### **BLOCK PARTY TUTORIAL**

Prepared by Susan and Kirsten, Ventura Neighborhood Residents
JUNE 2023

Why have a block party? The biggest, hugest, most fantastic benefit from holding block parties is <u>building a community</u>. This neighborhood community doesn't happen overnight, but rather builds over the years. The first year you have a block party, everyone is very polite, and everyone looks at each other's name tags and shakes hands. By the third year you are pestering your neighbor to bring the spinach appetizer they did last year. By the 5th you would feel comfortable emailing, calling, or knocking on the door of any neighbor on the block (that attends regularly). At this point, if you really needed a ride or another urgent piece of help, you likely will feel very comfortable asking any of your block party neighbors. This is an amazing and powerful thing to build, and all it takes is showing up.

Plus, it's a fun and unique experience to take over the street for a few hours, make it safe to sit out there, relaxing and enjoying some food, drink and camaraderie with your new and old neighbors.

Here is information about Matadero Block Parties that the Matadero Avenue block has held over the past 25 years, as compiled by neighbors Susan and Kirsten.

- 1. Choose a date and apply for a permit to close the street. We usually select a date at least 3-4 weeks prior to the event. It is great to coordinate with a neighbor/partner on this so you know a couple of families are committed and available on the date you choose. We hold our block parties on Saturday and close the street starting at 3 or 4 pm and hold the party until sunset (permits do not allow the party to stop later than dark it's too dangerous due to little or no visibility).
  - Apply at least 10 days before the party date. Apply for a permit from the City of Palo Alto Police Department: <a href="https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/police-department/community-involvement/block-party-permit-application.pdf">https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/police-department/community-involvement/block-party-permit-application.pdf</a> (copy attached of application, Attachment A). There is no fee for block party permits.
  - Pointers on Completing the Application for Permit Temporary
     Street Closure (Class B) Neighborhood Block Party (Attachment A)
    - Question #7, Restrictions on playing loud music. We don't play music except for during the trivia game - see below. Or, use small speakers and keep music at a reasonable volume so as

- not to disturb neighbors who are not participating in the event.
- Question #10, How to barricade the street to vehicle traffic. Regarding question #10, "items will you use to barricade the street to vehicle traffic? (Saw horses, chairs with streamers, trash cans, etc.) ...", here's what has worked for us:
  - 1. String caution tape from Stop signs.
  - 2. <u>Situate saw horses and/or trash cans and/or chairs across the intersection below/behind the caution tape.</u>
    This allows vehicles who need to pass to get through.
    We've almost never had vehicles coming through our party area maybe once in 25 years.
- Question #12, series of Yes/No questions: you will likely answer
  - 1. "no" to whether bus routes will be affected.
  - 2. "yes" to the area being accessible to emergency vehicles,
  - 3. "no" to candles/torches/fires other than BBQ's,
  - 4. "no" to soliciting/accepting charity/gratuity/offering
  - 5. "no" to the sale of food/beverages/meals.
  - 6. Finally, it's unlikely that you will need to hire a private patrol service.
- Regarding Question #13, a good answer is "to build community and get to know our neighbors".
- Where to situate your block party to cause the least disruption to through traffic. If your block doesn't have a cul-de-sac, then choose a section of the block that allows vehicles to choose an alternate through-traffic route. We block the street in the 300/400 block of Matadero between the stop signs at the end of the 300 block on the El Camino side of Orinda for our eastern block party boundary and at the alley running parallel to El Camino on the East side of the alley for our western block party boundary. In other words, we take advantage of the alley that runs parallel to El Camino Real and use that for our western barricade.

