

Seniors learn college skills

by Olivia Pla
People Editor

Thought you knew everything after Freshman Skills Day? Well, you thought wrong. On April 14, students gathered in L5 for Senior Skills night. Eight Santa Clara students volunteered their time to come talk about their college experiences and answer questions asked by LGHS seniors. Los Gatos alumni included **Jim Kraus**, **Christina Creamer**, and **Lindsay Tenes**. Other students had hometowns from as far away as Minnesota and Seattle.

The students began by discussing some topics that they believed were important to know about before going to college. The first subject was academics. Santa Clara's rigorous courses were a difficult adjustment even for the students who came from taking several AP classes. However, the students said that it depends upon the major and the GE requirements that go with that major.

Maura Turcotte, from Los Angeles, shared a story about a recent pink eye epidemic at Santa Clara to emphasize the importance of taking care of yourself in college. Because it's so easy to catch illnesses in the dorms, staying healthy becomes a priority in college.

Roommate relationships are also a big source of stress for incoming freshman. The Santa Clara students advised students not to room with friends from high school in order to meet new people and make friends. They also suggested students take the roommate agreement (a list of rules you and your roommate make together) seriously to prevent conflicts.

None of the students had any horror stories to share and said that the majority of roommates get along with each other.

As graduation approaches, many of us are wondering if we'll stay friends with our high school friends. Tenes said that she has a tight-knit group of friends who still see each other during breaks. However, she emphasized the importance of giving your friends space in college. Visiting every once in a while or occasionally calling is fine, but obsessively telling them everything that's happening to you is excessive.

With college, of course, comes more freedom. The students touched on alcohol, partying, and hookups to address the common perceptions of college. Though these things do happen, the students did not focus on these topics too much in order to emphasize the fact that there is so much more to college than partying. The atmosphere at Santa Clara and most colleges is not focused on drinking and relationships despite what many may think. The eight students from Santa Clara stated that peer pressure is not a major issue and that there are thousands of other things to do on campus besides partying.

After this discussion, LG students were split into two groups with four of the Santa Clara students in each group. There was then an opportunity to ask the students questions anonymously. Overall, the Santa Clara students clarified many important perceptions of college and reassured us that no matter where we go, everything will work out.



courtesy wikimedia commons

COLLEGE ADVICE: Santa Clara University students came to LGHS to inform seniors about college and the skills they will need as freshmen.

LGHS student officers share

by Charlotte Pla
Humor Editor

The results are in and student officers have been elected for the 2015-2016 school year. Positions include president, vice president, treasurer, and spirit representatives for sophomore, junior, senior classes, and ASB. Here is what your student officers have to say:



courtesy M. Manion

SUPER SPIRIT: These Spirit Reps. were voted into office once again.

Sabrina Burnett, ASB President: "I really would like to unify the four different classes together."

Kathryn Hench, ASB Vice President: "Thank you so much to everyone who believes in me, I plan to make next year the best yet. My name is Kathryn Hench and I approve this message!"

Caitlin Buckley, ASB Treasurer: "Thanks for circling my name and laughing at my jokes during my speech."

Teenie Noskowski and Tessa Carroll, ASB Spirit Representatives: "We thank all of you for voting for us and we are really excited to improve the spirit rally and make changes that will keep it exciting."

Emma Shahabi, Senior Class President: "My goal for next year is first and foremost making prom really great, but also adding a lot of new elements to senior events... And being awesome."

Zoe Lam, Senior Class Vice President: "Climbing the political ladder like Frank Underwood; democracy is overrated though."

Shreya Koushik, Senior Class Treasurer: "I'm really excited for leadership next year because I love being involved in the school and money is pretty cool."

Hannah Logan and Anastasia Zavodnick, Senior Class Spirit Representatives: "We are committed to making it the best year of spirit yet. We would like to thank all of our beautiful friends for supporting us and voting for us."

Nat Redfern, Junior Class President: "I am super excited to work on people-oriented events because that is what I am passionate about. I think we can make J-Prom amazing and be super creative in terms of what we are going to do next year. Also, I am thankful to all the voters who voted."

Tommy Seaman, Junior Class Vice President: "I am eager to plan Thursday Night Live and Junior Prom, and am ready to tackle the excitement and challenges that this position will bring. I would like to thank my class for electing me and instilling their trust in me."

Thomas Johnstone, Junior Class Treasurer: "I plan on improving relationships with the other treasurers and keeping track of all the money flowing through the student body's activities, classes, and extracurriculars, mainly the sophomore class, and also handle next year's events for the junior class like Thursday Night Live and Unplugged."

Macie Manion and Anahita Yamouti, Junior Class Spirit Representatives: "We want to thank the sophomore class for voting for us because the last two years we have put in many months of effort and we know exactly what we are doing and how to make next year even better."

Ashlee Kupor, Sophomore Class President: "Thanks everyone for voting for me, I am really excited to make fun events and get everyone involved next year!"

Cameron Wehr, Sophomore Class Vice President: "The class of 2018 has tremendous potential; I am simply here to help achieve that potential."

Josh Greenberg, Sophomore Class Treasurer: "Thank you for voting for me and I am excited to do well with the sophomore class next year."

Charlotta Lebedenko and Jake Chen, Sophomore Class Spirit Representatives: "We have great plans for a fabulous hallway and future rallies."

