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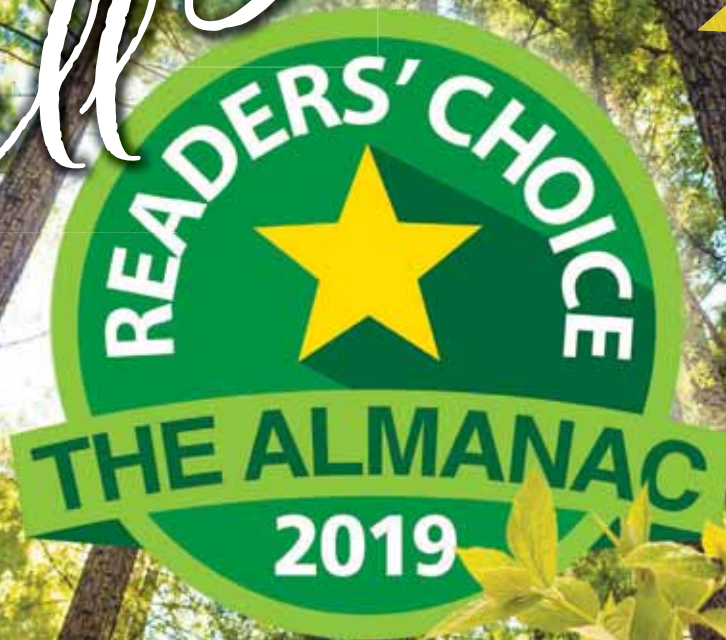
JULY 17, 2019 | VOL. 54 NO. 46



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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Photo by Sadie Stinson/The Almanac

Ready to launch

Firefighter Mike Ralston displays the drones used by the Menlo Park Fire Protection District at a July 10 demonstration of the district's earthquake preparedness and response capabilities. The demonstration took place at the district's newly rebuilt Station 6 on Oak Grove Avenue in downtown Menlo Park. For more about the new station, see Page 8.

City seeks new strategy to support 'missing middle'

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

It's a challenge that has long befuddled policymakers grappling with the housing crisis: How can they create incentives for the construction of housing units intended for rent by mid-range income earners?

In Menlo Park, the challenge weighed heavily on city officials with the March check-in on the city's progress toward its regional housing need allocation or "RHNA," a statewide benchmark that tells each city how many units — and at what affordability level — should be built to meet demand.

Between 2015 and 2023, Menlo Park should build 143 new housing units that are affordable for middle-income earners to meet its allocation. Only four such units had received building permits as of 2018, according to the city.

A new statewide agency, the California Community Housing Agency, or CalCHA, is proposing a new solution to help Menlo Park meet its middle-income housing allocation and move closer to addressing the lack of such housing in the community.

Jordan Moss, founder of the Catalyst Housing Group who has helped shape the new agency, faced a battery of questions from the city's Housing Commission on July 10, but appeared to convince its members to push the City Council to sign on to the initiative. The Housing Commission voted 5-0, with members Meg McGraw-Scherer and Wendy McPherson absent, to recommend that the council join CalCHA and support the agency's issuance of tax-exempt bonds, and to allow the city manager to work out a purchase option agreement with CalCHA for middle-income

housing within city limits.

Rhonda Coffman, the city's community development director on housing, said that she had been skeptical of the program at first, noting that it sounded "too good to be true."

But Moss argued that, through a complex bond financing system, CalCHA could purchase multifamily properties, offer subsidized rent to middle-income tenants — typically households earning 80% to 120% of the area median income, or \$129,150 to \$164,750 for a family of four in San Mateo County — and still pay back its debts over 30 years.

In fact, he said, CalCHA is currently eyeing a 195-unit property at 777 Hamilton Ave. in Menlo Park that already has 22 units leased to teachers as workforce housing through a partnership between Facebook and the city, and could start making moves to buy it as

Grand jury says entire county, including cities at risk from wildfire

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

A San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury report released on July 9 warns residents of urban areas not to be complacent about wildfires since high winds can drive swarms of embers long distances and ignite vulnerable structures.

The report citing the threat to city residents comes as towns in the so-called urban/wildland interface, such as Portola Valley and Woodside, are trying desperately to find ways to prevent fires as well as prepare an effective response if they do occur.

The Grand Jury identified about 35 percent of land in the county as a place where a wildfire could start. But, there is no guarantee that the flames won't move on from there to more populated urban areas, the report said.

"High winds moving through gaps in the coastal range could

expand the perimeter of a fire quickly, making it a countywide threat to lives and property," the report said.

While fire suppression activities confine most fires to two acres or less, certain wind conditions could render a fire in a rural area unmanageable and cause it to spread rapidly across a much larger area, according to the report.

The Crystal Springs reservoirs, San Andreas Lake and Interstate 280 could act as a firebreak and "slow the eastward progress of a fire towards San Francisco Bay."

However, the report noted, wind-driven fires have produced embers that have jumped rivers and reservoirs in the past.

Jonathan Cox, division chief for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit, told The Almanac that he

See **GRAND JURY**, page 10

soon as this week.

Typically, multifamily housing tends to get built for people at the high and low ends of the economic spectrum, Moss explained. Developers can access tax credits for building low-income housing, but must agree to rent a significant portion of those units to tenants earning typically no more than 60% of the area median income. Often, most if not all of the units in these developments are dedicated to low-income renters.

If a developer isn't going for low-income housing, it is likely on the hook to bring in as much revenue as possible, so it builds high-end properties with lots of bells and whistles to attract a deep-pocketed clientele willing to pay a premium.

Caught in the middle, Moss said, are people such as nurses, firefighters, teachers, and civil servants who may earn too much to qualify for affordable housing, but not enough to afford those high-end properties.

The type of housing that is typically available to

middle-income workers, the "naturally affordable" units, as they're sometimes called, tends to be older or in less-than-pristine shape, and is thus targeted as "value-add" properties by investors. They face the risk of being purchased by new owners who kick out the existing tenants, rehabilitate the property, and then charge substantially higher rents to new tenants, Moss said.

CalCHA is a new joint powers authority founded in Kings County that now has a number of member cities and aims to use tax-exempt bonds to buy and preserve housing for middle-income earners. It's taking on new members fast, Moss said, with jurisdictions in Sonoma County on board, and meetings or council presentations planned in the cities of San Jose, Oakland, San Francisco, Hayward, San Rafael and Santa Clara, as well as with Santa Clara County officials.

The agency made its first multifamily housing purchase

See **MIDDLE**, page 7

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NEWS

San Mateo County property values reach record highs

Menlo Park experienced the highest growth in assessed value

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

San Mateo County's property assessment roll increased for the 2019-20 fiscal year, the ninth consecutive year of upward movement.

From Jan. 1, 2018, to Jan. 1, 2019, it increased to a record high of over \$238.4 billion in assessed value — up \$15.9 billion, or 7.1%, year-over-year, County Assessor Mark Church said in a press release. The property assessment roll is the assessed value of all properties as of January 1 each year, and reflects changes in ownership, new construction, value declines, and value restorations from the previous January 1, according to the press release.

Menlo Park experienced the highest growth in assessed value, according to the county.

“While there was some softening in the residential market, record growth in commercial and mixed-use development helped push the total roll value to this new high,” Church said. “With the lowest annual unemployment rate in the state at 2.2% for 2018 and continued growth of the labor force, San Mateo County's local economy remains one of the strongest in the nation.”

Within The Almanac's coverage area, property assessment values rose 10.5% in Menlo Park (down from 11.06% in 2018); 6.62% in Atherton (down from 7.06% in 2018); 5.78% in Portola Valley (up from 5.59% in 2018); and 5.29% in Woodside (up from 4.86% in 2018), according to the press release.

The property tax funding base is approximately 1% of the county's property assessment roll and will increase to \$2.38 billion, according to the press release. Around 45% of revenue goes to local schools, 25% to the county, 18% to cities, 10% to special districts and 2% to former redevelopment agencies.

New construction

About 55 million square feet of new construction is expected to be completed in the county over the next six to eight years, according to the press release. Of that, approximately 21 million square feet is under construction. Planners have approved 7 million square feet of new construction, and 27 million square feet is under review. About 8.6 million square feet of new construction

has been completed in the last four years.

Commercial projects account for 67% of all major construction projects tracked by the Assessor's Office.

The breakdown of new major nonresidential development in the county is as follows:

- Office: 28%
- Life science: 20%
- Master planned community: 11%
- Hotel: 3%
- Senior care facility: 2%
- Retail: 2%
- Hospital: 1%

Redwood City, Menlo Park, South San Francisco, Brisbane and San Mateo have the most major development — defined as projects that are 80,000 square feet or more — pending, approved or under construction, according to the press release. Menlo Park has 10.4 million square feet of development in that category.

Facebook has continued to drive new office development on the Bay side of Menlo Park, including opening its new headquarters building, “MPK 21.” The two-story building, completed in June 2018, is about 524,000 square feet, according to the building's general contractor Level 10 Construction.

Residential sales

Residential sales accounted for about 75% of the dollar growth, while commercial sales accounted for 25%, according to the press release.

The county's residential real estate market declined in the second half of 2018, ending seven years of growth. The total dollar value of sales declined by 7.1% and the number of sales decreased by 2.6% during 2018, according to the California Association of Realtors (CAR).

Median home prices decreased after spring, but prices were still slightly up from January 2018 to January 2019, at \$1.45 million (an increase of 0.9% year-over-year), according to CAR.

For more information on the county's 2019-20 property assessment roll, go to tinyurl.com/2019propertyassessment.

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Pilot program aims to save food waste from landfills

By Matthew Vollrath

Special to The Almanac

Every day, hundreds of tons of food are thrown away in San Mateo County. Not composted — thrown away.

"The reality is people aren't very good at separating food waste," said Hilary Gans, senior facilities manager at the waste management authority RethinkWaste. Organic waste makes up a third of all garbage collected in the county, he said: more than any other category. All that tossed food piles up in landfills, where it decomposes and releases harmful methane gas into the atmosphere.

'It's a big win for us, not only in the solid waste sector, but also in the climate change mitigation sector.'

GORDON TONG, PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF WASTE REDUCTION, SAN MATEO COUNTY OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

A new device, however, could pull those numbers way down. It's a big, green, \$5 million machine called an OREX.

"It's kind of like a garlic press," Gordon Tong, program director of waste reduction at the county Office of Sustainability, said of the device, adding, "except all the stuff that oozes out of it is organics."

Basically, he said, you load up the OREX, or "Organic Extrusion Press," with garbage, and

it separates out the organic waste — the food and compost — from everything else.

RethinkWaste approached the county last October with the idea, Tong said. The Board of Supervisors then approved a \$1 million grant toward a pilot program to try the device for six months to a year. The pilot, which is slated to begin next January, will use the OREX to extract 50 to 75 tons of organic matter per day, according to a county press release.

If the pilot is successful, the release continues, it could lead to a "larger scale project with the capacity to extract an estimated 200 tons per day of organic material from the landfill waste stream." That's a 16% increase in the food waste that will be diverted from landfills, Gans said — almost 10 tractor trailers each day.