#### 2. <u>Distribute flyers</u>:

- Distribute "Save the Date" flyers (sample attached (Attachment B)) as soon as you have selected a date and have submitted the permit application.
  - Place a flyer on the doorstep of each house/apartment, held down by the doormat so it doesn't blow away off the porch. For our neighborhood, including Orinda neighbors on side street and Park Blvd neighbors at the end of Matadero and the apartments near El Camino, we print 58 flyers so we have enough to distribute plus a few extras. We distribute flyers to

- all of the houses/apartments between El Camino and Park Blvd, but only block off the street in the 300/400 block of Matadero.
- If you have a <u>neighborhood email distribution list</u>, use that to <u>distribute flyers</u>. Be sure to keep it as updated as possible, including a table at the block party for people to add their names and email addresses.
- If you have an <u>immediate neighborhood NextDoor</u> <u>distribution list</u>, use that to get the word out, too.
- On the weekend before the block party, distribute "Reminder Block Party this Saturday" flyers on all of the neighborhood doorsteps, and repeat to the email and/or NextDoor distribution lists. (Sample flyer attached (Attachment C)).
- 3. <u>Preparation and assignment of duties.</u> Round up some neighbors to help prepare for the block party, including the following tasks:
  - Create and distribute flyers
  - Get barricades identified and ready to deploy
  - o Go Green! Arrange for "green" cups, plates, utensils, etc. You can contact Claire Elliot on Chestnut for a set of re-usable dishes that she keeps on hand for such activities. Another option is to ask neighbors to bring their own dishes, cups and utensils and take them back home with them to wash.
  - Get some "Hello my name is" name tags and a couple of Sharpies.
     Plain name tags are also ok. Neighbors should write their first name and street address on their name tags.
- 4. On the day of the party, at 3 or 4 pm, whichever time you have listed in the flyer and on the permit application that you will be blocking off the street:
  - Gather your block party prep team to check off the following steps:
    - Remind neighbors to move their cars so the street is clear, especially in the area where you set up the tables, chairs and BBQs.
    - > Set up the barriers at each end of the street.
    - > Bring tables, chairs, umbrellas, BBQs, etc onto the street
    - You'll need enough tables to use for both potluck dishes and for people to sit at. If you don't have enough tables for everyone to sit at, at least have enough chairs. We had about 20 chairs for our recent block party and could have used more. It's a good idea to line up specific people in advance who will commit to bringing tables/chairs/BBQs.
    - > Set out some name tags set out with Sharpies so neighbors can write their name (first name, street number suggested).

- Make sure little kids don't grab the Sharpies off the table and make any unwanted lasting impressions! Also, if it's a windy day, you might need something heavy to keep loose name tag supplies from blowing around.
- ➤ Go Green! Provide as many re-usable plates, silverware for everyone to use to reduce/eliminate single-use plastic waste.
- ➤ Bring a tub of soapy water for people to put their used plates and silverware in.
- Situate some recycling bins, city compost and trash bins near the tables for proper disposal of waste.
- ➤ Have an email sign-up list if you want to update/maintain your neighborhood email list.
- Set up materials for any of the activities you have chosen for your block party.
- 5. <u>Block Party Activities</u> the sky is the limit use your imagination!
  - Some activities/events we have done include:
    - Chalk for kids to draw on the street, including having kids lie down on the street and have someone draw a chalk outline of them. The chalk is fun, too, because the chalk drawings remain on the street for a while afterwards for a few days as a reminder of a fun day.
    - ➤ Face painting and/or removable tattoos (stick-on)
    - > Bicycle/tricycle riding for kids decorate with streamers, etc.
    - ➤ Badminton or ping pong, if someone has a table, net, rackets, birdies, balls, paddles, etc.