LG North 40 land development plan nears final stage

by Rachel Salisbury
Editor-in-Chief

After years of contention surrounding Los Gatos's 44 undeveloped acres of land called "the North 40," discussions about the plan between the potential developers, Grosvenor USA and SummerHill Homes, and Los Gatos's Town Council and School Board are coming to a close.

On Mon., April 13, a voluntary agreement was reached between the Los Gatos Union School District (LGUSD) and the developers; it detailed the payment options available for the developers in order to compensate LGUSD for the influx of students to Los Gatos public schools that will come as a result of residential development.

The first payment option included both land and fees: under this payment agreement, the developers would give the school district two acres minimum of land, as well as the School Impact Fees detailed in the agreement. The land would be contiguous, within the district, and subject to the approval of both the town and the school board.

The second payment option would be a monetary compensation to the School Board proportional to the square footage of the development. If the developers choose this option, they will pay approximately \$23,000 for each entitled market rate residential unit they build.

At the open meeting held on Mon., April 13, by the Los Gatos School Board of Trustees, the board clarified points of the plan for members of the community. LGUSD Superintendent Diana G. Abbati disclosed that if the developers choose to give land to the School Board, the land would most likely go to a small-scale K through 8 school that would house approximately 300 students.

Among those at the meeting was the founder of the Los Gatos Education Fund (LGEF), Debra Weinstein, who voiced her approval of the voluntary agreement and gave LGEF's unanimous support.

The president of LGEF, Tim Thimot, also voiced his support of the plan, but was not without qualms. Thimot, also a co-founder of anti-development group "Town, not City," stated that while he believed the voluntary agreement was the best way forward, "The real sins were committed back in the mid-80s" when the town's General Plan was revised to make this development possible. "Santana Row should be in San Jose, not Los Gatos," Thimot continued, "ten to one, this town still doesn't want this [development.]"

While Thimot maintained that "the Town Council still has a very tough decision to make," he and other community members approved of the precedent this agreement sets for future developers. "If you want to develop in Los Gatos, you will pay," said Thimot.

The representative from Grosvenor USA expressed a similar sentiment, jokingly saying that he "apologized to future developers for setting the bar very high." Grosvenor has owned land in Los Gatos

for over a decade and said they are "trying to balance competing interests, and one of those interests has always been the schools."

Grosvenor stressed its willingness to cooperate with the Town Council, School Board, and members of the community, saying, "You might not like us, and you might not agree with us, but you'd be hard-pressed to find someone who says we're not accessible."

Dan Snyder, a member of the FAC, echoed Grosvenor's assertion and attributed the voluntary agreements potential success to the fact that "developers are willing to pay. They have a good relationship with our schools." Scott Broomfield, one of the Trustees, also voiced his appreciation for Grosvenor's cooperation, and said, "We couldn't have done this without reasonable people on both sides." Charles Erikson, a member of the Specific Plan Advisory Committee, said the plan was a "terrific example of how people can reach across the aisle, in this case from the public to the private sector, to do something wonderful."

Like many other people who made their voices heard at the meeting, Snyder also expressed that while development is not ideal, the voluntary agreement makes the best of an unavoidable issue. Among others who voiced their support for the plan were Kelly Duval, President of the Home and School Club (HSC) at Blossom Hill,

and Dave's Avenue's HSC President Becky Hanson and her daughter.

People were not without reservations, however. One community member voiced her concerns regarding construction costs for the new campus, and how well the construction of a K through 8 campus would fit the needs of the community. Another community member objected to a clause in the voluntary agreement that prohibits employees of the Los Gatos public school system from speaking against the agreement, saying this clause violated the employees' first amendment rights.

At the end of the meeting, the voluntary agreement was passed unanimously by the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Abbati. Each payment option would require the developers to give about \$7 million to LGUSD, either through fees or property, which would be about \$7000 per student in the district. Trustee Scott Broomfield explained this payment would equal approximately one percent of the house sales from the development, or \$1000 per square foot of developed residential housing. This agreement does not grant extra funds to the high school, which would receive only the developers fees already laid out by town codes.

The following day, Tues., April 14, the Town Council worked towards an agreement regarding the North 40 development. Regardless of the decision of the Town Council, the terms of the voluntary agreement between the developers and LGUSD should remain the same.

While no agreement was explicitly agreed upon at the April 14 Town Council meeting, the general consensus among the Council was to accept the contract with smaller figures. The number of housing units was brought down to 270 units from the previous 364, and the commercial square footage was reduced from 650,000 square feet to 435,000 square feet total. The council voted 3-2 on the reduction of housing units, with Marico Sayoc and Rob Rennie voting against the change, but voted unanimously to reduce commercial development. The decision to reduce the number of housing units could be reversed if Grosvenor decides to challenge the Town Council on the basis of Los Gatos having less than the number of density low-income housing as required by the state.

The Town Council unanimously decided to prohibit the development of buildings over 35 feet high. They also required developers to make thirty percent of the lot green space and mandated that this green space be open to the public, another decision reached through unanimous vote.

Interested Los Gatos town citizens are encouraged to get involved by voicing their opinion regarding the development to their Town Council; Town Council's next open meeting to discuss the development is scheduled for June 2 at Council Chambers.

(Sources: Biz Journals, Town Not City, Mercury News)



courtesy wikimedia commons

CROWDED SIDEWALKS: The development plan will increase LG population and traffic.