

The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

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Local News

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Mutts under the spotlight

Fremont Park was the place to be on Sunday, Sept. 8, if you were a dog, a dog companion, or a dog lover. That's where the first annual Mutt Strutt Super Heroes Dog Show took place, and the canine stars competed in talent, costume and other categories. The event was organized by Friends of Muttville, Silicon Valley, founded and headed by Woodside resident Mary Ancell in support of the nonprofit Muttville Senior Dog Rescue. See the story on Page 12. Photo by Robert Most

Survey: Woodside, PV in the same fire-risk league as Paradise

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

Imagine a day with temperatures in the 90s and gale-force winds blowing in the San Mateo County hills.

Then imagine that someone or something ignited a fire, perhaps a sparking power line or an unattended campfire.

According to a survey of small towns in 11 Western states, such a scenario could trigger a disaster similar to the Camp Fire in Northern California last November that killed 85 people, burned 19,000 structures and destroyed the town of Paradise in Butte County.

The survey, undertaken by USA Today and the Arizona Republic before the Camp Fire and published in July, gave

Woodside a rating on a one-to-five scale of 3.39 and Portola Valley a 3.63 rating for fire vulnerability — the potential for death and destruction from a wildfire — compared with 3.89 for the town of Paradise. (Towns closest to five on the scale are considered to have the highest vulnerability.)

The median wildfire risk in the study was 2.08 for more than 5,000 communities that were surveyed.

Portola Valley was also rated on a one-to-five scale at 3.09 and Woodside at 1.24 in a category called evacuation constraint, meaning the degree of difficulty in escaping a fire, compared with a median of 1.10 nationwide. Residents of towns with

See **FIRE SURVEY**, page 7

Uneven Ground III: Chasing equity in a changing climate

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

East Palo Alto is a cut-through haven, observes Susan Barnes, who has spent the last year puzzling exclusively over how to solve the city's traffic woes. For the former city of Palo Alto economic development and redevelopment manager, it's a huge challenge, but one that excites her.

As an executive fellow with Fuse Corps, a nonprofit that positions professionals to tackle year-long projects in local governments, she's been tasked with helping East Palo Alto, slammed by the rampant commercial growth of its neighbors — including the one she used to work for — make its roads work for its residents.

She's leading a mobility study to try to figure out how to help residents get around a city where a staggering 84% of trips don't start or end in city limits, and where residents themselves drive far less than people who live elsewhere in San Mateo County. According to county health data, East Palo Alto residents travel by car only three miles per day, substantially less than the city's neighbors in more affluent areas: Menlo Park

ABOUT THIS STORY

This is the last of a three-part series exploring why the communities of Belle Haven, North Fair Oaks and East Palo Alto experience greater environmental health burdens than neighboring jurisdictions. Kate Bradshaw reported this story as part of her University of Southern California Annenberg Center for Health Journalism 2019 California Fellowship, with engagement support from the center's interim engagement editor, Danielle Fox. Three bilingual Sequoia High School students, Nataly Manzanero, Ashley Barraza and Mia Palacios, with the author, conducted more than 100 Spanish and English language interviews used

in this report. Some of the photos are provided by middle school students who live in East Palo Alto and participated in a summer program of Girls to Women, an East Palo Alto nonprofit working to empower girls and women in the community.

The Almanac has partnered with Cafe Zoe and will be displaying some of the photographs from this project at the Menlo Park cafe throughout the month of October. We'll share more information as details are finalized.

Go to is.gd/unevenground1 to access part one and is.gd/unevenground2 to access part two of this series.

residents average nine miles per day; Portola Valley, 11 miles; Woodside, 13 miles; and Atherton, 19 miles.

"We have plenty of housing, but we don't have jobs that are available to employable residents. People have to traverse out of East Palo Alto to go to their workplace," Barnes said.

As one of the three primary routes to get to Bayfront Expressway and the Dumbarton Bridge, University Avenue is a critical artery for commuters from the East Bay. Those commuters have access to a few transbay buses but overall

limited public transit options. At the peak evening traffic hour, drivers crossing the Dumbarton Bridge average speeds as low as 4 to 7 mph.

The congestion results in pollutants emitted into the air, which is likely part of the reason that East Palo Alto residents suffer three times the county asthma rate, and kids, in particular, are being impacted.

Sandra Nova, a pediatric nurse at the Ravenswood Family Health Clinic, told the Palo Alto Weekly earlier this year that asthma is the most common physical health problem among

children in East Palo Alto.

The distances between where the Bay Area's job centers are and where the housing units are have led to a regional problem many decades in the making, and East Palo Alto and Belle Haven are stuck in the middle. That locals are being impacted so severely, Barnes said, is part of the reason that she's exploring some bold ideas in the city's mobility study, like congestion pricing — tolls for drivers who use the road at peak traffic times — on University Avenue.

"This community has got a little bit of fatigue about people asking them questions and never getting solutions," she said. "So let's get some solutions."

While East Palo Alto isn't as threatened by toxic industrial chemical spills as it was during the days when Romicon Environmental Technologies was operating there, it and the communities of Belle Haven and North Fair Oaks, which are made up of predominantly minority residents, are now being subjected to a different, chronic and devastating form of industrial pollution: a jobs-housing balance so skewed that it squeezes even middle-class renters out of their homes, makes children wheeze from the tailpipe exhaust of

vehicles driven by people who can't afford to live near their jobs, and leaves huge swaths of Bay Area residents — especially people of color — only two choices: a grueling commute or substandard housing.

A short history

So how did the jobs-housing balance get so bad in San Mateo County?

Alex Schafran, who wrote "The Road to Resegregation: Northern California and the Failure of Politics" and recently spoke at the Menlo Park Library, argues that it has to do with the fragmentation of the Bay Area's political powers.

While Bay Area politicians lean blue and united on social issues, when it comes to questions around housing policy and infrastructure, there hasn't been a regional, committed consensus that has aligned over the fundamental need for sufficient housing and functional transportation for decades, he asserts.