But keeping that food waste from the dump isn't the only benefit, he explained. The extracted organic waste, in the form of a liquid slurry, will be sent to a wastewater treatment plant in Redwood City, where it will be converted into biofuel.

In other words, Gans said, "It's a double win. You're getting clean energy and you're avoiding (pollutants)."

The biofuel from the OREX extract will have zero net emissions, and can be put to a number of uses, Tong said. During the pilot, the fuel will be used to help power the wastewater plant. But if the project scales up, it could also be used to power waste collection trucks



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

About one-third of the trash this bulldozer at the Shoreway Environmental Center is moving consists of organic waste. A pilot program being launched soon will extract the waste from the rest of the trash and convert it to biofuel.

throughout the county, he added.

"It's a big win for us," said Tong, "not only in the solid waste sector, but also in the climate change mitigation sector."

This two-pronged process — extracting organic waste, then

turning it into biofuel — will be the first project of its kind. While both parts have been done elsewhere in isolation, RethinkWaste will be the first to do them together, Gans explained.

"You'd think it would be

happening all over, but it's not," said Gans. "It's a great chance to marry these two industries for the benefit of the ratepayers and the environment."

RethinkWaste is now obtaining the device, and plans to begin testing it in December. ■

MIDDLE

continued from page 5

earlier this year in Santa Rosa, investing in a new 390-unit building.

Bonds for a property purchase would belong to CalCHA and would be payable from the revenues the property generates, and the city could request a purchase option to buy the property between 15 and 30 years later. If the property at 777 Hamilton Ave. generates revenue, the city could also require that money be put toward its below-market-rate housing fund.

Current tenants living at the property who earn more than 120% of the area median income would be expected to pay market-rate rent, but wouldn't be kicked out after the property is purchased. The exception would be for corporate housing — units rented by companies to provide

temporary housing for employees — which a number of units at the property are now used for. Renters of those units would not be permitted to renew their leases. Overall, rent increases would be capped at 4% per year.

Housing commissioners raised questions about how tenants would be chosen, and several expressed a desire that current Belle Haven and other Menlo Park residents be given priority, as well as a desire for flexibility with tenant requirements. For instance, if a prospective renter doesn't earn quite two and a half times the asking rent, or if he or she has a record of a minor criminal infraction or an imperfect credit score, that person shouldn't necessarily be turned away, said Commissioner Nevada Merriman.

The purchase of 777 Hamilton Ave. could provide a way for the city to bring a property

it sold several years ago back into its portfolio. In November 2012, the city sold 777 to 821 Hamilton Ave., a 2.1-acre parcel, to the Greenheart Land Company. It was required to do so when the state dissolved its redevelopment agency and had to dispose of its assets.

The City Council was expected to approve a resolution to join CalCHA as part of its consent calendar for the meeting on Tuesday, July 16. ■

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REAL ESTATE REVIEW WITH MANDY MONTOYA

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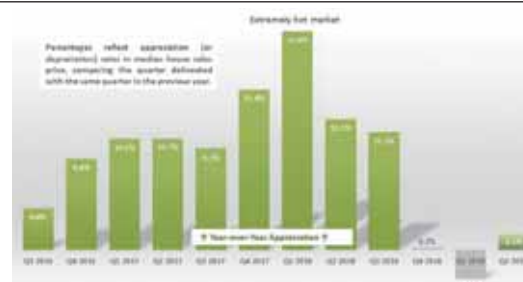


San Mateo County real estate prices saw a strong Q2 market, though, generally speaking, not as competitive as the white-hot market in the first half of 2018. The median house sales price bounced back up to slightly exceed the previous peak in Q1 2018, and thus return to positive year-over-year appreciation.

Beginning in July the market typically begins to slow down until Labor Day, though homes certainly continue to sell. This can be a great buying opportunity for buyers who are ready. Contact me for more information and strategic guidance.

Year-over-Year House Appreciation Rates by Quarter San Mateo County, % Changes in Median House Sales Prices

Sales reported to MLS, per Broker Metrics



Median sales prices are prone to fluctuation, sometimes without great meaningfulness as to changes in fair market value. Longer term trends are always more important than short-term changes. Data from sources deemed reliable but may contain errors and subject to revision. All numbers approximate.

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COMPASS

New Menlo Fire station 6 combines best of old and new

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

After a 12-year journey with many detours, the Menlo Park Fire Protection District recently opened its new Station 6, which has an inside that couldn't be more up-to-date with an outside that looks

like a throwback to earlier times.

The station, one of seven in the district, is centrally located at 700 Oak Grove Ave., a block from both Santa Cruz Avenue and El Camino Real.

The new 8,335-square-foot station replaces an older 3,000-square-foot building that opened in 1953, according to Fire

Chief Harold Schapelhouman.

The new station cost \$11.54 million to build, including design fees, construction, project management fees and other costs, according to a district release.

It can house up to eight firefighters and two emergency vehicles, and is connected to the United States Geological Survey early warning earthquake notification system, called Shake Alert. Schapelhouman said that district stations are the only ones in Northern California connected to the Shake Alert Sensor Network.

After considering a location in Atherton, the district decided to stay at the same spot, even though it is a constricted site, because it is centrally located and because it has become an integral part of the neighborhood, Schapelhouman said.

"The two hardest things to do are to move a fire station out of a neighborhood or move one into a neighborhood," he said. "When you move one out the neighbors don't want to lose it, and when you try to move one in they complain about the potential for noise and disruption."

The district bought a house behind the station for \$1.5 million which it used to house firefighters while the new station was being built. After construction was completed, the district razed the house to make way for a driveway so that fire trucks could enter through the rear of one of the two bays and exit from the front.

The second bay has no rear entrance and the firefighters

must stop traffic on Oak Grove to back the engines in through the front door.

On the first floor is an emergency generator, an internet technology room and a ventilated decontamination area where firefighters can remove and store their clothing and gear so harmful gases don't migrate into the living areas.

There is also an elevator which comes in handy for grocery shopping, which the firefighters do themselves.

On the second floor are individual apartments and two communal bathrooms. The firefighters opted for the two larger bathrooms rather than smaller bathrooms in the rooms to avoid the extra work of cleaning a bathroom in each room, Schapelhouman said.

"We used to have dormitory-style sleeping areas, but with the individual rooms there's more privacy making it easier to sleep," he said.

The station also has a detached garage for a couple of antique

fire engines from the 1930s and 1950s owned by the district and a tiny, 1918-era fire station that was relocated from the district headquarters at 300 Middlefield Road and is being used as a museum.

Adding to the historical significance is the exterior design, which includes brick exterior walls with antique reproduction lighting. "Everybody liked the traditional appearance," Schapelhouman said. "We tried to do something that was within the historical aspect of Menlo Park."

The new station was designed by CJW Architecture of Portola Valley and built by Gonsalves & Stronck Construction Company, Inc. of San Carlos.

Station 6 was the third busiest station in the district last year with 1,242 calls, according to the district.

The district held an open house at the station on June 22. The station also was the site of a July 10 demonstration of its emergency response equipment and drone program. ▣



Photo by Sadie Stinson/The Almanac

District Fire Marshal Jon Johnson sets up an emergency early warning system for a demonstration at the district's Station 6. Known as an LRAD, the system is not yet in service.

Independence Drive housing proposal moves forward

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

A proposal to build 105 apartments and less than 1,000 square feet of commercial space at 111 Independence Drive on the Bay side of Menlo Park is moving forward following a June 24 discussion by the city's Planning Commission. Consultants are beginning the environmental impact review process for the proposal and are seeking public feedback on what topics should be studied to see if the project would have an environmental impact.

Developer SP Menlo LLC proposes to replace a 15,000-square-foot office building with 105 apartments and 115 parking spaces. The new building would have an overall maximum height of 85 feet and there would mostly be one-bedroom and studio apartments, with two-bedroom units making up 9% of the housing. The building would have several common areas as well as a pool, spa, club room, fitness center, lounge, dog run, dog wash area, basketball court, bocce court and ground-floor cafe. The proposal requests that the cafe count toward the developer's requirement to provide community amenities.

An initial environmental study has been done, but because of a lawsuit settlement reached between the cities of Menlo Park

and East Palo Alto, new developments brought forward following the rezoning in the "Connect-Menlo" area on the Bay side of the city have to go through the more extensive environmental analysis. The impact areas that consultants will study further are air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, traffic noise, population and housing, and transportation. After these impacts are studied, the matter will come back to the Planning Commission for additional review, and the public will get a 45-day window to provide feedback on the environmental analyses. The developer will also complete a fiscal impact analysis to evaluate the potential value of the building and determine what is fair for the developer to provide to the community in exchange for development permits.

Planning Commissioner Henry Riggs also asked if the city could find out how the development would impact specific neighborhoods around it.

Those who wish to weigh in can send their comments to Kaitie Meador at kmmeador@menlopark.org, or by mail to her at the City of Menlo Park, Community Development Department Planning Division, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025 by the deadline, 5 p.m. on Monday, July 15.

Access the preliminary environmental analysis online at is.gd/independencel11. ▣

You're Invited to a Community Open House

We invite you to attend a community open house to learn more about Stanford's proposed housing project in Portola Valley and share your feedback.

Two open houses will be held:

Open House #1: Thursday, 7/25, 6pm-8pm

Open House #2: Saturday, 7/27, 10am-Noon

Location: Portola Valley Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley

Drop-in any time between open house hours to speak with Stanford staff and ask questions. No formal presentation will be made.

The Town of Portola Valley has shared its interest in developing multi-family housing at three locations identified in their Affiliated Housing Program: Stanford University, Woodside Priory School and Sequoias Senior Housing.

As part of that conversation, Stanford has begun to study how it might create much-needed faculty housing, and some affordable housing for the town, on Stanford's property on Alpine Road.

For more information or questions, please please visit the project website at: <https://portolavalleyhousing.stanford.edu/> or email: communityrelations@stanford.edu.



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Residents may be vulnerable if insurance is canceled due to wildfire risk

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

California's Department of Insurance can help homeowners who lose insurance coverage because of wildfire risk find new coverage, but it can't guarantee what the cost or extent of coverage will be under a new policy.

According to a Department of Insurance news release, "Current law does not allow the insurance commissioner to require insurers to cover specific areas."

Furthermore, the department "does not set rates" and state law requires that insurance rates be based on "demonstrated risk of loss."

The department's web site, insurance.ca.gov, has a list of toll-free numbers for over 50 insurers that write homeowners coverage that people looking for insurance can access.

Residents who can't find coverage receive a referral to the FAIR Plan, an association in Los

Angeles that is "the last option for coverage that should only be used after a diligent effort to obtain coverage in the voluntary market has been made," according to the department.

The maximum for all coverage combined is \$1.5 million under the plan.

"The FAIR Plan is required to write all homes regardless of fire risk, so there is an option for most insureds to find insurance," according to an email from Michael Soller, the deputy insurance commissioner for communications and public relations.

"However, we recognize that in high wildfire risk areas, FAIR Plan premiums may not be as low as what the consumer was used to paying," Soller wrote.

