New poll finds 71% of Bay Area residents think quality of life has declined

Majority of respondents say the region is on the ‘wrong track’ and are planning to leave soon

By Kevin Forestieri

Bay Area residents grappling with the high cost of living, growing homelessness and high taxes say the quality of life has sunk in recent years, with a record number looking to leave the region altogether.

The grim appraisal, captured in a survey by Joint Venture Silicon Valley in partnership with Bay Area News Group, shows a stark decline in public perception of the Bay Area since the COVID-19 pandemic began last year. Polling of residents across five counties, including Santa Clara and San Mateo, found 56% of respondents are likely to leave in the next few years, up from 47% in 2020 prior to the pandemic.

The results show residents are frustrated with the perennial problems of Silicon Valley — high housing costs, more people living on the street and congestion over droughts and wildfires — but that COVID-19 may have tipped people over the edge, according to Russell Hancock, Joint Venture’s president and CEO.

“When you toss a highly infectious disease into the mix you get a smothering amount of anxiety,” Hancock said.

The survey, which was conducted late last month, found that 71% of those who responded felt the quality of life in the Bay Area is worse now than it was five years ago. The perception also changes based on political affiliation, with 92% of those leaning Republican believing that quality of life has declined.

Top of mind for Bay Area residents is the high cost of living, growing homelessness and high taxes say the quality of life has declined.

See POLL, page 19

Campaign finance roundup: Contributions to Woodside’s Measure A spark accusations

Real estate firm gives $10K to Menlo Park schools parcel tax

By Angela Swartz

Owners of a popular Woodside restaurant and bakery are sounding off on claims made by an opponent of Measure A — that the initiative to allow for more outdoor community gathering spaces is a money grab by a local business.

Measure A opponent Don Pugh has alleged that the measure on the Nov. 2 ballot to change zoning on some parcels is a “ploy” by the Bacchus Management Group, which owns and operates The Village Bakery and The Village Pub, to “bulldoze the open space lot to expand parking to allow more seats and to make more money.”

Bacchus has given a total of $3,000 in cash and $2,000 in-kind donations like banners, yard signs, design and legal work to proponents of Measure A since the beginning of the year, according to campaign finance reports. George Roberts, owner of Roberts Market, contributed $3,000 to the Yes on Measure A campaign, records show.

No other campaign contributions were reported.

“Does Bacchus Management benefit if Measure A passes? Yes, of course,” said Bacchus spokesperson Karey Walker in an email. “And so does every other business in the Cañada Corners retail area. But the biggest winners of all? The residents of Woodside who get to continue meeting friends and neighbors at The Village Bakery and Buck’s of Woodside to dine, laugh, and enjoy our town.”

She said Bacchus is “very disappointed by Mr. Pugh’s misleading statements,” calling the outdoor dining rolled out during the pandemic “an overwhelming success in Woodside for The Village Bakery and Buck’s of Woodside. And that success is measured by the overwhelming support of bistro dining from the residents of Woodside, who have enjoyed it during these past difficult 18 months and want to continue to enjoy it in the future, despite the grumbling of a few who would prefer not to let ‘outsiders’ into our town. ... The time has come for such a change and the residents clearly want to make this change.”

Pugh, who wrote the argument against the ballot measure, also authored a measure back in the 1980s that put limits on two residentially zoned pieces of land adjacent to the Town Center — a town-owned complex along Woodside Road from Whiskey Hill Road to Roberts Market that includes government buildings and commercial businesses, and Cañada Corners at the Cañada Road intersection (owned by Roberts Market).

Measure A would allow the development of four small buildings and commercial buildings on a parcel in the Cañada Corners retail area.

See CAMPAIGN FINANCE, page 18
university avenue is back open

Come on down and support your favorite local businesses that need your help.

Sponsored by the members of
Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce
PREMIER PROPERTIES represented by SCOTT DANCER

Woodside
NEW LISTING
EQUESTRIAN, 3 AC | OFFERED AT $11,500,000

Woodside
NEW LISTING
EQUESTRIAN, 3 AC | OFFERED AT $6,500,000

Woodside
FOR SALE
3 LEVEL ACRES | OFFERED AT $8,750,000

Portola Valley
FOR SALE
ONE-OF-A-KIND | OFFERED AT $25,000,000

Woodside
FOR SALE
17.79 ACRES | OFFERED AT $27,500,000

Woodside
LAND
3.6 ACRES | OFFERED AT $1,250,000

Woodside
SOLD
1.48 ACRES | OFFERED AT $6,850,000

Woodside
SOLD
2 ACRES, MT HOME | OFFERED AT $5,950,000

Portola Valley
SOLD
THE RANCH | OFFERED AT $4,150,000

Compass is the brand name used for services provided by one or more of the Compass group of subsidiary companies. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

SCOTT DANCER
650.888.8199
scott@scottdancer.com
www.scottdancer.com
2930 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062
License # 00863562
STICKLEY SALE

FLEGELS DESIGN

Menlo Park
1010 El Camino Real, Suite 90
650.326.9661

www.flegels.com
Local News

Menlo Park | Atherton | Woodside | Portola Valley

Woodside nears the end of $2M bridge project

By Angela Swartz

A project this fall to reconstruct the aging Portola Road bridge in Woodside to make it safer is nearing completion.

The construction of the new 81.5-foot-long by 30-foot-wide concrete bridge, located on Portola Road, about 3 miles south of central Woodside and 0.3 miles southeast of Woodside and La Honda roads, will cost about $1.97 million, according to an April report from town staff. The federal government is paying for 88.5% of project costs, while the town is covering 11.5%, staff said.

The project is slated for completion between the end of October and end of November, said Public Works Director Sean Rose in an email. Traffic is closed to one of the bridge’s two lanes during construction, and a temporary traffic signal has been installed.

“The existing bridge, constructed in 1914, is in poor condition, and is considered ‘functionally obsolete’ due to the narrow width of the roadway and the bridge, and the lack of standard bridge rails and approach railings,” according to a town staff report from 2020. The bridge carries traffic over Alambique Road and a temporary traffic signal has been installed.

The Town Council accepted the bridge, which is covering 11.5% of project costs, while the town is covering 11.5%, staff said.

The project is slated for completion between the end of October and end of November, said Public Works Director Sean Rose in an email.

Traffic is closed to one of the bridge’s two lanes during construction, and a temporary traffic signal has been installed.

“The existing bridge, constructed in 1914, is in poor condition, and is considered ‘functionally obsolete’ due to the narrow width of the roadway and the bridge, and the lack of standard bridge rails and approach railings,” according to a town staff report from 2020. The bridge carries traffic over Alambique Road and a temporary traffic signal has been installed.

Menlo Park council meeting breaches protocols and raises questions

By Kate Bradshaw

Three members of Menlo Park’s City Council authorized a closed session meeting the afternoon of Oct. 12, a time when the two other City Council members were unable to attend due to their full-time job commitments. The meeting was scheduled without the prior knowledge or consent of Menlo Park Mayor Drew Combs, a highly unusual step that, while apparently legal, breached established protocols that dictate that the mayor and city manager are expected to set City Council meeting agendas. They later continued the meeting to 5 p.m. on Oct. 13, after The Almanac went to press. Council members Jen Wolosin, Cecilia Taylor and Vice Mayor Betsy Nash initially scheduled the meeting for 3:30 p.m. Tuesday without Combs’ knowledge. He said he didn’t even know what the meeting would be about, beyond what was on the public meeting agenda, which states that the closed session will be regarding the “public employee performance evaluation of the City Manager.”

City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson confirmed that she didn’t know what the meeting would be about either, other than what was listed on the agenda.

Generally, council meetings are scheduled after polling City Council members for their availability, but that didn’t happen this time, Combs said.

“No one had ever come to me and said, ‘I want to schedule a closed session on the city manager’s performance review,’ he said.

Measure A asks Woodside voters to decide on zoning changes to two parcels in town’s center

By Angela Swartz

A n initiative to allow for more outdoor community-gathering spaces by amending zoning restrictions on some parcels in the Town Center area of Woodside is on the Nov. 2 ballot.

Measure A would amend current land use regulations that limit two residially zoned pieces of land adjacent to the Town Center, a town-owned complex (called Village Hill) along Woodside Road from Whiskey Hill Road to Roberts Market that includes government buildings and commercial businesses, and Cañada Corners at the Cañada Road intersection (owned by Roberts Market). Because the rules were established by ballot measures J and 1 in 1988 and 1989, only voters can overturn the rules that limit future development on the sites.

Residents Alex Tauber and Peter Bailey, who met through the Safe Routes to School initiative several years ago, noticed the popularity of outdoor dining in Woodside that was made possible, in part, through an emergency ordinance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town Council’s state of emergency ordinance allows the town to waive the restaurants’ parking requirements that are part of a conditional use permit. When the emergency declaration ends, the town must once again enforce the parking requirements.

“Talking to stakeholders in the community, they said Woodside needed to create an open space where all the groups could meet,” Tauber said. “We don’t want any light or speakers, just want something that fits the environment.”

They didn’t want to “let a crisis go to waste,” he said. Measure A opponent Don Pugh alleges that the measure is a “ploy” by the Bacchus Management Group, which owns and operates The Village Bakery and The Village Pub, to “ bulldoze the open space lot to expand parking to allow more seats and to make more money.”

Bacchus has given a total of $3,000 in cash and $2,000 in-kind donations like banners, yard signs, design and legal work to proponents of Measure A since the beginning of the year, according to campaign finance reports. Bacchus told The Almanac that the success of outdoor dining in town is “measured by the overwhelming support of bistro dining from the residents of Woodside, who have enjoyed it during these past difficult 18 months and want to continue to enjoy it in the future, despite the grumbling of a few who would prefer not to let outsiders into our town.”

Pugh, who also authored Measure J back in the 1980s, argues that Measure A threatens the town’s rural atmosphere. “The Town Council accepted that Village Hill was preserved to be open space,” said Pugh, who has lived in Woodside since 1975. “The changes will bring traffic and noise. We’re a rural community; we’re not downtown Redwood City where they have movie theaters. There are small gathering spaces already available; why do we need more people? It’s an absolute traffic mob scene in the morning; it’s too busy and there are kids walking to school. These people who think this is a wonderful idea maybe came from Los Angeles or something.”

Pugh also argues the special election is costing the town too much money — an estimated $100,000, according to Interim Town Clerk Melissa Cardinale.

“Woodside changes every day,” Bailey, who served on the Woodside Elementary School District governing board, said in response to Pugh’s concerns. “I don’t think it’s a realistic perspective to try to freeze a place
Portola Valley School District Governing Board Vacancies

Two seats on the Portola Valley School District Governing Board will become vacant in November. The term of each seat will be 12 months, beginning in mid-November, 2021 and ending in December, 2022. All residents of the Portola Valley School District who are also registered voters are eligible to apply to serve on the Board.