A piñata - for this you will need:

- A neighbor with a tall tree and long horizontal branch next to a driveway (sans cars!) to tie the pinata onto a rope and loop over a tree branch. (Or, it can be set up on a street tree in the parking strip.) If someone has a tree branch overhanging lawn, that's also a good spot for the piñata
- Candy- or treat-filled piñata
- Plastic baseball bat
- Someone to work the rope to lift/lower the piñata as each child comes up to bat
- A supply of brown paper (lunch) bags and a Sharpie to write each child's name on their bag
- Next, line the kids up from shortest to tallest, give each a paper bag with their name written on it, keep them behind a line safely far from the child swinging the bat.
- Give each kid 3 swings of the bat, then it's the next kid's turn, and continue until the piñata bursts. If some candy leaks out, allow the kids to scramble for what has fallen, but then get them back in line to continue taking turns hitting the piñata until the whole thing breaks apart.
- Sometimes we reinforce the piñata with duct tape so it takes longer for the kids to break it (and so all of the kids get a chance to swing at it). The more kids, the more duct tape!
- Phone the fire department ahead of time and ask them to bring the fire truck around for kids/adults to see up close at a certain time.
- Ask the police department ahead of time to bring the police vehicle around at a certain time.
- > Bobbing for apples put apples in a tub of water
- Balloon toss fill water balloons with water. Two rows of people face each other and toss the balloon back and forth. If the balloon breaks, that duo is eliminated. If it doesn't break, rows of people take another step backward
- ➤ If someone is musical, an acoustic singalong. Most folks know the lyrics to the Beatles'
- ➤ Trivia game/pass the parcel This is a fun game for teens and adults, sometimes held after the pinata game. The best part is if you guess the answer incorrectly, you are not eliminated from the game. This makes the game friendlier and more of a

collaboration than a fierce competition. The winner of the game is the person who answers the final question accurately. See attached rules and game preparation info. (Attachment D).

- 6. At sunset, start clearing off the street bring tables, chairs, BBQs to the side of the street. Sometimes the party will move to a neighbor's driveway (i.e., off the street).
- 7. It's helpful if you can gather email addresses of neighbors attending the party, especially for lost and found the next day. Also, this is fun for sharing any photos taken at the block party.
- 8. Take barriers at either end of the street down so cars can re-enter the street. Neighbor designated as clean-up person on the permit application makes sure the street is cleared off.

For any questions, edits or suggestions, contact the VNA website at https://venturapaloalto.org/ and your query will be directed to Susan or Kirsten.

#### Enjoy!



#### ATTACHMENT A



Palo Alto Police Department 275 Forest Avenue Palo Alto, CA 94301 Code Enforcement (650) 329-2130 heather.johnson@cityofpaloalto.org

# Application for Permit – Temporary Street Closure (Class B) Neighborhood Block Party. (PAMC 10.10.010)

The Palo Alto Police Department must receive completed applications at least ten (10) days in advance of the scheduled date of closure.

#### Class B- Temporary Street Closure, defined:

A block party or similar occurrence not exceeding one city block on other than arterial or collector streets, and along which at least two-thirds of the area is in a residential zone, and to which a majority of owners, residents or tenants of properties fronting such area consent, which is sponsered solely by residents, tenants or owners, and is not for commercial or advertising purposes or profit shall be designated Class B.

1. Date of Event:	Day of week:	Beginning time of closure: <u>Be mindful that the str</u>	Ending time of creets need to be open during	
2. Location of closure:	(Example: Bryant St between	een Lowell Ave and Tennyson A	Ave or 1700 block of E	Bryant.)
	First			
4. Address of Applicant:		City:	State: !	ZIP:
5. Home Phone:	Cell Phor	ne:Em	ail:	
6. Number of people expe	ected to attend event:			
7. Will music be played?	Yes No			
Hours music will be pl	ayed?			
	ayed (live, recorded, etc.) arty Permits provide no waiv	Ar er to Palo Alto's Noise Ordinance	mplified? Yes e Chapters 9.10 and 9.1	
8. Name and phone numb	er of person in charge of cle	ean-up:		
		vehicle traffic? (Saw horses, cha of an emergency. Do NOT use		

11. Sketch a diagram of the street(s)/area(s) involved in the closure. Indicate placement of barricades, signs, etc.

PLEASE NOTE: The City does not generally require permit holders provide proof of insurance for block party activities which take place on public property. However, the City does have specific insurance requirements for those who seek to place jumping tents, animal rides, etc. on streets or sidewalks. Applicants will be contacted if any activity they propose requires proof of insurance.