Homeowners who need higher coverage can try to obtain it in what's known as the "surplus lines market," which is not backed by the California Insurance Guarantee Association that

covers the claims of insolvent insurers, and whose rates the Department of Insurance does not review, according to the department release.

Homeowners living in an area that has experienced a wildfire

'We recognize that in high wildfire risk areas, FAIR Plan premiums may not be as low as what the consumer was used to paying.'

MICHAEL SOLLER, CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

disaster or in a zip code adjacent to the disaster area are eligible to receive a year of protection from a policy cancellation by their insurer.

The state has extended that protection for people who had a total loss in a wildfire to two

renewals or 24 months.

The department provides workshops for wildfire survivors to help them with insurance claims and to inform them of resources available to help with recovery.

Consumers who receive non-renewal notices, have difficulty finding coverage, are looking for new coverage, have a question about their insurance, or have a dispute with the insurer can contact the department's consumer hotline at 800-927-4357.

"We provide the consumer with the tools and tips to navigate the residential property insurance market," Soller wrote. "We don't actually place the insurance because we are not the insurance company or the broker."

Portola Valley resident Nancy Coupal said her insurance carrier cut her off with 30 days' notice in June, but, with the help of a friend, she was able to get roughly the same coverage

for the same price at a different agency by calling that agency's office in Menlo Park.

Coupal said her new company is willing to insure some neighborhoods in Portola Valley but not others, depending on how close the home is to a fire station.

"You have a policy and never have a claim, and then they say they aren't going to renew your policy because of fire risk in other areas," said Coupal, who runs a chain of local restaurants called Coupa Cafe. "I was very disappointed at how insurance companies behave."

Coupal recommended that people looking for insurance contact a local agent rather than a call center, such as the ones listed on the Department of Insurance website.

"Don't go to the call center because they may not understand the dynamics of the Northern California market," she said. ▣

Kings Mountain Road fire safety work begins July 15

A long-delayed fire suppression project along King's Mountain Road in San Mateo County's Huddert County Park was set to start on Monday, July 15.

The work, a joint project between the San Mateo County Parks Department and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, will create a shaded field break that gets rid of undergrowth while preserving a canopy of larger trees.

The field break "keeps the area

shaded with the field moisture up and the temperature down, so it's wetter and cooler," said Rich Sampson, division chief for Cal Fire in Felton. "In a fire it keeps the flame out of the way so you can still use the road as an escape route."

Trees in designated areas that are under 10 inches in diameter or that are dead or dying will be removed, as well as ground vegetation within 100 feet of fire trails and roads.

Workers will be using heavy equipment in Huddart Park that will create noise and dust and a safety risk, since the equipment can throw debris up to 300 feet, according to a Cal Fire release.

Residents should expect road closures from Monday through Friday in the southwestern region of Huddart Park over the next two months.

For more information call Cal Fire at (831) 335-6740.

— By Rick Radin

GRAND JURY

continued from page 5

agrees with the report's conclusions and pointed to the Coffey Fire in Santa Rosa in 2017 that destroyed more than 5,000 structures in an urban residential area as an example.

"Any of these fires that are burning under high-wind conditions can throw embers miles ahead of themselves," Cox said. "If that hits a wood shake roof or a wood deck it can have an effect the same way as a structure in the wildland would."

One large fire can trigger dozens of small fires miles away, Cox said.

The report also called for educating the public county-wide about evacuation routes, noting that "all emergency notification systems can be compromised during a conflagration, which makes advanced public knowledge of alternative evacuation routes crucial for public safety."

That information could be included as an enclosure that could be published by local fire agencies and sent to homeowners with their property tax or utility bills, the report suggested.

So far, four communities in the county, including Portola Valley, Woodside, La Honda, and Palomar Park, containing less than 2% of the county's population, publish information sheets about escape routes.

Jeff Norris, coordinator for the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services,

cautioned that residents need to have several ways to escape in mind and should get information about the direction the fire is moving so they can decide the best way to evacuate.

Norris recommended that residents subscribe to San Mateo County Alert, a reverse 911 system that sends a text, email or voice mail message that gives early warning information about fires, road closures, hazardous materials releases and other incidents.

San Mateo County Alert has 100,000 subscribers out of a total county population of 760,000, he said.

Norris agrees with the Grand Jury's opinion that emergency alert systems aren't foolproof, saying that the need for flexibility is the only constant.

"If you think you're in danger, don't wait — pack up and move to a different area," he said in an interview with The Almanac.

The county has a mutual aid arrangement between fire protection agencies that enables them to pool their resources; however, multiple fires could strain their ability to respond, according to the report.

To counter the problem, the Grand Jury recommended obtaining funds from the California Office of Emergency Services to place fire engines in high-risk wildfire areas during periods of high fire danger.

"Cal Fire can move resources in anticipation of fire danger," Cox said. "It can staff additional equipment and bring in additional resources." ▣

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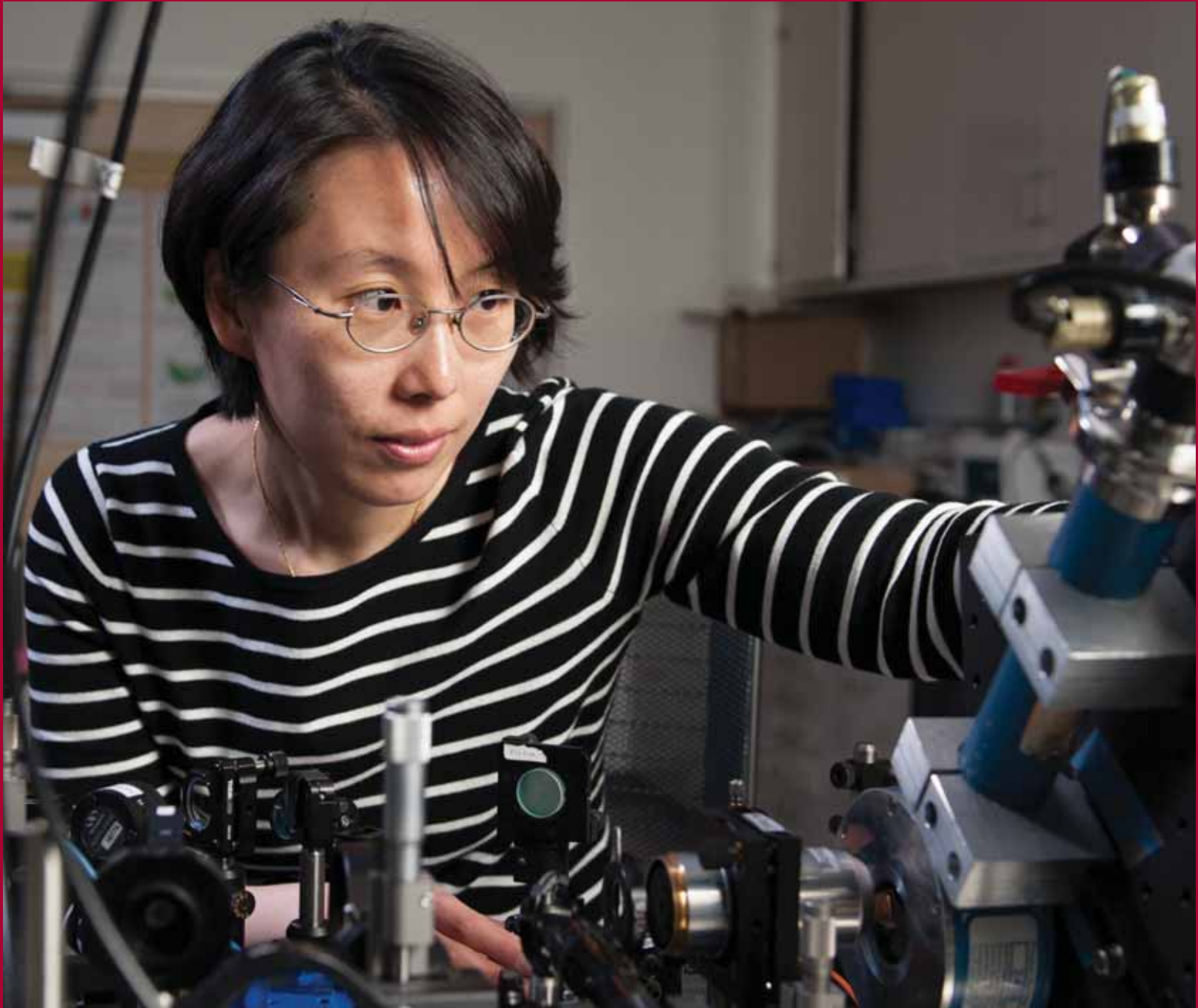
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Home under construction for 40 years will be demolished

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

A house in Atherton that has been under construction for more than 40 years will be demolished, but delays from utility companies have pushed back the date of the teardown, according to City Manager George Rodericks.

On Feb. 3, 1978, the town issued Dr. Norman Tong, listed as the homeowner and builder, a permit for a new single-family home at 370 Walsh Road. That house is still unfinished, despite the fact that Atherton in 2006 passed a law putting a strict three-year time limit on construction projects, with hefty fines for violations.

Town officials had said in the past that their hands were tied because the homeowner was following regulations in place when he received his permit, which allowed the permit to remain open as long as he scheduled an inspection and could show “meaningful progress” every six months.

In 2014, the town documented a long list of problems on the property, including dead trees; accumulations of trash, scrap metal, tires, construction

supplies and materials; combustible materials; inoperable vehicles; and a large structure that showed significant deterioration, staff wrote in a report.

In February 2016, Tong died of a heart attack while working on the house. On Sept. 30, 2016, the building permit expired because, as a town report said, “no meaningful progress had been made in over one year.”

Last September, the City Council ordered Tong’s family to apply for a new building permit, bring the building up to current codes or tear it down. The family has opted to demolish it, but gas, electric and sewer shut-offs are still pending so the house remains, Rodericks said.

The most recent delay in the effort is due to PG&E, which applied for a gas cut-off and pavement restoration permit in March. Town staff approved the permit the day PG&E applied, Rodericks said in a July 1 email.

“PG&E did not return to pick up the permit until mid-June,” Rodericks said. “They still have not completed their work.”

PG&E is set to begin its work on Aug. 13, said company spokesperson Andrea Menniti. Neighbors may notice PG&E



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

The building permit for this house at 370 Walsh Road in Atherton was issued in February 1978, but construction has never been completed.

crews digging in the street during the project, she said.

Tong’s family hired a demolition contractor and can formally apply for the demolition permit as soon as PG&E completes its work, Rodericks said. The review process for the permit can take up to 10 business days, said Mike Greenlee, a town building official, in a July 2 email.

The house’s structure has

not been altered in any way, Greenlee said. Once demolition is finished, the lot will be completely cleaned, he said. There is a chain-link fence around the property to help prevent unwanted entry.

West Bay Sanitary District also applied for a sewer disconnect permit, but that work is still in progress, he added. West Bay will need to verify that the house’s sewer line is

not connected to the sewer main. West Bay will also verify that the sewer line is properly capped off.

Officials from the town’s code enforcement division visit the property at least two times a month, Greenlee said. The last complaint the town received about the property was in April, he noted.