Any interested parent or community member must complete an application form and a “letter of interest” stating their experience in and commitment to educational, youth and community activities. Application materials may be found on the Governing Board section of the PVSD web site www.pvpsd.net or by calling 851-1777, ext. 2562. Completed applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 15, 2021, and should be sent to: Roberto Zarea, Superintendent Portola Valley School District, 4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

Candidates will be interviewed by the Board on Wednesday, November 17, at 6:00 PM. The new Trustees will take office on November 19, 2021. For additional information, please contact Roberto Zarea at 851-1777, ext. 2561.

CRIME BRIEFS
San Jose man guilty in robbery, sexual assault of Menlo Park man

A man who robbed a home and sexually assaulted a senior victim in Menlo Park has been found guilty by a jury of 14 felony charges, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office.

Current and former Menlo Park police officers testified in the trial about their investigations of the crime, which occurred at a home on the 1100 block of Ringwood Avenue in Menlo Park, according to the Menlo Park Police Department.

On Aug. 11, 2017, Lamar Dekari Stevens, a 40-year-old from San Jose, entered a Menlo Park home through an unlocked window, according to prosecutors. Stevens then covered the mouth of a 65-year-old male victim, held a knife to his throat and demanded money, according to prosecutors.

After the victim provided Stevens with $40, he sexually assaulted the victim and demanded his car keys and credit cards, according to prosecutors.

The victim escaped to a neighbor’s home and called police, who responded quickly and saw the suspect running toward the pedestrian foot bridge over U.S. 101. Police released a canine officer and the suspect jumped to the ground, falling about 30 feet and breaking an ankle, according to prosecutors.

He remains in custody on no-bail status; his previous bail had been set at $8 million, according to prosecutors.

“The Menlo Park Police Department is grateful to the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office for their dogged pursuit of justice in this heinous crime. I am extraordinarily proud of all the MPPD personnel who contributed to the successful outcome of this jury trial as are the rest of our department members,” said Menlo Park Police Chief Dave Norris.

“Our primary goal is the peace and safety of our public, and when crimes such as these occur we are dedicated to ensuring that those responsible are held accountable for their reprehensible actions.”

The case was scheduled to continue on Oct. 12 for a trial regarding Stevens’ prior convictions and to set a date for when the sentence will be imposed.

— Kate Bradshaw

COMMUNITY BRIEFS
Portola Valley joint meeting on housing

The Portola Valley Town Council and the Planning Commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 27, on Zoom to discuss their visions for the town’s housing element. This meeting will be in a webinar format. Members of the public can comment during the meeting. Information collected at the meeting will be provided to the Ad Hoc Housing Element Committee for review and consideration, according to the town.

For more information, go to portolavalley.net.

Hazardous waste collection event in Portola Valley Oct. 23

The town of Portola Valley is collecting garden chemicals, leftover paint, propane tanks, cleaning products and other hazardous waste on Saturday, Oct. 23, by appointment only.

Accepted items include cleaning products, fertilizers, pesticides, flammable liquids, fluorescent lights, paint, acids/bases, aerosol cans, automotive supplies, inks and photo chemicals. All waste collected is reused, recycled, or stabilized for proper disposal to achieve zero waste and prevent any items from going to the landfill and contaminating water and soil. They won’t accept radioactive, explosive or medical waste.

Visit smhealth.org/hhw or call 650-372-6200 to sign up. Exact location and directions will be provided after you make an appointment.

There’s a limit 10 gallons of liquid or 50 pounds of solids per appointment. No business waste will be accepted.

Discussion on housing and racial equity

Let’s Talk Housing, an outreach effort of all the jurisdictions in San Mateo County, will host a talk on housing and racial equity on Wednesday, Oct. 27, from 6 to 7 p.m. on Zoom. Questions that will be addressed include: “Why does where
Plan for lifting mask mandate announced by Bay Area health officers

By Sue Dremann

Eight Bay Area counties will lift the indoor mask mandates after a series of criteria are met, they announced Oct. 7.

The counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma and the City of Berkeley reached a consensus on criteria to lift health orders requiring the masks and to allow organizations to set requirements independently.

They will lift the indoor masking requirement in public spaces that are not subject to state and federal masking rules when all the following occur:

- The jurisdiction reaches the moderate COVID-19 transmission tier, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), and remains there for at least three weeks; and
- COVID-19 hospitalizations in the jurisdiction are low and stable, in the judgment of the health officer; and
- 80% of the jurisdiction’s total population is fully vaccinated with two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson (booster doses not considered).

Alternatively, they could also lift the masking mandate if eight weeks have passed since a COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized for emergency use by federal and state authorities for 5- to 11-year-olds.

Currently, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Contra Costa counties are all in the CDC’s orange, or “substantial,” tier, according to the CDC’s County Check tool.

Most Bay Area health departments issued the masking requirements for their respective jurisdictions on Aug. 3, following a summer surge in cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

But with regional data showing that the surge is now receding, and with the Bay Area one of the most vaccinated regions in the country, Bay Area health officers agreed it is time to plan for a transition.

Lifting a local indoor mask mandate would not prevent businesses, nonprofits, churches or others with public indoor spaces from imposing their own requirements, however. COVID-19 easily spreads through airborne droplets, and face coverings remain highly powerful in preventing its spread, San Mateo County’s public health department noted.

Each jurisdiction will rescind its order when criteria are met in that jurisdiction. The criteria were developed to assist in determining the safest time to lift the indoor masking orders, based on regional scientific and medical consensus. The criteria also provide safety for school children, ages 5-11, who need the added protection of masks in the community to keep case rates low so they can remain in school until they can be vaccinated, the San Mateo County announcement said.

“As a safety measure, along with vaccination, face coverings and regional data show that the surge is now receding, and with the Bay Area one of the most vaccinated regions in the country, Bay Area health officers agreed it is time to plan for a transition,” the San Mateo County announcement said.

Menlo Park council mulls options to encourage commuters to ditch solo driving

By Kate Bradshaw

It wasn’t long ago when one of the most frequently cited problems with Menlo Park was its traffic. And as Menlo Park recovers from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns and businesses figure out the circumstances under which they’ll reopen their offices, the City Council is renewing its conversations about how to mitigate that traffic.

Pre-pandemic, one of the efforts underway was to explore a number of “traffic demand management” (TDM) programs, aimed at eliminating barriers to transit and promoting travel modes other than solo driving to and from work. Among those TDM programs, the city commissioned a feasibility study to look into a transportation management association (TMA). Such associations typically are nonprofit organizations that develop, manage and market transportation programs; its members are made up of local businesses and institutions. For instance, the Palo Alto TMA subsidizes Caltrain passes for low-income employees and some carpool and rideshare trips, and provides trip planning for people who work in the city.

Rather than creating its own TMA, the feasibility study by city staff and the consultant Steer Group recommended that the city consider three steps toward expanding options for getting workers in Menlo Park out of solo vehicles.

The City Council adopted the study Oct. 12 on a 4-0 vote with Councilwoman Cecilia Taylor absent, and supported working with Manzanita Works, a new organization to help employees avoid solo trips to work, to learn more about what benefits the city would receive from joining a transportation consortium managed by the organization.

The council also agreed to do more research about the use of commute tools that the community needs as people’s work habits may change as the threats posed by COVID-19 lessen.

Manzanita Works is a relatively new, fiscally sponsored project of the nonprofit Community Initiatives. Among other projects, the organization manages a long-distance shuttle for essential workers employed by its

New Strategies for Family Caregivers!

Avenidas CARE FORUM

MEET OUR ELDER CARE EXPERTS

Ellen Brown, MD
www.ellenbrownmd.com

Rita Ghatak, PhD
www.aging101.org

WEDNESDAY - OCT. 27

Planning, Conversations and Concerns Regarding Discharge From The Hospital During the Pandemic

11am-12:30pm.

Register for free by visiting www.avenidas.org

Questions? Call Paula at (650) 289-5438

October 15, 2021 ■ AlmanacNews.com ■ The Almanac ■ 7
Las Lomitas school board appoints two district parents to open seats

Heather Hopkins and Gautam Nadella to replace board members who resigned

By Angela Swartz

The Las Lomitas Elementary School District governing board appointed two new members during a meeting last week.

On Oct. 6, the board interviewed six candidates before selecting Heather Hopkins and Gautam Nadella to fill the openings left by board President Dana Nunn and trustee John Earnhardt. Hopkins and Nadella, who will serve until December 2022, will be sworn in at the Nov. 17 board meeting.

Hopkins said she has worked in the education space for 20 years. She co-founded the Community Equity Collaborative, a Menlo Park-based nonprofit that facilitates partnerships between organizations to expand educational opportunities for Silicon Valley youth. She also founded the nonprofit My Red Shoes in 2006, which has helped clothe over 90,000 children, she said. Nunn said she appreciated Hopkins’ “depth of knowledge” on education.

She's lived in the district for 13 years and her children attend La Entrada Middle School and Woodside High School, according to her application. She said during her board interview that she’s throwing her hat in the ring now because she’s very interested in the district’s strategic plan. She served on the district’s Strategic Plan Task Force and noted that social and emotional learning, equity and inclusion are areas of the plan she’s excited about.

“Though I only have two years left as a parent in the district, I’m applying for this role because I’m interested in exploring running for a full, four-year term in 2022,” said Hopkins, who holds a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree from Stanford University and an MBA from Harvard University. Nadella said that he offers a unique perspective as a parent of a special needs student.

“I can bring a point of view for families whose children have either special or extra needs in terms of their education,” he said. “I have been able to learn quite a bit about the financial needs of the district through my work on the LLEF and appreciate the many hard choices and tradeoffs the board often must make with the superintendent.”

He also believes the district needs to strengthen its finances because of the “unsettling” lack of funding from the state for local schools.

Reasons for board vacancies

Nunn resigned her post because she is moving out of district boundaries this fall and will no longer be eligible to serve as a trustee, she said. Her last day on the board will be Oct. 29 so she can help with the appointment process.

Earnhardt stepped down last month saying he believes that board members are more effective when the decisions they make impact their own children. He doesn’t have a child in the district since his son graduated from La Entrada Middle School in June.

The board interviewed four other candidates: Rimmy Malhotra, an investor and parent of two children who attend district schools; Brian Ross, a district parent and municipal financial advisor; former La Entrada teacher Mimi Sabo; and district parent Adrianne Wonnacott.

See TRUSTEES, page 21
Moving forward, together.

Right now, in this moment of uncertainty, there’s a promise we can count on: together, we’ll continue to rise to the challenge and find a way forward.

Stanford Medicine, made up of Stanford Children’s Health, Stanford School of Medicine, and Stanford Health Care, is working to end this pandemic.

We’re answering the uncertainty with an unwavering commitment to our community, and meeting this moment with courage, compassion, and innovation.

Thank You, Bay Area, for standing with us, together.

Today. Tomorrow. Always.

We are here for you.
PROTECT OUR TOWN.
STOP URBAN SPRAWL.

Dear Citizens of Woodside,

We are a group of concerned residents who for many years have enjoyed and are for outside dining in our town. We are against a commercial expansion in our already-congested Woodside town center!

