyclists face multiple hazards:
 - Navigating parked cars without being struck from behind
 - Impulsive drivers turning from Belgatos who are trying to execute a stressful turn

From: [Diane Michaelis](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Blossom Hill Rd. - Belgatos Rd. Traffic safety
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 5:18:15 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Los Gatos Town Council,

As a resident of the Belwood-Belgatos neighborhood, I strongly support making traffic safety on Blossom Hill Rd at Belgatos Rd a strategic priority.

Entering and exiting Belgatos Rd from or onto Blossom Hill Rd is extremely dangerous and as recently witnessed, deadly.

Please consider improving traffic safety in our town for us, the residents, as well as for the families dropping off and picking up their young children at the school and for the families visiting Belgatos Park.

Thank you for your help.

Diane Michaelis

From: [Greg Campbell](#)
To: [Town Manager](#)
Subject: Traffic safety
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 5:22:15 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hi,
Saw the post on next door for suggestions and I have one.

Many cars speed up on blossom hill in the long wide straightaway between winterbrook and Lu Ray. There are regularly speeds of 45 to 50+ mph on this section by cars going either direction, easily seen with the radar signs already in place.

It looked like there was a device measuring speed (not sure) near Stephenie lane recently, but this was right by the turn where people finally slow down or are just speeding up (depending on direction traveling).

If a crosswalk similar to the one on blossom hill and Hillbrook were built at Linda and blossom hill, it would throttle traffic and slow these speedsters down. In addition, there are quite a few walkers out on streets in this area but the closest crosswalk is all the way down at Hillbrook. This would be a great addition that would be appreciated by the local community.

Glad to share more detail or answer your questions.

Thank you,
Greg Campbell

[REDACTED] Los Gatos, CA 95032
[REDACTED]

From: [Jamie Butcher](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Blossom Hill/Belgatos Safety
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 5:21:57 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Los Gatos Town Council,

My name is Jamie Butcher and I am a member of the Los Gatos Community, a mother of 3 school aged children, and the parent coordinator for traffic and safety at Noddin Elementary School in the Union School District. I am writing to express my concern with the regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along this particular section of Blossom Hill Road is sadly not new since the deadly accident a few Sundays ago. The speeding has long presented an elevated risk of serious injury and death and is in need of your immediate attention.

In the past couple of years there have been lengthy conversations of how to keep our students and families in the Belwood-Belgatos neighborhood safe, especially since returning to in-person school back in the 2021-2022 school year. Aside from the concern for the Blossom Hill/Harwood intersection, the amount of speeding and red-light running that occurs on a daily bases from Leigh to Harwood is out of control.

At the beginning of year, I spoke to Police Sergeant Greg Borromeo and discussed some options for traffic safety. We were able to get two crossing guards and a change in our light at Harwood and Blossom Hill to help aid the students walking/biking to school and every once in awhile had LGPD ticketing. However, that does not help with the speeding that occurs and the families that drive, kids that bike, or students that walk to school from other exits of the neighborhood. In addition, the amount of traffic we have coming from Mulberry School, Bright Horizons preschool and our beautiful Belgatos Park and trails adds to the need of additional traffic safety.

I have come to realize that I just will not risk turning left from Belgatos Road onto Blossom Hill. Families have instructed their teenagers to not make that left. How can we change that to make this safer for the drivers, our children, our bikers so we do not have another devastating injury or death in our community?

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life will continue to be the daily norm. Please help make traffic improvements on Blossom Hill Road a strategic priority.

Thank you,

Jamie Butcher
Belhaven Drive

From: [Kat](#)
To: [Town Manager](#)
Subject: Main Street @ College
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 9:30:36 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hello,

I live at [REDACTED] E Main St in town for over 10 years now. I am writing in hopes that someone will actually do something about the dangerous intersection at the corner of Main Street and College Ave. Those of us that live at [REDACTED] E Main St park behind the building and the alleyway is our access. This is a 4 way stop but most people don't realize it because it is so poorly marked. It's always been an issue but since the parklets were installed it is seriously dangerous. I have almost been hit over a dozen times, leaving and turning into the alleyway. The best part is also having people look at me like I'm doing something wrong just trying to get to my home, it is not a pleasant experience. Is it possible to have the sign be in the center of the intersection instead off to the side where no one can see it? I would really appreciate it if someone could look into a safer solution for all of us.

Thank you.
Kari Trevino

--

Warm regards,

Kat's Flower Affair

KARI ANNE TREVINO (KAT)
FLORAL DESIGN / OWNER DESIGNER
LOS GATOS, CA

From: [Kelly Masini](#)
To: [Town Manager](#)
Subject: traffic concerns
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 10:27:06 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

The stretch between Leigh and Hardwood on Blossom hill is a huge concern. Excessive speeding is common. Poor visibility and treacherous left turns out of Belwood neighborhood is a huge concern. Increase visibility out of Belwood and reduce speed on Blossom Hill.

This is a huge problem and should be a top priority,

Kelly Masini
Property Manager
TEMK Investments



From: [Linda Higgins](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: [Mark ICE Husband Higgins](#)
Subject: Belgatos Traffic
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023 11:34:23 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos Belwood community, We are writing to express our fears in regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood. We have lived in Belwood for 36 years and the number of times we have left via Belgatos Road and/or Belwood Gateway to Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting Belgatos park and the many who attend the former Mulberry school on Belgatos Rd.

Over the years there have been many serious accidents on Blossom Hill Road between Union and Camden. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred at Belgatos and Blossom Hill Road on January 8th is just the latest. The death of a beautiful 19 year old young man is beyond tragic. This needs to stop. It could have been any one of us who live in our beautiful Belwood neighborhood or our families or friends who visit.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm. What will it take to either put a traffic light, stop sign or speed bumps on this section of Blossom Hill road? Between the speed of drivers and the side shows that occur, something needs to change.

Please make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a priority. The time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents. You are the change agents, so please make this right.

Thank you.

Linda and Mark Higgins

From: [m.rhine](#)
To: [Town Manager](#)
Subject: Traffic and Safety Observations
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 8:05:36 AM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hello,

As a resident of Los Gatos for over 30 years, my biggest traffic concern is the safety of exiting Belgatos Road onto Blossom Hill Road.

The recent fatality confirmed the danger of this intersection.

Another intersection which I repeatedly see people UN-intentionally running red lights, is where Oka Road meets Lark Avenue. Drivers on Lark, coming east, don't stop. It's super scary coming out of Oka Road and seeing drivers unknowingly (?) drive right thru the intersection, when they have a red light. I've seen this many times; they aren't trying to be sneaky or run the red light, they just drive-through.

Thank you,

Molly Rhine



Los Gatos

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

From: Yanowsky, Mark

Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2023 10:42 AM

To: Mary Badame <MBadame@losgatosca.gov>; Matthew Hudes <MHudes@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Moore <RMoore@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Rennie <RRennie@losgatosca.gov>; Laurel Prevetti <LPrevetti@losgatosca.gov>; Arn Andrews <aandrews@losgatosca.gov>; Maria Ristow <MRistow@losgatosca.gov>; Council <Council@losgatosca.gov>

Cc: Michèle Jubilee

Subject: letter of support for NUMU

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council

The Honorable Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and Council Members Hudes, Moore, and Rennie

110 E. Main St.

Los Gatos, CA 95030

January 22, 2023

Dear Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and Council Members Hudes, Moore, and Rennie,

As a Los Gatos High School art teacher for 2 years, I am writing today to encourage you to treat NUMU (New Museum Los Gatos) as an integral part of its strategic priorities by removing rent payments from NUMU's lease with the Town of Los Gatos.

I've been a teacher for 29 years, and when I arrived at LGHS I was pretty overwhelmed by the amount and depth of art culture here in Los Gatos. This is a vibrant community, and the amount that art is celebrated here is special. It's a draw for the town. A highlight of my first year teaching here was my experience with NUMU's youth art program called ArtNow. The amount of esteem my students felt in NUMU's commitment to celebrating them as artists and their hard work was powerful. NUMU creates an event that *truly* treats the students like the real artists they are. The amount of detailed and nuanced planning in their approach to teen artists is like nothing I've seen. **It is a treasure the town of Los Gatos can be proud of and support financially with enthusiasm. The impact on students is very powerful.** I would love to see this continue into the future.