12. Will bus routes be affected?	Yes	No
Will individuals other than block residents be attending event?	Yes	No
Will area be accesible to emergency vehicles?	Yes	No
Will candles/torches/fires of any kind be used (other than a BBQ)?	Yes	No
Will a charity/gratuity/offering be solicited or accepted?	Yes	No
Will food, beverages, and/or merchandise be sold?	Yes	No
Will you be employing a private patrol service for the event?	Yes	No

<sup>13.</sup> Please provide a narrative description of the event below. Include information regarding the purpose of the event and what activities and/or entertainment will be included.

ATTACHMENT B SAVE THE DATE



## SAVE THE DATE!

for the 25th [Annual]\*

# MATADERO AVENUE

# **BLOCK PARTY!**

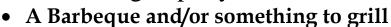
Saturday, Sept 3, 2022

**Residents of Matadero from** 

## Park Blvd to El Camino Real are INVITED

Come gather in the street to meet old and new neighbors

What to bring to party in the street:



- A Dish to Share
- Chairs, tables, coolers, plates, cutlery (if you have)
- Games/Activities for Kids and Adults (optional)
- → The Matadero Avenue Trivia Game will take place around 6:45 pm. All ages are welcome!

**♦** ♦ Masking is encouraged while in the food line ♦ ♦

The 300 block of Matadero will be closed

from 4:00 p.m. to 7:34 p.m. (sunset)

For inquiries, call: Gary xxx-xxxx or Kirsten xxx-xxxx

Official notification flyer published 8/16/2022 \*Well, almost annual considering we skipped 2020 and 2021! But, this will really be our 25th block party! Something to celebrate!



ATTACHMENT C
SAMPLE
BLOCK PARTYREMINDER: THIS SATURDAY!
REMINDER

FLYER



25th [Annual]\*

# MATADERO AVENUE

# **BLOCK PARTY!**

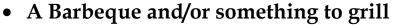
# Saturday, Sept 3, 2022

**Residents of Matadero from** 

### Park Blvd to El Camino Real are INVITED

Come gather in the street to meet old and new neighbors

What to bring to party in the street:



- A Dish to Share
- Chairs, tables, coolers, plates, cutlery (if you have)
- Games/Activities for Kids and Adults (optional)
- → The Matadero Avenue Trivia Game will take place around 6:45 pm. All are welcome!

Masking is encouraged while in the food line.

The 300 block of Matadero will be closed

from 4:00 p.m. to 7:34 p.m. (sunset)

→Please move your car if it's parked curbside in this section of the street!

For inquiries, call: Gary xxx-xxxx or Kirsten xxx-xxxx

Official notification flyer published 8/28/2022

\*Well, almost annual considering we skipped 2020 and 2021! But, this will really be our 25th block party! Something to celebrate!