The Tong family could not be reached for comment. ▣

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Coverage of Local Government

“What happened in China?” by Kate Bradshaw

Coverage of Youth And Education

“The Big Lift” by Kate Bradshaw

Photojournalism

Artistic Photo

“Dreams come true” by Magali Gauthier

Enterprise Story

“One family’s battle to stay in Menlo Park” by Kate Bradshaw

Land Use Reporting

“It takes a village” by Kate Bradshaw

Profile

“Looking for trouble” by Barbara Wood

Editorial Comment

“Questions surround councilwoman’s trip to China” by Renee Batti

News Photo

“MP to distribute 1,000 ‘N95’ masks” by Magali Gauthier

In-Depth Reporting

“The long road to the classroom” by Angela Swartz

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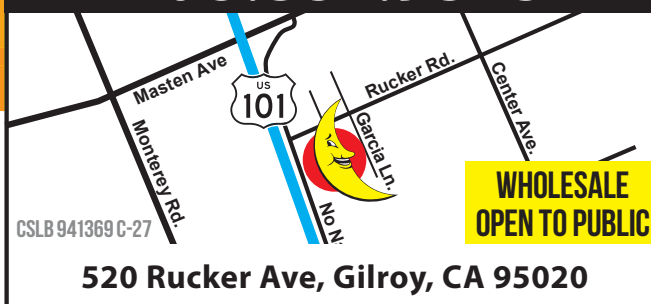


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Standing tall

The results are in for the 2019 Readers' Choice ballot

It's become an annual springtime tradition: Almanac readers support their favorite local places to eat, shop, get a haircut, find the perfect sofa, and fill their every need for services from car repair and plumbing to dry cleaning. Below are the businesses you chose this year as standouts in their fields.

Place For A Date

According to our readers, **Flea Street Cafe** offers just the right environment for a date. The cozy restaurant features fresh seasonal meals, and "people can hear each other talk while enjoying delicious food and cocktails," according to owner Jesse Cool, a cookbook author and a widely respected leader of the sustainable, locally sourced food movement.

3607 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park | (650) 854-1226 | cooleatz.com

Casual Dining, Outdoor Dining, Place To Meet People, Independent Coffee And Tea House

Cafe Borrone has done it again: It crosses the finish line first in four categories. As anyone can see who walks by the Menlo Center, at the corner of Santa Cruz Avenue and El Camino Real, this longtime local favorite buzzes with people and conversation. Patrons can enjoy their food and drinks in the plaza, next to the fountain.

1010 El Camino Real,

Menlo Park | (650) 327-0830 | cafeborrone.com

French Restaurant, Happy Hour

Left Bank French brasserie apparently has many happy diners, who have voted the downtown Menlo Park brasserie No. 1 in both the French restaurant and the happy hour categories. A favorite place to dine since it opened in 1998, Left Bank hosts happy hour from 3 to 6:30 p.m. and from 9 p.m. to closing time.

635 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park | (650) 473-6543 | leftbank.com

American Food, Live Music

Menlo Tavern, located at the Stanford Park Hotel, has won a place in the hearts of those who love great food and live music. The menu features what the restaurant calls "elevated American food" that follows the seasons. The restaurant is open seven days a week, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. And live music is an added treat every evening from June to mid-October.

100 El Camino Real, Menlo Park | (650) 330-2790 | menlotavern.com

Bakery

Woodside Bakery appears to be as popular in its Menlo Park location as it had been in Woodside. It still offers the pastries, cakes, cookies and other baked goods that have kept customers coming back for more than 35 years. The bakery, now located in the Sharon Heights Shopping Center, will bake a custom cake for you, or, if you're in the market, a lovely and luscious wedding cake.

325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park | (650) 854-6207 | woodsidebakery.com

See **READERS' CHOICE**, page 16



Cafe Borrone is still our readers' favorite place to meet people, dine outdoors, enjoy tasty food, and sip coffee and tea.



Menlo Tavern's Executive Chef Jason Dalling, left, and Executive Director Roque Medina outside the restaurant at the Stanford Park Hotel.

Readers' Choice 2019

Announcing our winners

Arts & Entertainment

Place for a Date

Flea Street Cafe

3607 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park

Place to Meet People

Cafe Borrone

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Happy Hour

Left Bank

635 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park

Live Music

Menlo Tavern

100 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Food & Drink

Bakery

Woodside Bakery

325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park

Breakfast

Buck's of Woodside

3062 Woodside Road, Woodside

Dessert

Draeger's

1010 University Drive, Menlo Park

Hamburgers

Jeffrey's Hamburgers

888 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Ice Cream/ Frozen Yogurt

Baskin-Robbins

863 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park

Independent Coffee & Tea House

Cafe Borrone

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Pizza

Amici's

880 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park

Place to Buy Meat

Bianchini's Market

3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley

Sandwiches

Bianchini's Market

3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley

Takeout

Chef Kwan

630 Menlo Ave., Menlo Park

Restaurants

American Food

Menlo Tavern

100 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Asian Food

Chef Chu's

1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Casual Dining

Cafe Borrone

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Dining with Kids

Buck's of Woodside

3062 Woodside Road, Woodside

French

Left Bank

635 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park

Italian

Carpaccio

1120 Crane St., Menlo Park

Japanese

Koma Sushi

211 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Mexican

Cafe Del Sol

1010 Doyle St., Menlo Park

New Restaurant

The Village Bakery & Cafe

3052 Woodside Road, Woodside

Outdoor Dining

Cafe Borrone

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Romantic Restaurant

The Village Pub

2967 Woodside Road, Woodside

Retail

Bicycle Shop

Menlo Velo Bikes

433 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Bookstore

Kepler's Books & Magazines

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Boutique

Shady Lane

325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park

Floor Coverings

Menlo Flooring & Design

905 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Frame Store/ Art Gallery

Portola Art Gallery

75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park

Gift Shop

Ladera Garden & Gifts

3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley

Grocery

Bianchini's Market

3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley

Hardware Store

Menlo Hardware

700 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park

Home Decor & Furnishings

Flegel's Home Furnishings

870 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park

Nursery

Ladera Garden & Gifts

3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley

Pet Store

The Pet Place

777 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park

Place to Buy Jewelry

Shady Lane

325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park

Place to Buy Shoes

Fleet Feet

859 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park

Produce

Bianchini's Market

3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley

Specialty Store

Cheeky Monkey Toys

640 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park

Services

Auto Repair

Portola Valley Garage

4170 Alpine Road, Portola Valley

Barber

Menlo Park Barber Shop

2100 Avy Ave., Menlo Park

Day Spa

Watercourse Way

165 Channing Ave., Palo Alto

Dry Cleaner

Ladera Cleaners

3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley

Fitness Classes

Studio K-Fit

3708 Florence St., Redwood City

Florist

Ladera Garden & Gifts

3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley

Gym

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Hair Salon

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2920 Woodside Road, Woodside

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READERS' CHOICE
continued from page 14

Breakfast, Dining With Kids

Anyone who's been inside **Buck's of Woodside** would instantly understand why readers think this longtime establishment is a great place to bring kids. The decor includes whimsical figures and aircraft hanging from the ceiling; floor and tabletop gewgaws and oddities give special meaning to the word "novelty." What's not for a kid to love? The breakfast menu features traditional fare — portions are hearty, flavors are satisfying.

3062 Woodside Road,
Woodside | (650) 851-8010 |
buckswoodside.com

Dessert

Our readers have chosen **Draeger's Market**, which has been a part of the Menlo Park community for 64 years, as the No. 1 place to go for desserts. In addition to the market's famous German chocolate cake and other luscious confections




Buck's of Woodside offers satisfying breakfasts, a quirky decor and a friendly staff, including Nadine Sady, who's worked there since the restaurant opened 28 years ago.

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2029 Ralston Avenue, Belmont
650.232.7154



Woodside Bakery offers a range of items including breads, pastries, cakes and other confections.

to satisfy your sweet tooth, the bakery offers new desserts for the summer season, such as vanilla coconut cake and s'mores cheesecake. The recently remodeled market added a "grab and go" dessert section, and offers a broader range of bakery goods.

1010 University Drive, Menlo Park | (650) 324-7700 | draegers.com

Hamburgers

Jeffrey's Hamburgers has again captured the No. 1 spot as the best place to feast on a hamburger. The meat is ground fresh every day, not prepackaged or frozen. For those who prefer a beef-less burger, Jeffrey's offers turkey and garden burgers. Salads, soups, sandwiches, fish and chips, milkshakes and root

beer floats are also on the menu.
888 El Camino Real,
Menlo Park | (650) 322-1959 | jeffreysburgers.com

Ice Cream/ Frozen Yogurt

Our readers are hooked on **Baskin-Robbins** ice cream

See **READERS' CHOICE**, page 18

Chef Kwan's

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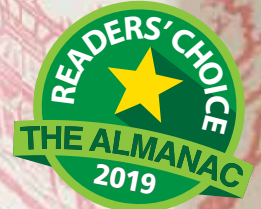
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Readers' Choice 2019

READERS' CHOICE continued from page 17

and frozen yogurt. What flavor do you like? The longtime downtown ice cream shop is likely to have it. Also on offer are sundaes, milkshakes, parfaits and other traditional ice cream fare. And ice cream cakes are an item that keeps customers coming back when they want a cool and irresistible treat for their kids and their guests.

863 Santa Cruz Ave.,
Menlo Park | (650) 323-9335 |
baskinrobbins.com

Pizza

For nine years, Amici's has been serving up pizza — and pasta, soup, salad and other side dishes — to its Menlo Park customers, and Almanac readers approve. They've voted Amici's the No. 1 place to go

for pizza. The thin-crust New York-style pies are cooked in traditional brick ovens next to an open flame. The staff says diners can customize Amici's mac 'n cheese plate "to your taste, with a variety of great additional ingredient options."

880 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park | (650) 329-8888 | amicis.com

See **READERS' CHOICE**, page 22



Amici's is the No. 1 choice for our readers who are hungry for pizza.



Koma Sushi Restaurant serves exquisite and authentic Japanese cuisine and also fine Sake imported from Japan.

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211 El Camino Real
Menlo Park, 650.321.5662
komasushi.net

and
3130 Alpine Road, #240
Portola Valley, 650.367.6547
komasushiportolavalley.com

kanpaipaloalto.com

Please visit our sister restaurant Kanpai
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Thank You!

Almanac Readers
for Voting us again for "Best Mexican Restaurant"

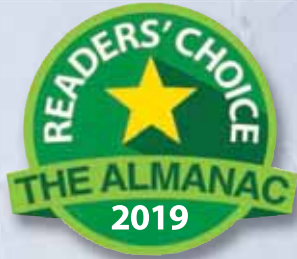
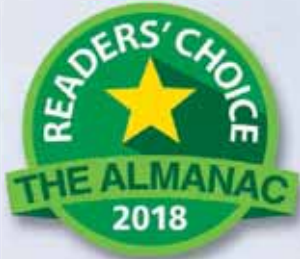
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I've lived in the Bay Area my whole life. I love how Bianchini's has been able to partner with dozens of local food purveyors. I've traveled many places and there is no place with the diversity, quality and local love like the San Francisco Bay area. We proudly represent the best bakers, dairy farmers, growers, ranchers, fishermen, vintners and food innovators. We love local. We talk the talk and walk the walk of local foodies. We believe that there is a definitive correlation to quality food with a taste of place or terroir - a collection of environmental conditions that form a food or wine's unique flavor characteristics and quality.