I'm aware that NUMU is asking the Town to reduce rent for 106 E. Main Street to \$1 per year to support NUMU's ongoing responsibility to maintain and steward the Town of Los Gatos' history collection and provide art, history, and cultural educational services to the Los Gatos community. I fully support this arrangement, and hope that the Town can financially prioritize NUMU for years to come.

Thank you,

Mark

--

Mark Yanowsky

Art Teacher

Art 2,3,4

Graphic Design 1

From: [Jessica Ertell](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Blossom Hill Rd. Traffic Concern
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 10:47:22 AM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

I am a resident of the Belwood community and would like to express my traffic concerns on Blossom Hill Rd. The tragic accident that recently happend a couple of weeks ago really impacted our community. Now leaving the community, I have second thoughts on making the left hand turn on to Blossom Hill, and choose to take a longer route just to have some sort of security by taking the traffic light on Harwood. This road between Union and Camden, is treated as a freeway, with speeding cars and red light runners.

My daughter who is currently at Noddin Elementry, asks when will she get to walk to school by herself, and because of this street being so unsafe, I can't think of when I would feel comfortable.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025.

Thank you.

Jessica Ertell

From: [Sharad Gandhi](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [Strategic Priorities] BHR-Belgatos Traffic Safety
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 11:03:25 AM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accident on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you.

Sharad Gandhi

From: [Sriram Narayanan](#)
To: [Town Manager](#)
Subject: Traffic safety: strategic priority -- Blossom Hill Road (Belwood/Belgatos neighborhood)
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 11:09:50 AM
Attachments: [BHR - Improvement - Narrow right lane.pdf](#)
[BHR - Improvement - Add turn lane.pdf](#)
[BHR - Improvement - Post Speed Radars.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Town Council Manager,

As a long term resident of the Belwood neighborhood, I'm deeply concerned about the lack of traffic controls on Blossom hill road between intersections of Leigh Avenue and Harwood Road. Recently, we have seen a rash of serious accidents that have led to loss of life and serious injury. To prevent such incidents from recurring, I have three suggestions for improving road safety on Blossom Hill Road. I've limited my suggestions to those I believe Los Gatos can implement autonomously, and so I've limited them to the Eastbound section of Blossom Hill Road; as I understand, the Westbound half may fall under SJC jurisdiction, and may require additional cooperation between the two cities.

1. Paint shoulder lines on the eastbound right hand shoulder. The shoulder line will help aid drivers turning left from the neighborhood onto blossom hill road. The resulting narrower lines will also help reduce the speeds on BHR by preventing the illusion of it being a wide open highway. Please see attached a diagram of this idea (BHR improvement - narrow right lane).
2. Provide center turn lane to aid drivers turning left into and out of the neighborhood. See attached drawing (BHR -- add turn lane).
3. Post speed limit signs WITH radar indicator of "Your Speed". These signs will serve a reminder to the drivers and help reduce speeds on Blossom Hill Road. Please see the drawing (BHR - post speed radars) in attachment.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Dr. Sriram Narayanan
Belwood/Los Gatos Resident
Concerned parent



Add a turn lane to aid left turns



Imagery ©2023 Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2023 Google 20 ft



Extend shoulder line to make right line narrower



Imagery ©2023 Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2023 Google 20 ft



Imagery ©2023 AMBAG, CNES / Airbus, Maxar Technologies, U.S. Geological Survey, USDA/FPAC/GEO, Map data ©2023 100 ft

From: [Srividya Vemulakonda](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [Strategic Priorities] BHR-Belgatos Traffic Safety
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 11:38:56 AM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

We are new Los Gatos Town residents and Happy to call this home. However, I am writing to express our concern regarding traffic and road safety.

We are in the Belwood community and have witnessed speeding and reckless driving on Blossom Hill Road near the Belgatos Community. This neighborhood is home to many families with young children and includes a school(daycare through 5th grade), and a park that opens up to many hiking trails.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern contributes to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, hiking trails, playground, and school..

We became aware that over the years there have been many serious accidents on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you.

Srividya Vemulakonda

From: [Sue Jamieson](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Blossom Hill Traffic Mitigation
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 12:33:02 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accident on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you and kind regards,
Sue Jamieson

[REDACTED]
Los Gatos CA 95032

From: [Liz Linehan](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: BHR - Belgatos road safety
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 5:07:33 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accident on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

The main issue that effects me daily are cars parked near the junction Belwood Gateway and Blossom Hill preventing clear visiblty to make a left or right turn.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you.

Liz Linehan

From: [Edward Lozowicki](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Cc: [Maria Ristow](#); [Mary Badame](#); [Matthew Hudes](#); [Rob Rennie](#); [Rob Moore](#)
Subject: Special Council Meeting, January 24, 2023
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 8:21:12 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Town Clerk, Please include the below e-mail as a supplement to the Council's Packet for the January 24 Special Meeting.
Thank you, Ed Lozowicki

Dear Council Members, I am writing about the Public Safety component of the Strategic Plan to be discussed at the Council's upcoming Special Meeting. My wife and I have lived in the Town for over 40 years and our children went to school here. I am a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary's Church. The Society's mission is to help the poor and needy. The Society partners with volunteers at St. Mary's, United Methodist (UMC), and St. Luke's churches to help the homeless neighbors in the Town. For example UMC volunteers provide showers and St. Vincent de Paul volunteers provides laundry vouchers and cleanliness supplies for them.

Several of these homeless neighbors are physically or mentally disabled and struggle to survive. In conversation with several of these folks at UMC during the storms, I learned they lost their tents, sleeping bags, clothing and other possessions, or had them soaked, in the storms. The impact was exacerbated by the very cold nights we experienced. When we met these folks were visibly shaken, muddy and shivering. Their health and safety was and is at risk.

Where could they go to get warmth and shelter from the storms and cold? There are no warming centers in the Town. The nearest warming centers at Camden Community Center and Seven Trees Community Center were at or near capacity.

I am asking the Council to arrange a day and/or night warming center for these neighbors during severe weather emergencies. I believe that the churches would partner with the Town to establish a warming center. It should be a strategic priority as a matter of public health and safety.

Sincerely,

Ed Lozowicki

From: [Shelby Roshan](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: BHR-Belgatos Traffic Safety
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023 10:44:12 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community of Belgatos, I am writing to let you know of my concern about traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous traffic along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of severe injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting Belgatos park, the playground, and Mulberry school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accidents on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the fatal accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, there will continue to be even more unfortunate accidents and/ or deaths. The traffic moves much too fast on Blossom Hil and its nearly impossible to turn out of the neighborhood on Belgatos Drive due to cars parked on the main street blocking the view of oncoming traffic. This is dangerous and unforgiving.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025.

Thank you for your support.

Shelby Roshan
Pejman Roshan
[REDACTED], Los Gatos

From: [Chris Tanimoto Jr.](#)
To: [Council](#); [Town Manager](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Another Vehicle Accident Fatality Waiting To Happen On Blossom Hill Road and Belgatos Neighborhood Roads
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 8:04:58 AM
Attachments: [Town Council Ltr.docx](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER

To: Town of Los Gatos Council And Town Manager

Please refer to the attached letter:

Thank you,

Chris Tanimoto

January 23, 2023

To: Town of Los Gatos Council and Town Manager

Re: Another Vehicle Accident Fatality Waiting To Happen On Blossom Hill and the Belgatos Neighborhood Roads

Dear Council Members and Town Manager:

I am Chris Tanimoto who resides on Westhill Dr. near Leigh Ave. for the past 17 years. Since 2006, I have seen traffic increase dramatically in recent years. From my perspective, the one lane to two lanes on both sides of Blossom Hill Road driving towards Leigh Ave. encourages speeding way over the designated 35 MPH speed limit. This recent fatality is a wake-up call that is waiting to happen, again!

I have to admit that there is no simple solution along this stretch of road because it involves the City of San Jose, lack of bicycle lanes, a school zone at Harwood & private grade school on Belgatos Road, businesses, and residences. In addition, the Town is projecting a \$10 million plus budget deficit.

