

FOOD + EVENTS + DESTINATIONS & MORE

# SPOTLIGHT

*the best of the*  
**BAY AREA**

## WITH PALO ALTO HUMANE SOCIETY, TEENS MAKE TOYS FOR SHELTER DOGS

Palo Alto Humane Society just yesterday delivered a ton of dog toys made by local teens to the San Jose city animal shelter.

"It is a busy, crowded shelter, and we hope to create some awareness of the dogs there needing adoption and make them happy with toys to play with while they wait for a home," said Palo Alto Humane Society Executive Director Carole Hyde. "We will also be taking some of the toys (the teens made so many!) to the Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority, the shelter in Santa Clara."

More than 100 teens gathered Saturday, May 22, at the Church of the Latter-day Saints in Sunnyvale to participate in service projects that included making the dog toys.

"We're grateful to this group of teens from the Mormon Church for choosing to help the animals," said Hyde. "Many groups of teens and even younger children engage in service projects for the Palo Alto Humane Society. Where possible, we connect their efforts with local shelters and animals who need a home."



**Handmade Dog Toys**

Some of the teen-made dog toys will also be available for dog guests coming to the Humane Society's upcoming July 7 Yappy Hour at the Sheraton Palo Alto, where there will be a special menu for dogs to enjoy. The Yappy Hour will be held from 5 to 8 p.m.

The dog toy-making project is one of the many Palo Alto Humane Society education programs that aim to help young people create a society that encourages empathy and responsibility toward all living beings.

In fact, today is also the deadline for 7th- and 8th-graders in Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties to turn in entries for the society's "Ambassadors of Compassion" short story contest. The organization hopes that by researching and writing original stories about animals and people helping each other, students will develop a greater awareness of animal welfare and will become ambassadors of compassion.

The Palo Alto Humane Society advocates generally for animals' safety and care, and they also provide financial assistance to pet owners who suddenly face emergency



**Yappy Hour**



**Short story writing contest deadline is TODAY**

**PALO ALTO HUMANE SOCIETY**  
(650) 424-1901 [paloaltohumane.org](http://paloaltohumane.org)

veterinary care for their animals. To that end, they host an annual fall Daisy's Day campaign that fundraises for the pet owner assistance program. PAHS also provides veterinary funding for stray and rescued animals and spay/neuter funding for rescued pets through their Animal Rescue and Spay/Neuter funds, respectively.

Besides directly helping pets and their owners thrive together, the assistance with veterinary crisis costs has the wider benefit of keeping more dogs and cats from ending up in shelters, Hyde said.

For more information about the short story contest, Palo Alto Humane Society's education programs for young people, assistance with emergency pet care or volunteering opportunities with the organization, email them at [pahs@paloaltohumane.org](mailto:pahs@paloaltohumane.org) or call (650) 424-1901.

### LOCAL BUSINESSES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE MEMORY CARE AT PALO ALTO COMMONS

If your loved one needs special care due to memory impairment, they can find a supportive, safe and comfortable home at Palo Alto Commons.

The memory care program at Palo Alto Commons offers specialized care from highly trained team members who honor each resident's individual needs, experiences, skills and interests. Memory care is a type of assisted living specifically for people facing the challenges of Alzheimer's disease, dementia and other types of memory impairment. Palo Alto Commons offers memory homes in its Meadow Wing, which serves those with milder impairments, and in its Focused Care unit, which serves those with more advanced-stage memory issues.

Senior residents living in memory care benefit from a



**Leland Navarro**  
Activities Director

structured environment that provides plenty of routines to help them feel secure and comfortable. Residents live in a ground-floor complex with safe access to attractive outdoor areas, including gardens and landscaped walking paths. And they take part in activities designed to engage them physically, emotionally and socially.

Those activities can include fitness programs, arts and crafts sessions, outdoor concerts, cooking demonstrations, scenic drives and other offerings, said Activities Director Leland Navarro.

The program is built around a routine of meals and social



**Memory Care**

activities that keep residents active and engaged with their fellow community members.

One activity designed to honor residents' individual experiences is the reminiscing programs. Activities staff help groups of residents pore over their photo albums and share memories that are meaningful to them.

Palo Alto Commons takes safety very seriously, and nearly all residents and staff have received the Covid vaccine. All employees wear masks. Because of their high vaccination rates and effective safety protocols, Leland says most group activities have been able to be resumed and visitors are very much encouraged. Between visits, Palo Alto Commons makes it easy for family members to keep up virtually by posting photos of their loved ones.

Palo Alto Commons' program is extremely well-regarded in the community, with family members consistently praising staff for their consistent, compassionate care.



**Outdoor Exercise**

One resident who recently moved to live with family, wrote them: "You have all been so wonderful and enjoyable to be around each and every day! And thank you for helping me through the long stressful time over a year+ of a pandemic!"

Staff members are available to help residents with all activities of daily living and many specialized care services, including medication management. Both private and shared apartments are available where residents may enjoy decorating with their favorite mementos and furnishings.

To find out more about Palo Alto Commons and their memory care options, call (650) 468-2788 or go to [www.paloaltocommons.com](http://www.paloaltocommons.com).

**PALO ALTO COMMONS + THE AVANT**  
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