**MEASURE A**

- Would allow for the bulldozing and tree removal of 2+ acres of open space area in our town center increasing traffic, noise and congestion.
- Will displace our children’s safe routes to school and equestrian trail off Canada Rd.
- Will allow for an amphitheater in the town center which will bring noise, traffic and litter to Woodside.

VOTE NO ON MEASURE A

We can continue to have outdoor dining in Woodside WITHOUT Measure A.

Please vote NO on Measure A.

For more information, maps of the proposed changes, and ways that you can help our effort visit: SaveRuralWoodside.org

Paid for by Save Rural Woodside- No on Measure A
California pulls the plug on gas-powered leaf blowers under new law

Legislation targets sales of new ‘small off-road engine’ equipment

By Gennady Sheyner

early three decades after Peninsula cities began implementing bans on gas-powered leaf blowers, the effort has found a foothold at the state level, with Gov. Gavin Newsom signing a bill on Oct. 9 that will phase out their sales.

Among the dozens of bills that Newsom signed in his final action of the legislative session is Assembly Bill 1346, which was authored by Assembly member Marc Berman, D-Menlo Park, and which directs the California Air Resources Board to adopt regulations by July 2022 that would prohibit new “small off-road engines” — a category that includes gas-powered leaf blowers, generators, pressure washers and chainsaws — by 2024.

In making the case for the bill, Berman cited their environmental impact. In a June speech on the floor of the Assembly, he noted that daily emissions of air pollution from small engines are projected to surpass those from passenger cars this year.

“These emissions worsen air quality and negatively impact human health, causing asthma and lung disease and other awful health impacts on landscaping professionals who breathe in exhaust day in and day out,” Berman said.

For cities like Palo Alto, Los Altos and Menlo Park — all of which are in Berman’s district — a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers is far from new. Los Altos banned them in 1991, becoming the first jurisdiction in the area to do so. Menlo Park and Palo Alto followed suit in 1998 and 2005, respectively, though Menlo Park’s law was subsequently overturned in a referendum and Palo Alto’s, which applies exclusively to residential neighborhoods, has not been vigilantly enforced.

The new state law casts a wider net than these local ordinances. It applies to all devices with small off-road engines under 25 horsepower and unlike the local ordinances, which were prompted primarily by noise complaints, the state law focuses on greenhouse gas emissions and health impacts. The bill’s passage makes California the first state to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers.

For some, particularly in the commercial sector, the shift could pose significant challenges, according to an analysis of AB 1346 by state Assembly staff. The analysis notes that for residential uses, rechargeable electric lawnmowers, leaf blowers and string trimmers have been “available for years and have significant market share.” For commercial users, however, “there is very little market for zero-emission equipment as today’s technology is relatively expensive and requires multiple batteries and/or frequent recharging and replacement.”

Supporters of the bill hope to address the slow adoption of zero-emissions equipment by the commercial sector by both adopting the new restrictions and by appropriating $30 million in the budget to help small businesses make the switch. Minutes before the Senate voted 21-9 to approve the bill on Sept. 8, Sen. Ben Allen, D-Santa Monica, argued that the law is necessary to foster the state’s transition to cleaner equipment.

“Unless we put pressure on the industry, they’re not going to take the steps necessary to get these better lower-emission or zero-emission generators onto the market and widely available for folks,” Allen said.

Not everyone agrees. Opponents of the bill argued that the legislation will impose unreasonable restrictions on landscapers while doing very little to address climate change. Sen. Brian Dahle, R-Bieber, suggested at a Sept. 8 hearing on the bill that a switch to electric equipment would make generators less reliable.

“When the power is out, how are you going to charge your battery so that you can supposedly keep your refrigerator on?” Dahle asked during a Sept. 8 hearing on AB 1346. “We’re converting everything to power because, for some reason, this Legislature hates fuel, which is very sustainable, easy to access and, when the power is off, you can still use it.”

Assembly member Devon Mathis, R-Visalia, similarly argued that the bill would cause more harm than good. He characterized the bill at a Sept. 9 hearing as one that would create “severe regulations for the businesses that use this equipment without providing
California’s drought is no longer a temporary emergency
State’s drought manager warns: Adapt to dry new normal or brace for environmental disaster

By Sue Dremann

California’s declining water supply, the current drought and global warming are leading to serious environmental consequences, the state’s drought manager said on Oct. 3 during a Zoom presentation for the Los Altos-Mountain View branch of the American Association of University Women.

Jeanine Jones, drought manager for the California Department of Water Resources, painted a sobering picture of the future that includes a possibly unrecoverable situation for the state’s fish and a greater depletion of water unless there are significant changes in how the state manages its water supply.

The current drought conditions would require a significant increase in rainfall this coming winter if there is a chance of recovery. That’s unlikely.

“We would need to have 140% of average precipitation in 2022 to bring usable runoff up to normal level,” Jones said.

The two-year drought has parched rivers and reservoirs, but it has been a long time in the making, she said. Insufficient regulation of groundwater and the lack of creating adequate water storage to meet the state’s growing needs have contributed to the current predicament.

The state’s water problems date to the California Gold Rush, when projects first began moving water from abundant sources in wetter areas to drier places where it was needed, Jones said. Regulation historically lagged behind development.

Although groundwater aquifers have supplied 60% of California’s water needs, statewide regulations were not in place until 2014. Overuse of the aquifers causes compaction, which prevents them from being able to refill during rainstorms, Jones said.

The ecological impact of moving water resources also was largely ignored until the 21st century, she said. Warmer temperatures have amplified the effects of drought, making it much harder for wildlife to survive when water sources they rely on are diminished or dry up.

Less snowmelt runoff is leading to ecological disaster, Jones warned. It’s probably too late to rescue migratory fish such as salmon, which depend on cold water from melting snow to migrate upriver, she said. The problem is compounded by the state’s catastrophic wildfires, which also reduce runoff by damaging existing waterways and infrastructure.

Californians do have recourse, she said. But it means taking action against anticipated water shortages as soon as possible.

Residents will need to be resilient and adapt to a world where drought is a normal condition, not a temporary “drought emergency,” she said.

Santa Clara Valley Water District offers a variety of programs and suggestions, including landscaping rebates to replace water-loving lawns, rain barrels and other conservation methods. Information can be found at valleywater.org/water-conservation-programs.

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com.

---

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (IRC) VACANCIES

Setting the electoral boundaries

The City of Menlo Park is seeking Menlo Park residents to apply for the IRC.

The Commission shall be comprised of seven (7) commissioners and two (2) alternate commissioners. Alternates may fully participate in Commission deliberations but may not vote and may not be counted toward the establishment of a quorum. Alternates are subject to the same qualifications, restrictions and standards of conduct as all other Commissioners.

The IRC’s responsible for setting Menlo Park’s electoral boundaries for City Council districts following the 2020 census.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS:

- Visit menlopark.org/redistricting
- Email jaherren@menlopark.org
- Call 850-330-6620

---

HOME CARE AND HEALTH CARE

Solutions That Fit Your Unique Needs

Customized support for any lifestyle:
- Companionship
- Transition & Discharge Care
- Hospital Sitting
- Specialized Care
- Concierge Services
- Transportation

We’re here to help!

www.careindeed.com • (650) 850-5945

Serving clients throughout the Bay Area. Call (650) 850-3945!
835 LA HONDA ROAD, WOODSIDE

$7,798,000 • 4 Bed • 5 Full Bath 2 Half Bath • 835lahonda.com

Sophie Tsang
650.687.7388
DRE 01399145

1585 EDGEWOOD DRIVE, PALO ALTO

$7,750,000 • 5 Bed • 5.5 Bath • 1585edgewood.com

Carol Carnevale, Nicole Aron & James Steele Team
650.465.5958
DRE 00946667 | DRE 00952657 | DRE 01872027

552 KELLOGG AVENUE, PALO ALTO

$6,495,000 • 4 Bed • 3.5 Bath • 552kellogg.com

Carol Carnevale, Nicole Aron & James Steele Team
650.465.5958
DRE 00946667 | DRE 00952657 | DRE 01872027

132 ALTA VISTA ROAD, WOODSIDE

$2,795,000 • 3 Bed • 2.5 Bath • 132altavista.com

Erika Demma
650.740.2970
DRE 01230766

650 ONEIDA DRIVE, SUNNYVALE

$2,488,000 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • 650oneida.com

Denise Simons
650.269.0210
DRE 01576733

3633 LOUIS ROAD, PALO ALTO

$2,098,000 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • www.welshgrouprealestate.com

Denise and Jack Welsh | The Welsh Group
650.823.3180
DRE 00939993
said. “The focus has been on the city manager recruitment process.” (The city has hired a search firm to help find a new city manager, as Jerome-Robinson announced that she is planning to retire.)

Councilman Ray Mueller, who was also unable to attend the afternoon meeting due to work commitments, said the scheduling approach was unprecedented in his experience.

“I’m having a hard time reconciling why the mayor was not approached with setting this meeting. I’ve never seen that in the 12 years I’ve been serving the city as a commissioner and council member,” he told The Almanac.

In an interview, Wolosin said that “there was not a deliberate attempt to make anyone miss the special council meeting.” She said that there were constraints in setting the meeting time, “including rules around not being able to add a special council agenda item to an existing agenda, not being able to push back the start time of an upcoming council meeting (and the availability of the lawyer).”

Combs expressed concern that the scheduling process for the meeting could have an adverse impact on city staff, generating chaos and uncertainty within the city government, as well as potential incivility.

“This isn’t about me being disrespected. Specifically, this is about the impact on this organization. This throws the organization into a lot of uncertainty,” he said. “...That impacts the service we provide to residents.”

In an Oct. 10 public email to the City Council, Combs said that failing to poll City Council members to determine their availability and omitting the mayor from the schedule process “seems unethical and appears to violate the Brown Act.”

CRIME BRIEFS continued from page 6

Charges in Rangoon Ruby embezzlement

A former employee of Palo Alto restaurants Rangoon Ruby and Burma Ruby has been charged with embezzling more than $200,000, the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office announced on Oct. 6.

Jennifer Colvin, 40, of Oakland, was the director of human resources, payroll and risk management for Rangoon Ruby Investments, LLC and Burma Ruby Investments, LLC in Palo Alto. She allegedly increased her monthly salary and paid herself bonuses without authorization.

The alleged embezzlement occurred between February 2019 and October 2020. The owner of Rangoon Ruby and Burma Ruby discovered the alleged fraud in November 2020 after auditing the books.

Colvin had given herself multiple $15,000 bonuses and made a $65,000 payment for a Porsche, among other alleged thefts, investigators reportedly found.

Colvin has been charged with two felony counts of theft by an employee. If convicted, she could face incarceration and be required to pay restitution to the company. Colvin was scheduled for arraignment on Wednesday afternoon in the Santa Clara County Superior Court in San Jose.

District Attorney Jeff Rosen cautioned business owners to watch their business finances closely.

“This theft happened during the height of the pandemic, when local restaurants were already struggling. Please develop robust checks and balances for your business. Trust, but verify. Your livelihood depends on it,” he said.