Having stated the aforementioned, there are two proposals that I would like to present that could be cost effective, and could have an immediate impact as follows:

Speed Limit Signage: Paint a 35 Mile Speed Limit on the pavement where the one lane becomes two lanes on both sides of Blossom Hill Road and also place a flashing 35 MPH Speed Limit Sign on both sides of Blossom Hill Road (Los Gatos jurisdiction). Please note that currently there is no signage of any type in this location and also there is only one Flashing 35 MPH Speed Limit sign just before Belgatos Road. Further down where the businesses are located, there is a 25 MPH Non-Flashing sign indicating a school zone only when children are present to Harwood Road. After Harwood Road, it becomes the City of San Jose jurisdiction. There needs to be an updated analysis to determine what type of signage will help reduce the speeding and at the very least, on the Los Gatos side of the road. Of course, it would be appreciated if the City of San Jose would do the same.

Page Two:

No Parking Vehicles Over 6 Ft. High: Instead of pursuing “red curb” restrictions to assist those drivers making a left turn out of Belgatos; this ordinance would still allow residents to park vehicles under the height limitation; which is better than restricting all vehicles. Enforcement will not be available so the residents will have to report violations, similar to the Leaf Blower Ordinance. I acknowledge that this proposal may be more than simple; however, it deserves being addressed now rather than later.

Thank you,

Chris Tanimoto



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 01/24/2023

ITEM NO: 1

DESK ITEM

DATE: January 24, 2023
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Affirm and/or Refine Existing Strategic Priorities and Determine the Priorities for New Ordinances.

RECOMMENDATION:

Attachment 7 contains public comments received between 11:01 a.m. Monday, January 23, 2023, and 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

Attachments received with the Staff Report:

1. 2022-2024 Strategic Priorities
2. Los Gatos 2040 General Plan Implementation Programs 2020-2025, Annual, and Ongoing
3. Ordinance List
4. Public Comments received prior to 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 20, 2023

Attachments received with the Addendum:

5. Council Member Comments
6. Public Comments received between 11:01 a.m. Friday, January 20, 2023, and 11:00 a.m. Monday, January 23, 2023

Attachments received with this Desk Item:

7. Public Comments received between 11:01 a.m. Monday, January 23, 2023, and 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

From: [Alan Leventhal](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: [Maria Ristow](#); [Mary Badame](#); [Matthew Hudes](#); [Rob Moore](#); [Rob Rennie](#); [Laurel Prevetti](#); [Arn Andrews](#)
Subject: Letter Supporting the New Los Gatos Museum (NUMU)
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 11:06:50 AM
Attachments: [Letter City of Los Gatos RE- NUMU.pdf](#)

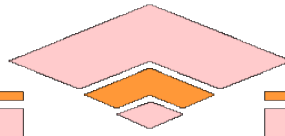
EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Honorable Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and City Council Members Hudes, Moore, and Rennie,

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter of support on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe with regards to the significant role that the New Los Gatos Museum (NUMU) plays for the citizens of the City of Los Gatos, and the broader Santa Clara County and Bay Area communities. It is our hope that the city's administration will embrace the museum's mission by not fically demanding that, as a public institution, NUMU has to pay monthly rent to the City of Los Gatos.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Leventhal
Muwekma Ohlone Tribal Archaeologist and Ethnohistorian
Faculty Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, San Jose State University



MUWEKMA OHLONE INDIAN TRIBE

OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA REGION

'Innu Huššıştak Makiš Mak-Muwekma "The Road To The Future For Our People"

City of Los Gatos Town Council
The Honorable Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame,
Council Members Hudes, Moore, and Rennie
110 E. Main St.
Los Gatos, CA 95030

TRIBAL CHAIRPERSON
CHARLENE NIJMEH

TRIBAL VICE CHAIRPERSON
MONICA V. ARELLANO

TRIBAL SECRETARY
GLORIA E. ARELLANO-GOMEZ

TRIBAL COUNCIL
JOANN BROSE
RICHARD MASSIATT
FRANK RUANO
SHEILA SCHMIDT
CAROL SULLIVAN

**TRIBAL ETHNOHISTORIAN -
ARCHAEOLOGIST**
ALAN LEVENTHAL

January 20, 2023

Dear Mayor Ristow, Vice Mayor Badame, and Council Members Hudes, Moore, and Rennie,

As you may already know the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe and I, as both a San Jose State University Anthropology Department faculty member (1978-2019) and Tribal Archaeologist, have continuously volunteer our services to work collaboratively with the Los Gatos Museum staff on several archaeological and cultural exhibitions about the Tribe's history and heritage. The first two exhibits that we worked on were at the Forbes Mill Museum first in 1998 titled "Making a Living and Ceremony, Ritual, and Symbol." The second exhibition at Forbes Mill was exhibited from 2009-2010 titled "The Ohlone: Past and Present."

In 2015, we worked again with the NUMU staff, the SJSU Anthropology Department, and the Tribal leadership on two exhibitions titled "Back From Extinction: Prehistory, History and Heritage of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area," and the "Cement Prairie" about the relocation of Native American families and veterans to the Bay Area as a result of the "Termination" and "Relocation" programs implemented by the U.S. Government to conduct forced acculturation of Native people during the late 1940s through the 1970s. In all of these exhibitions, the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe allowed for the display and interpretation of their ancestral heritage material culture derive from several of their ancestral heritage sites spanning the past 5,000 years.

Presently, as you may also know, the Muwekma Tribal leadership and I are presently continuing that collaboration with the SJSU Anthropology Department, and Museum staff, to tell other aspects of the Tribe's history and heritage, that addresses both the "Politics of Erasure" and the Tribe's "Reclamation" of its sacred places and ancestral heritage sites, as well as its efforts to regain its previous Federally Recognized status.

Over the years the educational benefits to the general public and school groups have been immeasurable, and we have tirelessly committed our time towards that benefit. It has come to our attention that the City of Los Gatos is planning to charge NUMU rent which is essentially unheard of for city-based museums that serve the public in a multitude of capacities including areas of educational art programs, curating historical collections, and cultural-related educational services to the greater Los Gatos community. My own background was with the Departments of Education and Anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History in NYC. I fully support the Mission and Vision of NUMU, and hope that the Town of Los Gatos can financially find ways to support NUMU as a public educational institution.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area,



Alan Leventhal, Muwekma Tribal Archaeologist and Ethnohistorian
Emeritus Faculty, Department of Anthropology, San Jose State University

Letter supported by:



Monica V. Arellano, Vice-Chairwoman and MLD, Muwekma Ohlone Tribe

Cc: Muwekma Tribal Council

From: [shailaja venkatsubramanyan](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Speech for Council Meeting on January 24th
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 11:38:21 AM

EXTERNAL SENDER

My name is Shailaja Venkatsubramanyan, and I have lived in Los Gatos for more than 12 years. I have tried adhering to a plant-based lifestyle for nearly 30 years. I am aware that the most common stereotype of someone with my inclinations is that of a scrawny, protein-starved, self-righteous, obsessive, and depressing preacher who cares more about animals than they do about humans. To be honest, I quite enjoy the jokes - the good ones - about people like me. But, more importantly, I am glad that we are at least talking about this lifestyle choice that is on the rise across the globe.

Based on scientific data, I am convinced that plant-based diets are a cost-effective way to solve so many of our climate and health problems. According to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the livestock sector contributes to 14.5 percent of global human-induced greenhouse emissions. The climate impact of plant-based food is smaller than that of animal products, so switching to more plant-based food could reduce emissions. When it comes to health, numerous studies have shown that consuming animal products can be detrimental to our health. Regular meat consumption is associated with an increased risk of other conditions such as heart disease, pneumonia, diverticular disease, diabetes, and several cancers. During the pandemic, researchers from Harvard Medical School found that a healthy plant-based diet was associated with decreased risk of severe Covid. Diet influences immunity through nutrients that support antibiotic and antiviral defense, as well as through the microbiome.