He chronicles how the initial post-war housing and transportation boom dramatically changed the Bay Area, cordoning communities of color into undesirable areas and

See **UNEVEN GROUND**, page 8



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City Council approves \$15 minimum wage ordinance

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Starting on Jan. 1, workers in Menlo Park must be paid a minimum of \$15 an hour, following a 4-0-1 vote on Sept. 10 by the Menlo Park City Council to enact a citywide minimum wage ordinance.

City Councilwoman Catherine Carlton abstained from the vote, saying that although she supports raising the minimum wage, she wants the city to “be more gentle” in giving businesses more time to adapt to a higher minimum.

She also wants the ordinance to apply only to people who work 10, or even five hours a week, because she wants there to be exemptions in the law for informal workers, like young dog walkers or date-night babysitters.

The new ordinance sets the minimum number of hours an employee has to work to be eligible for the minimum wage at two hours a week, in keeping with other local jurisdictions, rather than the 10 hours a week staff recommended after receiving input from the city’s business community.

Several community members raised concerns that a 10-hour-weekly cutoff could give employers incentives to cap some workers’ hours below 10 to avoid the higher-wage requirement.

After 2020, the wage would rise in accordance with the consumer price index, but capped at 3% a year.

The ordinance also permits a “learner’s wage” of no less than 85% of the minimum wage for up to the first 160 hours of work for an employee at a new job.

It would be enforced by a third-party contractor, likely the city of San Jose, at an estimated

cost of \$54,000 a year, according to staff.

The council also discussed the possibility of allowing an interim step for small businesses, but ultimately abandoned the idea.

Councilman Drew Combs explained that while he hasn’t run a small business before, he was comfortable with setting \$15 an hour as the “minimum value of labor that should be offered in our community that a business would pay.”

Anna Chow, co-owner of Cheeky Monkey Toys, said that the change would create challenges for her business by creating up to a 35% increase in pay for employees currently earning under \$15 an hour, with only about three months to plan. The current hourly minimum wage for small businesses is \$11 and \$12 for larger businesses under state law.

Currently, Chow added, the only employees at Cheeky Monkey earning under \$15 an hour are students working part time. Other expenses, such as workers’ compensation and tariffs, also add to the pressures the business is experiencing, she added.

In response, Combs said: “I hear you and I hear your concerns. They’re valid. We are playing catch up here.”

A number of Bay Area cities now have local minimum wage ordinances. Emeryville currently has the highest minimum wage in the region, at \$16.30 an hour. Others are Mountain View and Sunnyvale at \$15.65 an hour, San Francisco at \$15.59 an hour, and Palo Alto, San Mateo and Los Altos at \$15 an hour. Redwood City’s and Belmont’s minimum wage is currently set at \$13.50, with plans to increase it to \$15 an hour on Jan. 1, according to KQED News. ■

Climate impact of megacities is subject of Sept. 18 talk in Ladera

When it comes to the climate crisis, are massive “megacities” part of the problem, or part of the solution? According to Stanford University medical professor Dr. Michelle Barry, the answer is both.

Barry, who also directs the Center for Innovation and Global Health at Stanford, will speak to the many opportunities and challenges that large urban centers present at an event Wednesday, Sept.

18, at Ladera Community Church.

The event will begin with an informal gathering with Barry at 5 p.m. at the church, located at 3300 Alpine Road in Portola Valley, followed by the talk and a question-and-answer session from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Attendees are asked to RSVP at ladera.org/event/drbarry. For more information, visit the website or call the church at 650-854-5481.

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San Mateo County offers residents customized option for disaster alerts

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

Fire departments emphasize the importance of early-alert systems to keep residents informed about wildfires and other emergencies, but what methods is San Mateo County using to broadcast emergency warnings to the public?

"We're pulling out every tool we have available," said Jeff Norris, the county's emergency services coordinator.

"We have access to all parts of the county, and we're partners with all the surrounding counties," he added. "We can directly contact our counterparts and advise them of the threat so they can get out messages as well."

Central to the effort is the San Mateo County Alert system, which sends emergency messages to registered cellphones, tablets, email accounts and landline phones.

"Users can customize their alerts to their neighborhoods depending on the message so we don't disrupt the city for something that only affects two streets," Norris said. "But if a gasoline tank truck accident shuts down (Highway) 101 the

entire length of the county, we would send (the alert) to everybody."

Subscribers are receiving an average of one routine message a day, but a major incident can trigger six or seven messages, he said.

"I receive all of the messages myself but if I was just getting the ones directed to the community where I live, I would not have received one for a couple of months," Norris said.

The service is free to anyone who works or lives in the county. People can sign up at smalert.info.

Slightly more than 11% of the county's 760,000 residents have signed up for the service, including about 50% of Portola Valley and Woodside residents, Norris said.

"Residents with a high wild-land interface are especially concerned about early warning," he said. "They also know who their neighbors are, which can also help spread the word."

The county is also connected to the National Weather Service's radio, which can transmit messages about non-weather-related local emergencies to people who own weather radios.

A weather radio receives weather forecasts from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration radio stations that can also carry alerts about natural disasters, terrorist attacks and other emergencies.

"You can get a weather radio for as low as \$20, with \$60 being the high end," Norris said.

A third system available is known as Reverse 911, which comes with every landline phone account.

The system automatically calls all landline numbers near a location where an emergency is occurring, Norris said.

"It's very rare that you get such a call," Norris said. "We've had maybe five or six so far this year."

The slowest method of alerting people is through social media sites, which rely on people intentionally going to them and reading the messages, Norris said.

SMC alerts and the National Weather Service radio alerts fall under the umbrella of IPAWS, the federal Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. IPAWS gathers alerts over a network and distributes them to the correct systems for broadcast to the public. ■

FIRE SURVEY

continued from page 5

a rating closest to five have the greatest risk of being trapped.

The median age of residents, the number of residents with disabilities that would make it difficult to flee a fire, and the number of mobile homes that could catch fire easily were also factors in assessing the level of fire risk in the survey.

Jonathan Cox, the San Mateo County division chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), said he thinks the report could accurately reflect the degree of danger should a wildfire strike.

"Other parts of the state are as much or even more vulnerable than Paradise," said Cox, who was on the CalFire team at the Camp Fire. "The hillside areas on the Bay side of the county are highly vulnerable."

