

Village House of Books opens its doors for business

By Niamh Doyle
Opinion Editor

Oct. 23 marked the Grand Opening of Village House of Books, an independent bookstore located in downtown Los Gatos. It was a festive day for all those who worked hard to make this bookstore a reality, and the atmosphere in the quaint, cozy corner of LG was one of celebration and good spirit. The cheery exterior basked in the late-afternoon glow as town mayor Barbara Spector cut the red ribbon to the applause of Los Gatos' avid readers. Guests mingled with beverages and hors d'oeuvres in hand, talking excitedly about everything this new bookshop has in store for Los Gatos.

The grand opening wasn't the only intriguing occurrence at the bookstore. That Wednesday was also the debut of the bi-weekly meet-the-author series that Village House of Books is offering. Lloyd Russell, book-blogger and event coordinator for the store, explains the goal behind these book signings, "Of course we're aiming to get customers to come to the store and boost profits, but more importantly we think these events will unify the community and help expose local authors." Mayor Spector is in full agreement, claiming that independent bookstores like Village House of Books are the "soul of the town," and that no community is complete without a local bookstore.

Los Gatos resident Steve Sporleder, author of *Conversation with Cleve*, *Carrying Knife*, and *A Fouled Nest* took this opportunity to showcase his new book, *Hobo Ashes*, a compelling murder mystery that showcases Sporleder's seasoned knowledge of Los Gatos by featuring much of our town in his novel. Sporleder read passages from his book and spoke in front of an engaged audience, answering questions and sharing stories.

Sporleder set an impressive standard for upcoming authors. The Village House of Books is providing an opportunity for LG citizens to get to know local authors like Victoria Johnson and Jeff Unsold who were present in the audience Wednesday night. In the words of local poet laureate Erica Gross, these "mom and pop" independent bookstores are a perfect way to "stimulate the intellectual community" that we are privileged enough to have here in Los Gatos.



N. Doyle

OPEN FOR BUSINESS: Los Gatos mayor Barbara Spector cuts the red ribbon to the store, formally opening Village House of Books.

The ornate and inviting retreat from the fast-paced world is the ideal way to relax with your favorite classics, the newest literary hits, and people who share a love for literature. Stop by to chat with the owners, meet a few authors, and pick up your favorite book—you won't be disappointed by this new LG hit.

Icing on the Cake reopens

By Liat Rubin
Sports Editor

One of Los Gatos' cutest and most treasured shops, Icing on the Cake, has recently reopened. This beloved sweet tooth's haven was closed from Oct. 6 until Oct. 16, leaving dedicated customers counting down the days until the much-anticipated reopening.

So why expand Icing on the Cake and deprive customers of beloved desserts for what seemed like an eternity? When asked this same question, owner and founder Lynn Magnoli simply stated, "Why not! I have been here 28 years and it was time to expand! We had the opportunity to expand into the building next door, so we didn't have to make any sort of complicated move. We didn't want to miss an opportunity to enhance Icing on the Cake and make the shop better for our customers"

The expansion was no easy feat. The Icing on the Cake team ran into several issues regarding plumbing, which caused a one-day setback from the originally intended reopening date. Magnoli said that the team "went into the reconstruction knowing that there would be surprises. We just had to just chip away at the job until we made those complications go away." The dedicated team pulled off the entire project in just one year.

All of their hard work proved worthwhile when on Oct. 16 Icing on the Cake bustled with customers old and new, proudly boasting many new additions to its beloved merchandise. The shop now includes a much bigger lobby for people who wish to make speciality cake orders and for those interested in the now vast variety of adorable merchandise. The shop now sells everything from unique cake stands and houseware to aprons, greeting cards, and fun seasonal and holiday gifts.

Besides its new merchandise and larger shop space, Icing on the Cake's classic desserts attracted many long-time customers, who were anxious for

their favorite treats. Melissa Daponte, a dedicated Icing on the Cake fan and Los Gatos citizen, was exploding with excitement over the store's reopening. She was especially eager to buy her Icing on the Cake favorites, which include swirly cakes, and mint chip cupcakes.