To prevent embezzlement, the DA’s office recommends:

• Set up dual authority so oversight is built into the handling of finances (i.e., the employee handling accounting is not the same employee in charge of writing checks).

• Run background checks for people who handle finances.

• Hire a CPA firm to do a sampling of transactions on a regular interval.

• A business with a high amount of cash transactions should keep good records, exercise high scrutiny and/or oversight or consider converting to a non-cash business.

Wolosin said her goal for discovering an employee had been stealing was to report it immediately to the police.

— Sue Dremann
Compass is a RE broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License #01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

96 ISABELLA AVENUE, ATHERTON
/ Approximately 1.78 exquisitely landscaped acres with an authentic Japanese tea house
/ 6 bedrooms and 7.5 baths
/ The Japanese aesthetics insure a seamless integration between the interior spaces and gardens
/ One of West Atherton’s most desirable streets
/ Dark-bottom pool designed to blend with the gardens
/ Excellent Menlo Park schools

JAPANESE ESTATE IN ATHERTON’S MENLO CIRCUS CLUB LOCATION
96ISABELLA.COM

BRENT 650 888 4898
DRE 01329216
BRENT@GULLIXSON.COM

MARY 650 888 0860
DRE 00373961
MARY@GULLIXSON.COM

RANKED #1 COMPASS SMALL TEAM IN CALIFORNIA AND #5 SMALL TEAM IN THE NATION, PER The Real Trends Report, JUNE 2021.
YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS

170 SANTA RITA AVENUE
PALO ALTO
$3,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
www.170SantaRita.com

624 BERKELEY AVENUE
MENLO PARK
$4,488,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
www.624Berkeley.com

835 WESTRIDGE DRIVE
PORTOLA VALLEY
$9,988,000 | 5 Bd | 7.5 Bth
www.835Westridge.com

2461 BENJAMIN DRIVE
MOUNTAIN VIEW
$1,998,000 | 7 Bd | 3 Bth
www.2461Benjamin.com

26304 ESPERANZA DRIVE
LOS ALTOS HILLS
$4,488,000 | 7 Bd | 5.5 Bth
www.26304Esperanza.com

528 JACKSON DRIVE
PALO ALTO
$2,988,000 | 5 Bd | 3 Bth
www.528Jackson.com

890 SEALE AVENUE
PALO ALTO
$4,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4 Bth
www.890Seale.com

410 8TH AVENUE
MENLO PARK
$1,995,000 | 5 Bd | 3.5 Bth
www.4108thAve.com

1420 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
PALO ALTO
$8,988,000 | 6 Bd | 7.5 Bth
www.1420University.com

900 N CALIFORNIA AVE
PALO ALTO
$6,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
www.900NCalifornia.com

22305 RANCHO DEEP CLIFF DR
CUPERTINO
$1,788,000 | 2 Bd | 2 Bth
www.22305RanchoDeepCliff.com

2415 SHARON OAKS DR
MENLO PARK
$2,050,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
www.2415SharonOaks.com

327 STOCKBRIDGE AVE
ATHERTON
$12,988,000 | 5 Bd | 8 Bth
www.327stockbridge.com

51 CRESCENT DR
PALO ALTO
$14,500,000 | 5 Bd | 8 Bth
www.51Crescent.com

1117 HAMILTON AVENUE
PALO ALTO
$6,988,000 | 5 Bd | 5 Bth
www.1117Hamilton.com

147 PATRICIA DRIVE
ATHERTON
$17,988,000 | 5 Bd | 7 Bth
www.147Patricia.com

651 LOWELL AVENUE
PALO ALTO
$9,988,000 | 6 Bd | 5.5 Bth
www.651Lowell.com

199 MAPACHE DRIVE
PORTOLA VALLEY
$14,988,000 | 5 Bd | 6.5 Bth
www.199Mapache.com

23475 CAMINO HERMOSO DR
LOS ALTOS HILLS
$5,988,000 | 5 Bd | 6 Bth
www.23475CaminoHermoso.com

11665 DAWSON DRIVE
LOS ALTOS HILLS
$4,488,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
www.11665Dawson.com

Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | DeLeon Realty, DRE #01903224
OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY 10/16 & SUNDAY 10/17 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

410 WEMBLEY COURT
REDWOOD CITY
$1,988,000 | 4 Bd | 2.5 Bth
www.410Wembley.com

425 FERNE AVENUE
PALO ALTO
$2,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
www.425Ferne.com

97 RIDGE VIEW DR
ATHERTON
$13,488,000 | 6 Bd | 7.5 Bth
www.97RidgeViewDr.com

1080 PALO ALTO AVENUE
PALO ALTO
$5,988,000 | 7 Bd | 5 Bth
www.1080PaloAlto.com

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS
OR VISIT US AT DELEONREALTY.COM

Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | DeLeon Realty, DRE #01903224
Mary Margaret “Peggy” Merz
April 23, 1934 – October 5, 2021

Peggy passed away peacefully in her sleep on October 5, 2021 at the age of 87. Peggy (nee Milhaan) and her husband Tony lived 45 years in the home they built in Portola Valley, only moving to San Diego in recent years to be near one of their daughters. Peggy was raised in West Virginia and as a young adult moved to New York City. It was there she met Tony, her husband of 52 years, at a shared summer rental house on Fire Island. They married in Paris in 1964, lived in Boston as newlyweds and ultimately settled in Portola Valley in 1972 to raise their two daughters. A talented artist, Peggy received her degree in Graphic Arts at San Jose State University and owned a screen printing business for over 20 years. She will be remembered for her compassion to animals, her soft spoken inquisitive demeanor and her sense of humor.

She is survived by her daughters Alison and Rebecca, and sister Phylis.

Irving Holzberg
November 29, 1938 – October 5, 2021

Irving Holzberg, loving husband, father, and grandfather died at age 82 after a heroic and difficult struggle with Parkinson’s Disease. His family is now at peace knowing his suffering has come to an end.

Irving is survived by his wife, Lorri Holzberg, and his daughters, Rachel Hulst (Jamie); his stepsons David Buch and Robert Buch; and 7 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Maurice and Diane Holzberg and his sister Ruth Namad.

Irving was born on November 29, 1938, in Cairo, Egypt. He grew up speaking three languages, often interchangeably in one sentence. Irving’s father’s dream was to have his son have a British education which he did by attending high school in Cairo at Victoria College where he graduated in 1955. He continued his education at the University of Manchester where he graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 1959. At that time, there was no longer safe for Jews in Egypt, he and his parents and sister came to the United States and settled in New Jersey. Irving went on to get a PhD at Cornell in biochemical engineering.

Early in his career, he worked as a biochemical engineer at General Foods and Johnson & Johnson. Later in his life, he took on a second career of financial planning.

Generosity was the touchstone of Irving’s life – he was always willing to share whatever he had with family and friends and donate readily to many needy causes.

Until Irving became more disabled from Parkinson’s Disease, he and Lorri traveled, attended concerts, plays, and spent lots of time with friends and family.

He was profoundly committed to Judaism, always remembering his time in Egypt when he had to hide his religion. After his marriage to his wife, Lorri, he became an active member of Congregation Beth Am.

He lived a life with dignity and strength and will always be remembered for his commitment to family and friends.

Irving Holzberg, loved by husband, father, and grandfather, died at age 82 after a heroic and difficult struggle with Parkinson’s Disease. His family is now at peace knowing his suffering has come to an end.

Irving is survived by his wife, Lorri Holzberg, and his daughters, Rachel Hulst (Jamie); his stepsons David Buch and Robert Buch; and 7 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Maurice and Diane Holzberg and his sister Ruth Namad.

Irving was born on November 29, 1938, in Cairo, Egypt. He grew up speaking three languages, often interchangeably in one sentence. Irving’s father’s dream was to have his son have a British education which he did by attending high school in Cairo at Victoria College where he graduated in 1955. He continued his education at the University of Manchester where he graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 1959. At that time, there was no longer safe for Jews in Egypt, he and his parents and sister came to the United States and settled in New Jersey. Irving went on to get a PhD at Cornell in biochemical engineering.

Early in his career, he worked as a biochemical engineer at General Foods and Johnson & Johnson. Later in his life, he took on a second career of financial planning.

Generosity was the touchstone of Irving’s life – he was always willing to share whatever he had with family and friends and donate readily to many needy causes.

Until Irving became more disabled from Parkinson’s Disease, he and Lorri traveled, attended concerts, plays, and spent lots of time with friends and family.

He was profoundly committed to Judaism, always remembering his time in Egypt when he had to hide his religion. After his marriage to his wife, Lorri, he became an active member of Congregation Beth Am.

He lived a life with dignity and strength and will always be remembered for his commitment to family and friends.

Irving Holzberg, loved by husband, father, and grandfather, died at age 82 after a heroic and difficult struggle with Parkinson’s Disease. His family is now at peace knowing his suffering has come to an end.

Irving is survived by his wife, Lorri Holzberg, and his daughters, Rachel Hulst (Jamie); his stepsons David Buch and Robert Buch; and 7 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Maurice and Diane Holzberg and his sister Ruth Namad.

Irving was born on November 29, 1938, in Cairo, Egypt. He grew up speaking three languages, often interchangeably in one sentence. Irving’s father’s dream was to have his son have a British education which he did by attending high school in Cairo at Victoria College where he graduated in 1955. He continued his education at the University of Manchester where he graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 1959. At that time, there was no longer safe for Jews in Egypt, he and his parents and sister came to the United States and settled in New Jersey. Irving went on to get a PhD at Cornell in biochemical engineering.

Early in his career, he worked as a biochemical engineer at General Foods and Johnson & Johnson. Later in his life, he took on a second career of financial planning.

Generosity was the touchstone of Irving’s life – he was always willing to share whatever he had with family and friends and donate readily to many needy causes.

Until Irving became more disabled from Parkinson’s Disease, he and Lorri traveled, attended concerts, plays, and spent lots of time with friends and family.

He was profoundly committed to Judaism, always remembering his time in Egypt when he had to hide his religion. After his marriage to his wife, Lorri, he became an active member of Congregation Beth Am.

He lived a life with dignity and strength and will always be remembered for his commitment to family and friends.

Irving Holzberg, loved by husband, father, and grandfather, died at age 82 after a heroic and difficult struggle with Parkinson’s Disease. His family is now at peace knowing his suffering has come to an end.

Irving is survived by his wife, Lorri Holzberg, and his daughters, Rachel Hulst (Jamie); his stepsons David Buch and Robert Buch; and 7 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Maurice and Diane Holzberg and his sister Ruth Namad.

Irving was born on November 29, 1938, in Cairo, Egypt. He grew up speaking three languages, often interchangeably in one sentence. Irving’s father’s dream was to have his son have a British education which he did by attending high school in Cairo at Victoria College where he graduated in 1955. He continued his education at the University of Manchester where he graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 1959. At that time, there was no longer safe for Jews in Egypt, he and his parents and sister came to the United States and settled in New Jersey. Irving went on to get a PhD at Cornell in biochemical engineering.

Early in his career, he worked as a biochemical engineer at General Foods and Johnson & Johnson. Later in his life, he took on a second career of financial planning.