Red-flag warning days during hot weather with high winds occur much less often in San Mateo County compared with inland areas of the state, but if a deadly fire got started, the county's semi-rural communities could face some of the same vulnerabilities, Cox said.

"Early fires in forested areas at the turn of the century caused the founding of the county fire

department," said Cox. "If a fire started in Woodside, it could burn up to the top of the ridge before it turned east toward the Bay."

Climate change is also making it more likely that the county could have a destructive wildfire. As temperatures rise, the cooling breezes that moderate periods of high temperatures are likely to taper off, making for more days when a fire could get started and spread out of control, Cox said.

The county has more firefighters and firefighting equipment in a smaller area than rural counties in the state, but that advantage could be lost if a fire wasn't contained in time and spread out of control during a period of hot weather and high winds, he said.

Under the most hazardous conditions, such as during the Camp Fire, wildfires can spread at the rate of 1 acre per second, making them virtually impossible to stop after they break out, he noted.

"If a fire burns in normal conditions, we are resource-rich in San Mateo County to combat it," Cox said. "If it burns in abnormal conditions, that's where we are the most concerned."

The county and local towns and cities can take a number of measures in advance of need,

including hiring more firefighters and closing parks and outdoor areas during critical fire weather to combat the threat, Cox said.

Local agencies are working to respond to the challenge, according to Woodside Fire Protection District Fire Marshal Denise Enea, who is one of the officials charged with leading the local push toward fire prevention and ensuring the safe evacuation of residents if necessary.

Fire districts and departments are starting to use computerized tools to look at the number of homes in an area and determine how much traffic streets could handle if residents were trying to access them all at once in an effort to escape, Enea said.

"We have a special situation in the hills where some of our roadways are only one way and, if two cars meet, you come to a standstill," she said.

Officials are promoting evacuation drills so that neighborhoods can practice in advance of the real thing, Enea said.

The fire district is also developing online interactive maps that people could access during an emergency to find where fire hydrants, generators and emergency supplies are located, she said. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



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UNEVEN GROUND

continued from page 5

promoting environmentally unsustainable suburban sprawl. White families took advantage of the federally-funded highways and single-family homes, which helped many achieve middle-class status and accumulate wealth they were able to pass on to later generations.

As Bay Area-wide growth accelerated, though, a growing environmentalist movement—one that was not particularly racially inclusive—pushed back against it, particularly in wealthier communities.

The pushback, however, was one-sided, especially in Silicon Valley, Schafran argues. Communities didn't oppose the growth of their cities into job centers, since more commercial activity meant more taxes to support public services. But they did oppose the addition of housing, especially affordable housing, and joined philanthropic efforts to preserve open space, especially near their homes, making housing growth in these areas increasingly difficult.

At one point during the 1990s, San Mateo County was adding 12 jobs for every new housing unit, he reports.

Developers took their housing construction across the Bay, such as to unincorporated areas in Contra Costa County and beyond. Ultimately, he argues, in the decades after formal segregation ended and communities of color got their shot at the suburban American dream, they were largely priced out of the exclusive Peninsula and, more broadly, the entire West Bay.

When many people of color in the Bay Area got access to the American ideal of suburban homeownership, they got it on worse terms than their white counterparts. The homes that were available were often in the far reaches of the East Bay, and came with destabilizing forces like bad commutes and sub-prime mortgages.



Photo courtesy of Nathalia Arias

In interviews, student photographers from East Palo Alto said they dislike how much trash they see on the streets, but overall feel their community is getting healthier.

During the foreclosure crisis, in communities like Antioch, Schafran reports, the foreclosure rate was about 13 times that of Redwood City and hundreds of times greater than many other parts of Silicon Valley.

Today, communities of color in southern San Mateo County like Belle Haven, East Palo Alto and North Fair Oaks not only bear exclusionary and environmental trauma from their past and barriers to accessing healthy lifestyles in the present, as explored in parts one and two of this series. They also face greater vulnerability to the threats created by increased climate change in the future.

Heightened threats

Research shows that communities defined as being “socially vulnerable” stand a greater risk of being more impacted by the adverse effects of climate change.

According to a 2012 report by the Pacific Institute, some of the factors that make people more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change are being low-income, a person of color, a woman, elderly, a child, someone with disabilities, a renter, geographically or linguistically isolated, and isolated from public agencies because one fears them. People are also more vulnerable if they lack a vehicle, health insurance or a high school diploma, or if they are or have been incarcerated.

The report found that about 22%, or 153,000 people in the county, faced high levels of social vulnerability to climate change.

Some of the greatest threats in the county stemming from a changing environment are air quality and flooding.

Air quality

In southern San Mateo County, the nearest Bay Area Air Quality Management District air quality monitor is located in Redwood City, which precludes more precise readings on traffic-related air quality in other areas,



Photo courtesy of Yahari Mendoza

Protected bike lanes in East Palo Alto are one way to encourage locals to ride, not drive, through traffic not of their making and get where they need to go.

such as Belle Haven and East Palo Alto.

According to Kate Hoag, assistant manager at BAAQMD, the air quality being monitored at the district's Redwood City station is clean by federal and state standards. However, she added, “We do acknowledge that other localized, elevated air pollution can remain in some communities.”

While the BAAQMD's jurisdiction doesn't include vehicle-related air pollution, which is overseen by the California Air Resources Board, the district still supports efforts to reduce such pollution with grantmaking and incentives, district spokesperson Ralph Borrman noted.

The air quality district is also investing in strategies to take more detailed street-level air quality measurements. Its board in March approved a nearly \$6 million contract with the hyperlocal air quality-monitoring company Aclima.

Under the contract terms, the company is expected to drive low-emissions vehicles repeatedly along every street in the district's territory over the next two years. The vehicles are equipped with air-monitoring sensors that will measure baseline concentrations of various air pollutants throughout the Bay Area, and the results will be made public through a community online data portal.

On a more grassroots level, Sustainable Silicon Valley, a nonprofit that is pursuing community work in East Palo Alto to decrease the poor air quality from cut-through traffic, recently installed three air-quality monitors in East Palo Alto along University Drive.