When humans are confronted with data that go against commonly held beliefs and culture, the natural tendency is to reject it. It takes effort to look at scientific data and make changes. We want good health for ourselves and our loved ones. We want to leave a healthy planet behind for future generations. To this point, I want to ask the town to please fund plant-based education programs. Just to give you a couple of examples of the possibilities - we could get speakers of renown to help educate our residents about the benefits of a plant-based diet and get plant-based chefs to teach us how to cook healthy food. In short, let's make taking proactive steps to address climate and health issues a priority.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Lisa Furlong](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: BHR Belgatos Traffic Safety
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 11:48:26 AM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accident on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you.
Lisa Furlong

--
Lisa

From: [Debra Townley](#)
To: [Town Manager](#)
Subject: Los Gatos Town Council Meeting Jan 24, 2023- Prioritize Homelessness
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 12:33:28 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Honorable Mayor and Council,

My name is Debra Townley and I am a board member of the Affordable Housing Network, an advocate with Survivors of the Streets at Sacred Heart Community Services, a former home owner in Blossom Valley (Palmia) and a current resident in Permanent Supportive Housing. I am also a Lived Experience Advisory Committee member at West Valley Community Services (WVCS), a nonprofit that serves the west valley community including the Town of Los Gatos.

As the agency that serves our homeless population, WVCS sees firsthand that dire need for support for our unhoused community members. I am writing to ask you to include homelessness as a strategic priority.

Prior to becoming homeless due to circumstances beyond my control, I was a business owner, teacher, active participant at my children's schools, foster parent, and good neighbor. I have seen firsthand the suffering, discrimination, bullying, violence, deterioration of health and early death that is the direct result of not having a place to call home.

Again, please include homelessness as a strategic priority. We have a responsibility to care for all of our residents, including those without a home.

In community,
Debra Townley

From: [Stacy Dobner](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: t: [Strategic Priorities] BHR-Belgatos Traffic Safety
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 12:53:01 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

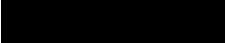
As a member of the Los Gatos community, I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accidents on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you.
Stacy and Rich Dobner


From: [John Shepardson](#)
To: [Council](#); [Laurel Prevetti](#); [Police](#)
Subject: Traffic Stops//Enforcing Speed Limits
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 1:10:12 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Mayor Ristow, Council, Town Manager Prevetti and Police Chief Field:

First Issue:

I'm convinced we and the vast majority of people in town are in favor of equal treatment under law.

1. The traffic stops are about 50/50 White Persons v. Persons of Color.
2. LG Demographics are 75% White.
3. I think it's important to dial down on why there is a difference.
4. What are the stats on persons pulled over and where do they live and work?
5. Why are people being pulled over?
6. In practice, are we treating people equally? If not, change to get there. If yes, let's be in a strong position to explain the stops.

Second Issue:

LG should put a greater emphasis on really going no more than the speed limit. Let's face, many drive over the speed limit.

Honestly, I catch myself going to fast, slow down and then often I got drivers behind me driving up close and pushing for more speed—as if not going over the speed limit is wrong or unreasonable driving.

We can enforce speed limits rigorously and set a tone. The cost will be some disgruntled entitled drivers; the benefit will be saving lives, avoiding injuries, less stress on the roadways, safer walking and biking for kids and it's good for businesses as well.

I suggest we do a complete diagnostic on the town's roadways, determine the areas of highest risk for injuries and take immediate steps to mitigate the risks. Because we certainly can't eliminate all risk is no excuse to practically minimize risks on the roadways. Let's do what we can.

Respectfully,

John A. Shepardson, Esq.

From: Janet Farabaugh
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 2:09 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@losgatosca.gov>; Town Manager <Manager@losgatosca.gov>; Council <Council@losgatosca.gov>
Subject: Support for Unhoused Initiatives in Los Gatos

EXTERNAL SENDER

Honorable Mayor and Council,

My name is Janet Farabaugh and I am a Board Member with West Valley Community Services (WVCS), a nonprofit that serves the west valley community including the Town of Los Gatos.

As the agency that serves our homeless population, WVCS sees firsthand, every day, the continuous and growing need for support for our unhoused community members. I am writing to ask you to include homelessness as a strategic town priority going forward.

Our Board has heard from previously unhoused individuals who lived in the Los Gatos area that the homelessness is solvable in Los Gatos, as the number of unhoused in the town is far fewer than in adjacent cities. Your support of priorities related to the unhoused can provide concrete evidence that Los Gatos, a generally prosperous community, is concerned and compassionate towards the less fortunate among us and can serve as an example for other localities.

Thank you for your consideration.

In community,

Janet Farabaugh

Janet Farabaugh
Board Member, West Valley Community Services
Finance Committee
West Valley Community Services
10104 Vista Drive
Cupertino CA 95014
janetf@wvcommunityservices.org
Website- wvcommunityservices.org

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[Chefs of Compassion](#) | [WVCS in The News](#)



From: [Vivian Dang](#)
To: [Clerk](#); [Town Manager](#); [Council](#)
Subject: Help the Homeless
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 3:28:51 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER

Honorable Mayor and Council,

My name is Vivian Dang and I am the Development Coordinator at West Valley Community Services (WVCS), a nonprofit that serves the west valley community including the Town of Los Gatos.

As the agency that serves our homeless population, WVCS sees firsthand that dire need for support for our unhoused community members. I am writing to ask you to include homelessness as a strategic priority.

Being a member of the Lived Experience Advisory Committee has opened my eyes to the different needs of the people in the community. We often associate these needs with food, water, etc., all things that truly are a means of survival. What rarely comes to mind are other things that the unhoused may need. Sure you can give them food but where can they heat things up? You can give them a few blankets, but is that the equivalent of being warm indoors? These are the things that don't pop into our heads right away. The lived experience members bring these needs to us and we need to start listening and pushing to provide the support they are in need of.

Again, please include homelessness as a strategic priority. We have a responsibility to care for all of our residents, including those without a home.

Thanks,

Vivian

(Pronouns: she, her, hers)

--

Vivian Phuonglinh Dang

Development Coordinator

West Valley Community Services, Inc.

[10104 Vista Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014](#)

Direct: 669.245.4128 | Main: 408.255.8033 | Fax: 408.366.6090

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From: [debbiegary](#) [REDACTED]
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Subject: [Strategic Priorities] BHR-Belgatos Traffic Safety
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 3:29:28 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community, I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood. Over the years there have been many serious accidents on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our Belgatos park, and the school (daycare through 5th grade) on Belwood Rd. Leigh high school young drivers are especially at risk trying to turn left onto Blossom Hill Road to get to school. Many of the people trying to turn left across Blossom Hill are kids and parents during rush hour 8-9am. The traffic on Blossom Hill is fast moving and trying to turn left out of Belgatos or Westhill Drive is difficult if cars are parked blocking the view on the left. I'm requesting that the traffic improvement that can help at minimal cost is some red curb zones to keep the view turning left on to Blossom Hill clear.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you.

Regards,

Debbie Gary and Steve Gary

[REDACTED]. Los Gatos

Cell [REDACTED]



Virus-free www.avast.com

From: Susan Burnett

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 3:27 PM

To: Maria Ristow <MRistow@losgatosca.gov>; Mary Badame <MBadame@losgatosca.gov>; Matthew Hudes <MHudes@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Rennie <RRennie@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Moore <RMoore@losgatosca.gov>

Cc: Laurel Prevetti <LPrevetti@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: Adult Recreation Center

Dear Council,

Please help maintain the many important services that the ARC and NUMU provide. This recreation center has functioned for many years meeting the different needs of our town. I remember as a little girl it served as a wonderful gathering place for the kids of Los Gatos. We would have Friday night dances and then daily and week-end activities, it was a wonderful friendly gathering place. It is too bad there is not something like that for our youth these days, that is the problem we are no longer a village looking after our children, in my view. We spend money on special projects, not looking at what the majority of ALL the citizens of Los Gatos would profit from, young and old; this is why on hearing something said, that the ARC was non-essential, was actually hurtful. What is not more important than a wonderful gathering place, offering so many enjoyable services to members of our community and especially those over 55. This makes our community stronger and provides a place for socialization, where else could this happen? I think helping to maintain the ARC especially, should be part of our, Strategic Priority. I am writing as a private citizen, while also serving on the HPC and PC.