For over 50 years, the Bianchini family has been part of our local community. My dad, Big Al Bianchini, raised us to focus on and appreciate our local producers. If we partner with them, we'll be able to provide our customers with an incomparable selection that will keep them well fed, happy and loyal. It's a cornerstone of Bianchini's, and we are grateful you are part of it. So here's to you, our local friends and neighbors. Thank you for your support over the years. We promise to continue to love local and live local. From our family of employees to you, thank you for keeping it local and voting us The Almanac Readers' Choice Winner for Best Grocery, Best Produce, Best Place to Buy Meat and Best Sandwiches for the second year in a row!

Kevin Bianchini

PRESIDENT

PORTOLA VALLEY 3130 Alpine Rd, Portola Valley, CA 94028 • (650) 851-4391

SAN CARLOS 810 Laurel St, San Carlos, CA 94070 • (650) 592-4701



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*Chris, Kevin and Joyce
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deleon
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For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.26600Elena.com

Offered at \$4,488,000

OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday & Sunday
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Jazz, Lattes,
& Gourmet Snacks**

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Los Altos Hills.

Michael Repka, Managing Broker, DRE #01854880 | 中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, Realtor® 電話: 650.785.5822 DRE #01933274
650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | DRE #01903224

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BUILT IN SILICON VALLEY
FOR SILICON VALLEY



507 Entrada Way, Menlo Park

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For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.507EntradaWay.com
Offered at \$4,988,000

OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday & Sunday
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Jazz, Lattes,
& Gourmet Snacks**

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park

Michael Repka, Managing Broker, DRE #01854880 | 中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, Realtor® 電話: 650.785.5822 DRE #01933274
650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | DRE #01903224

READERS' CHOICE

continued from page 18

Takeout

Chef Kwan's continues to satisfy those in the market for good Chinese food, quickly served. Located in the former Su Hong To Go space, Chef Kwan's offers a full menu of traditional dishes and a variety of lunch plates.

630 Menlo Ave., Menlo Park | (650) 322-4631 | chefkwans.com

Japanese

Koma Sushi Restaurant is the area's No. 1 place to go for Japanese food, Almanac readers have ruled. Some of its customers' favorites are flounder sashimi, grilled squid, ahi sashimi and a nigiri combination plate, according to the restaurant's website.

211 El Camino Real, Menlo Park | (650) 321 5662 | komasushi.net

Italian

Since 1988, **Ristorante**



The fine food at The Village Pub and an elegant environment make it the favorite spot for a romantic meal.

Carpaccio has been a favorite dining spot in downtown Menlo Park. And it has consistently won Almanac readers' votes in the Italian restaurant category. Carpaccio features weekly lunch and dinner special menus, while also offering a full range of appetizers, soups and salads,

pastas, and meat and fish dinners on its regular menu.

1120 Crane St., Menlo Park | (650) 322-1211 | carpaccios.com

Mexican

Cafe Del Sol in downtown

Menlo Park offers extensive lunch and dinner menus with traditional fare such as enchiladas, tacos and burritos, as well as a range of chicken, fish, other meat and vegetarian dishes. Salads and soups are also on offer. In the mood for Mexican food? Almanac readers

say Cafe Del Sol is where you'll find the best.

1010 Doyle St., Menlo Park | (650) 326-2501 | cafedelsolmenlo.com

Asian

Almanac readers continue to cast their ballots for **Chef Chu's** as the place to go for great Chinese food. Many of the signature dishes feature fish and shellfish, but there's also lamb, chicken and a vegetarian cold plate on the signature menu. There's also classic Beijing duck cooked in a cast-iron oven, and an extensive regular menu that ensures everyone will find their favorite traditional entrees.

1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos | (650) 948-2696 | chefchu.com

New Restaurant

What's the best new restaurant around? Our readers say it's **The Village Bakery & Cafe** in Woodside. The restaurant's menus are teeming with tempting breakfast, lunch, dinner and brunch items, and the bar features cocktails, wines



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www.cafeborrone.com

Follow us on Instagram: @CafeBorrone

Readers' Choice 2019

by the glass and bottle, and a long list of spirits.

3052 Woodside Road, Woodside | (650) 851-5555 | tvbwoodside.com

Romantic Restaurant

The ambience at **The Village Pub** in Woodside can be fairly described as elegant and warm — no chilly vibes here. The decor, candlelight, and attentive service are features that have made the Pub our readers' No. 1 choice for romantic restaurant for several years running. And if diners insist that exquisite food is as important as an elegant atmosphere, they've chosen the right place.

2967 Woodside Road, Woodside | (650) 851-9888 | thevillagepub.net

Produce, Grocery, Place To Buy Meat, Sandwiches

Since it opened at its Ladera location in 1998, the family-operated **Bianchini's Market** has been a favorite of the

community. Shoppers can count on Bianchini's for fresh local produce, gourmet cheeses, and groceries from small producers whose items are not found in chain stores. Bianchini's is also valued by readers for its meat counter and sandwiches.

3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley | (650) 851-4391 | bianchinismarket.com

Bicycle Shop

With its commitment to bicycle riders of all types, great customer service, and wide selection of bikes, **Menlo Velo Bicycles** has long been loved by our readers. The shop rents bikes in addition to selling them, and their wide selection includes everything from road to comfort to electric bicycles.

433 El Camino Real, Menlo Park | (650) 327-5137 | menlovelobicycles.com

Bookstore

Kepler's Books & Magazines has long been a beloved cornerstone of the Menlo Park community. It offers customers a broad collection of books and

magazines, and its nonprofit arm, the Kepler's Literary Foundation, hosts author events, literary discussion groups, and events for youth "to ignite a passion in students for reading and writing," according to its website.

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park | (650) 324-4321 | keplers.com

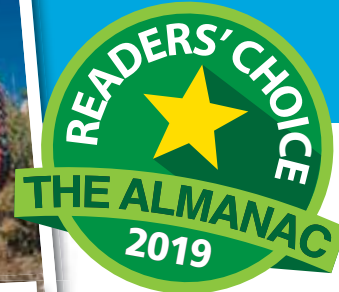
Place To Buy Jewelry, Boutique

A reader favorite for artisan gifts and jewelry, **Shady Lane** has been voted best boutique for the fifth year in a row. The shop offers pieces from both local and international artists and designers. Its collection includes one-of-a-kind jewelry, intricately woven scarves, artisan glass sculptures and wood carvings, and handcrafted soaps.

325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park | (650) 321-1099 | shadylanegallery.com

See **READERS' CHOICE**, page 24

Thank You for Voting Us "Best Place to Buy Shoes"



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www.plumbingservice.com

Readers' Choice 2019



Shady Lane features artisan gifts and jewelry, as well as a friendly staff.

READERS' CHOICE
continued from page 23

**Frame Store,
Art Gallery**

**Gift Shop,
Nursery, Florist**

Floor Coverings

The family-owned and operated **Menlo Flooring & Design** has been installing floors in homes on the Peninsula for over 20 years. Its selection of flooring includes hardwood, tile, custom carpet, linoleum and vinyl. The store's website boasts of "good old-fashioned customer service" and invites shoppers to sign up for a free consultation.

905 El Camino Real,
Menlo Park | (650) 384-6326 |
menloflooring.com

Portola Art Gallery has taken the prize this year in the best art gallery category. The gallery has been showcasing work created by 17 local artists for 13 years at its current location in the Allied Arts Guild complex. In addition to the paintings, photos, and pottery it displays, the gallery also offers art classes and workshops.

75 Arbor Road, Menlo
Park | (650) 321-0220 |
portolaartgallery.com

Ladera Garden and Gifts, operated by Juan and Mercedes Navarro for 38 years, has once again been chosen by our readers as No. 1 in the best gift shop, nursery, and florist categories. With its beautiful custom floral arrangements, friendly service, thriving nursery, and attractive gift selection, the store has long been a treasure of the community.

3130 Alpine Road, Portola
Valley | (650) 854-3850 |
laderagardenandgifts.com

Hardware Store

Menlo Hardware is this year's winner in the best hardware store category. A go-to place for home, garden and building supplies, the independently owned Ace Hardware in Menlo Park has been serving customers since it opened in 2005. The store offers services including key cutting, custom glass and acrylic sheet cutting, blade sharpening, window screen repair, propane exchange, and product assembly and delivery.

700 Santa Cruz Ave.,
Menlo Park | (650) 325-2515 |
menlohardware.com

Home Decor And Furnishings

For over 60 years, **Flegel's Home Furnishings** has been helping Bay Area residents

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We specialize in alterations.

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3130 ALPINE RD. STE. 260, PORTOLA VALLEY
(650) 854-2291
www.laderacleaners.net



Juan and Mercedes Navarro's Ladera Garden & Gifts is a longstanding favorite of Almanac readers.

See **READERS' CHOICE**, page 26



Thank you to
the Almanac Readers
for another great year!



Flegel's Showroom

Flegel's

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Menlo Park

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www.flegels.com

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✦ BEST HAPPY HOUR ✦

635 Santa Cruz Avenue
650.473.6543 | leftbank.com

Readers' Choice 2019

READERS' CHOICE

continued from page 24

decorate and design the interiors of their homes. Customers can schedule meetings with interior designers in Flegel's Menlo Park showroom and select items from its extensive online catalog. Flegel's prides itself on its experienced and knowledgeable interior designers, as well as its ability to "work wonders on any budget."

870 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park | (650) 326-9661 | flegels.com

Pet Store

For the 27th consecutive year, **The Pet Place** has been our readers' choice for best pet store. The Pet Place has a deep commitment to the well-being of animals, demonstrated both through its selection of high-quality products for animals, including items for disabled pets, and adoption fairs to help animals in need find homes. More about the store's specialized services and products can be found on its website.

777 Santa Cruz Ave.,

Menlo Park | (650) 325-7387 | thepetplacemenlopark.com

Place To Buy Shoes

Fleet Feet in Menlo Park is committed to helping its customers find products that improve their fitness experience, as well as to enhancing local running and walking communities. To ensure that shoes fit, in-store outfitters use 3D scanning technology to measure feet, which enables outfitters to find the perfect products for customers. Its customer service and extensive selection of shoes and other gear make Fleet Feet a favorite among readers.

859 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park | (650) 325-9432 | fleetfeet.com

Specialty Store

Cheeky Monkey Toys has been voted best specialty store in this year's poll. The family-owned and operated store prides itself on carrying "high quality toys [...] that center on interactivity and engagement" and a friendly staff that is always

eager to help find the perfect toy or gift. The store carries items for children and adults — "anyone young at heart" — and offers complimentary gift wrapping.