The nonprofit is working on an initiative called “Smart TA” — that's short for traffic analytics — to collect its own data to see how traffic is impacting air quality in East Palo Alto.

Ultimately, explained the

organization's board chair, Drew Clark, the goal is to bring together traffic and air quality data and look for correlations.

Having hyperlocal data about air quality will likely be of use to communities in the future, when air quality is expected to get even worse. According to the Pacific Institute report, an estimated 14 million residents live in census tracts that, by 2050, are projected to have levels of fine particulate matter in the air above the state standard. That's about 39% of California's population, compared with the 15% of residents now affected by high particulate matter levels.

So far, Sustainable Silicon Valley has installed three monitors atop of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District's East Palo Alto station and St. Francis of Assisi Church, which are roughly across the street from each other, and at the East Palo Alto YMCA to track both particulate matter and pollutant gases like carbon monoxide, nitrogen and sulfur oxides, and ozone. The two locations across from each other are intended to help Sustainable Silicon Valley get both upwind and downwind readings, Clark explained.

The organization has found that there's a learning curve to understanding the data to get accurate and meaningful measurements. “You really have to understand the data and the placement of the sensors,” Executive Director Jennifer Thompson said in an interview. It's working with the BAAQMD to learn how to use the air quality monitor readings, and is still in the process of collecting and interpreting data, Clark said.

Menlo Park's City Council representative for Belle Haven, Mayor Pro Tem Cecilia Taylor, has expressed interest in getting air quality monitors in Belle Haven as well.

People interested in learning more about the Sustainable Silicon Valley initiative are invited

to attend a community event about the program from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 4, at the East Palo Alto YMCA at 550 Bell St.

Flooding

San Mateo County has been identified as the California county with the highest number of residents likely to be vulnerable to impacts during a flood.

During rainy seasons, communities have already been victims to dramatic flood impacts, particularly in a set of mobile home parks on Redwood City's Bay side. As a 2017 Peninsula Press article pointed out, the area is in a FEMA-designated special flood zone, which is partly why land is more affordable. There are only two small areas along East Bayshore Road where mobile housing is permitted in the city's zoning.

These households are particularly vulnerable because mobile homes and their residents are often not eligible for post-disaster assistance funds.

On a positive note, on Sept. 12, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed AB825, brought forward by state Assemblyman Kevin Mullin, which will permit San Mateo County to expand its flood protection district to incorporate a broader mission of sea level rise resiliency.

This is expected to help make projects more competitive for state and federal grants and change the governing and funding structure of the existing district to become a separate agency to make it easier to tackle sea level rise-related projects aimed at stemming local flooding risks.

Taking steps for a different future

As the threat of climate change impacts becomes a more imminent peril, several groups in the county are taking innovative steps to engage and develop

See **UNEVEN GROUND**, page 22



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Town considering how to raise more civic center project funds

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

The Atherton City Council recently asked staff to explore how to raise additional funding for the town's civic center project, including the possibility of accepting a loan from an Atherton resident.

During a Sept. 4 council study session, staff recommended that the council consider a financing mechanism called "certificates of participation" (COPs) at about

\$8 million to \$10 million over 10- to 20-year terms to finance part of the construction cost for the project, which is slated for completion in 2021. Without an influx of cash, the general fund balance is projected to be at negative \$1.9 million by October 2020.

Borrowing over a long period of time concerned some council members. At the meeting, council members instructed staff to also explore shorter-term borrowing options.

"We told the community that it's a short-term problem (the cash flow issue) and it feels fundamentally dishonest to say, 'It's actually a 10-year problem,'" said council member Mike Lempres.

The town does not need to decide the term or exact amount to be borrowed before proceeding with the financing process, which will take about 15 weeks to complete, according to a presentation for the Sept. 4 meeting put together by town consultant Urban Futures.

Vice Mayor Rick DeGolia suggested that a resident has expressed interest in loaning the town money for the project, which includes a new mission-style building housing police offices, town administration, building and planning offices, and a council chamber/emergency operations center connected to the new library. DeGolia said the resident could have his or her name put on a building or be similarly recognized in exchange for a zero-interest loan.

"With respect to a loan, any funding option that is not considered a straight donation must conform to the requirements of Municipal Finance Law," said City Manager George Rodericks in a Sept. 13 email. "The Town is limited in its options in this regard."

Town staff will also explore shorter-term COPs, lines of credit, and tax revenue anticipation notes (a one-year lending option).

The town's available projected funding for the project is \$31.6 million, but that's subject to modification based on future projections of expenditures and ERAF revenue, short for educational revenue augmentation

fund, which is not guaranteed revenue in any given year.

A representative from Urban Futures told council members that the extra funds would protect the town if the project ran into problems. Predicted interest rate ranges are low right now on this type of funding — from 1.48% to 2.66%, depending on the amount borrowed and the term of repayment.

Unlike bonds, COPs do not require public approval.

Council members and staff also called into question whether Atherton Now, a nonprofit created to help fund the civic center project, would contribute as much funding as it anticipated based on residents' pledges. Atherton Now had raised a little over \$6 million as of June.

Atherton Now will send a report for the council to review at its Sept. 18 meeting, said Sandy Levison, the group's campaign co-chair, in a Sept. 6 email.

Atherton had to go back to the drawing table after bids for construction of the new center came in 40 percent higher than expected, at \$56.4 million.

Watch the Sept. 18 meeting at tinyurl.com/AthertonCOPs. ■

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- Call 650-330-6760

Creating an environmentally sound community

Saturday, September 21, 2019
9:00 a.m.–Noon*
City Corporation Yard
333 Burgess Drive

*Event lasts until Noon or until the truck is full.

CITY OF MENLO PARK

TOWN OF WOODSIDE
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD
WOODSIDE, CA 94062

PLANNING COMMISSION
September 25, 2019 6:00 PM

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Townwide ZOAM2019-0004

Town of Woodside Planner: Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner

Review and Approval/Denial of a Resolution of Intention and Recommendation to the Town Council to Amend Chapter 153 (Zoning) of the Woodside Municipal Code to:

- Allow electric vehicle charging stations and natural gas fuel pumps within required setbacks if the installation would not have a specific adverse impact upon the public health or safety;
- Eliminate Architectural and Site Review Administrator (ASRA) review of vehicle gates and solid fences/walls in WMC Section 153.212 in favor of review by Planning Department staff to reduce time and cost of these reviews in accordance with the elimination of this review in WMC Section 153.912 adopted by the Town Council on August 13, 2019 (language consistency change only); and,
- Update WMC Section 153.912 (Table Q) to clarify the level of review required for Wireless Communication Facilities (WCF) Permits.