Thank-you,

Susan Burnett

From: [Johnson Li](#)
Subject: Comment on prioritizing homelessness in the strategic priorities
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 4:53:04 PM
Attachments: [pwcsc.png](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER

Honorable Mayor and Council of Los Gatos,

My name is Johnson Li and I am the Client Services Coordinator at West Valley Community Services(WVCS) - a nonprofit that services the West Valley Area including the Town of Los Gatos.

As the agency that serves and supports our homeless population, WVCS sees firsthand that dire need for support for our unoused community members. I am writing to ask you to include homelessness as a strategic priority.

As someone with case management experience, and someone who has talked with other staff who have gone to places like the Los Gatos Showers, I see the critical need for homeless services like the showers so that the homeless can have a place to keep clean, and get access to necessary supplies and services such as a food pantry, services to help them find income, et cetera.

Again, please include homelessness as a strategic priority. We have a responsibility to care for all of the residents of Los Gatos, including those who do not have a home.

In Community,

Johnson

(Pronouns: He, Him, His, 他)

--

Johnson Li
Client Services Coordinator
West Valley Community Services, Inc.
[10104 Vista Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014](#)
Direct: 408-956-6095 | Main: 408-255-8033 | Fax: 408-366-6090

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[Check out Compassion | WVCS in The News](#)



From: [Gabrielle Le](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [Strategic Priorities] BHR-Belgatos Traffic Safety Los Gatos Town Council,
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 4:34:26 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hello, As a member of the Los Gatos community, I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood. The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade). Over the years there have been many serious collisions on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly collision that occurred on January 8th is just the latest. Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm. Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing collisions. Thank you. Gabrielle Le

From: [Elizabeth Olmos](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: homelessness priority
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 4:39:29 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Honorable Mayor and Council,

My name is Elizabeth Olmos and I am a case manager at West Valley Community Services (WVCS), a nonprofit that serves the west valley community including the Town of Los Gatos.

As the agency that serves our homeless population, WVCS sees firsthand that dire need for support for our unhoused community members. I am writing to ask you to include homelessness as a strategic priority.

I work with and assist our unhoused community members as the case manager at WVCS for the unhoused. Everyday I see the lack of awareness they have to different resources available and sometimes there is no resource available for the help they are seeking. They often disclose with me that they feel neglected and would love to see the City and Town doing more for them.

Again, please include homelessness as a strategic priority. We have a responsibility to care for all of our residents, including those without a home.

In community,

Elizabeth
(*Pronouns: she, her, hers, ella*)

Elizabeth Olmos
HTH Program Case Manager
West Valley Community Services, Inc
[10104 Vista Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014](#)

Direct: 408.618.6299 | Main: 408.255.8033 | Fax: 408.366.6090

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[Chefs of Compassion](#) | [WVCS in The News](#)



From: [Murali Vijayaraghavan](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [Strategic Priorities] BHR-Belgatos Traffic Safety
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 4:59:30 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community, I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accidents on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you, Murali Vijayaraghavan

From: [Jo Greiner](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Winter Warming Center for Our Homeless
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 5:59:18 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

I am the Outreach Director at St Luke's Episcopal Church in charge of administering our Soup Kitchen and Outreach Program for our local Unhoused men and women. This winter has been a brutal time for them, some dealing with hypothermia. Though we provide warm sleeping bags, tarps, and tents as requested, a far better solution would be a Night Warming Center that would protect them from the rain, wind, and very cold temperatures. These stoic individuals range in age from 45–78, some with physical and/or mental disabilities, and they remain among the most vulnerable population in Los Gatos. It is our fervent hope that the Council will seriously consider a solution to this urgent need, be it an indoor or outdoor covered space. I remain Hopeful!

Jo Greiner: St Luke's

From: [Reg Thompson](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: [Rob Moore](#); [Erica Cosgrove](#)
Subject: Strategic priorities: Blossom Hill Road - Belwood Traffic Safety
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 6:13:36 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council, we are residents on Westhill Drive in the Belwood neighborhood of Los Gatos. In our 10 years as residents, we have been extremely concerned about the traffic safety situation on Blossom Hill Road leaving the Belwood neighborhood, in particular when drivers turn left out of the neighborhood onto Blossom Hill Road from either Westhill Dr., Belgatos Rd or Belwood Gateway. Two issues make this left hand turn particularly perilous - (1) when cars are parked along Blossom Hill Road, visibility is extremely poor, and reduces the time one has to react while turning left, and (2) the speed of drivers along Blossom Hill Road makes any error in judgment while turning left potentially deadly (and even makes turning right unusually hazardous). For 10 years, we have feared that this combination would lead to a fatality, and while we do not know the exact details of the deadly accident on January 8, 2023, we were devastated but not surprised that this accident occurred, as such an accident had long been predictable.

In the wake of the January 8 accident, the community has stepped up to implore the Town to take action to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and at the intersections of the three Belwood streets. Many ideas have been presented, including prohibiting parking along some stretches of Blossom Hill Road to improve visibility, and we would like to add our voices to those of our neighbors in asking the Town to make Blossom Hill Road traffic safety a top priority. At this point, the Town and Council are on notice of this dangerous situation, and it needs to be addressed immediately before anyone else loses their life.

Sincerely,
Reg Thompson and Erica Cosgrove

From: [Clarice Masini](#)
To: [Town Manager](#)
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 6:18:45 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

My family lives in LG and I totally agree something must be done
to control the traffic, get a engineer before another human being is killed

Thank you
Clarice Masini

From: [thomas.sandoval](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Blossom Hill Road-Belgatos Traffic Safety
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 6:42:19 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community, I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic patterns along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accidents on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest. I myself had one near accident at the Belgatos intersection as I tried to make a left into the Belwood neighborhood.

Unless something is done to improve the situation, the serious traffic safety risk to drivers along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community will continue. Please make traffic safety improvements to Blossom Hill Road along the Belwood community a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. We don't need any more life changing tragedies because of your inaction.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter!

Thomas Sandoval



Los Gatos

From: [Marna Taylor](#)
To: [Clerk](#); [Town Manager](#); [Council](#)
Subject: Strategic Priorities - Unhoused in Los Gatos
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 6:43:23 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts regarding the most vulnerable members of our community, our unhoused. As the coordinator of the weekly shower ministry at Los Gatos United Methodist Church, I (along with our volunteers) see the great need for more regular, dependable services for these people. Specifically:

- 1) A designated professional case manager whom clients could have an established relationship with to help with social services, finances, accessing medical care and more. As volunteers, we are not trained to provide these types of services, and yet clients present with needs every week.
- 2) Shelter during severe weather, throughout the year. With climate change making weather patterns more extreme, those living outside are exposed to more days of intense heat, cold and wet weather. We only need to look at the horrible storms of a few weeks ago to see the devastation in this community - people lost their belongings, one man was stranded in a tree above the creek for 12 hours, people reporting dogging falling trees and fearing for their lives. Local, temporary cooling and warming shelters are desperately needed.
- 3) A regular funding source for the cleaning of the showers and restrooms. Each year we need to apply for a grant from the Town and compete for funds for the weekly cleaning. Currently this ministry receives funding from both the Los Gatos United Methodist Church and the Town of Los Gatos. This is not a "special project" with unique program aspects that change each year, like many of the great projects funded through grants by the town. It's a regular shower for our unhoused residents, most of whom have lived in our community for many many years. Having a defined line item for this \$150/week expenses would enable the shower program to know that funds don't need to be re-secured every year, reducing the risk of funding not being available with very little notice. and demonstrating a firm commitment by the Town to support this essential service.

Thank you.
Marna Taylor

[illegible]

From: [Mary Ann Carr](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: letter
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 7:27:02 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

To

Subject: [Strategic Priorities] BHR-Belgatos Traffic Safety

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accident on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in further injury and death.

Thank you.

Mary Ann Carr


Los Gatos, CA 95032

From: [Gerald Smith](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: [Gerald Smith](#)
Subject: [STRATEGIC PRIORITIES] Blossom Hill Rd - Belgatos Traffic Safety
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 7:33:28 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community, I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood. We have lived in this neighborhood for almost 20 years and we've seen an increasing number of incidents over the recent years. This includes excessive speeding, reckless driving, endangerment of walkers at intersections going into the neighborhood, and a disregard for traffic signals at the Leigh and Harwood intersections with Blossom Hill. The corner of Belgatos Road and Blossom Hill Road has particularly become the focal point for many of these driving behaviors and has sadly resulted in a number of recent accidents.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accidents on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you. Gerald and Claire Smith

[REDACTED]

Los Gatos, CA 95032

From: [Jackie Erickson](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: [Brad Erickson](#)
Subject: Blossom Hill-Belgatos Traffic Safety
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 8:04:58 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As members of the Los Gatos community we are writing to express our concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic patterns along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school.