640 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park | (650) 328-7975 | cheekymonkeytoys.com

Auto Repair

Portola Valley Garage has been providing locals with high-quality auto repairs and service since its opening in 1948. The garage boasts, in addition to its repair services, 24-hour vehicle drop-off, online appointments, free loaner cars, and "dealership quality knowledge and experience without dealership pricing."

4170 Alpine Road, Portola Valley | (650) 851-7442 | pvgarage.com

Barber

Menlo Park Barber Shop is our readers' choice as best barber for the fourth consecutive year. The barbers there pride

See READERS' CHOICE, page 28



AMICI'S

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Est. 1987



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— Bruce Bochy



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MOUNTAIN VIEW
790 Castro Street
650-961-6666

REDWOOD SHORES
226 Redwood Shores Pkwy.
650-654-3333

Shady Lane



Earrings by Judi Eichler Design Studio



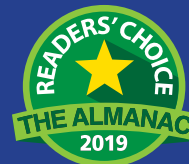
Oberon Designs Leather Journal



Heart by Glass Eye Studio



THANK YOU for
voting us ~ BEST 2019!



Earrings by Holly Yashi



Custom laser cut designs
by Crystal Chambers

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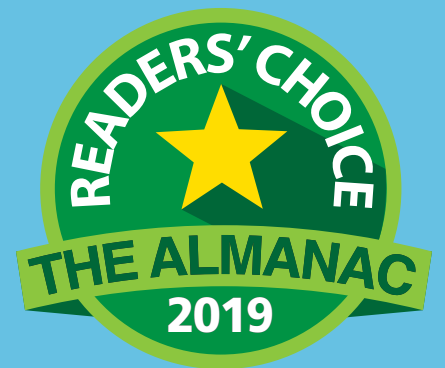
shadylanegallery.com



Jewelry Box by Michael Fisher

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www.menloparkbarbershop.com

Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Sunday by appointment



Anna Chow has a rapt audience at a Cheeky Monkey Toys storytime.

READERS' CHOICE

continued from page 26

themselves on developing close relationships with clients, giving excellent cuts, and "blending craft and tradition with a strong dose of humor."

2100 Avy Ave., Menlo Park | (650) 391-9008 | menloparkbarbershop.com

Dry Cleaner

With its high-quality one-day cleaning, alterations, mending, and reweaving services, **Ladera Cleaners** has been voted best dry cleaner for the fifth year in a row. In addition to clothing, the popular shop also cleans and alters draperies and bedding, and boasts

quick and convenient service.
3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley | (650) 854-2291 | laderacleaners.net

Day Spa

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Ladera Cleaners, whose owner Clara Rhee is pictured, has again taken the No. 1 spot in the dry cleaner category.

experience to spa-goers, with nine hot tub rooms, and an impressive array of massages, facials, and spa treatments. The spa focuses on providing a serene and peaceful experience for clients and therefore avoids communal hot tubs and locker rooms, instead providing private massage and hot tub rooms. The spa offers individual, couple and group options.

165 Channing Ave., Palo Alto | (650) 462-2000 | watercourseway.com

Fitness Classes, Gym

Studio K-Fit is No. 1, our readers say. The studio offers high-intensity but low-impact workouts focused on strength, mobility and cardio through high-intensity interval training (HIIT). Class sizes are small so that instructors can focus on each individual. Personal and corporate training options are also available. In addition to

their fitness options, Studio K-Fit also offers lifestyle coaching, personalized nutrition help and outdoor gatherings.

3708 Florence St., Redwood City | studiokfit@gmail.com | studiokfit.com

Hair Salon

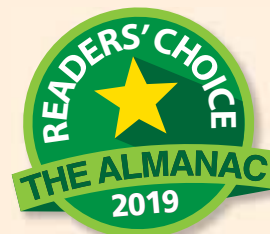
Its charming setting and commitment to its clients are just a few of the reasons readers

See **READERS' CHOICE**, page 30



Studio K-Fit is our readers' favorite in the fitness classes and the gym categories. Pictured are husband-and-wife team Kendrick Ribeiro, founder and programming director, Angie Ribeiro, trainer and director, and their kids.

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Chef Chu's



BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT

- Palo Alto Weekly,
- Mountain View Voice
- The Almanac (Menlo Park)

**"...A LANDMARK
OF BAY AREA DINING"**

-Metro Newspaper

**"...PACE-SETTING GOURMET
CHINESE FOOD"**

-Zagat Guide

**LUNCH & DINNER • BANQUET
COCKTAILS • GOURMET FOOD TO GO**

**1067 N. San Antonio Road
at El Camino, Los Altos
650.948.2696
www.chefchu.com**

Readers' Choice 2019

READERS' CHOICE

continued from page 29

voted **Olive Hill Salon** the best hair salon. Olive Hill specializes in hair cutting, coloring, and styling. In addition to its hair services, Olive Hill is committed to the community, supporting multiple local schools including Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools as well as organizations including the Girl Scouts and Toys for Tots.

2920 Woodside Road, Woodside | (650) 851-1150 | olivehillssalon.com

Hotel

Stanford Park Hotel describes itself as an "oasis" that offers "genuine tranquility in one of the world's most innovative cities." With the hotel's "classic collegiate" spirit, luxurious pool and spa, complimentary in-room snacks, and fireside spots for conversing and reading, our readers think that Stanford Park has accomplished the task.

100 El Camino Real, Menlo Park | (650) 322-1234 | stanfordparkhotel.com

Manicure/Pedicure

Customers can expect quality service, a friendly staff and reasonable pricing at **A Touch of Elegance Nail Care**, a longtime favorite of Almanac readers. In addition to manicures and pedicures, A Touch of Elegance also offers facials and other services. Walk-ins are also always welcome.

1150 Crane St., Menlo Park | (650) 321-0679

Plastic Surgeon

Dr. Jane Weston has been bringing expertise in plastic surgery to Bay Area patients since 1985. A graduate of Stanford Medical School, Weston has served as chair of both the Ethics Committee and Women Plastic Surgeons Committee of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons.

1047 El Camino Real, Menlo Park | (650) 457-6291 | janewestonmd.com

Plumber

Founded in 1948, **Guy Plumbing & Heating** is in its fourth generation of family ownership and operation. Guy Plumbing is known for its fast service and friendly and knowledgeable staff. In addition to its plumbing services, Guy Plumbing is an authorized parts distributor with thousands of items stocked. It has an online store as well as a showroom in Menlo Park.

1265 El Camino Real, Menlo Park | (650) 323-8415 | guyplumbing.com

Yoga

Studio Rincon has been our readers' choice for best yoga studio since 2012. Studio Rincon offers a variety of different yoga and fitness classes for all levels, as well as ballet and hip-hop classes for children. Adult classes include gentle, power, and vinyasa yoga, as well as Zumba and cardio hip-hop. The studio ensures small class sizes so that instructors can focus on each individual, and classes are designed to be fun while still providing a good workout.

3536 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park | (650) 861-0242



Olive Hill Salon is a longstanding winner in our Readers' Choice contest.



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FIRE PITS



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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Las Lomas Elementary School District of San Mateo County, California, hereby invites and will receive sealed proposals for the furnishing of all labor and materials for the following work:

La Entrada Stockpile Soil Off Haul

Project specifications will be distributed via: Mandatory Bid walk

Additional project specifications may be viewed at:

Las Lomas School District Main Office

1011 Altschul Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025

By appointment only / 48 hr. notice or Online via District document portal

Call 650-854-6311 ext 42 for appointment or directions to access online portal

Written bids must be submitted no later than

2:00 PM Thursday July 25, 2018

at the Las Lomas Elementary School District Main Office or via email.

Mandatory Pre-bid conference has been scheduled for

2:00 PM Thursday July 18, 2018

Attendance is mandatory at pre-bid conference. Attendees must be present for the entire meeting in order to be deemed a qualified bidder.

Meet at The following Site: La Entrada Middle School (Meet at main office)

2200 Sharon Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025

In accordance with the provisions of California Business and Professions Code Section 7028.15 and Public Contract Code Section 3300, The District requires that the bidder possess the following classification of contractor's license at the time the bid is submitted:

**Class A General Engineering or
Class B General Contracting or
Class C-12 Earthwork and Paving
C-27 Landscaping
D-63 Construction Cleanup**

Any bidder not so licensed at the time of the bid opening will be rejected as non-responsive.

No bids will be accepted from, or a contract awarded to, any party or firm in arrears to the District or who is a defaulter as surety, contractor, or otherwise.

Each bid must be accompanied by certified check, cashier's check, or bidder's bond in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the tendered bid, made payable to the order of Las Lomas Elementary School District as a guarantee that the bidder will, after being notified of acceptance of his/her bid, enter into a contract with the Board in accordance therewith and file the necessary bonds as called for in the Specifications.

Rejection of Bids

The board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The Board also reserves the right to waive any informality in any bid received.

Selection of Lowest Bid

The successful bidder will be selected per the lowest base bid.

Per Public Contract Code Section 20103.8

Prevailing Wage Requirements

This Project is a "public work" to which general prevailing wage rates will apply in accordance with Labor Code Section 1770, et seq. The Prevailing wage rates are available on the DIR website at www.DIR.ca.gov.

The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall pay all workers on all work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the School District.

This project is subject to labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, of the Labor Code. Contractor and all subcontractors shall submit certified payroll monthly via the eCPR system.

No contractor or subcontractors may be listed on the bid proposal unless registered with the DIR pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5.

Escrow Accounts

Pursuant to Section 22300 of the Public Contract Code, the Agreement will contain provisions permitting the successful bidder to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the agreement or permitting payment of retentions earned directly into an escrow account.

Payment Bond

Before commencing any work under the contract, the Contractor shall file a Payment Bond with the Owner. It shall be a surety bond, shall be issued by corporations duly and legally licensed to transact business in the State of California and approve by the Owner. They shall be issued at the expense of the Contractor; and shall be maintained by him and at his expense during the entire life of the Contract. This bond shall be in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price and shall secure the payment of all claims for labor and materials used or consumed in the performance of this contract.

Disabled Veteran's Business Enterprise

In accordance with Education Code Section 17076.11, The Las Lomas Elementary School District has "a participation goal of at least 3% per year of the overall dollar amount expended each year by the school district for Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises." Thus, all contractors bidding on this project are required to make a good faith effort to achieve this 3% participation goal. Requirements for showing that this good faith effort has been made are included in the Project Manual

Trial date set in Menlo box-cutter slashing case

Marvin Lomeli, 21, of Redwood City will face a jury trial on July 22 on charges of assault with a deadly weapon and assault with intent to commit great bodily injury after a stabbing in Menlo Park on April 30, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

Lomeli pleaded not guilty to the charges and to a misdemeanor count of possession of methamphetamine on May 2.

A preliminary count of attempted murder was dropped because of insufficient evidence of intent, according to the DA's office.

Lomeli is also the defendant in a misdemeanor drug possession charge involving heroin. He was found with two syringes containing the drug after he was stopped by officers in Redwood City on Jan. 29.

A hearing in that case has been set for July 16, according to Deputy District Attorney Al Serrato.

"The heroin charge is trailing so it will be resolved either in conjunction with or following the felony since the penalty is so much lighter," Serrato said.

