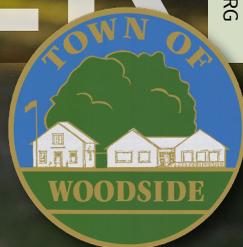


NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF WOODSIDE

# WOODSIDER



## IN THIS ISSUE

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## MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

### Welcome

Where do the Town's funds come from and how are they spent? It may surprise residents to learn that the Town of Woodside receives less from property taxes than either the Woodside Elementary School or the Woodside Fire Protection District. In fact, the Town receives only 7 cents of each property tax dollar collected within the Town. Despite this fact, over 40 percent of the Town's \$8.5 million in annual General Fund revenue is derived from local property taxes. This fact helps keep the Town on solid financial ground, as property taxes are more stable than other important sources, such as sales taxes and direct charges for permits.

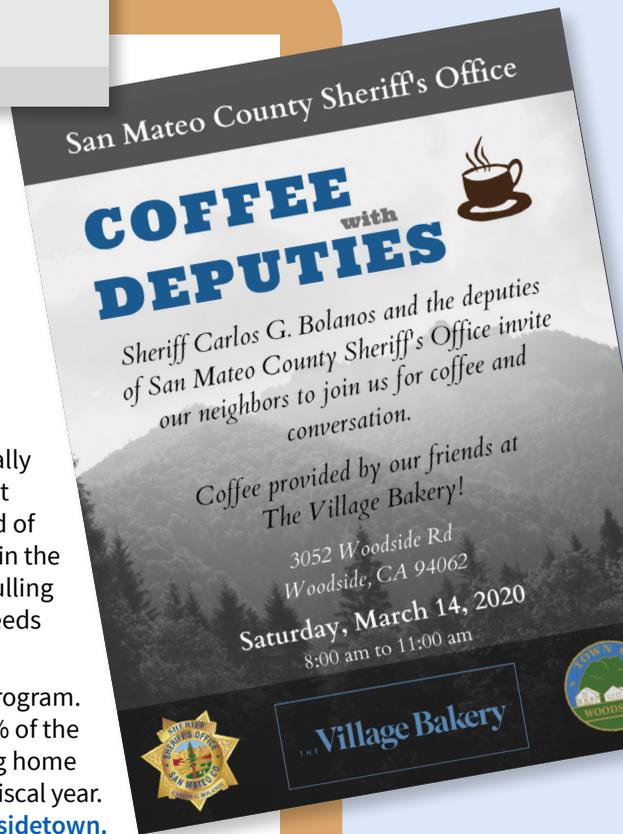
The Town organizes its finances by funds and departments. Funds relate primarily to the source and allowed uses of the funds. Departments relate to the public service provided. Over half of the Town's expenditures are generated by two departments: Public Works (37.5%) and Safety Services (25.4%).

/ CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

## TOWN SPOTLIGHT

### Here Are Some Suggestions for Building Resiliency Against Fires

- ✓ Get familiar with and know all available evacuation routes and fire exit gates.
- ✓ Continue keeping up with defensible space on your property throughout the spring, specifically with Scotch Broom and other non-natives that grow fast and turn into ladder fuels by the end of spring. These species are easy to pull by hand in the winter when the ground is moist. The hand pulling method helps in reducing the spread of the seeds and decreases future growth.
- ✓ Utilize the Defensible Space Matching Fund Program. The Town will reimburse property owners 50% of the cost of creating defensible space or qualifying home hardening projects, up to a total of \$3,000 per fiscal year. Please view the webpage: <https://www.woodsidetown.org/community/defensible-space-and-home-hardening-matching-fund-program> or visit Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for more information on how to apply.
- ✓ Review and update your family communications plan.
- ✓ Utilize one of the three Neighborhood Clean-Up Days during the year, hosted by GreenWaste, by dropping off your extra and unnecessary fuel such as old wood, plastic planters, plastic tarps, and debris under decks.



#### THE NEXT

**Neighborhood Clean-Up Day is April 11, 2020, at the Woodside Elementary School, 3195 Woodside Road, from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**



#### CENSUS 2020 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

**MARCH 2020** The public can begin responding to the 2020 Census online at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov). Replying by mail or phone will also be an option.

**MAY THROUGH JULY 2020** Census takers go door to door to count people who have not responded to the 2020 Census. Census takers are Census Bureau employees and will provide proof that they are official government personnel.

**DECEMBER 31, 2020** By this date, as required by law, the Census Bureau reports to the President of the United States the population count and the apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives to each state.

**2021** Initial 2020 Census data is made available to the public on [census.gov](https://census.gov).

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



# RICK DEBENEDETTI

*Trails Committee*

## How long have you been a Woodside resident?

I have lived in Woodside going on 65 years since 1955.

## Which Committee(s) have you served on?

### Please describe a highlight of your volunteer experience.

I have served on the Town's Trail Committee for over 25 years. My biggest highlight was being appointed to a Committee that my father, Clyde DeBenedetti, and mother-in-law, Carol Parker, both served on. These two people always reminded me what the trails of Woodside offered the community.

## What do you enjoy outside of volunteering for the Town?

While riding my horse throughout the area, it gives me the opportunity to think back on the great experiences of growing up in Woodside.

## Please share a favorite memory while living in Woodside.

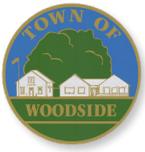
When in high school, going on a horse ride with my wife, Kerry, on the Bear Gulch trail of the Folger Estate which is now Wunderlich Park.

## What advice would you give to a new Woodside resident?

Introduce yourself to your neighbors. Inquire about the history of the Town, your new neighborhood, and just what they all have to offer. Get involved by becoming a Volunteer.



*Rick & Sipper (left) and Rick & Curly (above)*



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WELCOME / CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

Staff of the Public Works Department are responsible for overseeing and maintaining the Town’s infrastructure and includes the maintenance crew that can be seen working around Town. The staff of the Building Division (building inspector and plan checkers) is also included in the Public Works Department. Road improvements are also part of Public Works expenditures. During 2018-19, the largest projects were the annual road paving project, the replacement of a guard rail and the related shoring of the roadside on Mountain Home Road, and a stabilization project on Kings Mountain Road to prevent a catastrophic failure from future flooding. Altogether, the Town invested nearly \$1.5 million in these and other improvement projects.

Most of the Safety Services Department expenditures go to the San Mateo County Sherriff’s Office for around-the-clock police services within the Town. The Safety Services Department is also the source of funding for the Town’s Defensible Space and Home Hardening Matching Fund Program (a program which matches up to \$3,000 to private property owners who conduct defensible space work on their property) as well as the Town’s removal of hazardous trees on public rights-of-way.

This information and much more can be viewed in the full audited Basic Financial Statements of the Town, which are available for viewing at [www.woodsidetown.org/finance](http://www.woodsidetown.org/finance). The Town Council will be taking up the 2020-21 Town Budget, including reviewing its five-year plan for improvement projects, in June. You are invited to participate.

Kevin Bryant  
Town Manager



**OVER HALF OF THE  
TOWN’S EXPENDITURES  
ARE GENERATED BY  
TWO DEPARTMENTS:**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**37.5%**

**& SAFETY SERVICES**

**25.4%**

*Cover and above photo  
by Mark Leet.*