#### ATTACHMENT D

#### **BLOCK PARTY TRIVIA GAME**

#### 1. Preparation:

- Create 15 or 16 trivia questions resources for questions include internet sources with geographical (GeoQuiz) information, movie quotes, recent local news stories, interesting local history or attractions (canning factory/Frys, the donkeys at Bol Park, etc.)
- Purchase the trivia game prize (e.g., a plant from Trader Joes)
- Have a music source ready (boombox, smart phone music, etc.), something that you can pause, then resume once the question is answered correctly and you are ready to circulate the parcel again.
- Print one copy of the questions and one copy of the questions plus the answers. Also print a copy of the Trivia Game Rules.
- Prepare the parcel: Print out trivia questions and cut out each question on separate slips of paper, with each question wrapped in a layer of old gift wrap paper, newspaper or other scrap paper you have, starting with the last question wrapped first. Wrap the last question in wrapping paper first by taping it onto a business card size card. Then wrap it and tape the next to the last question on that layer. Continue this process until the first question is taped inside the final layer of wrapping paper.
- 2. Keep the list of questions and answers for the Quiz Master, the person running the trivia game (keep it confidential!).
- 3. Assemble the players. Bring chairs into a circle to include all who want to play.
- 4. Pass around a copy of the trivia game rules (see next page) key rule is that no one is eliminated.
- 5. See attached questions from our most recent block party (Attachment 2)
- 6. Quiz master plays music (on a boombox, mobile phone music player, etc) You just have to be able to stop the music whenever you want to try to stop the music strategically so that all participants get a chance to answer a question. Players pass the parcel until the music stops. Whoever is holding the parcel when the music stops opens the first layer and reads the trivia question. If they can answer it, the music starts again. If they can't answer it, the person next to them attempts to answer and so on until someone gets the right answer.
- 7. Quiz master awards the person who answers the final question with a prize such as a plant, flowers, etc. (usually purchased at Trader Joes for <\$10).
- 8. This game takes from 30 to 45 minutes, so start it in time to end it before sunset.

# Attachment 1 BLOCK PARTY TRIVIA GAME RULES THERE IS NO ELIMINATION IN THIS GAME!

- 1. When the music starts, pass the parcel from person to person until the music stops.
- 2. When the music stops, the person holding the parcel unwraps the first layer of paper to reveal the trivia question and reads the question out loud. If he/she can answer the question, the music starts again and the parcel gets passed along until the music stops again. If he/she cannot answer the question, the person to his/her right tries to answer the question. If he/she cannot answer the question, the person to his/her right tries to answer the question and so on.
- 3. There is no elimination, so if someone can't answer the question they stay in the game.
- 4. Each time the music stops, the person holding the parcel unwraps the next layer and reads the question out loud.
- 5. The person who correctly answers the final question wins the game.

# Attachment 2 – Sample Block Party Trivia Questions (and Answers)

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MATADERO BLOCK PARTY TRIVIA QUESTIONS 03-Sep-2022

- 1) What movie won this year's best movie Oscar?
- 2) Name two of Yosemite's seven waterfalls.
- 3) What color is the top stripe of the American flag?
- 4) What movie from 50 years ago does this line come from: "I'm gonna make him an offer he can't refuse." Extra credit: What actor said it?
- 5) Alaska and Hawaii were the last states to join the Union in 1959, 7 ½ months apart. Which one was actually last?
- 6) What number Matadero Block Party is this?
- 7) What two states do not observe Daylight Saving Time?

- 8) Name one of the movies screened in the Flynn's backyard this summer (or to be screened).
- 9) What year did the Stanford Shopping Center open?
- 10) True or false: Julia Child was also a spy.
- 11) Name one of the donkeys at Bol Park in Barron Park. Extra credit: which one modeled for the movie Shrek?
- 12) Name a fruit or vegetable that was canned at the cannery in the old days, long before it became Fry's?
- 13) What is the minimum wage in Palo Alto?
- 14) In which state do Mark Twain's characters Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn live?
- 15) In the dystopian science fiction novel by American writer Philip K. Dick "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?", what planet do many humans leave Earth for?
- 16) What time is the sunset tonight? (to the minute) Extra Credit: When is the next full moon?

Answers to 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Matadero Avenue Block Party Trivia Game:

1. CODA won for best picture, best supporting actor and best adapted screenplay



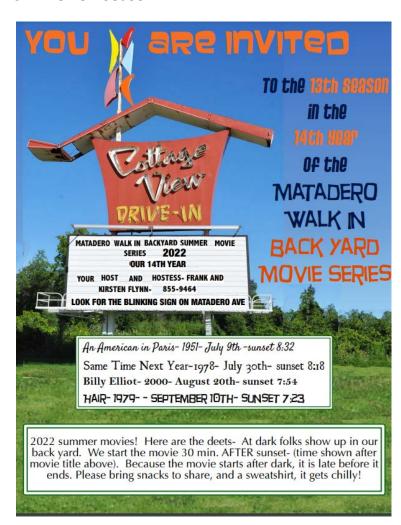
at the 2022 Academy Awards.