In the assault case, Lomeli was with the victim, a 60-year-old Redwood City man, at the victim's home, and left in the

early morning on April 30, according to District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

After Lomeli left, the victim realized his cellphone was missing and thought Lomeli had stolen it. He got in his car and went looking for Lomeli and found him in the 3700 block of Haven Avenue in Menlo Park at about 1:13 p.m., according to Wagstaffe.

The victim confronted Lomeli, who allegedly pulled out a box cutter and slashed and stabbed him five times in the back of the head and neck, Wagstaffe said.

When passersby intervened, Lomeli fled the scene and allegedly threw the box cutter in a slough, where it was recovered by police, Wagstaffe said.

Officers found Lomeli near Marsh Road and Highway 101 in Menlo Park. He was allegedly carrying a small amount of methamphetamine when he was arrested, according to Wagstaffe.

The victim was treated at Stanford Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries, Menlo Park Police Department spokesperson Nicole Acker said.

Lomeli remains in custody on \$35,000 bail.

— By Rick Radin

Two construction site burglaries over Fourth of July weekend

Someone stole tools and other items from two residential construction sites in west Atherton over the Fourth of July weekend, police said in a press release on July 8.

The combined loss between the two burglaries is nearly \$30,000, said Atherton Police Cmdr. Joe Wade in an email.

Between 5 p.m. on July 3 and 7:50 a.m. on July 8, someone entered a construction site on the 200 block of Stevick Drive by cutting a cable lock attached to a gate, Wade said. The burglar(s) then broke a lock on an office door and removed tools and pieces of construction equipment there before entering the main unsecured residence under construction, where they took other items.

The thief stole about \$7,775 worth of items, including four drills, three DeWalt miter

saws, a chainsaw, a leaf blower and other construction tools, he said.

Blocks away from the other incident, two construction workers reported to police that between 10:45 a.m. on July 7 and 7 a.m. on July 8, someone cut a padlock attached to a chain-link fence surrounding a construction site on the 100 block of Alta Vista Drive, Wade said. There, burglars stole about \$21,542 worth of construction equipment, he said.

The stolen items include about 13 drills, two Stihl chop saws, a rotary hammer, two Milwaukee Sawzalls and other construction tools, he said.

Police do not have suspects in either of the burglaries, Wade said. It's not clear at this point if the burglaries are connected.

— By Angela Swartz

Calvin Quate, inventor of advanced microscopes, dies at 95

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

Calvin “Cal” F. Quate, a Stanford University applied physics professor, electrical engineer, and inventor of advanced microscopes, died July 6 at age 95 in his Menlo Park home, according to a Stanford News Service announcement.

Born Dec. 7, 1923, in Baker, Nevada, Quate grew up learning to ride horses and tend sheep before relocating to Salt Lake City with his family in 1934.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of Utah in 1944, and upon graduating was selected to work at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee as part of the Manhattan Project, the research and development project that produced the first atomic bombs during World War II.

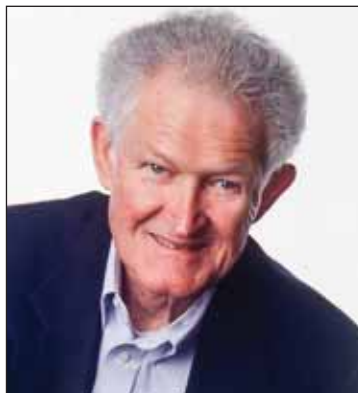
In 1950, Quate entered the doctoral program at Stanford, and later joined the technical research staff at Bell Telephone Laboratories, where he worked in microwaves. He later became associate director of electronics research at the facility.

In 1959, he began working at Sandia Corporation, and was appointed vice president and director of research there the following year.

In 1961, he joined Stanford’s faculty as a professor of applied physics and electrical engineering, a department he remained in for the rest of his career.

While at Stanford he served as department chair from 1969 to 1972 and from 1978 to 1981; from 1972 to 1974, he was associate dean in the School of Humanities and Sciences. He also chaired the department of electrical engineering from 1986 to 1988, according to the university.

In the mid-1980s, he worked with collaborators from IBM to introduce the atomic force microscope, which enabled the detection of previously imperceptible details in the surfaces of solid materials. He also created the scanning acoustic microscope in 1978, which used high-frequency sound waves to apply gentle pressure to objects under observation, allowing for new measurements of the internal structures, density, elasticity and viscosity of living cells without harming them.



Cal Quate was the recipient of the National Medal of Science and other awards.

Former dean of the School of Engineering Jim Gibbons summarized Quate’s approach to the work he did at the university: “His position on most matters of academic administration can be stated in two short sentences: ‘Do we need to do this?’ or ‘I’ll do it.’ I felt honored to know him and I will miss him greatly.”

Bob Byer, photon science professor and longtime colleague of Quate’s, shared with the Stanford News Service his memory that Quate had left a drawing of the microscope’s schematic, with notes, on a

blackboard before the invention was complete. Byer also recalled Quate at one point shouting, “It works!” when the microscope started functioning.

During his career, Quate earned the National Medal of Science, the Kavli Prize, the Rank Prize for Opto-Electronics and the Medal of Honor from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He was also elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1970, the National Academy of Sciences in 1975 and Britain’s Royal Society in 1995, and was named “Scientist of the Year” in R&D Magazine.

According to Byer, Quate was affable and soft-spoken, and offered opinions gently and only when asked.

“Cal was a special man,” he said. “He earned respect with very few words.”

Quate is survived by his wife of 23 years, Arnice Pearl Streit, a former associate dean of finance at Stanford’s School of Humanities and Sciences.

He is also survived by daughters Robin Rain, Rozwin Liera, Holly Quate and Rhoda Quate, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, plus three of Streit’s children from a previous marriage: Chris Guerrini, Carol Bauer and Richard Streit. His first wife, Dorothy (Marshall) Quate, died in 2017.

The family has planned a private remembrance and asks that memorial donations in Quate’s name go to Stanford’s department of applied physics or department of electric engineering.

A Stanford memorial service is being planned; details will be announced when they are available. ■

Former Atherton resident, roller derby league owner Jerry Seltzer dies at 87

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

Longtime former Atherton resident Jerry Seltzer, 87, died on July 1 from pulmonary fibrosis.

Seltzer, who lived in Sonoma most recently, owned a roller derby league and had various business ventures during his life, according to his son Steve Seltzer, who confirmed his death. Seltzer lived in Atherton from around 1963 to 1978, his son said.

“I won’t dwell on this and have no fear of death,” Jerry Seltzer wrote in a blog post last September when he learned his pulmonary fibrosis diagnosis was terminal. “I have had a great and interesting life, and love my family, children and grandchildren, and the others who have brought me to this point.”

Born in Portland, Oregon, on June 3, 1931, Seltzer moved to Chicago when he was 12. He attended Stanford University and Northwestern University, earning a bachelor’s degree in business from Northwestern.

Seltzer’s father, Leo Seltzer, created the roller derby league and invented the sport of roller



Jerry Seltzer

derby in the 1930s in Chicago, according to Steve Seltzer. Jerry Seltzer worked for a sporting goods company, and spent evenings as a trackside announcer for the Roller Derby, his son said, adding that he took over the league in 1959 and used videotapes to build the sport into a major attraction.

Jerry Seltzer also started Bay Area Seating Service (BASS), a computerized ticketing service, his son said. During his time with BASS, he and the company were active in charitable organizations and philanthropic ventures such as Thunder Road and The BASS

Tickets Foundation, according to his son.

In another life pursuit, Jerry Seltzer also toured as the box office and tickets manager for Bob Dylan’s Rolling Thunder Review in 1974, Steve said, adding that his father also worked with Charlie MacGoo Productions to put on shows featuring Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson, Johnny Cash and others.

After BASS, Seltzer worked for Ticketmaster as executive vice president of sales. He then moved to Sonoma and founded the Sonoma Film Festival to help revive the Sebastiani Theater, his son said.

Seltzer is survived by his ex-wife Marjorie Seltzer; his children Richard, Steven and Ellen; and four grandchildren.

The family plans to host a celebration of life at a later time, Steve Seltzer said. ■

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JOE RUSSO'S ALMOST DEAD
AUG. 17, 2019

24

LIONEL RICHIE
AUG. 24, 2019

1

THE NATIONAL FEAT. ALVVAYS
SEPT. 1, 2019

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Stanford

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USGS move from Menlo Park to Moffett begins

By Mark Noack

Laying the groundwork for a new epicenter for research, the U.S. Geological Survey last week formally began its relocation from Menlo Park to its new headquarters at Moffett Field in Mountain View.

The transition, which is expected to take three years, will eventually close the USGS West Coast science center in Menlo Park and bring its 420-person workforce to the NASA Ames Research Park.

At a July 10 ribbon-cutting event, USGS and NASA senior officials touted the possibilities the move would create for the two federal science agencies to work together. USGS, best known to Californians as the agency that monitors seismic activity, is expected to coordinate with NASA on a host of future projects, using newer technology

and automated equipment to pursue its research.

"This relocation sets that stage for a quantum leap in our partnership with NASA," said USGS Southwest Regional Director Mark Sogge. "This move ushers in a new era for USGS, and for me it's an incredibly exciting future."

The decision to move to Moffett Field from Menlo Park was in large part financially based. USGS has reportedly paid \$7.5 million a year to lease its Menlo Park offices, and that rent was expected to spike in the coming years.

The USGS campus at 345 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park is owned by the General Services Administration, the government agency that serves as a property manager for federal office buildings. The GSA is obligated under federal law to charge market-rate rent for its properties, even in

pricey locales such as the Bay Area, where office space goes for a premium cost.

"Like everyone else, we're dealing with the added costs for being in the Bay Area," Colin Williams, a USGS science center director who is part of the transition team, explained in an earlier interview.

The new NASA offices were reportedly a bargain in comparison. By moving to Moffett, USGS officials say, they could also consolidate their divisions under one roof.

But it is a bittersweet transition for USGS employees, many of whom have worked in Menlo Park for decades. When the move was first announced in 2014, Sogge said some staffers were "in tears" out of concern that their jobs would be on the line if the agency left the Bay Area. The biggest challenge now facing the

agency is convincing nervous staffers that the move was a good choice, he said.

The new USGS center is located at NASA Ames Building 19, a 1930s structure formerly used as a U.S. Navy barracks during the site's days as a military base. More recently, the building has been partitioned and leased for a variety of research startups and outside contractors.

At the ribbon cutting this week, the new USGS offices on the building's second floor were still mostly vacant, an expanse of empty cubicles and offices. A new air-conditioning system and IT network was installed in preparation for the move.

NASA officials at the ribbon cutting emphasized the potential to benefit from their fellow scientists at USGS. The earth sciences have plenty of overlap with the study of distant planets and moons, said Dan Alfano, chief of NASA's Intelligent Systems Division. In the coming months, he said, his team would be working with USGS to automate aspects of their field research, such as using unmanned drones to track map changes to rivers and terrain.

In turn, NASA would benefit

from the immense data collected by decades of geological research. That information could be loaded into a machine-learning system to help analyze other planets' geology.