Over the years there have been many serious accidents on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

The intersection is scary when turning left from Belgatos onto Blossom Hill, particularly since the cars parked along Blossom Hill often block the view and make it so difficult to see and judge the speed of oncoming vehicles.

We often go blocks out of our way coming to/from our home just to avoid having to use this high risk intersection.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road an urgent Strategic Priority for 2023, as the time taken to implement improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jackie & Brad Erickson

 *Los Gatos*


From: [TiffLHansen](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood concern
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 8:14:48 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council,

As a member of the Los Gatos community I am writing to express my concern with regard to traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos Neighborhood.

The dangerous condition of the traffic pattern along Blossom Hill Road has long contributed to an elevated risk of serious injury or death — not just for residents of the neighborhood, but also for families visiting our beautiful park, playground, and school (daycare through 5th grade).

Over the years there have been many serious accident on this stretch of Blossom Hill Road. Sadly, the deadly accident that occurred on January 8th is just the latest.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

I know these things take some time, but I ask that the town of Los Gatos takes immediate action on at least making the 4 houses (2 home on either side of belgatos) have a red curb. It's extremely hard to see with cars constantly parked there.

I do have faith that this neighborhood will not rest until we keep the home owners, the park visitors, mulberry and bright horizon school families and Children SAFE.

Thank you,
the Hansen's (concerned LG residents)

From: [Katrina Brinkman](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Subject: [Strategic Priorities] BHR-Belgatos Traffic Safety
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 8:43:57 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Los Gatos Town Council

As part of the Los Gatos community, I would like to alert you to the traffic issues in the Belwood-Belgatos neighborhood

It is very difficult for us to leave our neighborhood. Multiple times cars have crashed into the fencing on the house at Belgatos Road/ Blossom Hill. On Sunday January 8th, a teen passed away making a left turn onto Blossom Hill --a turn I have made multiple times. This was a day that did not have a lot of traffic as it was the weekend.

Our neighborhood has homes, a well visited park, a daycare and private elementary school.

Unless something is done to improve traffic safety along Blossom Hill Road and the Belwood-Belgatos community, risk to life and limb will continue to be the daily norm.

Please help to make traffic improvement on Blossom Hill Road a Strategic Priority for 2023-2025. Until then, the time taken to implement these improvements will sadly be measurable in more life-changing accidents.

Thank you.

Katrina Brinkman

From: [Benaifer Dastoor](#)
To: [Clark](#); [Town Manager](#); [Council](#)
Subject: Los Gatos Town Special Meeting on Strategic Priorities for the coming year
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 8:56:38 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Honorable Mayor and Council,

My name is Benaifer Dastoor and I am Manager of Client Services at West Valley Community Services (WVCS), a nonprofit that serves the west valley community including the Town of Los Gatos.

As an agency that serves our homeless population, WVCS sees firsthand the dire need for support for our unhoused community members. I am writing to ask you to include homelessness as a strategic priority.

It is inhuman to let our fellow citizens remain unsheltered and live in deplorable conditions which impacts their physical and mental health. Everyday in my field of work I hear heartbreaking stories of how an individual or family became homeless. I have not come across anyone who has chosen homelessness over a roof on their head to start with. It is the circumstances – high rent, lack of affordable housing options in cities they live in, low wages, loss of work, unplanned medical expenses due to illness which took their homes away from them. Once caught in the downward spiral with no affordable options available they are reduced to living on streets and cars – days turn to months and months turn to years.

The longer we ignore the problem of homelessness the cost to the society will be enormous – we then are not just battling with homelessness but also substance abuse, deteriorating mental and physical health, loss of productivity – all of which will require huge investments. It is time that people in power and cities with millions of dollars in their coffers now focus their attention on this humanity and explore options of shelter, affordable housing for the unsheltered.

Again, please include homelessness as a strategic priority. We have a responsibility to care for all of our residents, especially the most vulnerable among us – those without a roof over their head.

Thank you for your time.

In community,
Benaifer Dastoor



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
PARKS & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
PHONE (408) 399-5770

SERVICE CENTER
41 MILES AVENUE
LOS GATOS, CA 95030-6044

January 19, 2023

To:
Los Gatos Town Council

From:
Bill Ehlers, Chair, Complete Streets and Transportation Commission

Regarding:
Town Staff Time and Funding for CSTC Projects

Dear Council:

The CSTC would like to thank the Town Council for your continued support of the Connect Los Gatos and the Blossom Hill Road Traffic Safety projects. These projects, part of the LG Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, will improve safety for all road users.

In addition to these larger projects, the CSTC requests that the town council include a few smaller projects into the 2023 priorities.

Bike Valet.

For the Bike Valet service that the CSTC has planned to organize for town events in 2023, we ask for continued town staff support as in previous years.

Safety on Mountain Roads.

In keeping with the CSTC charter to advise the Council on current trends, the CSTC has identified opportunities to improve safety for all users of the winding mountain roads of Los Gatos (Shannon, Kennedy, Hicks, and College Roads).

Detailed recommendations are still in the works but will involve new signage and some use of the PPW's Variable Message Board. The ask is for approx. a week of PPW staff time and \$15,000.

With Regards,


Bill Ehlers

From: [Lisa Wade](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: [PlantBasedAdvocatesCore](#)
Subject: My Verbal comments for the Strategic Priorities meeting
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 10:46:03 AM

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Please be careful when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My Verbal comments for the Strategic Priorities meeting

My name is Lisa Wade and I have lived in the town of Los Gatos for over 30 years. I want to thank the town council for all you do.

My request is for the town to provide a small amount of funding for the Green Monday program. We realize that the town cannot provide funding for new programs. The Green Monday Resolution was adopted by the town council in 2018 and has been manifested as a handful of library programs that were all very well received.

Starting this year Plant-Based Advocates has partnered with the library to provide monthly programs to educate the public on the hows and whys of plant-based eating. We had a cooking demo earlier this month that was very popular with an outstanding attendance of 113 participants. People are very interested in this topic and they want more.

In order for these library programs to continue we will need funding. Plant-based advocates is paying for the initial programs this year, but we are a self-funded nonprofit which means that we as individuals are literally paying for the programs from our own pockets. This is clearly unsustainable. Also, we have not been able to afford any in-person cooking classes that have been requested by the residents. The zoom class was a huge success but people can learn so much more from an in-person demo or class.

So why do we think the town should fund plant-based education when budgets are so tight?

1. A small amount of money would go a long way. The city of Mountain View conducted a consumption-based Green House Gas emissions inventory and found that funding plant-based education would give them the biggest bang for their buck in addressing climate change.

2. Residents of Los Gatos have asked the town to fund plant-based education. During the General plan process, the Town council received hundreds of emails from residents of Los Gatos asking for plant-based education. In fact, there were more emails received about housing and plant-based education than any other issue on the General plan. We also submitted a petition from residents with about 300 names. People want to eat fewer animal products but they don't always know what to eat instead. They want education.

3. It gets to the root of the problem

Most people who have spoken at council meetings during the General plan process have been in favor of town funding for plant-based education. However, there have been some who have said that while plant-based eating is a good idea they don't understand why the town should fund it when the town is experiencing serious problems like the threat of wildfires and flooding. This is exactly why we need to fund such programs. We need to get to the root of the problem. Of course, we need a robust fire prevention program and emergency relief services but these problems will only get worse if we don't address the root cause. The beauty of plant-based education is that it can make a huge impact with very little funding. it will go a long way in preventing these problems in the first place. We have to start addressing climate change and other environmental issues. Diet change addresses so many problems greenhouse gas emissions, water scarcity, species extinction, pollution of our land and water and the list goes on. Let's get to the root of the problem or things will only get worse. Let's not get lost in crisis management let's do something to prevent or mitigate our toughest problems. Even traffic won't be an issue if we don't save our planet.

