



Belle Haven Action

advocacy • inclusion • collaboration

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BHA NEWSLETTER

ROOTED IN COMMUNITY, POWER & ACTION

September / October 2026

COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM



Angie Bautista



Abraham Ocampo



Marlene Santoyo



Sean Watkins



Willie Beasley



Shontelle Watkins



John Selvas



Cecilia Taylor



Jumpy houses or bounce houses/inflatables serve an important practical role as a family-friendly and community-building staple at public festivals, school celebrations, and cultural block parties.

CELEBRATING CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND JOY

Hispanic Heritage Month Festival

The spirit of unity and vibrant celebration was alive and thriving as the Belle Haven community gathered at the Belle Haven Community Campus for a unforgettable Hispanic Heritage Month celebration! Neighbors, families, and friends from every corner of the neighborhood came together to honor the rich traditions, diverse histories, and incredible contributions of the Hispanic and Latino communities.

From the moment families arrived on campus, the energy was contagious. Upbeat rhythms and Latin music filled the air, setting a festive backdrop as children darted toward the towering bouncy houses, filling the afternoon with sound and laughter.



Sugar skulls (calaveras) represent the sweetness of life, the cycle of life and death, and a welcoming gesture for returning spirits.

“*The Belle Haven Community Campus truly proved to be a beacon of connection—a place where neighbors celebrate culture together, uplift local traditions, and create lasting memories for our youth.*”

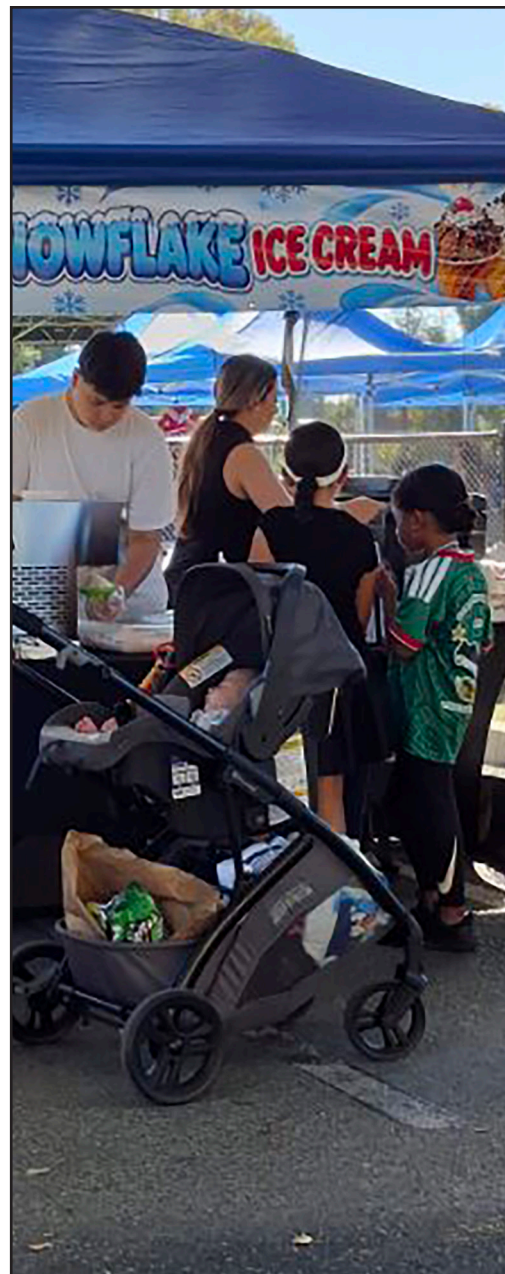
No celebration is complete without amazing food, and Belle Haven showed up hungry and left happy! Popular local food trucks lined the area, serving up authentic, mouthwatering savory dishes—from sizzling tacos and stuffed pupusas to

flavorful tamales.

To top it all off, the dessert tables were a massive hit! Families gathered to share traditional treats, sweet pan dulce, and refreshing beverages while catching up with old friends and making new ones.

Beyond the delicious food, music, and games, the heart of the event was the profound sense of community pride. The Belle Haven Community Campus truly proved to be a beacon of connection—a place where neighbors celebrate culture together, uplift local traditions, and create lasting memories for our youth.