2. 151 Mountain Home Road NCOU2019-0001

Alex and Elizabeth Smith Planner: Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner

Presentation and consideration of a proposal to rebuild a legal nonconforming accessory structure, and to change the use from a barn to a barn pavilion used for gatherings and entertaining. The structure is nonconforming because it is located within the rear and side setbacks.

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.

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Menlo becomes Muttville for a day

By Renee Batti
Almanac Editor

Fremont Park could have been christened Muttville Menlo Park on Sunday, Sept. 8, as canines big and small converged to take a shot at fame — and a possible new home — during the first annual Mutt Strutt Super Heroes Dog Show.

The event was organized by Friends of Muttville, Silicon Valley, founded and headed by Woodside resident Mary Ancell. The Friends group

is an auxiliary of Muttville Senior Dog Rescue, a Bay Area nonprofit organization that tries to find homes for rescued dogs.

Ancell said she launched the Friends group less than a year ago, and Sunday's show was its inaugural event. The show, which Ancell called "awesome," drew more than 100 humans, some with their own dogs, as well as rescue dogs that were available for adoption.

"We are very excited about the community's response,"

Ancell said in a written statement. "Even though Mutt Strutt was open to the public at no charge, it generated initial support of over \$2,000 — and there are pledges still rolling in!"

Those who flocked to the park cheered for their favorite contestants in categories including Best Super Hero, Best Hair, Best Formal Wear, and Best Trick, Ancell said. "Many of the competitors were in costume — dogs and their 'significant humans' alike. Prizes were awarded for best

in each class, as determined by audience applause."

As if the mutts weren't entertaining enough, standup comics Mickey Joseph, who also emceed the event, and Nicole Tran provided laughs, and DJ "Fabulous" Fred took charge of the music, Ancell said.

"And perhaps best of all, it appears there will be two adoptions as a direct result of the event!" she said.

Go to friendsofmuttville.org for information about the Friends group.

Go to muttville.org for information about donating, volunteering, fostering, or adopting from Muttville. ■



Photo by Robert Most

Cream Puff was one of the celebrity rescue dogs under the spotlight at the Mutt Strutt Super Heroes Dog Show in Fremont Park.

County says no reports of vaping illnesses so far

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

With reports of vaping-related illnesses on the rise throughout the country and six vaping-related deaths, San Mateo County health officials say that they haven't seen any specific cases of illness in the county that have been tied to vaping.

"We're not saying that we have any cases right now," said Preston Merchant, communications director for the county health department. "It's a new phenomenon, and we don't have any specific information."

Merchant indicated that the department has no immediate plans for a public awareness campaign, and needs more information on which to base an alert.

Meanwhile, county Supervisor David Canepa is calling for an e-cigarette ban in unincorporated areas of the county, noting in a letter to County Counsel John Beiers that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control has issued a warning urging the public to stop vaping.

E-cigarettes used for vaping work by heating a liquid that may contain nicotine or THC, the active ingredient of marijuana, and other substances, to produce an aerosol that users inhale into their lungs.

There have been 380 cases of

lung illness tied to vaping in 36 states and one U.S. territory, according to a CDC bulletin issued on Sept. 12. The six vaping-related deaths occurred in Los Angeles, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, and Oregon, the CDC reported.

The illnesses resemble an inhalation injury, with the body apparently reacting to a caustic substance. Symptoms have included shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain, diarrhea, and vomiting, according to the CDC. Most of the affected patients reported a history of using vaping

products containing THC, while some used products that contained only nicotine.

The CDC hasn't determined any specific cause of the illnesses or identified any specific e-cigarette or vaping product that can be linked to all of the illnesses. The agency is working with states to classify confirmed and probable cases in a consistent way and is requiring doctors and public health professionals to interview patients to determine product use and individual behaviors, according to the release. ■

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Swimming the distance



Photo by Lisa Amorao

Angel More waits on her boat for one of her swimming adventures to start. She's smeared in Destin baby diaper rash cream, which she uses to protect herself from the sun and the water. **On the cover:** Angel More swims butterfly in the Menlo School pool earlier this month. Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Menlo School teen raises funds for worthy causes while setting records in the water

By **Matthew Vollrath**

Special to The Almanac

Angel More is in it for the long game. Early in her swimming career, More realized she probably wasn't going to the Olympics. "I wasn't ever really super fast at swimming," she admitted.

But as she graduated from the "mommy and me" classes at her local pool in San Carlos into competitive swimming in elementary and middle school, she discovered she had a different talent. Long after her teammates had tired, More

could keep going — and going, and going, and going.

"I wasn't born with anything," she asserted. "I'm no different than any other swimmer. It's just the fact that I can keep swimming forever that kind of sets me apart."

At 16, this Menlo School senior now holds too many long-distance swimming records to count.

It began in earnest at age 11. Her swim coach wanted to try the 1.5-mile swim to Alcatraz from San Francisco before she got married, and asked if anyone on the

team would do it with her.

"No one else wanted to do it," More said. "So I was like, 'I'll take it as a challenge.'"

From there, More began conquering marathon swimming milestones in waves. Open water swims in Sweden, South Africa, and Chile. The 6-mile trip from the Golden Gate to the Bay Bridge, which she became the youngest girl to complete. The 8.7-mile Thames "Bridge to Bridge" in England, the 12-mile "Wharf to Wharf to Wharf" in Monterey Bay, the 13-mile journey around

Angel Island — youngest, youngest, and youngest.

Then, last year, More made the 21.3-mile swim across Lake Tahoe. Paired with her previous swims of the Santa Barbara and Catalina channels, this made her the youngest person by far to complete the California Triple Crown of marathon swimming.

