

LOS GATOS WEEKLY TIMES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020 COMMUNITY-NEWSPAPERS.COM

\$1.00

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CANCER CAREPOINT'S VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER

New location for Garden Party

Fundraising goal of \$500K set for online event. Page A5



RANDY VAZQUEZ – STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cancer CAREpoint's Garden Party committee is working to make this year's virtual fundraiser a success. There is no cost to join the Aug. 23 party and bid on silent and live auction items. Proceeds go to support the San Jose-based nonprofit's services to cancer patients and families. Committee members are seen here with Cancer CAREpoint co-founders Jan Willoughby of Los Gatos and Gay Crawford of Saratoga, lower right.

Contact us

GENERAL MANAGER

Marc Connolly: mconnolly@bayareanewsgroup.com

EDITOR

Anne Gelhaus: agelhaus@bayareanewsgroup.com; 408-200-1050

SPORTS EDITOR

Phil Jensen: pjensen@bayareanewsgroup.com; 408-200-1005

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Judi Bulawsky: jbulawsky@bayareanewsgroup.com; 650-303-7278

REAL ESTATE

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Neha Kochar: nkochar@bayareanewsgroup.com; 408-200-1041

LEGAL & CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

classads@bayareanewsgroup.com; 1-800-733-3933

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Rick Raker: raker@bayareanewsgroup.com; 650-391-1338



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Offices located at:

4 North Second St.,
Suite 800,
San Jose, CA 95113

Telephone: 408-200-1000
community-newspapers.com

Office hours:

Mon.-Thu. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.,
Fri.. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



GARDEN PARTY

Fundraiser for Cancer CAREpoint blooms online

Event supports cancer patients and their families

By Debby Rice

Like many local nonprofits, Cancer CAREpoint has had to adapt to COVID-19 restrictions with a virtual iteration of its annual fundraising gala. The Cancer CAREpoint Garden Party, originally set for the Saratoga home of John and Melinda DiNapoli, will instead be held online Aug. 23.

The \$500,000 fundraising goal remains the same for the San Jose-based nonprofit, founded by Los Gatos resident Jan Willoughby and Saratogan Gay Crawford to provide support for cancer patients and their families in Silicon Valley.

Because the raffle and silent and live auctions will be online, there will be no cost to attend this year's event, which organizers hope will increase the number of potential bidders.

"This alternative format allows us to reach people who ordinarily would not be able to attend," says event sponsor Libie Cilker of Saratoga. "Everyone can join the party and bid on the auctions. It's free, and we are not limited by geography."

Longtime San Jose vendors such as Hi-5 Catering and Bloomsters in Almaden Valley and Bert George of Joseph George Wines in Willow Glen have stepped up to accommodate the venue change, while auc-



COURTESY PHOTO

Former auction chair Paula Ball and her husband Jon are creating a "Mystery Wallet" raffle item for Cancer CAREpoint's online Garden Party, filled with gift cards and cash for shopping and dining valued at over \$1,000. The Aug. 23 fundraiser supports the nonprofit's services to cancer patients and families.

tion committee members have contributed their own high-end auction baskets. Former auction chair Paula Ball is creating a "Mystery Wallet" raffle item, filled with gift cards and cash for shopping and dining valued at over \$1,000.

Auction items include a garden basket contributed by Saratoga Village Gardeners, and dinner for eight at home prepared by chef Daniel Nally of The Basin Restaurant, with service provided by several Cancer CAREpoint board members. Another "hot" item is

a dinner at the Saratoga Fire Station once shelter-in-place restrictions are lifted.

"What's been remarkable about our Virtual Garden Party is how people have jumped in willingly to help support our organization," says Cancer CAREpoint Executive Director Dawn Hogh, "Committee members have written personal checks to local businesses to purchase gift certificates for the auction yet credited the business as supporters."

Adds Crawford, "The support we have gotten says a lot about the

community and support of Cancer CAREpoint."

The nonprofit has continued to support its clients during the COVID-19 pandemic, offering virtual meditation, nutrition and exercise classes as well as online support groups and counseling.

To reserve a virtual seat at the Garden Party and purchase raffle tickets, visit www.cancercarepoint.org/events/gardenparty.

Silent auction items will be ready for online bids beginning Aug. 20.

Community briefs

Rebuilding Day is on

Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley has established a new safety protocol to allow the nonprofit to move forward with its annual Fall Rebuilding Day, when volunteers make home repairs for low-income, senior and disabled residents of Santa Clara County.

According to a statement from Rebuilding Together, "Our team has made and will continue to make alterations and adjustments to best account for CDC and OSHA safety precautions and guidelines."

The event is set to take place over two Sat-

urdays, Oct. 17 and 24. Volunteers can sign up for one or both days. Sponsors who have health concerns can forgo being there in person and instead set up a live virtual event using Zoom or Facebook to watch repairs being made on the project they're supporting.

"Many of our partners have felt secluded from their teams and are anxious for a safe opportunity to reconnect and do something productive for their community," reads the statement.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Alaina Purcell, Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley's partnership develop-

ment and community outreach manager, at alaina@rtsv.org.

Public Safety Power Shutoffs

During peak wildfire season, local residents should prepare for PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs to occur at any time. To better prepare for a shutoff, PG&E will notify its customers and non-customers who have signed up to receive alerts two days before power is turned off. Residents who receive this alert should make sure to have supplies to last a week. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/PSPSFAQ>.