2. Bridalveil Fall, Yosemite Falls, Vernal Fall, Nevada Fall, Cascade, Ribbon and Sentinel Falls.



- 3. Red.
- 4. The Godfather. Actor who said it was Marlon Brando playing Don Vito Corleone.
- 5. Alaska was admitted 1/3/1959 while Hawaii, a US Territory since 1898, was admitted 8/21/1959, following a referendum in Hawaii in which more than 93% of the voters approved the proposition that the territory should be admitted as a state. Alaska was a Russian colony from 1744 until the USA bought it in 1867 for \$7M. (Russia didn't sell it to Canada because Canada was still a British colony at the time and Russia and Britain were enemies.) Alaska waited 13 years to gain statehood after requesting it. The reason was that each new state gets two U.S. senators and at least one new House member, and the admission of a new state can swing votes in Congress.

- 6. The last block party which was held in 2019 was the 24<sup>th</sup>. Since we skipped 2020 and 2021, this is the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- 7. Arizona and Hawaii. The US as a whole adopted Daylight Saving Time in 1966. However, Hawaii abandoned the law in 1967 because, well, it just didn't make sense. One of the benefits of daylight saving time is that there's more daylight in the evening. But in Hawaii, the sun rises and sets at about the same time every day, TIME reports. Arizona followed suit in 1968 because it also gets a lot of daylight year-round. Not setting clocks forward also ensures that there are lower temperatures during waking and bedtime hours. However, the Navajo Nation in northeastern Arizona does observe daylight saving time so it can have a uniform time with parts of Navajo territory in Utah and New Mexico.
- 8. The 13<sup>th</sup> season:



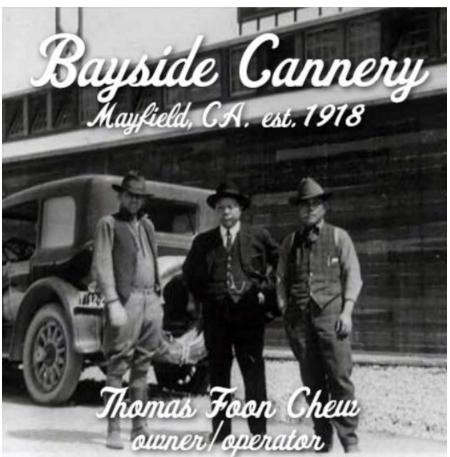
- 9. 1956. It is on the campus of Stanford University although the university only owns the land, not the actual buildings or stores. Also, unlike the rest of the campus, the shopping center and the neighboring Stanford Medical Center are part of the city of Palo Alto, not Stanford. In 1954, excavators broke ground on what was once Leland Stanford's vineyards. Nine buildings housing 45 businesses were built. The Roos Brothers clothing store opened as the first retailer in September 1955 and Blum's restaurant opened on October 22, 1956, marking the completion of the center. Board of trustees Chair Lloyd Dinkelspiel and university President J. E. Wallace Sterling presided at the opening and Shirley Temple Black cut the first slice of a nine-tiered cake. San Francisco department store The Emporium and luxury specialty department store I. Magnin & Co. were the original anchors. Macy's joined in 1961.
- 10. True. Julia applied for a position with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). First, she was hired to do typing and research. However, she quickly rose the ranks and was promoted to work under OSS Director William Donovan. Later, while working for the Emergency Sea Rescue Equipment Section, she helped develop shark repellent. During her last two years, she served as Chief of the OSS Registry in Ceylon, present day Sri Lanka, and Kunming, China, where she handled highly top-secret papers about the invasion of the Malay Peninsula. (She met her husband, Paul Child, while both were working at the OSS.)