Now, she's set her sights on the world. After her successful 28-mile swim around Manhattan Island (her longest yet) on Aug. 17, the only thing between More and the World Triple Crown is the

25-mile English Channel. And she plans to tackle that later this year.

But all this is just the beginning. The crowns, the world titles — believe it or not, those are short-term goals.

What is the long game? How about solving global warming, fixing juvenile recidivism, and raising \$1 million to combat child poverty?

In the wake of her Alcatraz swim, More says, she started getting major attention. Numerous media outlets wanted to interview her, from local publications to a newspaper in India to CNN, NBC and Fox and Friends. A PR firm wanted to represent her. One day at school, a friend told her that her younger sister saw her as an idol.

“It’s always been just a weird feeling for me,” More said. “It’s crazy to think how many people know about me. It’s strange.”

But More didn’t shy away from the spotlight. Instead, she saw a powerful opportunity to redirect it. “I wanted to move the lens onto something important — something bigger than myself,” she said.

She already had some idea what that could be. When More was born, her parents started sponsoring an Indian girl named Supriya through Children’s International, a charity dedicated to combating child poverty around the world. More says she “grew up with” Supriya, exchanging letters and pictures from their parallel childhoods on opposite sides of the globe.

“So I thought, ‘what better to do than raise money for that organization?’” she said.

If she was going to do that, though, she didn’t want “child poverty” to be an amorphous idea in the back of her mind. So the summer after the Alcatraz swim, she went to Guatemala to visit one of the communities where Children’s International provides aid. The experience, More says, was eye-opening.

“I think before, I never really understood,” she said. “Like, I always thought kids in poverty were just thinking about their next meal, but actually, they’re just like me and my friends. They have dreams, they have goals.”

What they didn’t have were resources and opportunities. “It didn’t feel fair to me that [these kids] didn’t have the same things I did,” said More. “I wanted to use the awareness I was able to give to people [to show them] the fact that it’s just not fair.”

In the five years since, More hasn’t just raised awareness. She’s raised nearly \$60,000 for Children’s International—mostly from donors who sponsor her swims on the website children.org, but also through her own fundraising events. Last year, for instance, she organized “Escape from Alcatraz to Escape from Poverty,” in which dozens of fellow Bay Area high schoolers raised \$8,000 by making More’s original swim.

The money has gone mainly to the Children’s International emergency fund, which provides a buffer for supported kids whose sponsorship is suddenly pulled. Recently, however, More decided to home in on a more specific area: education.

“I’m going into college, and I know how important college is,” More asserted. “I

think [education] is one of the biggest ways that kids can escape the cycle of poverty.”

Angel’s Hope, a campaign More launched in July, aims to give this opportunity to 5,000 underprivileged children around the world. The target, \$1 million, is undeniably ambitious. But after two months, she’s already \$16,000 in.

Child poverty isn’t More’s only area of focus, either. When it comes to solving the world’s biggest problems, she has no shortage of ideas. After all, she says, being alone in the ocean for up to 16

‘I wanted to move the lens onto something important — something bigger than myself.’

ANGEL MORE, SPEAKING OF REDIRECTING THE SPOTLIGHT FROM HERSELF TO WORTHY CAUSES

hours at a time gives her plenty of space to think.

“I think swimming has definitely given me a lot creativity-wise,” said More. “[It] gives me a great outlet for thinking about whatever I want to think about. I always think of new ideas — I’m like, ‘oh, how can we solve that problem?’”

One of the problems More ponders is prison recidivism. In her sophomore year, she visited San Quentin Prison for one of her classes, and ended up returning the following year. There, she once again witnessed something that wasn’t fair: people much like her who had far harder lives due to circumstances beyond their control.

“The biggest takeaway I got from San Quentin was that the people in prison, when they were kids, were in and out of ‘juvie’ as well,” More explained, referring to the juvenile justice system. “They weren’t ever introduced to a life without gangs, violence, and drugs.”

One day, More hopes to take this immense challenge into her own hands. “Of course, it’s a very big aspiration,” she said, “but I really want to make a

nonprofit helping kids who are either in juvie or out of juvie [do something] similar to me — using their own passions to do something good in their community. That way, they’ll feel like they can support the community, and the community can support them back. It’ll give them skills they can use in other jobs, and allow them to support themselves and their families.”

This idea is in line with More’s current interests. When she heads to college next year — hopefully somewhere on the East Coast, she says — she plans to major in business and minor in nonprofit organization. She also intends to minor in environment and sustainability, another global crisis she’s chosen to focus on.

“Climate change is something I’m continuously thinking about,” she said. “I think it seems very daunting, like, ‘wow, this is such a big problem, and it’s affecting the whole world.’”

That hasn’t stopped her from taking action. She’s attended climate marches in San Francisco and posted about them on her blog, angelmoreblog.weebly.com, which sometimes gets hundreds of viewers a day. She’s working with a fellow Menlo School student to organize an “eco week” at their school, in which they’d bring in local climate leaders to speak about sustainability.

But most significantly, she’s dived into an area of the climate question that many others have overlooked: fashion. Because of consumers’ constant desire to “get the latest thing,” More asserted, the clothing industry has become the second-biggest emitter of carbon dioxide.

“The consumer mindset is ‘buy something and throw it away.’ You make the T-shirt, the person wears it maybe three or four times, and then they throw it away,” More said. “Another thing is that companies, when they don’t sell enough clothes, they burn them [instead of donating], because they don’t want to have them given away so easily.”

Again, More has devised a clever entrepreneurial solution. In one of her classes last year, she made an alternative fabric out of biodegradable kombucha. “It’s entirely compostable. You can even eat it,” she said. “Maybe [I’ll eventually] start my own

company where I can sell it.”

But all this, of course, is years down the road. Before More can save the world, she still has to graduate from high school, apply to college, and swim the English Channel — a feat that certainly won’t be trivial.

“It’s a difficult swim because of the distance, and it’s pretty cold, choppy conditions,” she explained. “There (are) boats, shipping channels — very strict rules of where you can start and where you can land. It’s all around a logistically hard swim.”

But More was born for this. She knows how to pace herself. She knows how to set the goalposts far in the distance, chart a course, and just keep swimming.