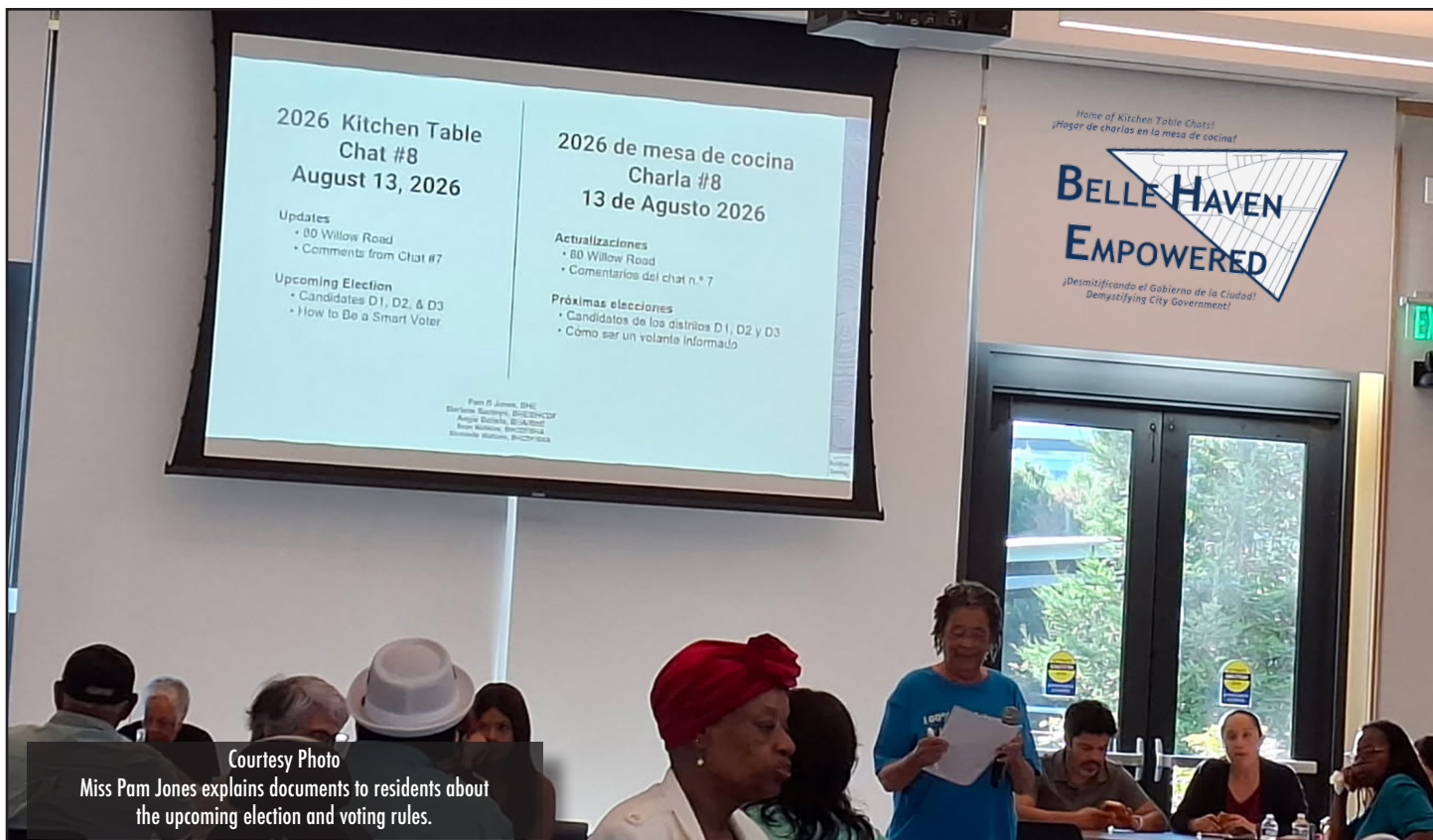
Thank you to everyone who came out, brought their joy, and helped make this year's Hispanic Heritage Month festival such a magnificent success!*



Community members enjoying the snowflake ice cream cones.