Generosity was the touchstone of Irving’s life – he was always willing to share whatever he had with family and friends and donate readily to many needy causes.

Until Irving became more disabled from Parkinson’s Disease, he and Lorri traveled, attended concerts, plays, and spent lots of time with friends and family.

He was profoundly committed to Judaism, always remembering his time in Egypt when he had to hide his religion. After his marriage to his wife, Lorri, he became an active member of Congregation Beth Am.

He lived a life with dignity and strength and will always be remembered for his commitment to family and friends.

Irving Holzberg, loved by husband, father, and grandfather, died at age 82 after a heroic and difficult struggle with Parkinson’s Disease. His family is now at peace knowing his suffering has come to an end.

Irving is survived by his wife, Lorri Holzberg, and his daughters, Rachel Hulst (Jamie); his stepsons David Buch and Robert Buch; and 7 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Maurice and Diane Holzberg and his sister Ruth Namad.

Irving was born on November 29, 1938, in Cairo, Egypt. He grew up speaking three languages, often interchangeably in one sentence. Irving’s father’s dream was to have his son have a British education which he did by attending high school in Cairo at Victoria College where he graduated in 1955. He continued his education at the University of Manchester where he graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 1959. At that time, there was no longer safe for Jews in Egypt, he and his parents and sister came to the United States and settled in New Jersey. Irving went on to get a PhD at Cornell in biochemical engineering.

Early in his career, he worked as a biochemical engineer at General Foods and Johnson & Johnson. Later in his life, he took on a second career of financial planning.

Generosity was the touchstone of Irving’s life – he was always willing to share whatever he had with family and friends and donate readily to many needy causes.

Until Irving became more disabled from Parkinson’s Disease, he and Lorri traveled, attended concerts, plays, and spent lots of time with friends and family.

He was profoundly committed to Judaism, always remembering his time in Egypt when he had to hide his religion. After his marriage to his wife, Lorri, he became an active member of Congregation Beth Am.

He lived a life with dignity and strength and will always be remembered for his commitment to family and friends.

Irving Holzberg, loved by husband, father, and grandfather, died at age 82 after a heroic and difficult struggle with Parkinson’s Disease. His family is now at peace knowing his suffering has come to an end.

Irving is survived by his wife, Lorri Holzberg, and his daughters, Rachel Hulst (Jamie); his stepsons David Buch and Robert Buch; and 7 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Maurice and Diane Holzberg and his sister Ruth Namad.

Irving was born on November 29, 1938, in Cairo, Egypt. He grew up speaking three languages, often interchangeably in one sentence. Irving’s father’s dream was to have his son have a British education which he did by attending high school in Cairo at Victoria College where he graduated in 1955. He continued his education at the University of Manchester where he graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 1959. At that time, there was no longer safe for Jews in Egypt, he and his parents and sister came to the United States and settled in New Jersey. Irving went on to get a PhD at Cornell in biochemical engineering.

Early in his career, he worked as a biochemical engineer at General Foods and Johnson & Johnson. Later in his life, he took on a second career of financial planning.

Generosity was the touchstone of Irving’s life – he was always willing to share whatever he had with family and friends and donate readily to many needy causes.

Until Irving became more disabled from Parkinson’s Disease, he and Lorri traveled, attended concerts, plays, and spent lots of time with friends and family.

He was profoundly committed to Judaism, always remembering his time in Egypt when he had to hide his religion. After his marriage to his wife, Lorri, he became an active member of Congregation Beth Am.

He lived a life with dignity and strength and will always be remembered for his commitment to family and friends.
have been key to our success in the Bay Area in reducing transmission and protecting public health. As we look to lifting the mandate, it’s vital for everyone who has not gotten vaccinated to consider getting vaccinated right away,” Dr. Scott Morrow, San Mateo County health officer, said.

People who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 must continue to wear masks in businesses and indoor public spaces, in accordance with state health guidance.

The state also requires face coverings for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, in health care facilities, public transit and adult and senior care facilities. California’s masking guidelines in K-12 schools would also not be affected by changes to local health orders.

The county health officers have to decide on metrics for reimposing indoor mask requirements should that become necessary, Santa Clara County Health Officer Sara Cody said during a Thursday morning press conference. They are jointly keeping an eye out for emerging new variants and assessing how the vaccines do during the next 12 months with new variants, she said.

Santa Clara County remains on the CDC’s orange tier but over time with new variants, she said.

The abrupt switch to telecommuting has been a mixed bag. A number of Silicon Valley employers, including tech giants like Google and Apple, have delayed a full return to the office until January 2022, leaving many employees to work from home for nearly two years.

Though the survey draws a correlation between the pandemic and rising levels of anxiety and discontent, 66% of those polled said they approved of how their employer responded to the pandemic. Among those working from home, nearly all — 95% — say they want to continue working remotely at least some of the time. Of those who want to continue to work from home all the time and slightly more than a third (36%) want to work from home “most” of the time.

A large number of Silicon Valley employers, including tech giants like Google and Apple, have delayed a full return to the office until January 2022, leaving many employees to work from home for nearly two years. During the extended hiatus, the survey found 44% of those working remotely have felt their work-life balance has improved. That number sinks to just 20% among those who have had to continue working in person during COVID-19.

The public can track together with health departments how each county is doing by following cdc.gov and looking at the state of the state page within each county’s respective health department website.
that most would welcome,” he said. “The amphitheater is for people who live in Woodside and I don’t think this would add any traffic.”

For opponents of the measure to compare the potential amphitheater to large event spaces like Shoreline Amphitheater in Mountain View, which draws rock concerts, is off base given that the space is just 100 feet across by 50 feet deep, Bailey and Tauber said.

The measure, which needs a simple majority in favor to pass, would allow the property behind Cañada Corners to be outfitted with surface parking to accommodate permanent outdoor dining, trails and play structures, all of which are now prohibited. It would also allow for the possible construction of a public building — an amphitheater or gazebo — for community events in the residentially zoned Town Center area on a 1.65-acre plot called Village Hill. A trail transverses the site and an equine sculpture (“Spring and Sprite”) was installed in 2010, a gift from the Woodside Landscape Committee, according to the town. Measure J, approved by the voters in 1988, prohibited development of commercial or office space on a then vacant, town-owned parcel near where Town Hall is now located. It also required residential properties within and adjoining Town Center to remain in residential use unless commercial parking on those properties had been permitted prior to June 1, 1988.

Measure 1, approved by voters the following year, created an exception to Measure J’s requirement that residential parcels in Town Center remain in residential use. Upon its approval by the voters, residentially zoned parcels in the Woodside Road Whishey Hill Road Parking Assessment District were authorized to be improved to provide access, parking and open space — as shown in the 1989 Town Center site plan — so long as at least 50% of the residential parcels were maintained in open space. Approval of Measure 1 allowed the town to construct Town Hall parking and access improvements which now serve both Town Hall, commercial businesses in the Town Center and the public.

Woodside resident Alex Tauber stands on the undeveloped parcel of land beside the Woodside Community Museum in Woodside in April. He’s behind the citizen initiative Measure A on the Nov. 2 ballot.

BRIDGE
continued from page 5

Creek, a seasonal stream. The alignment of the bridge’s north approach does not meet federal standards for a bridge with 3,000 vehicle crossings a day, officials told The Almanac in 2014. A report by Caltrans found that parts of the concrete had deteriorated from the bridge.

The new bridge includes two 10-foot-wide lanes, a 5-foot-wide eastbound sidewalk, an about 2-foot-wide westbound shoulder and concrete barriers on both sides. The bridge abutments are remaining in place to make sure the existing stream flow is not affected, the report states.

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.
Venverloh stepped down over his wife’s racist and misogynistic tweets about Vice President Kamala Harris.

Earnhardt was the subject of an attempted recall started by parents who said his comments in a local newspaper reacting to Mehrehdith Venverloh’s insulting tweets about Harris lacked sensitivity and warranted his removal. (The recall was proposed on Change.ca.us).

The recall was proposed on Change.ca.us. Dan Larsen at dlarsen@ci.atherton.ca.us and submit it to Cmdr. Jody Leng, who was elected to the board in the Nov. 3, 2020, election. After winning, she informed the district that she would not take her seat. Trustees voted to pursue an appointment process at that time, selecting former candidate Molly Finn and Cynthia Solis Yi.

Voters have 30 days after the appointment to sign a petition calling for the positions to be put on a ballot. Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

**ATHERTON**

59 Leon Way $6,950,000
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00
Compass 650-400-8124

LA HONDA

60 Fernwood Drive $3,149,000
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00
4BD/3BA
Golden Gate Sotheby’s International Realty 650-678-1108

LOS ALTOS

1378 Chelsea Drive Call for price
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00
5BD/4.5BA
Compass 650-300-9773

MENLO PARK

903 Berkeley Avenue $5,998,000
Sun 1:00-2:00
5BD/4.5BA
Hugh Comish/Stephanie Elkins 650-619-4461

PALO ALTO

240 Parkside Drive $3,195,000
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00
4BD/4BA
Serenity 650-996-1118

551 Lytton Avenue (T) $1,888,888
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30
3BD/2.5BA
List Realty 650-857-1000

170 Santa Rita Avenue $1,988,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30
5BD/3.5BA
DeLeon Realty 650-459-3888

**Palo Alto**

425 Ferne Avenue $2,988,000
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00
4BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty 650-459-3888

629 Edgewood Drive $5,498,000
Sun 1:30-4:30
5BD/3.5BA
Serenity/Leannah Hunt 650-400-2718

552 Kellogg Avenue $6,495,000
Sun 1:30-4:30
4BD/3.5BA
Compass 650-465-5958

1585 Edgewood Drive $7,750,000
Sun 1:30-4:30
5BD/5.5BA
Compass 650-465-5958

**Woodside**

132 Alta Vista Road $2,795,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30
4BD/2BA
Compass 650-740-2970

190 Phillip Road $5,495,000
Sun 1:30-4:30
5BD/5.5BA
Compass 650-740-2970

Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T).

Agents: submit open homes at AlmanacNews.com/real_estate

---

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

you live matter? Why are our neighborhoods segregated, even though our communities are diverse? What can we do to create more inclusive and equitable communities?”

Register online at tinyurl.com/smhouseequity

**Atherton police create resident volunteer patrol**

The Atherton Police Department is recruiting for its new Resident Volunteer Patrol (RVP) program.

Volunteers can take part in street walking patrols to serve as “eyes and ears” for the police department. They can also participate in the “You Are Not Alone” program to provide welfare checks on seniors and ill residents.

To apply to join the RVP, download an application on the town’s website at ci.atherton.ca.us and submit it to Cmdr. Dan Larsen at dlarsen@ci.atherton.ca.us.

