The Vino Express is back!
Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

Chardon-heey look who’s back? The Vino Express is coming back to the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad with a new sponsor! Campo di Bocce Los Gatos and its COO Benjamin Musolf have graciously taken over the reins to bring the people of Los Gatos another Vino Express at the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad!

Campo di Bocce is located at 565 University Ave.
Los Gatos, CA 95032

The event will be similar to the previous years. We will be providing wine tasting from a variety of local wineries from Los Gatos and surrounding areas, small bites, and of course rides on the train and carousel. The event will take place on Thursday, May 10th and will go from 6:00 to 8:00pm with the last train of the evening departing at 7:45pm.

While the railroad and carousel are typically intended to entertain children, the Vino Express will provide an opportunity for adults to go out and enjoy an evening, perhaps a date night, while enjoying delicious local wine.

Reservations will be limited with only 50 tickets being sold for this event. We like to keep the event small and intimate so guests can enjoy the ambiance of the event without the large crowd. Tickets are $50 per person, and include wine tasting, small bites, and unlimited rides on the train and carousel. Tickets will be sold at Campo di Bocce, and will go on sale by mid-April. These tickets do go quick, so don’t delay in getting your pass!

For additional information please visit our website at bjwrr.org or call us 408-395-7433. We can answer any of your questions but please keep in mind that the BJWRR will not be selling tickets. As we mentioned before please make sure to get your passes at Campo di Bocce Los Gatos located .5 miles away from BJWRR on at 565 University Ave. Los Gatos, CA 95032University Ave.

We are very excited to bring you another pour of the Vino Express! All Aboard! ♠

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A Fun & Interactive Fundraiser Coming Soon!
Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

As you may have heard once or twice before, the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. We do not receive any outside funding, and rely solely on the generosity of our guests and supporters. So when we find ourselves strapped for cash, we look into our community for a helping hand. This year we decided that instead of going the straight ask for a donation route, we would make the process a bit more fun and interactive for our supporters. So without further ado…

The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad & W.E. “Bill” Mason Carousel proudly presents the Adopt a Horse Carousel Fundraisers. Guests will have a chance to adopt their very own horse from the W.E. “Bill” Mason Carousel for one calendar year. Adopt a Horse Fundraiser would ensure that funds are raised to help with specific horse and carousel improvements, while giving something back to our community and loyal supporters. The carousel has begun to show its age, and has dealt with a few big slumps over the years. This fundraiser would ensure that funds will be specifically used for improvements in the carousel only.

Here is how it works: The carousel has 32 horses: 30 on the carousel itself, and 2 currently getting restored. Guests may choose any of the 32 horses to adopt for 1 (one) calendar year. We have a duo of volunteers that have been restoring horses for the last 5 years. This process is very time consuming, and requires lots of patience. Proceeds from Adopt a Horse would provide materials for the volunteers to continue their work.

100% of those proceeds will go into the carousel.

All 32 horses have been named, and will be sporting their names on their necks. You may choose any available horse to adopt for one calendar year, and adoptions are renewable. There are two levels of adoption, and both levels come with their own perks. We do ask that you keep in mind that "Adoption" does not imply ownership, naming right, or exclusive privilege with regards to a specific horse on the W.E. “Bill” Mason Carousel. Your adoption is a means of support for your specific horse, as well as for the carousel as a whole.

We hope to unveil this fundraiser during Memorial Day weekend. We will have a table set up with all the information you may need for the adoption. You will also get to interact with our volunteers who restore the horses, and ask them any questions you may have. If you can’t visit us that weekend, then simply call us at 408-395-7433 or visit bjwrr.org for more information on how to adopt your very own carousel horse. Also, an adoption of one of our horses makes a great gift for friends or family. Stay tuned for more information! ♠

Spirit is the latest horse to get a fabulous makeover! You can adopt them starting at the end of May!
Volunteer Spotlight
Board Member & Volunteer Kelly Locke

Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroads owes its success to volunteers. Volunteers are the lifeline of this organization, and we would not be able to do all of what we do without them. Board member and volunteer Kelly Locke has been a part of the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad for 49 years, so basically since its infancy. He is a perfect example of what this organization means to the community, and how important it is to the staff that runs it. Let’s hear from Kelly how his experience has been!

Kelly Locke in the 70’s in front of a very different looking engine #2! Photo courtesy of Kelly Locke.

IHQ: How did you learn about the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad?

KL: I worked with a boy scout troop laying track, and driving spikes in the station during the summer of 1968.

IHQ: What made you want to get involved with this organization?

KL: Money. I wanted to get a job during my senior year of high school. I was hired September 1970.

IHQ: How long have you been involved with the organization?


It’s important to note that Kelly has held many titles throughout his tenure at the BJWRR. He served as our safety program administrator for a number of years, and currently serves on our board of directors. He is also one of our few engineers, who is able to engineer all 4 of our locomotives.

IHQ: How has your experience been so far?

KL: It’s been a part of my life for so long that I now think of it as my “normal”.

IHQ: What made you want to join the board of directors?

KL: It is another way that I can offer my assistance to the organization.

IHQ: What do you hope to accomplish at the BJWRR?

KL: To help the railroad continue to make itself available to the community as a safe, friendly, and long lasting partner.

IHQ: Please give some background on yourself:

KL: I worked for 32 years at the telephone company, followed by 5 years at the San Jose airport during their remodel. I spent another 6 years working for the city of Cupertino doing facility maintenance. My free time includes, BJWRR, overseeing maintenance of and coordinating drivers for a fleet of busses at Calvary Church in Los Gatos, and riding my Harley.

