



# TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

## Colleagues Memo

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**TO:** Mayor and Members of the Town Council

**FROM:** Councilmember Sarah Wernikoff

**DATE:** February 22, 2023

**RE:** Founders' Award for Lifetime Contributions to the Town of Portola Valley

### **RECOMMENDATION**

I recommend that the Town establish a lifetime contributions award that would recognize the cumulative civic engagement and leadership of longstanding volunteers in the Town of Portola Valley to be awarded based on a nominating process and clear criteria for recipients.

### **Proposed Criteria:**

- Twenty years or more of distinguished service to the Town including on a committee, a commission and/or on the Town Council, as well as within other Town working groups, or within other Portola Valley local organizations (i.e. Portola Valley School District, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space, Friends of the Library, The Sequoias, etc.).
- Represent the character of the quintessential Portola Valley volunteer in terms of dedication and commitment to town values, vision, and civility.
- Continued and significant contributions across a broad range that have benefitted the Town of Portola Valley and its community in both formal and informal ways.
- Has not served on the Town Council for at least 5 years.
- May be awarded posthumously.

### **Proposed Nominating and Award Selection Process:**

- Nomination can occur at any time on an ad hoc basis (vs. annually)
- Nomination must include a nomination letter, the resume of the nominee (or list of contributions), and a minimum of 3 supporting letters of recommendation.
- Nominees to be evaluated and recommended by a standing subgroup of the Council.
- Nomination process will be confidential; however, nominees will be notified once nominated.
- Recipients will be acknowledged at a Council meeting with a plaque, as well as having their name listed on a plaque at Town Center (location TBD).

### **Budget:**

- Cost of plaque(s).

I am pleased to nominate Sue Crane for one of the first Founders' Awards for Community Service. She came to Portola Valley in 1964, raised three boys, was a co-founder of Ridge Winery, and still had time for an amazing amount of community services for many causes.

The highlights of this service began with appointment to the Planning Commission in 1980. She was the biggest vote getter in the election for Town Council in 1982 and served in that role for eight years. She was Mayor in 1985 and 1989. Following is a list of other roles she's played.

1964-1973: Volunteer Pottery Teacher in PV Schools

1977-1982: Chair of Town Center Committee that planned for purchasing Portola Valley School and converting it into Town Center

1979: General Plan Review Committee

1990-2001: POST, Secretary to the Board of Directors

2010-2021: Friends of the Library, President 2015-2018

2011: Committee that planned a grand sesquicentennial celebration for the school district which brought some 700 people to Town Center.

2014: 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation committee that brought hundreds of people to town center. She was a member of the panel of 7 people each with long experience who reviewed the town's history from their personal perspectives.

2014-2023: Sequoias Residents' Advisory Board, various sub-committees and liaison to the Town

Although few in town are aware of the impressive role Sue has played through six decades, she has made this town and its residents a better place and continues to set an example for all of us.

Nancy Lund, Town Historian

**From:** Chrisi Fleming  
**Date:** February 8, 2023 at 6:26:57 AM PST  
**To:** Tor/Nancy Lund  
**Subject:** Sue's Nomination

I second the nomination for Sue Crane to receive the Founders' Award for Community Service.

I do know that Sue has been majorly involved in the community in so many ways as is illustrated in Nancy Lund's nomination. She is such a good friend, and I admire her tremendously. I know that she is strong in character and commitment to anything she gets involved in. At 90 she recently completed a book about the founding of Ridge Winery. She stays up on everything that is going on in the community and helps keep her fellow residents at the Sequoias in the know.

She is truly deserving of the award. This has definitely been a long run of service for the past sixty years. I am proud to support her nomination.

Chrisi Fleming

8 February 2023

Jeremy Dennis, Town Manager  
Town of Portola Valley  
765 Portola Road  
Portola Valley, Ca 94028

Dear Mr. Dennis,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Sue Crane to receive Portola Valley's first Founders' Award for Community Service. I have known Sue for many years, and have always admired her enthusiastic and contagious town activism. She not only has an outstanding record of active service to the town, but she also has been instrumental in encouraging many others, myself included, to participate in this important democratic act. Sue approaches our town challenges with clear sighted determination and optimism. Her contributions to the ongoing success of the community deserve wide recognition.

Yours sincerely,

John Richards

Resident, 1954-72, 1985-present  
ASCC, 1985-1993  
Planning Commission, 1994-1997  
Town Council, 2009-2022  
Mayor, 2013, 2018

Nomination of Sue Crane  
for  
Founder's Award for Lifetime Contributions

Grace, courage, kindness, initiative, dependability and generosity are only a few of the characteristics that qualify Sue Crane's nomination for this newly established award.

Sue has lived at The Sequoias for nearly nine years, but even before that, she became part of our community when she joined our weekly square-dancing group, bringing her young granddaughter, Rachel, to dance with us. After moving into her centrally located apartment, she quickly became an integral member of several campus groups. It was not long before she was appointed by the Resident Board of Directors to be the Sequoias liaison to the Town. Her relationship with Town Manager Jeremy Dennis kept Sequoias residents up to date about important issues in the town, and established a closer relationship with the Town for Sequoias. She became a member of the Sequoias Resident Board of Directors when the death of a board member left a vacancy in 2020; she is now completing the remainder of that term.

Inclusiveness has been important to Sue, and was recently exemplified when she and Rachel lighted the Menorah at the Town Center. That public occasion was paralleled at The Sequoias when Sue and others conducted a Hanukkah ceremony, lighting a room-size Menorah. The Lounge was filled by residents for that experience.

Always politically active and aware, Sue has campaigned for Town Council candidates who she believes will work as diligently as she has, to uphold Town values and long-term goals. She also served on regional boards, such as ABAG, when she was on Town Council. She understands the importance of thinking and working regionally while also working locally, a critical balance for those entrusted to serve the Town.

Sue's long-time involvements with Friends of the Library and the school district are legendary for the commitment that she provided that enabled both organizations to better serve adult and child residents of Portola Valley. There is no other person who has contributed as much time and talent to the Town of Portola Valley.

Onolee Trapp