4. City government can actually make changes.

It is very difficult to make changes on a federal or state level because of bureaucracy and powerful lobbying. Local government officials can actually make important changes and that is what we are asking you to do. The city of Mountain View allocated \$30, 000 for plant-based education which is a drop in the bucket of the city budget. We are not even asking for nearly that. \$5,000 or less would go a long way in making a big impact.

So many residents have asked the town to provide education so they can learn how to eat delicious, nutritious plant-based foods. They want to know what they can eat to get their protein on a plant-based diet. Plant-based education is also important for those who don't yet understand why we should prioritize plant-based eating. Some people don't yet know about the huge impact a diet shift can make. Let's get the information out there so people can make informed choices.

Thank you!

From: [jvannada](#) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 10:57 AM
To: Wendy Wood <WWood@losgatosca.gov>; Town Manager <Manager@losgatosca.gov>; Gabrielle Whelan <GWhelan@losgatosca.gov>; Arn Andrews <aandrews@losgatosca.gov>; Matthew Hudes <MHudes@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Moore [REDACTED] Rob Rennie <RRennie@losgatosca.gov>; Mary Badame <MBadame@losgatosca.gov>; Maria Ristow <MRistow@losgatosca.gov>
Subject: For Town Council Meeting 1-24-23 Strategic Priorities

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Please be careful when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I have been paying attention to the ARC and Seniors 55+ issue that I and others are advocating to be put onto the Strategic Priorities docket this evening. I did ask Nancy Rollett to forward the "expectations" of the ARC as it pertained to management of the 55+ program so that I could discern what the discussion was about. Those are found in Exhibit F of the lease agreement. (see attached)

Exhibit F is a 14 year old loosely written document (virtually useless to manage to or measure results) that I doubt it has been looked into until the Senior Services and the Roadmap came into the picture. The rubber hit the road when the ARC board decided to no longer subsidize senior services, forcing everybody to look hard at what was or wasn't working.

I don't know anything about the rest of the lease, but I do think a lobotomy is needed on Exhibit F. That might also indicate the rest of the lease needs review. Because Ms Rollett runs a well oiled machine, I doubt there would be any discussion of the ARC's future had it not been for the ARC board pulling out their "subsidizing" of the Senior's program; assuming that subsidizing is the right description of what has happened.

This is an inflection point and all organizations have them. It's the perfect time to clean up the failings of the past. In my mind, the failings have been the lack of reviewing Exhibit F. Times have changed dramatically in the last 14 years. My personal view, after looking at Exhibit F is that the lobotomy is a good thing and everyone should want to renegotiate the lease, the expectations and the time lines. My knowledge of Ms. Rollett's management skills is fairly good and **I do not think there is a better person** more qualified to do the job. The Los Gatos Community Alliance fully endorse her capabilities. I believe that the organization cut their own pay 20% while the Town gave everyone 55% increases in salary?

You may or may not have been made aware of the Town's real financial position. As usual, we look below the canvas and point out that the Town is currently quite flush with funds for this discussion.

1) The TC likely isn't aware of the excess liquidity in FY 22. They should be, especially when 2 town service organizations (ARC and NUMU) are asking for permanent rent abatement for programs that have **far exceeded the requirements set forth in the 2009 lease (Exhibit F)** The impression at the TC level is that the Town can't afford to say yes when we think they can. Remember that in the case of the RecCenter, there are **no other towns/cities that charge rent** to their own service organizations. As it stands, our library is a large financial loss center when you include the bond repayment, and that's without charging them rent as we do the ARC and NUMU.

(2) The TM makes reference to the Town's financial condition in her cover letter, but frankly we have no idea what the real condition is since the GF FY 22 revenues were **at least \$4m greater** than the adopted budget (how did that happen?) and **operating expenses were at least \$2m less** because of the number of open positions. **And that doesn't include the \$3.4m in ARPA revenue.**

3) **Mark to market** adjustments are non realized adjustments (it was a debit to revenue) and they need to be added back to properly determine cash flow. Furthermore the Town's bonds are held to maturity and redeemed at par and therefore a loss is never realized.

Observations:

1. The Senior Services direct and indirect scopes of work (Exhibit F) are, terribly lacking. They are inadequate at best and certainly not a management tool.
2. Reading between the lines, it seems that the Council has realized that the Senior Services costs money to operate, but they have no clue as to how much it does cost in today's dollars. All they see is the inadequate list of requirements, and a request to abate rent and pay for the expenses of running the senior programs - which by the way are found in our current Strategic Priorities.
3. I note that the original lease lists the services as "direct" and "indirect". Then in the governance reference, it refers to "baseline" and "essential" with no definition of either. As written, it seems to be apples vs oranges. That is the type of thing that needs to be cleaned up.
4. Using the 2009 agreement is useless in our opinion and a complete renegotiation should be committed to by all parties. As I read Councilmember Hudes suggestions moving forward, he seems to be supportive of keeping ARC alive for another year as this overall revamping of the lease, and review of the vast amount of services now offered, determine whether or not the Town is getting less than, or more than they bargained on. It's my opinion that Ms. Rollett has run such an efficient, popular program that it would have gone on unnoticed for years had it not been for the board pulling back Rec funds that subsidize the Senior Programs.

Putting everything on the table will take some time and there may be some give and take, but the end result would be a thorough statement of expectations and costs. I think that's what should eventually resolve this problem mainly caused by a poorly executed list of expectations, and then receiving much more than the Town pays for.

In summary:

The Town has more than enough money that can forever abate the lease costs to both the ARC and NUMU. No other towns charge their service organizations rent. For example, Los Gatos does not charge the library rent.

The ARC and NUMU are well run machines with talented a management. Let's not lose more top managers.

The expectations in Exhibit F are too loose to measure success or failure. They need a major overhaul.

*Jak Van Nada -
Los Gatos Community Alliance*

Facts Matter; Transparency Matters; Honesty Matters



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM AGREEMENT PROCESS

DATE

12/11/09

SIGNATURE

[Signature]

Department Head

Town Attorney

Town Manager

PLEASE RETURN ORIGINALS TO CLERK DEPARTMENT

07.27.09

VENDOR NAME:

~~Project Sentinel~~

Los Gatos recreation

VENDOR NUMBER:

☐ Business License Required

For Clerk/Finance Only:

☒ IHH# 09-316 Expiration Date: 2/10

☐ P.O. Required

☐ No P.O. Required

Finance

SUBJECT

Lease Agreement between Town of Los Gatos and Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education and Recreation.

BACKGROUND

The Town launched its pilot senior services program approximately eight years ago, through a dedicated Senior Center and a Senior Coordinator staff position. This program has been a great success, both providing directly and supporting the provision of services to local seniors. Recently an opportunity has arisen to expand the Town's partnership with Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education and Recreation (LGS Recreation) to enhance the delivery of senior services.

DISCUSSION

In August 2009, the Town Council authorized staff to enter into negotiations with LGS Recreation to explore the possibilities that an expanded partnership in the area of senior services could offer.

FISCAL

The proposed partnership between the Town and LGS Recreation would result in annual savings to the Town in FY 2009/10 of approximately \$160,000, and increased revenue of approximately \$62,000, a total benefit to the Town of approximately \$222,000

**LEASE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
TOWN OF LOS GATOS
AND
LOS GATOS-SARATOGA COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND RECREATION**

EXHIBIT F

SENIOR SERVICES SCOPE OF WORK

DIRECT SERVICES

Los Gatos Community Education and Recreation shall ensure the provision of services/programs to include services/programs similar to the following list in scope and participation using its own staff or via contract:

1. Wednesday afternoon movies (once per month)
2. Wednesday games program (weekly)
3. Senior center dances (once per quarter)
4. Bus trips (once per quarter)
5. Senior Thanksgiving dinner (one per year)
6. Senior picnic (one per year)
7. Senior show (one per year)
8. Senior Center newsletter (bi-monthly)
9. Information and referral to other agencies (ongoing)
10. Recreation classes will be expanded significantly as demand warrants. Examples include: language, arts and crafts, computer, and other special interest classes.