SWEET STUFF: Icing on the Cake features an expansive inventory.

Icing on the Cake's wide inventory of mouth-watering sweets includes more than just cupcakes. Dedicated staff member Kristen Anderson said that although she prefers Icing on the Cake's chocolate brownie, most customers love the classic "Banana cake with cream cheese icing and pureed banana".

With its new updated design and always wonderful desserts, Icing on the Cake is the perfect place for a sweet purchase.



L. Rubin

EXPANDING BOUNDARIES: Over the course of a year, Icing on the Cake has expanded to include a larger lobby and shop space.

Coro is a prehistoric blast

By Natalie Domengeaux
News Editor

A much-anticipated event in the fall, the Coronation Dance this year was a sensational success. The dance was held on Nov. 2 and lasted from 8 PM until 11 PM. The weeks leading up to the event were full of excitement as more and more students were spotted exchanging flowers and holding signs bearing the fateful question: "Will you go to Coro with me?" Whether as friends, in couples, or solo, students of all grades enjoyed a wonderful evening of dancing.

The decorations this year lived up to the unique theme, which was prehistoric. Pterodactyls lined the ceiling, and the students danced the night away among various dinosaur replicas. The fog machine was a special addition to the decorations, even though it did briefly set off the fire alarm.

About halfway through the evening, students gathered on the bleachers for an exciting announcement. This year brought an impressive court of seniors: **Betsy Wall, Melanie Goetz, Rebecca Lysaght, Natasha Cougoule and Maya Sweedler** for the girls, and **James Detweiler, Jordan Leong, Peter Stump, Cole Brossart and Justin Bergkamp** for the boys. Each senior was met with enthusiastic applause from the crowd,

but in the end, it was Betsy Wall and Justin Bergkamp who became the 2013 Coronation's queen and king. The two shared a dance before inviting everyone back on the floor to join them.

When asked about her time on the Court, Wall remarked, "Homecoming Court was such a fun experience. The nine seniors I was with are all awesome people and they made it a blast!" Along with her good company, she enjoyed her time at the Homecoming football game that took place the night before the dance. She revealed, "The segways were so cool. We were playing on them the whole first quarter of the homecoming game." The next evening at the dance, she was impressed by the prehistoric decorations, referring to the theme as "funny yet elegant." In terms of music selection, Wall said that she had been "hoping for more of the oldies," but that the music was upbeat. Finally, when it came to her selection as this year's Queen, Wall was as gracious as could be: "When they announced my name for queen I was caught off guard! Everyone on court truly embodies LG and I'm so honored to be selected as a representative of this school. Plus, Justin is a marvelous dancer!"

For Wall and many other Los Gatos students, the Coronation dance was a hit. All in all, it was certainly a night to remember.



courtesy A. Goetz

THE ROYALS: The 2013 Coronation's Court poses at the Homecoming football game, which took place the night before the dance.

Fall play opens next week

by Rheagan Rizio
Sports Editor

There is drama in the air. It is palpable. The opening of the fall play is approaching. This year's fall play, *The Good Doctor*, opens Nov. 14. It will run for just one weekend, and will have three performances: two evening shows on Nov. 14 and Nov. 16 at 7:30 PM, and one matinee performance on Nov. 16 at 2:00 PM.

As the show's opening draws nearer, the cast is becoming more and more excited. Senior **Kathryn Samp**, who plays the Girl, is extremely enthusiastic about its opening. "As we get into the final rehearsals before opening night, everything is coming together quite nicely," says Samp. "We're finalizing costumes and designing makeup and hair templates, all of which are

really interesting."

The show, set in 1850's Russia, is a comedy written by Neil Simon that is based on short stories that were written by Anton Chekhov. "At first, some of the scenes are serious and contemplative," says Samp. "But as you get toward the second act, the comedy really ramps up. It's gotten funnier and funnier the more we rehearse, and I think that it will appeal to both students and parents. I've loved working with such a great cast, and it's going to be a great production."

Tickets can now be purchased online at www.lghs.net, and admission is 15 dollars general and 7 dollars for students. With all the hard work that has been put into the production and a promising cast, this is certainly a must-see this fall.