

# Kids and families show up in force at community event

Yang Yang

THE Shanghai International Circuit Kart Land witnessed the ascent of its perhaps youngest racing stars on May 18 at 5:40pm when Caleb Zhang, 8, from China; Holland Risenhoover, 16, from the US; and Hammadi Djamel Eddine, 4, from Algeria, placed first, second, and third, respectively, in a family go-karting competition.

City News Service, Shanghai's one-stop information and service platform committed to making life in Shanghai easy for expats, hosted a community event for Chinese and expat families. The young children, strapped up in a double-seat kart next to their parents, or teenagers old enough to veer in a single-seat kart, were taking part.

Brendan Carroll, an Australian expat volunteer who lives in Jiading's Anting Town, the location of SIC Kart Land, cuddled the young children and gave them the confidence to make their "winner's speech" in front of cameras.

"I just cut my corners right, doing what I could," said Risenhoover.

Emma Hansen, 8, described herself as someone who came from both Zimbabwe and Germany. She went to the event with her Zimbabwean mother and German father.

"At the Formula 1 track, this is the first time we've tried karting as a family," said Elyster Ngatibaye Hansen, the mother.

The event's 40 participants came from China, Zimbabwe, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, Algeria, India, Germany, Indonesia, and the Philippines. They were from Chinese and expat families in Huamu Subdistrict, Jinqiao Town, and Zhangjiang Town in Pudong New Area, Hongqiao Subdistrict in Changning District, Yichuan Road



Having donned their karting helmets, Emma Hansen (left) and her pal enthusiastically waved to the audience. — Chen Xin'er

Subdistrict in Putuo District, and Xujing Town in Qingpu District, all of which have vibrant international communities.

The Dalai Time Museum in Anting was the other stop for the group of expat and Chinese families on their CNS family day, as May 18 also marked the International Museum Day.

Named after its patron, Li Dalai, a clock and watch collector born in Anting, the Dalai Time Museum houses over 2,300 artifacts from various nations and centuries. The collection includes 1,596 intricate clocks and watches, as well as 446 phonographs, music boxes and mechanical pianos.

"The time museum is incredible. We learned how the mechanisms worked. We saw all kinds of clocks, lantern clocks, sundial clocks, and clocks from other nations," said Niraj Kumar Bhavarlal from India and father of 7-year-old son Kavish Jain.

Algerians Hammadi Amine and

Baba Hamed Latifa attended CNS Family Day events with their entire family. They were able to care for their three young sons, Eddine, Youcef and Moncef, while also enjoying a tour of the time museum and finishing in the top three in the karting race.

"It's good to come here and understand what we have. Anting, Jiading is a fantastic area with its automobile industry, facilities, parks and museums," said Carroll.

Having been a museum volunteer for nearly a year, Carroll expressed feeling akin to a native Chinese individual. He takes pleasure in guiding them through the local region, a role he finds quite fulfilling.

The gathering was the first offline community event since the Shanghai International Community Info-Services Alliance was established on April 30.

The alliance is committed to improving links between Shanghai's international communities and the city of Shanghai.

# Enjoy nature's bounty at Shanghai Malu Grape Park

Huang Liu and Alex Miao

SHANGHAI Malu Grape Park is poised to welcome a substantial influx of both locals and visitors alike, as the picking season approaches.

Underneath the grape trellises, a science popularization activity for parents and children is underway. Families, guided by staff, are learning how to thin the grape bunches and experience the creation of a natural pest control essential during grape growth.

"This is my second time visiting the park, and I really enjoy the feeling of being close to nature," said a visitor named Liu Haichen. "I hope to learn more about the grapes."

The early maturing grape varieties in the park are in their rapid growth phase and are expected to hit the market next month, which is on par with last year.

In addition to grape-related activities, the park has introduced other activities to enrich the visitor experience. Visitors can carry small baskets to experience the joy of picking vegetables such as lettuce and tomatoes, and they can also interact closely with animals like rabbits and lambs.

In the future, Dayu Village in Malu Town will partner with Jin Jiang Travel to create a rural tourism route that combines the Malu Grape Park, Jiayuanhai Art Museum and Hongtai Garden.

**Tickets:** 15 yuan (free for children under 1.3 meters and seniors over 70 years old)

**Vegetable picking season:** 8am-4pm, through early June

**Address:** 29 Dazhi Road 大治路29号

# Jiangnan Xiuye Cultural Park officially declared open

Yu Chao and Alex Miao

THE Jiangnan Xiuye Cultural Park was officially launched in Xincheng Village of the Xincheng Road Subdistrict on May 8.

To mark its opening, the park is hosting a series of activities centered on folk culture, intangible cultural heritage, local customs and festivals.

Xiuye Hall, the former residence of the Pu clan, a well-known family in Jiading, was built in 1927 by Pu Zengsheng, the 14th generation Pu family member.

In 2010, the hall, spanning almost

300 square meters, was listed as an immovable cultural relic in Jiading. It was later refurbished and transformed into the Jiangnan Xiuye Cultural Park, which spans almost 2,200 square meters.

The Xiuye Hall is methodically articulated in three sections: the Eastern Chamber, the Central Chamber and the Western Chamber.

The Eastern Chamber is a showcase for the Pu family, where a study area was established with bookcases, desks and other furnishings on display.

Visitors to this chamber will also

find biographies of the Pu family, stories of prominent Pu individuals, and scholarly studies on the Pu clan's culture.

It also digs into Jiading's educational history throughout the late Ming (1368-1644) and early Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, tracing the beginnings of Jiading's status as a center of enlightenment.

The Central Chamber will host temporary exhibitions, lectures, plays, and other activities.

The Western Chamber, on the other hand, focuses on Jiading's intangible

cultural treasures.

It recreates a bedroom atmosphere for guests to immerse themselves in the intangible cultural heritage, featuring traditional crafts such as Yaoban dyeing, Xuhang straw weaving, Lu Ban locks and Jiading bamboo carving.

In addition to these immersive experiences, the chamber will display a variety of cultural and creative products inspired by Jiangnan Xiuye culture, promoting the appreciation and preservation of these distinctive cultural traditions.