"Bringing these agencies together gives us an amazing scientific talent pool," Alfano said.

By early August, USGS officials expect at least 200 employees to be in place at Moffett, and they gave assurances the transition wouldn't cause any interruption for their research.

What will take longer to relocate is the agency's advanced seismologic gear. In some cases, this equipment will need to be rebuilt. For example, USGS officials were still looking for a new site at Moffett Field to locate an 80-foot "seismic tower," used to quickly relay earthquake data from a network of monitors across the country. A full transition for personnel and equipment won't be complete until 2022, said Colin Williams, director of the USGS geophysics division.

And is the new building seismically safe?

"That was one of the first things we checked," Williams said with a laugh. "Our seismologists, they wanted to see all the structural work of this building before they moved in." ■



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Menlo Park names new assistant community development director

Chuck Andrews, a senior building inspector working with the city of Menlo Park, has been promoted to assistant community development director. He will be responsible for overseeing the processing of development permits, checking plans, doing inspections and ensuring compliance with the building code.

Andrews has previously worked as a building official supervising Cupertino's Apple, Inc. development project, Apple Park. He has a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Phoenix and several certifications from the International

Code Council. He started working with the city of Menlo Park on contract in April 2018 and then became part of permanent staff in October.

"Chuck has strong experience managing projects and our inspection operations, plus he is familiar with building codes and the Menlo Park community from his time as senior building inspector," City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson said. "He has been a key part of the city's success and is well-prepared to keep the division moving forward in this essential position."

— By Kate Bradshaw

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@pawekly.com.



Harper Point Photography

Mandy Harvey, who lost her hearing as a teenager, performs on July 24.

Mandy Harvey to perform at fundraiser to benefit hearing impaired patients

By **Kate Daly**
Special to the Almanac

A singer loses her hearing as a teenager, and then a decade later tours the world to perform her original songs and share her story of perseverance.

Mandy Harvey, an “America’s Got Talent” Golden Buzzer winner on TV a couple of seasons ago, brings her inspirational talent to the Peninsula to raise money to help under-served and under-insured patients obtain hearing health care.

On Wednesday, July 24, Harvey will sing and play the ukulele at the Pacific Hearing Connection’s benefit at Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way in Palo Alto. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. with wine, cheese and a silent auction.

Audiologists at Pacific Hearing Service in Menlo Park and Los Altos started the nonprofit Pacific Hearing Connection in 2016. Since then they have screened

and/or treated hundreds of people on a reduced-fee or sliding-scale basis. In exchange patients are asked to give back to their communities by volunteering somewhere.

Co-founder Jane Baxter says the idea is to “give them a hand up, not a hand out.”

Patients range in age from 5 to 92, and are originally from Afghanistan, Japan, China, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Russia, as well as the Bay Area.

The nonprofit collects used hearing aides to provide to some patients, but primarily depends on donations, grants and corporate sponsorships.

Benefit tickets are on sale at brownpapertickets.com/event/4218400, Pacific Hearing Service, and by calling (800) 838-3006. Tickets start at \$60.

Go to pacifichearingconnection.org for more information about the nonprofit Pacific Hearing Connection. ■

Menlo Summer Fest returns this weekend

This year’s Summer Fest in downtown Menlo Park will feature all the fan favorites: local artists, food trucks and craft beer, and “the best two days of music ever in Menlo Park,” according to organizers.

The festival is this Saturday and Sunday, July 20 and 21, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Vendors and artisans will be set up along Santa Cruz Avenue from El Camino Real to Johnson Street, and Fremont Park will be a hub for various activities, including a yoga/pilates session on Saturday morning and the Facebook Community Music Stage.

The “Artsplash” portion of the festival will feature over 200 artists working in various media.

The crafts on display will include glass art of creatures of land and sea, custom doll’s clothing, and handmade redwood furniture.

A lineup of 13 musical groups will perform throughout the weekend, including a Chicago tribute band, a Cuban Hip-Hop DJ, and a harpist.

Additional activities include a 5-K run and walk sponsored by Fleet Feet Menlo Park, beginning Sunday at 9 a.m., and a “Super Duper Kidz Funzone” featuring a climbing wall, face-painting, and carnival-style rides.

For more information, visit summerfest.miramarevents.com or facebook.com/MenloSummerfest.

— By *Matthew Vollrath*

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

MENLO ACCOUNTING & CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281659

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Menlo Accounting & Consulting, located at 405 El Camino Real #504, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
PATRICIA LOPEZ-JARAMILLO
231 Robin Way
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 June 20, 2019.

(ALM June 26; July 3, 10, 17, 2019)

A & A BROTHERS LANDSCAPING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281688

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

A & A Brothers Landscaping, located at 2921 Westside Ave. #1, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
RUBY GALICIA
2921 Westside Ave. #1

Redwood City, CA 94063

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 June 24, 2019.

(ALM July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019)

AGUAYOS GARDENING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281720

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Aguayos Gardening, located at 131 Oak Avenue #2, Redwood City, CA 94061, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
LUIS HERNANDEZ AGUAYO
131 Oak Avenue #2
Redwood City, CA 94061

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1-1-19.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 25, 2019.

(ALM July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019)

YELLA ACTIVEWEAR
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281580

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Yella Activewear, located at 1800 White Oak Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
DANIELLA MIZRAHI
1800 White Oak Dr.

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 Feb. 2019.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 13, 2019.

(ALM July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019)

BELLA SILK ART
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281723

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Bella Silk Art, located at 25 Jeter St., Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
JEAN STAGNARO
25 Jeter St.

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 6/25/19.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 25, 2019.

(ALM July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2019)

SAND HILL PR PARTNERS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281764

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Sand Hill PR Partners, located at 325 Sharon Park Dr. #219, Menlo Park CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
TERRI LEE ROBBINS
736 Fremont St. No. 1

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 July 1, 2019.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 1, 2019.

(ALM July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2019)

DARAH ROOFING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281848

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Darah Roofing, located at 1940 Pulgas Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
JORGE HUAPAYA NECOCHEA
1940 Pulgas Avenue

East Palo Alto, CA 94303

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 July 5, 2019.

(ALM July 17, 24, 31; August 7, 2019)

997 All Other Legals

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: 19CIV02787

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: ALEXANDRA JANE JOHNSON-FREYD filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

ALEXANDRA JANE JOHNSON-FREYD to SASHA SHEN JOHFRE.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: August 9, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: 20, Room: 8C of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to

the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

THE ALMANAC

Date: June 21, 2019

/s/ Jonathan E. Karesh

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(ALM July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: 19CIV02786

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: CHING-HAN SHEN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

CHING-HAN SHEN to HANNAH JOHFRE SHEN.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: August 9, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: 20, Room: 8C of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

THE ALMANAC

Date: June 21, 2019

/s/ Jonathan E. Karesh

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(ALM July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: 19CIV03388

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: CORINNA CLIO MARKENSCOFF-ZYGOURAKIS filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

CORINNA CLIO MARKENSCOFF-ZYGOURAKIS to CORINNA CLIO ZYGOURAKIS.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: August 1, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

THE ALMANAC

Date: June 19, 2019

/s/ Jonathan E. Karesh

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(ALM July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019)

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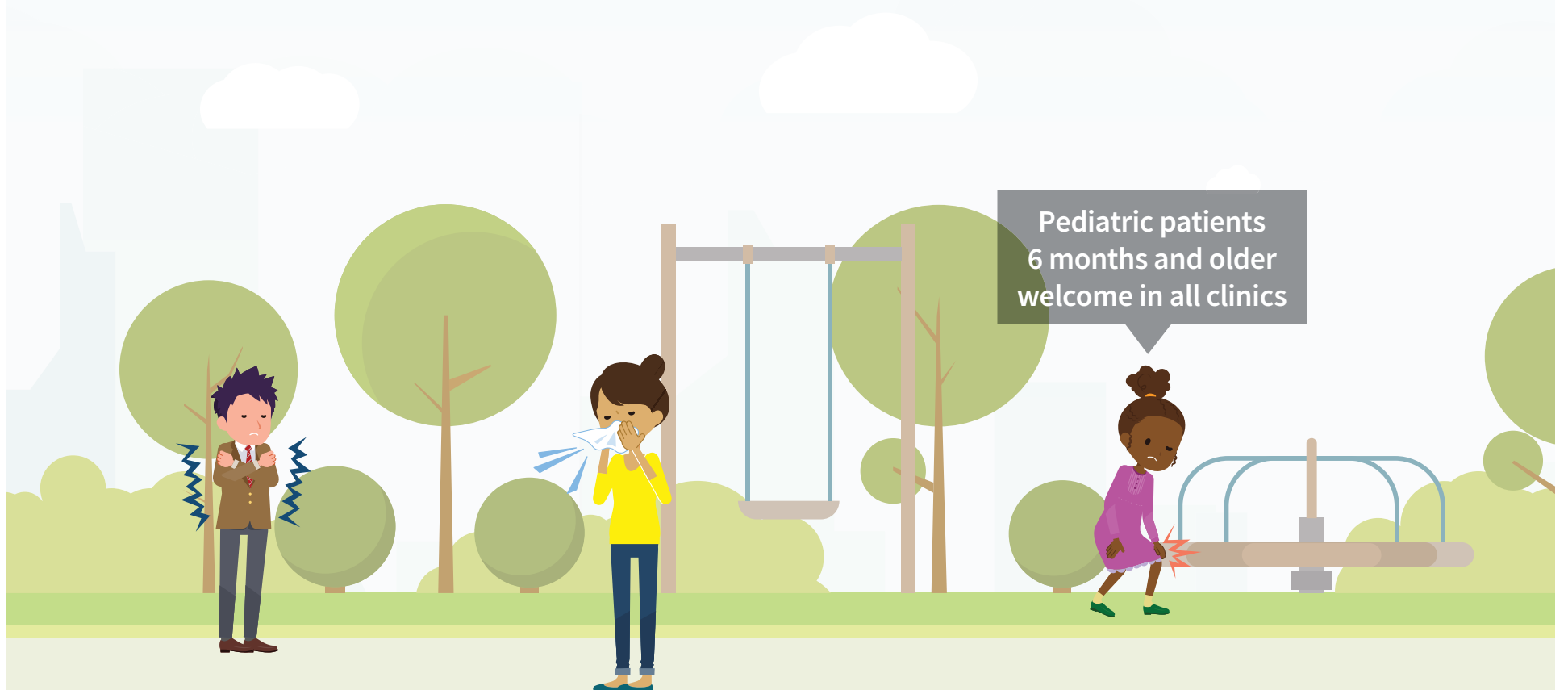
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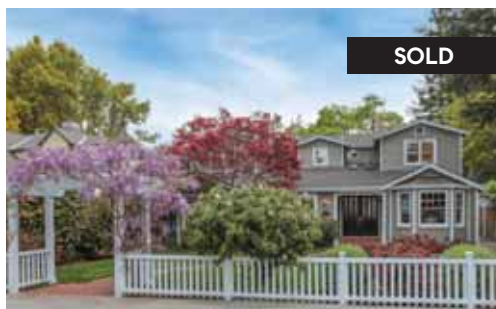
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