— Angela Swartz
Vote yes on Measure B

Parcel tax will preserve educational opportunities for Menlo Park students

One year ago last month, roughly 535 Menlo Park City School District students donned masks and backpacks as they returned to the district’s three elementary schools for in-person learning. Oak Knoll, Encinal and Laurel were the first public schools in San Mateo County to reopen since schools shut down during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

This fall, schools that had been shuttered for over a year reopened across the country, as in-person learning — albeit with pandemic protocols still in place — has once again become the norm, especially in areas with high vaccination rates like the Bay Area. The anticipated approval of the Pfizer vaccine for 5- to 11-year-olds will soon allow many more children to get vaccinated against COVID. But coronavirus aside, the potential for disruption in local schools still looms.

Menlo Park City School District officials say they face a budget shortfall should voters fail to approve a parcel tax on the Nov. 2 ballot, Measure B, which would add 193 annually onto the current parcel tax rate of about $405. The initiative, which requires two-thirds voter approval to pass, rate of about $405. The initiative, which requires two-thirds voter approval to pass, would be paid for by the owner of the parcel and expires in July 2022. Measure X has brought in $2.83 million in annual revenue, while Measure B would raise $4.6 million annually for the K-8 district.

The new parcel tax would sunset after 12 years, in 2032. The district, like others throughout the state, has placed parcel taxes on the ballot to bridge a funding gap that has persisted since the passage of Proposition 13 in the 1970s, according to district officials. It was determined that 18 cents from each property tax dollar in Menlo Park would go toward the school district, a percentage that is unchangeable. As a result, property taxes only cover 62% of the district’s budget; the district relies on local sources for 38% of its total budget.

The district implemented about $1.8 million in cuts in the 2021-22 fiscal year budget — and another $2 million between 2017 and 2021 — and district officials communicated before the passage of Measure X that it was a temporary solution to address long-standing financial needs. Expenses are outpacing revenue growth due to increased enrollment over the past 15 years, teacher pay raises and pandemic-related expenses such as additional staff and personal protective equipment, according to the district. Should Measure B fail, the district would have to cut an additional $3 million from its budget, according to the ballot argument in favor of the initiative. No decisions have been made about what might be cut, but the school board has discussed increasing class sizes and making cuts to librarian programs, world language courses and physical education teachers, with classroom teachers then becoming responsible for PE. The passage of Measure B will not enable the district to add programs; rather, it would allow for the continuation of current programs without disruption at a time when children are still recovering both emotionally and academically.

The Almanac recommends a yes vote on Measure B.

The district proposed Measure B after discussing past parcel tax measures with voters and learning they didn’t want frequent parcel tax elections or evergreen taxes, such as the ones proposed with measures A and C, which were voted down. Officials have sought to balance the budget with previous cuts, and the district’s highly rated schools have been a primary factor in drawing families to move to the area, driving up home values in the process. The district initially began offering in-person learning to kindergarten and first graders in September 2020 while also continuing distance learning, and officials have been able to continue safely providing face-to-face education as schools have returned to a semblance of a “normal” full school year this fall.

Formal arguments submitted against the measure which contend that the district doesn’t “need” more parcel tax revenue because revenues have been up $12.2 million in the last five years and because enrollment has decreased fail to tell the full story. District officials have effectively communicated why there is a need for the funding and attribute the decline in enrollment to the pandemic, arguing it is temporary — the city of Menlo Park has proposed gradually adding 3,000 housing units to comply with state mandates, nearly all of which would be within MPCSD boundaries.

As we near the start of the third year of the pandemic, the last thing local families, students and educators need is the emotional and financial strife that losing teachers and essential programs would bring. Vote yes on Measure B.

Yes on Woodside’s Measure A

By Peter Bailey and Alex Tauber

There has been a lot of information and misinformation shared recently about Measure A. In the simplest terms, Measure A unlocks potential. It creates a zoning exemption that would allow the owner of the “Cañada Corners” property to discuss the prospect of additional parking (needed to make outdoor dining possible). And it makes possible an option to expand the small community gathering area on the town-owned property adjacent to Town Hall. Neither of these possibilities are guaranteed by the passage of Measure A. Both options will be heard separately by the appropriate town boards and committees in public meetings where everyone will have a chance to make their opinions known throughout the process.

Measure A is not a case of “paving over paradise.” The area under discussion at “Cañada Corners” would allow for additional parking spaces, hardly the “2.2-acre” paving bandied about by some sources. Any improvements would include design and planning review process. It is unlikely the improvements would include bulldozing the open space rule was put in place to help our local businesses primarily serve the day-to-day needs of the local community. How many customers are not local residents? Are we becoming a destination, not a residential community?

Proponents allege that outdoor dining will be eliminated without passage of this measure. Hyperbole like this beguiles folks to supporting Measure A, but nothing could be further from the truth. Both restaurants have had outdoor dining for years and can have more outdoor dining by presenting a plan to the town and Planning Commission.

We all want and enjoy outdoor dining and can continue to enjoy it and work to expand it. Let us work together to develop a comprehensive plan with the town and citizen input and review and determine the best approach with specific details for seating and parking for providing outdoor dining. It is wrong to start with a brute force initiative to remove the limit on com-
YES ON A
continued from page 22
ity to discuss how both private property (at Cañada Corners) and public property (next to Town Hall) could be used to meet the desires and needs of the community; needs that have become more complex over the last 33 years. (Who could have foreseen our current pandemic and the ensuing need and subsequent enthusiasm for outdoor dining?) Measure J restricts the use of properties within and adjacent to the Town Center and requires that any changes be subject to a vote of the citizens of Woodside. Why Measure A? Because Measure J and the evolving needs of our community demand it.

We all know that change is scary. But Measure A isn’t a mandate to overdevelop our rural community. It simply allows the town and the citizens of Woodside to discuss and deliberate a public forum how to best meet the current needs of its residents. Peter Bailey and Alex Tauber are co-leading Measure A and are both citizens and residents of Woodside. To read Measure A in full, go to smccare.org/post/november-2-2021 “Resolution, Measure, Full Text” and see page 5.

NO ON A
continued from page 22
ations. It is clear that Bacchus could benefit through expansion and revenue if Measure A passes. We are the custodians of Woodside, and its future is dependent on your vote. Will you allow the circumvention of the protection of our planning process and allow commercial interests to exploit our beautiful town and in so doing destroy our rural environment? Or will you stand with the many residents who are voting no on Measure A to enable an inclusive conversation for a proper solution to the issues before us? Let’s work together to see how we can provide more outdoor dining and gathering places without damaging the rural character of our beautiful town.

I ask you to vote no on this measure. Don Pugh has been a Woodside resident since 1972 and was the author of Measure J. He can be reached at don@SaveRuralWoodside.org. Visit saverruralwoodside.org for more information.

LETTERS
continued
Sept. 24). In order to save energy, we need to get back to basics: Insulate the whole house, including windows, and use thermal mass to its fullest advantage, summer and winter. Small fans can circulate air. Heat pumps are noisy; cross ventilation is best.

The sun does wonders in drying our clothes, providing light and hot water, and keeps our bodies and homes warm throughout the day, and some of the evening. This does mean we all need to keep our trees trimmed, petite, open, and not hanging into someone else’s property. The sun is free to all. Blocking out its rays is taking from others what rightfully belongs to them, preventing them from saving energy, money and comfort, for all. An opened, well-groomed landscape makes the property look bigger, cleaner, tidier and more inviting.

We are all in this together. Let us help each other save energy, our natural resources, and money, and let our light shine.

Jackie Leonard-Dinnick

Saving energy
Menlo Park wants to go all-electric (“Guest opinion: How to get on board with Menlo Park’s climate action plan.”)

Letter to the Editor

The Almanac offers advertising for Employment, as well as Home and Business Services.

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@paweekly.com.

Marketplace
The Almanac offers advertising for Home Services, Business Services and Employment.

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@paweekly.com.

Employment
The Almanac offers advertising for Employment, as well as Home and Business Services.

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@paweekly.com.

Public Notices

995 fictitious name statement

BC HANDYWORKS
Fictitious Business Name statement File No. 288885 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BC Handyworks, located at 120 Sansome Street, Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s): BENJAMIN R CAMPOS 120 Sansone Street Redwood City, CA 94062 This business is conducted by: An Individual

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 14, 2021.

(ALM Sep 24, Oct 1, 8, 15, 2021)

j Luc Transport Inc
Fictitious Business Name Statement File No. 288893 The following person (persones) is (are) doing business as: j Luc Transport Inc, located at 2665 California St. Apt. 46, Mountain View, CA 94040, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s): JORGE LUIS CUEVAS ZAWALA 2665 California St. Apt. 46, Mountain View, CA 94040 This business is conducted by: An Individual

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 17, 2021.

(ALM Sep 24, Oct 1, 8, 15, 2021)

Kodie Cottage Bilingual Day Care Fictitious Business Name Statement File No. 288814 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Kodie Cottage Bilingual Day Care, located at 1750 Cranor Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s): ALEJANDRA ESPINOSA 1750 Cranor Ave. Menlo Park, CA 94025 This business is conducted by: An Individual

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 9, 2021.

(ALM Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

Mid-Peninsula High School Fictitious Business Name Statement File No. 288864 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Mid-Peninsula High School, located at 1340 Willow Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s): MID-PENINSULA EDUCATION CENTER, INC 1340 Willow Rd. Menlo Park, CA 94025 California This business is conducted by: A Corporation

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/15/2002. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 14, 2021.

(ALM Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY Fictitious Business Name Statement File No. 288929 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SELECT Physical Therapy, located at 540 Ralston Ave., Suite B, Belmont, CA 94002, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettybury Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s): PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATES, INC 4714 Gettybury Rd. Menlo Park, CA 94025 Michigan This business is conducted by: A Corporation

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 14, 2021.

(ALM Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY Fictitious Business Name Statement File No. 288928 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SELECT Physical Therapy, located at 540 Ralston Ave., Suite B, Belmont, CA 94002, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettybury Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s): PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATES, INC 4714 Gettybury Rd. Menlo Park, CA 94025 Michigan This business is conducted by: A Corporation

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 28, 2021.

(ALM Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

BottleTee Culture Fictitious Business Name Statement File No. 288927 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BottleTee Culture, located at 180 El Camino Real, Suite 201, Burlingame, CA 94010, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettybury Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s): PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATES, INC 4714 Gettybury Rd. Menlo Park, CA 94025 Michigan This business is conducted by: A Corporation

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 26, 2021.

(ALM Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

BottleTee Culture Fictitious Business Name Statement File No. 288926 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BottleTee Culture, located at 180 El Camino Real, Suite 201, Burlingame, CA 94010, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettybury Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s): PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATES, INC 4714 Gettybury Rd. Menlo Park, CA 94025 Michigan This business is conducted by: A Corporation

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 24, 2021.

(ALM Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County. Public Hearing Notices Resolutions • Bid Notices Notices of Petition to Administrator Estate Lien Sale • Trustee’s Sale Deadline is Monday at noon.