INDIRECT SERVICES

Los Gatos Community Education and Recreation shall provide appropriate facility space and administrative support as needed for the following services, to be provided by outside agencies. LGS Recreation is under no obligation to provide the services directly.

1. Health presentations (once per month)
2. 55-Alive driving class
3. Grief support group
4. Blood pressure screenings
5. Brown bag grocery distribution (once per week)
6. Live Oak Senior Nutrition Program lunchtime meal service (once per week)
7. Happy Hoofers walking group
8. Older Women's group
9. HICAP insurance counseling (by appointment)
10. Income tax preparation (by appointment)
11. BART ticket sales (ongoing)
12. Hosting and organizing new groups and affiliates as interests warrant. Examples include: computer club, genealogy club, bridge club, etc.

From: Colleen Eastman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 10:58 AM
To: Maria Ristow <MRistow@losgatosca.gov>; Mary Badame <MBadame@losgatosca.gov>; Matthew Hudes <MHudes@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Moore <RMoore@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Rennie <RRennie@losgatosca.gov>; Town Manager <Manager@losgatosca.gov>; Arn Andrews <aandrews@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Moulden <rmoulden@losgatosca.gov>; Clerk <Clerk@losgatosca.gov>
Cc: Dean Rossi [REDACTED]
Subject: Town Council Meeting January 24, 2023

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Please be careful when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Gentilepersons:

Attached please find correspondence for today's Town Council meeting.

Very truly yours,



Colleen Eastman
Legal Assistant
[REDACTED]

San Jose | Danville
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NOTICE: Please direct all mail to the Danville office at 208 W. El Pintado Road, Danville, CA 94526.
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January 24, 2023

Via Electronic Mail Only

Ms. Maria Ristow, Mayor
mristow@losgatosca.gov
Ms. Mary Badame, Vice Mayor
mbadame@losgatosca.gov
Mr. Matthew Hudes, Council Member
mhudes@losgatosca.gov
Mr. Rob Moore, Council Member
rmoore@losgatosca.gov
Mr. Rob Rennie, Council Member
rrennie@losgatosca.gov
Ms. Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
manager@losgatosca.gov
Mr. Arn Andrews, Assistant Town Manager
aandrews@losgatosca.gov
Mr. Rob Moulden, Town Arborist
rmoulden@losgatosca.gov
clerk@losgatosca.gov

Re: Eucalyptus Trees

Dear Gentlepersons:

Please be advised I represent David and Anita Goddard of 18251 Overlook Road, Gerard Hayden and Mary O'Connell of 18151 Overlook Road, Nate and Bobbi Vandegrift of 18201 Overlook Road, and Linda Rodriguez of 600 Pennsylvania Avenue (collectively, "Residents").

As you may be aware, on January 10, 2023, at approximately 2:00 a.m., two eucalyptus trees owned by the Town of Los Gatos ("Town") fell directly on properties at 18201 Overlook Road, and 18151 Overlook Road. This is not a situation where one tree knocked over another; rather, one tree fell and then the adjacent tree fell. These trees crushed two cars, a sewage line, hardscape, etc., at 18201 Overlook Road. The trees also crushed utility lines. The trees fell very close to homes and a few feet more could have caused serious bodily injury to occupants of the homes. The cars alone were worth approximately \$100,000. The trees also damaged a car on 18151 Overlook Road. The trees snapped a telephone pole in half, which resulted in power disruption for four days. It took the Town over three days to clear the fallen eucalyptus trees. The stumps still remain. Several residents were unable to exit their homes for days due to tree blockage and fallen power lines. Telephone service is still out with cables on the ground and

San Jose | Danville1570 The Alameda, Suite 316
San Jose, CA 95126208 W. El Pintado Road
Danville, CA 94526

draping trees nearly two weeks after the event. I understand approximately 18 eucalyptus tree remain on Overlook Road from Wissahickon Avenue up to Chestnut Avenue. All of these trees are on Town property.

My clients have had an arborist look at the trees and I understand they are approximately 150 years old. The two trees that fell were approximately 147 feet tall. The fallen trees are not the tallest of the trees located on the Town's property. It is estimated that the remaining trees are approximately 170-180 feet tall. Many of the trunks are seven to eight feet in diameter. The largest is nine feet in diameter. These trees are a matter of feet (less than 30) from several homes. These trees, due to their size and proximity to homes, can only fall within an angle of roughly 20 degrees to avoid hitting a structure. Even within this narrow angle, other property is destroyed. The arborist opines that these trees pose an imminent danger to the Residents.

There is a history with these trees. In 2018, residents attempted to engage with the Town regarding concerns over the Town's management of these eucalyptus trees. Steve Regan assured David Goddard and other concerned residents in an August 2, 2018 e-mail that, "The ... Eucalyptus trees have been found to be in good health and structurally sound." He characterized the Town's approach as "proactive." David Goddard questioned why a more aggressive approach, with a focus on "protecting property and life, [was] not being taken with these trees." Rob Moulden wrote in response that he was satisfied with recent pruning of these trees, and assured concerned residents on August 24, 2018, that the trees were stable and were being properly maintained by thinning out on a regular basis (every 5+ years).

The Town's strategy for managing the risk posed by these eucalyptus trees is outlined in a proposal with subject line "Tree Trimming and Maintenance Services," dated May 30, 2018. This proposal was prepared by Steve Regan, Parks and Public Works Superintendent, and submitted by Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager, to the Los Gatos Town Council meeting on June 5, 2018. Regarding the Overlook eucalyptus trees, Steve Regan refers to the trees as "approximately 100 feet tall and 48 inches in diameter". This is completely inaccurate. Steve Regan writes in his proposal: "Proactive tree care through removal of up to 25% of the canopy [every 7 years] greatly reduces the chance for structural failure and fire hazard." It appears this program has failed.

To be fair, Steve Regan correctly acknowledges that eucalyptus trees in general and these trees in particular require high levels of maintenance and pose a "real danger...especially during heavy rain storms and high wind events." There are regular high wind events on Overlook Road and winds blow over the pass from Santa Cruz. This is the reason the trees were planted 150 years ago. There were only orchards present then. The trees were meant as a wind break.

Steve Regan also correctly acknowledges that eucalyptus trees pose a "high fire danger." The neighborhood is in the "very high" wildfire risk zone; in fact, the highest. Please refer to the Los Gatos 2040 plan for a map and discussion. If these eucalyptus trees go up in flames, the entire Glen Ridge/Almond Grove neighborhood is at risk as embers leap forward.

Los Gatos rezoned the Overlook neighborhood for single family housing in approximately 1970. Most of the current housing was built around that time. Despite this, and despite assertions to the contrary, the Town's strategy for managing the adjacent eucalyptus trees has not been "proactive" and has been based on incorrect assumptions regarding the actual size of these trees. Many other Bay Area cities are taking real responsibility for protecting residents' lives and property by removing city eucalyptus trees and mandating removal of private ones, as well. Examples include San Francisco, Saratoga, Los Altos Hills, Oakland (the Oakland zoo is removing 300 Eucalyptus to protect the animals as well as people).

Residents on Overlook Road are currently collecting signatures in support the removal of these 18 remaining eucalyptus trees. To date, approximately 30 neighborhood households have expressed support. A list will be forthcoming.

We are in the process of obtaining a written report from an arborist, which will confirm that these trees pose a significant and immediate health and safety risk, and could cause bodily injury. I am not an arborist; however, it is common knowledge that eucalyptus trees are not native to this area. Eucalyptus trees are prone to falling down because they have shallow, spreading roots that do not sufficiently anchor the trees. Eucalyptus trees are also a fire hazard. Eucalyptus oil emit flammable fumes, which are easily ignitable, causing the trees to explode. The Town of Los Altos, for example, previously unanimously approved the introduction of a eucalyptus policy mandating their removal. The council cited fire risks and the shallow root system posed a significant threat to residents. This is an example of how cities in this area have handled the threats posed by eucalyptus trees.

The Residents demand that the Town remove these 18 eucalyptus trees and that adequate funding be appropriated in the current budget cycle for this purpose.

The Residents respectfully request that this letter and the matter of the eucalyptus trees be addressed as a desk item in the Town Council Meeting today.

Very truly yours,



DEAN C. ROSSI

DCR/ceje

cc: Client