Left, food trucks were available and above, the vintage cars were on site.



Courtesy Photo

Miss Pam Jones explains documents to residents about the upcoming election and voting rules.

Belle Haven Empowered Educates About Voting

With the November election approaching, neighbors gathered at the Belle Haven Community Center for a hands-on “Kitchen Table Chat” designed to demystify the upcoming ballot. The event was a welcoming space for anyone—whether a first-time voter, a young person stepping into the process, or a seasoned community member—looking to get informed and feel confident ahead of Election Day.

The workshop prioritized making complex legislation accessible to everyone. Rather than a standard lecture, attendees

broke into small groups to research county and state measures together. Facilitators demonstrated how to navigate voter education websites in multiple languages, ensuring all attendees had the tools to translate legal jargon into plain language and clearly understand the pros, cons, and real-world impacts of their vote.

Attendees appreciated the organized setup, from the streamlined check-in—with separate lines for registered and unregistered voters—to the clearly labeled, self-serve food station that kept the space sanitary and

welcoming.

A special thanks to the South San Mateo County League of Women Voters for providing expert guidance and sending attendees home with the Easy Voter Guide. These comprehensive, nonpartisan booklets detailed state propositions, financial impacts, and arguments for and against each measure.

Ready to do your own research? Access the digital version of the materials handed out at the event here: California Easy Voter Guide <https://cavotes.org/easy-voter-guide/>

BELLE HAVEN MEETINGS



Belle Haven Neighborhood Association (BHNA) Meeting

Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC)
100 Terminal Ave; Menlo Park, CA
1st Thursday; 6:00 pm

Belle Haven Empowered (BHE) Kitchen Table Chat

Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC)
100 Terminal Ave; Menlo Park, CA
2nd Thursday; 6:00 pm

Menlo Park Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC)
100 Terminal Ave; Menlo Park, CA
Monthly, 2nd Wednesday;
6:00 - 7:45 pm

MEET ANGIE

A Quiet Force Behind BHA

For the past three years, Angie has been an integral part of the Belle Haven Action (BHA) family. Angie is a quiet powerhouse whose profound commitment to our mission is evident every time she steps up to support the team with her signature collaborative spirit.

Around the BHA office, Angie is known as the driving force behind our initiatives and the strategic mind guiding our projects. She is a versatile jack-of-all-trades who excels independently, particularly when navigating crucial grant applications for the organization. Recognized for her remarkable ability to assess community needs and translate them into immediate action, Angie approaches every challenge with unmatched tenacity. Whether she is orchestrating intricate logistics or lending a hand at a community BBQ, her formidable work ethic guarantees that every project seamlessly crosses the finish line.

Beyond her exceptional execution skills, Angie is motivated by a genuine passion for uplifting others. Her deep devotion to her family and her church grounds her, inspiring the compassionate service she provides to our community every day. An avid lifelong learner, she

is consistently seeking out new skills and knowledge to enrich our team's capabilities.

Outside of her vital work at BHA, Angie finds joy in traveling to Mexico, where she can soak in the stunning beaches and vibrant culinary scene. With proud family roots in the Yucatan, she holds a special appreciation for the region's traditional flavors. Her absolute favorite dish is cochinita pibil—a slow-roasted pork beautifully marinated in earthy achiote—and she is always eager to discover the perfect taco during her visits to Cancun.

On October 3, 2026, at Palo Alto Oaks Lodge in Palo Alto, CA, the 2016-2017 Girls Wrestling Team is being inducted into the Menlo-Atherton's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Fun Facts About Angie:

Signature Strength:

Tackling complex projects head-on with a tenacious, results-driven mindset.

Favorite Escape:

Beautiful beaches of Mexico.

Culinary Favorites:

Authentic Yucatan cochinita pibil and Cancun street tacos.

Style Palette:

A classic rotation of black, navy blue, white, and maroon.

One Surprising Thing:

As a senior in high school, she wrestled and placed 6th in the California State High School Competition.

Next time you see Angie at a BHA event, be sure to thank her for all the incredible work she does behind the scenes! *



Angie smiles as she walks past the judges table.