She knows how to play the long game. And that’s what she intends to do — in swimming and in life.

“Whenever I see something that isn’t fair, or needs to be changed, I always try to [do something],” said More. “I feel like if I have the opportunities, the resources — if I can, why wouldn’t I?”



Photo by Lisa Amorao

More enjoys a bit of quiet time in a boat before she jumps into the water for a marathon swim.



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Angel More swims freestyle in the Menlo School pool earlier this month.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

LAW OFFICE OF KHLOE LEE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282074
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Law Office of Khloe Lee, located at 303 Twin Dolphin Dr. Ste. 600, Redwood City, CA 94065, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
KYOUNGHWA LEE
138 Fleetwood Dr.
San Carlos, CA 94070
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on Nov. 16, 2015. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 30, 2019.
(ALM Aug. 28; Sep. 4, 11, 18, 2019)

EQUIST PERFORMANCE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282279
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Equist Performance, located at 130 Hildebrand Rd., La Honda, CA 94020, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
SUZETTE HAINES
130 Hildebrand Rd.
La Honda, CA 94020
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 August 19, 2019.
(ALM Sep. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2019)

WPV-READY
WPV-CERT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282373
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) WPV-Ready, 2.) WPV-CERT, located at 808 Portola Valley, Portola Valley, California 94028, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
CITIZENS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM, INC.
808 Portola Road,
Portola Valley, California 94028
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 26, 2019.
(ALM Sep. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2019)

MANDY MONTOYA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282384
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Mandy Montoya, located at 1000 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
AMANDA MONTOYA
2060 Sterling Avenue
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 August 27, 2019.
(ALM Sep. 11, 18, 25; Oct. 2, 2019)

M&M HARDWOOD FLOORS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282445
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
M&M Hardwood Floors, located at 928 B Willow Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
M&M HARDWOOD FLOORS, INC.
928 B Willow Rd.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
CA
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 5, 2019.
(ALM Sep. 18, 25; Oct. 2, 9, 2019)

LAW OFFICE OF ALISON MADDEN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282411
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Law Office of Alison Madden, located at 2995 Woodside Rd., #620650, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ALISON M. MADDEN
1548 Maple St., #52
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 August 15, 2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 30, 2019.
(ALM Sep. 18, 25; Oct. 2, 9, 2019)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. 264442
The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.
Registered Owner(s) abandoning the use of the fictitious business name(s):
MUHAMMAD IMTIAZ AHMAD KHAN
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
MUHAMMAD IMTIAZ AHMAD KHAN
5425 Riverside Ave.
San Pablo, CA 94806
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
IPHONE REPAIRING
39A Morningside Dr.
Daly City, CA 94015
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON: March 12, 2015
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY:
Individual.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on September 10, 2019.
(ALM Sep. 18, 25; Oct. 2, 9, 2019)

IPHONE REPAIRING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282494
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Iphone Repairing, located at 318 Westlake Center, Ste. 213, Daly City, CA 94015, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
KHAN COMPANY LLC
552 Columbus Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94133
California
This business is conducted by:
A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on July 2, 2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 10, 2019.
(ALM Sep. 18, 25; Oct. 2, 9, 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.: 19CIV04931
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: JOAN RINGSTAFF filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
JOAN RINGSTAFF to JOAN RAVIER.
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: October 11, 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: August 27, 2019.
/s/ Jonathan E. Karesh
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Sep. 11, 18, 25; Oct. 2, 2019)



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Students help their teachers clean up the Early Learning Center's Oak Knoll School site classroom.

Preschool expands in its second year with classroom at Oak Knoll School

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

Students are experimenting with Play-Doh and crayons, and learning to cut in a straight line as they settle into the first days of the school year at the Early Learning Center (ELC), which recently added students and expanded to another local campus.

The Menlo Park City School District's fee-based preschool, which first opened for the 2018-19 school year at Laurel School Lower Campus in Atherton, has expanded from 54 to 88 students. It added a classroom of 22 students at Laurel, which brings the number up to three classrooms there, and opened one classroom with 22 children at Oak Knoll in Menlo Park.

"It's going really great," said ELC Director Jessica Mihaly, who is overseeing both school sites. "It felt like a fast growth rate, but we hired really excellent, competent teachers."

There are 13 teachers on staff at the center, which serves children just under 3 years old up to 5 years.

The district retrofitted an Oak Knoll classroom for the preschool by adding tot-sized toilets, a small staff kitchen and furniture, Mihaly said. Workers will install a shaded structure in the outdoor area this month, she said.

The ELC ran summer camps for preschoolers from July 8 to Aug. 9. Weekly themes were based on the classic children's literature of Eric Carle, coming from stories such as "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," "I See a Song" and "The Mixed Up Chameleon," according to the school's website. Activities included water and sand play, paint, physical activity, creative music and yoga.

New curriculum

The center is piloting new curriculum created by Sesame Workshop — the nonprofit

behind "Sesame Street" — which is focused on early literacy and social and emotional learning, in which educators teach students to assert their feelings directly, be mindful, make decisions, work well in groups and be self-aware, among other skills. (The Primary School, a private K-8 school started by Dr. Priscilla Chan in East Palo Alto, has also implemented the curriculum, Mihaly noted.)

"It's recognizing at this age the primary task of early childhood is to learn to be good friends and to learn to recognize our own feelings and express our needs appropriately," Mihaly said. "It's an area we want to make sure we're really focusing on for children."

Mihaly said kindergarten teachers would like to see students enter their classes with great emotional regulation skills. The center strives to teach its preschoolers how to manage conflict and stay focused on a task, while also getting academic preparation, she said.

Educators will also participate in a program called Conscious Discipline, where they will learn to integrate social and emotional learning, discipline and self-regulation into their teaching so they spend less time policing behavior, Mihaly said.

More on the school

Tuition cost for the 2019-20 school year for students who attend full-day classes Monday through Friday is \$23,100 (\$2,100 a month). The cost for students who attend part-day classes every weekday is \$16,500 (\$1,500 a month), according to

See **PRESCHOOL**, page 20

Marketplace

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COMPASS

Agency opens Oljon Trail at El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

With a snip of a pair of comically large scissors, directors and staff at the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District cut a ribbon Sept. 6 to signal the opening of the new Oljon Trail, a new 1.3-mile trail segment in El Corte De Madera Creek Open Space Preserve.