Kelly has been a tremendous asset to this organization, donating his time and his talents to this organization for many, many years. The railroad is fortunate to have someone as passionate as Kelly overseeing that this historical gem continues to operate for years and years to come. ♠
In Memoriam
The BJWRR loses long time treasurer
Don Callahan

Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

The BJWRR mourns the passing of our long time treasurer, Don Callahan. Don was a kind and gentle soul, who always went out of his way to help someone. He was heavily involved with his community serving for the Los Gatos Rotary Club, and the Los Gatos Community Foundation among others.

He served on the board of directors of the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad since the early 90’s serving as our treasurer. The last meeting he attended was in January 2018 shortly before he passed.

Don was always very kind, and he was always a pleasure to work with. I always remember his smiling face as he sat directly across from me at our board meetings. His smile never faded, even when discussing not particularly happy items. He was a true treasure to the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad, and he will be missed tremendously. ♦

Big Milestone Ahead
The BJWRR will celebrate a big anniversary this summer

Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad has been a non-profit organization since 1968. The articles of incorporation for the non-profit were filed in April of 1968, we are officially 50 years old. Although our first run did not happen until 1970, this is still a big milestone to celebrate for our home grown railroad.

After the passing of Billy Jones, a group of local businessmen sought to keep the wildcat railroad alive. They created the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad Inc., put together a board, back then there were only 7 members, and built upon the railroad that Billy Jones had created in his orchard. Those first two years were difficult moving the railroad from Dave’s Ave. to Oak Meadow Park, but that group worked diligently to make it happen. This organization means a great deal to a lot of people. Our group of volunteers have been involved for decades, because they want to ensure everyone can enjoy a live steam ride on the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad. ♦
Join Our Team!
The BJWRR is always looking for enthusiastic people to help run the railroad!

Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Whether your passion is volunteering, railroads, history, or working with children, the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad has something to offer for persons interested in getting involved within the community.

The Railroad is always looking to add engineers to the roster. Engineers begin training on the diesel engines, and then can work their way up to engineering the steam engines. Scheduling is flexible and is up to the volunteer and what they can accommodate, all we ask is that you are scheduled once per month to remain active. Visit us in person on Saturdays and Sundays to see how much fun you could be having by engineering at the railroad! If you can’t make a trip down in person you can visit us on the web at bjwrr.org for all information.

If engineering isn’t really your thing, then let us know what is so we can find a great project for you. We are always looking for maintenance workers, gardeners, barbecue cooks and event catering. Volunteers are the life line of this organization, and we simply could not do what we do without their support and their talents. Be a part of a wonderful tradition in the community of Los Gatos and beyond. Join our team today!

Rosie Balistreri
Chief Operating Office

JOIN OUR TEAM!

As you all know, volunteers at the Billy Jones wildcat railroad are the lifeline of this organization. We have always relied on our volunteers for upkeep of all that you see in our train station; from locomotive work to grounds, they do it all.

Another very important factor at the railroad are the employees. Without them, we wouldn’t be able to have our snack shack available with yummy treats, no one to yell the very loud “All Aboard!” for each train ride, and no one to lower the gates and ensure safety rules are being followed. If it weren’t for our volunteers and employees, the railroad would not be what it is today.

With the never ending changes in regards to students going off to college or graduating college and starting their career, we’ve had some trouble with hiring new employees. The special thing about the railroad is that we hire mature 14 year olds. This is a great first job for many people from all walks of life. It’s mostly weekend work Saturdays and Sundays, with hours increasing during the summer. The work is outside with kids and adults all around.

The experience these teens take with them is endless; from preparing food, to handling money and not to mention, increasing their customer service skills. As young as they are, they are here and willing to put a smile on our customers faces. If you are interested or know someone who is, come see us! We can’t wait to meet you! ♠
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**MAY 10th – THE VINO EXPRESS**
Campo Di Bocce Los Gatos sponsors the return of The Vino Express. Enjoy local wine, small bites, and rides on the train and carousel from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Reservations are limited so get your pass today!

**JUNE 6th – SUMMER SEASON BEGINS**
We kick off summer on Wednesday, June 6th. Train and Carousel open daily from 10:30am to 4:30pm.

**JUNE 9th – FLAPJACKS & RAILROAD TRACKS PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
Help us kick off summer with early morning rides on the train & carousel, and a delicious pancake breakfast. Our 11th Annual Flapjacks & Railroad Tracks Pancake Breakfast is set for June 9th from 8:00am to 10:15am.

**JULY – RIDER APPRECIATION MONTH**
We take the whole month of July to thank you! Carousel day and Billy Jones day will serve as bookends to our rider appreciation month, with T-shirts Friday right in between. More info to come.

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**The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad & W.E. “Bill” Mason Carousel, Inc.**

General inquiries and correspondence to the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad & W.E. “Bill” Mason Carousel, this newsletter, or its Board of Directors should be addressed to:

**BJWRR**
P.O. Box 234
Los Gatos, CA 95031-0234

Office line: (408) 395-RIDE
Shop line: (408)395-2800

EMAIL: info@bjwrr.org

Persons interested in volunteering in the machine shop may also call (408) 395-2800 or by visiting bjwrr.org

Visit our website at www.bjwrr.org for further updates and information.

The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization working with the cooperation of the Town of Los Gatos and the Santa Clara County Parks Office. All contributions are tax deductible.