

Press Release

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Los Gatos Foundation for Older Adults to Thrive
Tom Picraux

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***A NONPROFIT FOUNDATION FOR AN AGE-FRIENDLY LOS GATOS COMMUNITY
IS LAUNCHED TODAY***

A new nonprofit organization has been created in our Town, the **Los Gatos Foundation for Older Adults to Thrive**. The inaugural meeting of the new Foundation's Board of Directors is being held today, Friday, September 29, 2023. The Foundation's vision is for Los Gatos to be an age-friendly community where older adults are engaged, valued and provided equitable opportunities to thrive! A major goal of the Foundation is the creation of a new Community Center for the greater Los Gatos area.

In its inaugural meeting a luncheon of the Board at the Wine Cellar is being followed by a business meeting to adopt the Foundation's incorporation papers and to plan its goals. Officers elected are: Sandy Decker, Chair of the Board; Tom Picraux, President; Matthew Hudes, Vice-President; Ginger McDonald, Secretary; Tim Lundell, Treasurer. Other members of the Board are Teri Hope and Alan Feinberg. Los Gatos Councilmember Matthew Hudes said, "When I was elected to Los Gatos Town Council, I learned that our Older Adult community would soon be over 30% of our population—yet at the same time our senior services had fallen dramatically behind. Older Adults Thrive aims to fill the funding gap and help create a world-class Community Center and services that our Older Adult community and broader community deserve."

The Board will have three advisory committees: the Community Center Committee, the Fundraising Committee, and the Initiatives & Publicity (I&P) Committee. Board member Teri Hope will chair Fundraising and community leaders Catherine Somers and Nancy Pearson will co-chair I&P.

Following the recently completed Los Gatos Senior Services Roadmap the Foundation will be following the Roadmap's one, three and ten year goals. A major overarching goal that the Foundation will focus on is the creation of a Community Center. "Our work to create the Town's Senior Services Roadmap resulted in tremendous engagement of the Los Gatos community and was unanimously

endorsed by the Town Council. It revealed the critical need for an intergenerational community center with dedicated space for older adults,” Tom Picraux said.

The new intergenerational Center will also provide dedicated space for older adults and nonprofit partners, and will become a vibrant focal point for the greater Los Gatos community. Initially the Foundation will be conducting a needs analysis in preparation for the Roadmap’s three-year goal of a community facility design that includes a renovate-or-build decision. “The goal of the foundation is to create a welcoming, exciting, world class center for older adults and others in the Los Gatos Community. As our senior population grows we want to be prepared to meet the myriad needs of this community that has contributed so significantly to Los Gatos,” former mayor and chair of the Board, Sandy Decker said.

The Town has established a Community Center Development Fund of up to \$1M of which \$866,000 has been immediately funded that will support reconfiguring existing space in the interim and planning for the future. Also as part of the three-year goal the Foundation will be developing a fund-raising campaign and seeking grants as center planning proceeds.