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email asantillan@paweekly.com for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

October 15, 2021 • AlmanacNews.com • The Almanac • 23
The Almanac
AlmanacNews.com
October 15, 2021

By Monica Lander, Freelance Writer

Crescent Park, the epitome of quintessential Palo Alto lifestyle, offers a sophisticated urban/suburban mix, providing fortunate residents the best of both worlds. Discover something special the minute you walk up to the lovely porch and bright blue door at 1342 Dana Avenue. Originally built as a two-bedroom, two-bath house in 1946, Mr. and Mrs. Lee then purchased it in 1966. They added the second story that includes two bedrooms, a full bath, and the pool. (Mr. Lee was one of the founders of Ming’s Restaurant, a Palo Alto landmark for many decades.)

In 1996, the Duttons, a distinguished and award-winning Stanford University electrical engineering professor, and his wife purchased the property. They were walking by the property, and Mrs. Dutton heard “a splish-splash” of what sounded like someone in the pool (pools were rarely found at that time) and knew then and there that it was the home for them.

No detail was overlooked in the subsequent two-year, million-dollar renovation that redesigned the second level and extended the floor plan enlarging the main floor master suite and guest room. From hardwood floors, custom baseboards and crown molding to exquisite millwork and new windows, the home was meticulously updated and has been lovingly maintained throughout the years.

The approximately 2,374 square feet of living space sits on an exceptional almost 8,900 sq ft property with backyard gardens and multiple outdoor spaces that create a much-desired sanctuary and blend of entertaining, play, and relaxing venues.

Relish the tree-lined streets of Crescent Park with its manicured lawns and gardens, showcasing pride in ownership, and its peaceful and walkable neighborhoods. The coveted location is close to downtown Palo Alto’s renowned world-class entertainment, dining, and nightlife.

Additionally, enjoy the shops, charming cafes, and restaurants at both Town and County and Stanford Shopping Centers, located nearby. Some of the best award-winning schools, including Duveneck Elementary, Green Jr. Middle, and Palo Alto High School, are within about a mile, not to mention the sprawling Stanford University campus, just a quick two-mile drive or bike ride away.

The 10-acre Eleanor Pardee Park and community gardens, just blocks from this home, offer a delightful meeting place for families and friends.

South Bay Realtor Rebecca Jepsen is particularly excited to bring this one-of-a-kind property to market. Chosen by these owners for her market knowledge and professional reputation, they were also impressed by the “extra measures and personal care” that Jepsen offers to her clients. She continues to go the extra mile for her clients, making transitioning to either a smaller home or senior community a “calming and even enjoyable experience.” The Dutttons recently moved to their stunningly remodeled apartment at the Vi, and said they truly couldn’t have done it without Rebecca’s care, limitless energy and support.

The open and light-filled interior of this home on Dana Avenue, and especially the elegant and grand living room, were perfect for the current owners. These competitive ballroom dancers began to take dance lessons at the Arthur Murray dance studio when their son was getting married. They fell in love with dancing and became “Gold Champions” in their division.

The timeless and classic features like hardwood floors, artisan...
Two additional bedrooms on the upper level were converted into a fabulous dual office with a pair of custom built-in workstations, a murphy bed, and a window seat with a pullout bed. A built-in bookcase pivots to reveal a spacious walk-in closet. High tech workers or business owners will find this space exceptionally useful to create an incredible home office and guest room, or they can choose to revert this space to bedrooms. A full bathroom with a floating vanity and tile wainscot is also on this level.

Stately columns define the expansive living room with its front-facing garden windows, beautiful custom-built honed fireplace and mantle, and French doors leading to the backyard patio.

The formal dining room accommodates both large gatherings or intimate family meals. Throw open the French doors to extend this generous space onto the patio for the perfect garden party.

The detailed and thoughtful redesign of the kitchen creates a true chef’s kitchen imagined and planned by someone passionate about cooking and entertaining. Custom crafted cabinetry with upper seeded glass-faced cabinets includes a built-in china cabinet with glass-paneled doors, deep drawers, pullout cabinets with custom stemware organizers and spice racks, an appliance lift, and lots of storage. Five stylish pendants illuminate the two-level island and breakfast bar topped with granite. A stainless counter and stainless backsplash provide the ideal prep station nearby the cooktop and open shelving. There is also a built-in workstation.

The casual dining nook is a charming setting with a built-in corner bench, extra storage and garden views. Conveniently access the gardens and patio from the kitchen.

The kitchen is well appointed with dual SubZero refrigerators, a Miele oven and warming drawer, a Panasonic microwave, a Thermador five-burner cooktop with a pot filler, two Miele dishwashers, and a U-Line wine refrigerator.

The ultra-private backyard includes lush garden beds bordering a brick patio with a pergola and other venues shaded by the canopies of mature trees. Cool off in the resurfaced pebble tec lap pool and spa with custom lighting and an automatic cover, or exercise your green thumb in an ideal vegetable garden.

Additional features include a two-car garage with a second washer and dryer, a utility sink and walls of storage cabinets.

This not-to-be-missed home is a true gem on this friendly and quiet block in sought-after Crescent Park.

Offered at $4,500,000
Where:
1342 Dana Avenue Palo Alto
Shown by Appointment Only

Rebecca Jepsen
Your Community Realtor®
408-357-3990
rjepsen@ggsir.com
RebeccaJepsen.com
DRE 01908462

If you are thinking about making a move — call me... I’m here to help!
SCALING UP
A SHY HERO'S QUEST FOR LOVE MAY END UP SAVING THE WORLD IN 'LIZARD BOY'

By Heather Zimmerman

It’s probably not a surprise that there are scales in a show called “Lizard Boy,” but not just the green, reptilian kind that cover the titular hero head to toe. This comic book-inspired story can’t be told without a whole lot of musical scales — and a manager of instruments, from guitars to glockenspiels. Music is the superpower that the show’s trio of cast members share.

In fact, from the show’s soundtrack, which has found popularity online, to the small but mighty cast, to the longtime collaborations that underpin “Lizard Boy,” the hero’s reptilian scales might be one of the least striking things about this indie-folk rock musical. “Lizard Boy” is now playing in person and streaming at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley through Oct. 31.

The original “Lizard Boy” cast, made up of the show’s writer/creator Justin Huertas, actors Kirsten “Kiki” deLohr Helland and William A. Williams, along with director Brandon Ivie, has developed the show off and on for the better part of a decade. “Lizard Boy” made its world premiere in 2015 at the Seattle Repertory Theatre, but the musical’s foundations go back farther, to 2011 when the Seattle Rep commissioned the show and Huertas called on his friends Helland and Williams, who had also previously worked with him on other projects — to join the cast.

Helland recalled that, at that time, she didn’t really play any instruments, but that’s no longer the case. “As the show developed, and we started learning more about what the style of the piece was going to be and how we wanted to score the piece, it became clear that there were going to be an endless number of instruments that were played,” she said with a laugh.

Over the course of about eight years, both Helland and Williams learned a host of instruments, some more expected on a musical theater stage than others. “I play the guitar and piano, I play ukulele, glockenspiel — this is my first time playing the glockenspiel. We have a kazoo chorus,” Williams said with a laugh.

One of the first things Helland learned was flute, at Huertas’ behest, for another show he had created. That laid the foundations to eventually learn how to play many more instruments for “Lizard Boy,” she said, crediting Huertas’ support and encouragement.

“That’s really how I did it. I mean, honestly, he just has so much faith in his friends and he believes in our talents and our ability to learn. He just said, ‘I believe you can, and we have time.’ And it’s true, once I put my brain in that place, I discovered that I was able to learn new things,” she said.

“Lizard Boy” starts with a first date but quickly turns into an epic journey to save the world. Trevor (Huertas), the Lizard Boy of the title, is a young gay man who lives in Seattle, used to keeping to himself due to a strange childhood accident that caused him to be covered in green scales.

But, as the pandemic perhaps has taught us confronting the villainous Siren (Helland), who has big plans and a magnetic voice that Trevor recognizes — it haunts his dreams. “Cary is new in town, to Seattle. And he’s a fun guy but he’s really lost at the moment — he’s lonely. He’s reaching out and trying to meet some people, but having a little bit of a difficult time doing that. The interaction he has with Trevor, it’s a little more honest and real than the stuff that he’s kind of experienced before,” Williams said.

Williams, who is now based in New York City, is not new in town when it comes to the Bay Area. He grew up in Los Altos and attended Mountain View High School. He said he took the opportunity of being in town with “Lizard Boy” to show his castmates around where he used to live, and take them to San Francisco.

The show has been performed in various venues, from its Seattle debut to San Diego’s Diversi- sionary Theatre, staged readings at Playwrights Horizons in New York and an online performance for the 2020 National Alliance for Musical Theatre Festival, and the longtime collaboration of the show’s original cast members has allowed for deeper development of the characters.

Helland said that although the easiest way to describe Siren is as the supervillain of the piece, the character has grown to be much more than that. “In early versions of the piece she was pure evil — just wanted to be queen of the world, and would do anything she wanted in order to make that happen,” Helland said, noting it quickly became apparent that the character needed more dimension. “She’s a complicated woman who is very lonely, partially because of the choices she’s made and partially just because of the world that she lives in. She really seeks companionship and friendship and a connection to someone who understands her, and is also driven by that,” she said.

“Over time, both of our characters have really been fleshed out and had a chance to become more complex,” Williams said. “It’s really great, because I know every time I come back to it, there’s just going to be a little more for me to take out of the character.”

And it’s between meeting a new love and a possible new foe, and an eventual battle to save the world, that Trevor begins to see his scales differently. As much as superheroes seem to be larger than life, the best superhero stories look at the inner emotions of its characters — and explore what their “superpowers” actually are.

“The thing that I love the most about ‘Lizard Boy’ is that no matter who you are, anyone could look at Trevor, and see his scales and immediately understand and connect to your own personal scales, and how that affects your journey in life,” Helland said. “The biggest theme for me in the show is that no matter what your scales are, whatever is the thing that you think is negative about you is actually the thing that makes you the most positive, and the strongest, the most independent and the most special person.”

“Lizard Boy” plays in person through Oct. 31 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. For more information, visit theatreworks.org.

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com.
$5,000 DONATED FOR EVERY SALE

INTRODUCING

MAKE THE MOVE • BACK TO SCHOOL

A charitable initiative to support our local schools

To support local schools, Dana Carmel will donate $5,000 to your local Education Foundation when you buy or sell a home with her by May 31, 2022.

Dana Carmel is a long-time, active Foundation member. She knows just how much our school districts rely on Foundation support to provide quality education. Funds raised provide additional teachers, specialists, programs, and tools that make our schools extraordinary places for learning.

This benefits both home values and school districts. A report by the National Bureau of Economic Research titled, “Using Market Valuation to Assess Public School Spending,” found that for every dollar spent on public schools in a community, home values increased by about $20. This increase directly translates to higher resale values.

Dana Carmel

650.804.2393 • DANA@DANACARMELUXURYLISTINGS.COM
DANACARMELUXURYLISTINGS.COM • @DANACARMELUXURYLISTINGS

ATHERTON • MENLO PARK • PALO ALTO • WOODSIDE • PORTOLA VALLEY

Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from reliable sources believed to be accurate, but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal without notice. Plans are not intended to solicit property already listed.
Menlo Park Fire Protection District

Scan a QR code to watch a short video and learn the sounds of fire safety.