- 11. Currently: Perry and Buddy. (previous were Mickey, Miner 49-er (Niner), Jenny). Perry, a Jerusalem donkey born in New York and brought to Stanford in the 1990s to be a calming influence on the polo ponies, famously posed for photos, video and sketches used to model Donkey from DreamWorks' Academy Award-winning 2001 release "Shrek."
- 12. A Chinese immigrant named Thomas Foon Chew, who owned the Bayside Canning Company in Alviso, purchased the 4-acre parcel in what was then the town of Mayfield in April 1918. By July, he had constructed and begun operating a cannery that within a year also included 19 houses for employees and a large new warehouse. By 1920, the cannery was the third-largest cannery of fruits and vegetables in the world, behind only Del Monte and Libby. At one time, Santa Clara County had 39 fruit canneries.

The Mayfield cannery, focused on tomatoes, peaches, pears and other fruit, as well as asparagus. The cannery continued to expand over the next two decades, first under Chew and later under the Sutter Packing Company, a peach consortium that took over the factory from Chew in 1928 and continued operations until the cannery's closure in 1949.

For a time, the cannery was the city's largest employer and canning was the largest industry. The cannery was employing hundreds of Chinese and Portuguese workers, most of them women. It was the single largest employer on the mid-Peninsula for many years. "The trajectory of canning operations at the plant — which began in the early twentieth century, peaked in the 1920s, increased production to meet the demands of World War II, and then quickly declined as residential development and new industries began to replace agriculture industries in the postwar period — this corresponds closely to the broad pattern of the history of the canning industry in Santa Clara County. The building is a rare surviving example of Palo Alto's and Santa Clara County's agricultural past." In spite of widespread anti-Chinese sentiment, Chew prospered with his Bayside Canning Company from 1906 through the early 1930s, hiring workers from different ethnicities, providing housing and hot lunches for his Chinese laborers, and developing an innovative way to can asparagus, earning him the title of "The Asparagus King."



The Sutter Packing

Company was a cannery in Palo Alto, located on Portage Ave. in the Mayfield area. The cannery was founded in 1918 as a second plant for the Bayside Canning Company. When Thomas Fong Chew died in 1931, the plant was sold to Yuba City-based Sutter Packing. Sutter closed in 1949 as local farms and orchards gave way to development. The company was hiring Stanford students during the 1943 season. In the mid 1930's, Sutter Packing was operating for about four and a half months each year canning spinach, apricots, peaches, and tomatoes. The cannery would work for eight to twelve hours a day with 300 employees. Sutter was one of the largest users of the Palo Alto sewage system, producing a huge amount of "scum load" which made Mayfield Slough smell like an outhouse.

- 13. The minimum wage rate for the City of Palo Alto is \$16.45 per hour as of January 1, 2022. (It's \$17.10 per hour in Sunnyvale!)
- 14. Missouri.

- 15. Mars. (We're pretty sure the "dream" and "sheep" part is a reference to the belief that counting sleep will help you fall asleep, with the electric sheep part being a play on the fact androids would count electric sheep rather than real ones.) The book served as the primary basis for the 1982 film Blade Runner, even though some aspects of the novel were changed, and many elements and themes from it were used in the film's 2017 sequel Blade Runner 2049.
- 16. The sun sets tonight at 7:34 PM. The next full moon is September 10<sup>th</sup>, the Harvest Moon. The full Moon that happens nearest to the fall equinox (September 22 this year) always takes on the name "Harvest Moon." Unlike other full Moons, this full Moon rises at nearly the same time—around sunset—for several evenings in a row, giving farmers several extra evenings of moonlight and allowing them to finish their harvests before the frosts of fall arrive. (While September's full Moon is usually known as the Harvest Moon, if October's full Moon happens to occur closer to the equinox than September's, it takes on the name "Harvest Moon" instead. In this case, September's full Moon is referred to as the Corn Moon.)