Smoke Alarm  Carbon Monoxide  Chirping Alarm

Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™
firepreventionweek.org

©2021 National Fire Protection Association | Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA.
97 RIDGE VIEW
ATHERTON

GRAND ATHERTON ESTATE ON 2.16 ACRES

European grandeur and sophistication await in this spectacular gated estate, nestled in supreme privacy on 2.16 acres. Introduced by a courtyard entrance with a cascading 9-tier waterfall, this home wraps you in elegance from the moment you step inside. Luxurious appointments include stained and leaded glass, crystal chandeliers, gilded accents, hand-forged ironwork, and custom wall coverings. Offering 5 bedrooms, 6.5 bathrooms, and over 9,100 square feet, this estate includes an in-home apartment, while a beautiful 1-bed, 1-bath guest home of 700 square feet. Entertain guests with ease thanks to gathering spaces scaled for entertaining, a gourmet kitchen, and incredible grounds with a pool and swim-through grotto. Work from home in style in the executive office, and unwind in the whimsical Parisian wine cellar and Old English bar. The palatial master suite features a fireplace and spa-like bathroom, while 3 additional guest suites are perfect for friends and family alike. Convenient to Stanford University, Sand Hill Road, and both downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, this impressive home is also served by acclaimed Las Lomitas schools, with top private schools close at hand.

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
www.97RidgeViewDr.com
Offered at $13,488,000

Listed by the DeLeon Team • 2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer’s Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer’s Agent

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 I 650.900.7000 I michael@deleonrealty.com

中文諮詢請聯絡Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 I www.deleonrealty.com I DeLeon Realty, Inc. I DRE #01903224
Selby's chef Mark Sullivan prepares a Black Label Burger on Nov. 18, 2019. The restaurant was awarded a Michelin star in 2021.

Baumé chef Bruno Chemel maintained two Michelin stars at his restaurant starting in 2011. He's since requested that Baumé be removed from the Michelin Guide listings so he can focus on developing a new concept.

### Seeing stars

**Peninsula restaurants shine in the 2021 Michelin Guide**

By Sara Hayden

A s a food writer, I feel like I’m expected to cover the Michelin Guide, a long-standing publication that rates dining experiences, originating from a French tire company. And I must admit, I’ve been wrestling with why I feel this pressure, and if I do cover the guide, what degree to do so.

I’m puzzled as more and more media outlets ditch their own rating systems, but also continue to dedicate quite a bit of coverage to this particular one. In the U.S., Google searches for ‘Michelin Guide’ outpace searches for other travel-ish and food-ish guides, so it looks like there’s at least some curiosity about it across the country, especially in California and New York.

For my part, much of my musings boils down to these questions: Is this coverage of interest to the million or so readers across our greater community? Does it serve the Peninsula? When bandwidth is limited, does this accolade warrant coverage over another? Is it more noteworthy than a restaurant simply surviving?

I haven’t settled on answers to all these questions. And I’m curious to hear what you think — as readers, as people who work in the industry, as diners — what does the Michelin Guide mean to you? Dear reader, do let me know: peninsulafoodist@embarcaderopublishing.com.

### Local stars

In any case, I’d like to congratulate the restaurants and the teams behind them that received Michelin recognition this year, achieved in difficult circumstances that have included navigating COVID-19 safety measures, physical and mental health needs for themselves and their loved ones, staffing challenges and rising costs.

Out of more than 500 listees, the Michelin Guide included dozens of restaurants on the Peninsula and surrounding area in its 2021 California edition, the first since 2019 after it took a break in 2020.

The list includes some extraordinary local restaurants, rated with symbols, like stars and plates that denote things like whether a restaurant is “worth a stop,” how good the cooking quality is and how “comfortable” a restaurant is.

One of the newcomers to the list was Sushi Shin in Redwood City. This year, the restaurant’s second since opening, it earned one star. However, chef Jason Zhan is not new to this recognition. Zhan trained in his craft under Hideo Kuribara at Ushi-wakamaru in New York, which received a Michelin star while Zhan was there.

Now at his own Michelin-starred restaurant, Zhan gets to work at 8:30 a.m. and leaves at midnight as he prepares 20- to 22-course meals with a lean team that includes his wife, a dishwasher and a part-time assistant. Zhan said, “I don’t work just to earn a star, or to get a good review from Yelp, so it (doesn’t) really change anything to me — just still the same thing, every day.”

Zhan paused, and laughed: “I feel, ‘Just — oh! — one star?’ Because I’ve been working 20 years,” he said. “But it’s good. This is the second year, and we got one star. Hopefully we can improve, and get two stars, three stars in the future. That means to me, I work hard, and people like it, so (I’ll) have more energy to do and to create more unique dishes so people can enjoy.”

A restaurant that maintained two stars between 2011 and 2019 has been removed from the Michelin Guide at the proprietor’s request. You’ll no longer find Baumé in the guide’s proverbial pages.

“I care about my stars, it’s not that I don’t care,” Bruno Chemel said of the restaurant he runs with his wife, Christie Chemel. “But I reach a stage of my life, a stage of my business, when I need to evolve the business … I need to pay the bills, I need to have my life, because owning a two-Michelin star restaurant in COVID in Palo Alto is not easy.”

Removing the restaurant from the guide now alleviates the pressure to adhere to what’s demanded of a Michelin-starred restaurant, Chemel said.

“To me, we’re just a mom and pop restaurant. It’s just me and my wife,” Chemel said. “I’m just a cook, and I want to please my guests. That’s what’s very important to me. I feel very happy. I have no stress for guidelines I need to follow. I just follow what I want to do, and we see if it works.”

Meanwhile, Manresa returned with three stars in Los Gatos.

The Bacchus Group has added another Michelin star to its portfolio with Selby’s, its newest property on the border of Redwood City and Atherton. The group’s San Francisco outpost, Spruce, also holds a Michelin star. And The Village Pub in Woodside has been recognized with a Michelin star for 12 consecutive years.

“Three restaurants, three stars — it means I have to open a fourth one now, because I’m not competitive or anything,” founding partner and president Tim Stannard said, a joke with a kernel of truth.

So while the Bacchus Group has seen plenty of stars, this year’s hold special meaning. Selby’s opened in 2019, but then closed when COVID-19 shelter-in-place ordinances were announced in March 2020. After briefly reopening to offer takeout and delivery, they closed again in October. They remained completely shuttered nearly a year, and just reopened last month.

Selby’s team, all together when they heard the news about their Michelin recognition, popped a magnum of champagne and shed tears.

“It is for us like the Oscars, the World Series, the NBA Finals and the Super Bowl all wrapped up into one,” Stannard said. “It means a lot to us, just from a business perspective. And more than that it just feels great — especially after the last 18 months — to see the hard work that everyone undertook … be recognized.”

---

LEHUA GREENMAN

“When you get tired, learn to rest, not quit.”

650.245.1845 COMPASS

LEHUA GREENMAN
Peninsula Michelin Guide restaurants

Here's the complete list of local restaurants included in the 2021 Michelin Guide:

**Atherton**
- Selby’s: 1 Michelin star; 3 comfort and quality

**Belmont**
- Shalizaar: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

**Burlingame**
- Rasa: 1 Michelin star; 2 comfort and quality
- New England Lobster Eatery: Michelin Plate; 1 comfort and quality

**Half Moon Bay**
- Pasta Moon: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

**Los Altos**
- Auruum: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

**Menlo Park**
- Flea Street Cafe: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality
- Madera: 1 Michelin star; 2 comfort and quality
- Camper: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

**Millbrae**
- Tasty Place: Michelin Plate; 1 comfort and quality

**Palo Alto**
- Bird Dog: Michelin Plate; 3 comfort and quality
- Ettan: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality
- Eevia: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality
- iTalico: Michelin Bib Gourmand; 2 comfort and quality
- Protege: 1 Michelin star; 2 comfort and quality
- Tamarine: Michelin Plate; 1 comfort and quality
- Vina Enoteca: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality
- Zola: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

**Redwood City**
- La Viga Seafood & Cocina: Michelin Plate; 1 comfort and quality
- Sushi Shin: 1 Michelin star; 2 comfort and quality
- Warung Siska: Michelin Plate; 1 comfort and quality

**San Bruno**
- Ginte: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

**San Carlos**
- Saffron: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

**San Mateo**
- All Spice: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality
- Pausa: Michelin Bib Gourmand; 2 comfort and quality
- Sushi Yoshizumi: 1 Michelin star; 2 comfort and quality
- Wakuriya: 1 Michelin star; 2 comfort and quality

**Woodside**
- Village Pub: 1 Michelin star; 3 comfort and quality

**Michelin Guide rating system**

Michelin restaurant recognition is awarded according to a rating system that includes icons and accompanying descriptions. I'm trying to wrap my head around what they all mean. This is how Michelin breaks down some of its ratings:

**Star**
- One: High-quality cooking, worth a stop
- Two: Excellent cooking, worth a detour
- Three: Exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey

**Comfort and quality**
- Represented by a fork and spoon icon
- One: Quite comfortable (according to one Michelin Guide article; it’s described as “simple restaurant” according to some of their restaurant listings)
- Two: Comfortable
- Three: Very comfortable
- Four: Top class comfort
- Five: Luxury in the traditional style

**Michelin Bib Gourmand**
- Represented by an icon of Bibendum, the formal name of the “Michelin Man”
- Good quality, good value cooking

**Michelin Plate**
- Represented by an icon featuring a plate, fork and knife
- Fresh ingredients, carefully prepared; a good meal

Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram @peninsulafoodist and subscribe to the newsletter at almanacnews.com/express/foodist to get insights on the latest openings and closings, learn what the Foodist is excited about eating, read exclusive interviews and keep up on the trends affecting local restaurants.
Exemplary grounds of over an acre provide an intimate setting for this spectacular Atherton estate, custom-built in 2017 by renowned builder Lencioni Construction. Natural tones create a warm, welcoming ambiance that puts you at ease from the moment you step inside, with a quiet elegance that emanates throughout over 9,300 total square feet of interior space filled with high-end appointments and finishes. The modern floorplan offers grand-scale formal rooms made for entertaining, as well as a gourmet kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances, a convenient office, family room with wet bar, theater, wine cellar, and much more. An impressive 5 bedrooms and 7 bathrooms include the detached pool house, as well as 4 en suite bedrooms in the main home highlighted by the primary suite with a spa-like bathroom and stunning walk-in closet. Enjoy true indoor/outdoor living as numerous glass doors open to impressive grounds filled with vast heated terraces, a fireplace, grilling station, and a lap pool. Plus, ample parking for family and guests is always available thanks to a gated motor court and oversized 4-car garage. Just moments to downtown Menlo Park, this estate is also within easy reach of downtown Palo Alto and Stanford University, with the venture capital firms of Sand Hill Road close at hand.

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
www.147Patricia.com
Offered at $17,988,000

Listed by the DeLeon Team • 2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer’s Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer’s Agent

Michael Repka, DRE #:01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #:01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #:01903224

32 • The Almanac • AlmanacNews.com • October 15, 2021