The preserve, which already draws mountain bikers and hikers from the region with its 34 miles of trails and dense redwoods, now offers a new reason for its many visitors to venture onto its lush redwood-sheltered paths.

Chris Barresi, an area superintendent with the district who oversees the rangers of the preserves near Skyline Boulevard, said that the preserve has a unique draw for mountain bikers because of its high concentration of technical trails.

Just after the ribbons were cleared, an eager squad of mountain bikers took off down the well-groomed path, anticipating the hallmarks of a good trail: ups and downs, turns that hug the contours of the mountain, and the swerves and swoops that make riders feel like they're on a roller coaster and obstacle course at the same time.

At least, that's how mountain bikers Jill Henrich of Emerald Hills and Judy Silverman of Sunnyvale, affiliated with the Silicon Valley Mountain Bikers group, described their dream trail before they set off as some of the first riders to experience

the new trail.

Early reviews of the trail posted online indicate that it offers a satisfactory, fun, intermediate-level ride.

The trail is named after the native people who first inhabited the area, according to district spokesperson Leigh Ann Gessner.

But the ribbon cutting symbolized something bigger than even a fun new trail to ride: It signaled the district's completion of an 18-year restoration project at the 2,906-acre preserve to protect the San Gregorio watershed.

The preserve is located just off of Skyline Boulevard, situated between the Purisima Creek and La Honda Creek open space preserves.

It's also known by many as "Skeggs," since for many years it was accessed primarily at a parking lot at the north side of the preserve called Skeggs Point.

(The lookout is named after Colonel John Hunt Skeggs, a Caltrans engineer who, during a career with the transportation department between 1919 and 1952, supported the construction of highways 17 and 35, as well as U.S. 101, and an El Camino Real widening project in the area, according to a book about the history of Highway 17.)

According to Gessner, the area had been heavily logged since the 1800s, and many of the old logging roads at El Corte de Madera Creek — which, fittingly, means "cut of wood" in Spanish — were eroding,



Photo courtesy of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Silicon Valley Mountain Bikers President Sean McKenna, right, was one of the first to ride the new 1.3-mile Oljon Trail after the ribbon cutting in El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve on Sept. 6.

causing sediment to build up in the creeks.

The area was also used heavily by motorcyclists before the open space district acquired the property in 1988. Many of the trails were overly steep, which, combined with highly erosive soils, increased sediment in the creeks, explained Ana Ruiz, general manager of the district, during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

That sediment had been threatening the habitat of protected fish species that access various creeks in the watershed, such as steelhead trout and coho salmon, and had affected their spawning patterns.

Much of the work on the watershed restoration project involved remediating land that had been environmentally impacted before the district acquired it. The long-term project involved 24 miles of road and trail work, 10 bridges, six puncheons or foot bridges, and 5 miles of decommissioned trails, Ruiz said. Early monitoring signs indicate that sediment is, in fact, being diverted from the waterways, she added.

The project involved partnerships with the National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The project also received local public support in the form of volunteer hours and dollars.

According to Aleksandra Evert, volunteer program lead with the district, volunteers helped to tamp, or pack down the dirt, as well as remove roots on the trail. They also helped to

"duff" the trail — a term used to describe the process of bringing brush and leaf litter back to the trail to make it look more natural and help slow erosion.

The project was supported with funding from Measure AA, a \$300 million general obligation bond approved in June 2014 by voters in the district that is used to protect, restore and enhance open spaces, as well as improve public access to such areas.

During the trail's construction, special consideration was given to the mountain bikers who use the trail system to provide them a safer way to get around the park than a common route that requires cyclists to exit the park and loop back via Bear Gulch Road and Skyline Boulevard, which can be, as one cyclist noted, "a little sketch."

"Building high-quality trails is one of the things MidPen does best," Gessner said. "It's an art and a science." ■

PRESCHOOL

continued from page 18

the district's website. Beginning this school year, children of district staff and siblings of currently enrolled students will receive a 10% tuition discount.

The district reached its goal this school year to subsidize tuition for 25% of the preschoolers on a sliding scale based on family income. During the 2018-19 school year, 12 students, or 22%, received scholarships, Mihaly said.

Most students are district residents who will go to district elementary schools, she said. A handful of students from Palo Alto and Redwood City attend the school.

Full-day classes run from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and part-day classes are held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Last school year, full-day classes ran from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and part-day, from 1:30 to 5 p.m., with care available until 6 p.m.



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Fabio, 3, plays with a toy truck inside the Early Learning Center's Oak Knoll School site classroom.

The district considered offering two- and three-day options this year, but decided against it because there wasn't enough demand, Mihaly said.

ELC originally planned to expand the program to 72 students this school year, but it grew even more. Mihaly said she is unsure if the center will add

students next school year, but said it will in the long run.

There are still a handful of slots open this school year, and the center will begin enrollment for 2020-21 soon, Mihaly said.

Email earlylearning@mpcsd.org or go to tinyurl.com/elcpre-school to learn more. ■

Longtime Menlo Park resident Mary Whittle Tipton dies at 98

Mary Whittle Tipton, who was a member of St. Raymond Parish in Menlo Park since its founding, died on June 24, just weeks after her 98th birthday.

A resident of Menlo Park since 1951, she and her husband, Benjamin P. Tipton, helped raise funds to build St. Raymond School in Menlo Park, intending to send their five children there. And they did.

Mary Tipton graduated from the Convent of the Sacred Heart Menlo with the Class of 1939. She was a graduate of San

Francisco College for Women/Lone Mountain, and earned a master's degree in library science from the University of California, Berkeley.

She worked as a librarian at the University of San Francisco, and later on the Peninsula and at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, according to her family.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Benjamin. She is survived by her children Steve, Ann, Louise, Elaine and Mark; and eight grandchildren.

High school parent series starts Sept. 19

The Parent Education Series will kick off its annual expert presentations and panel discussions, which take place at local high schools, with a discussion on the transition from high school to college.

During her talk at Menlo-Atherton High School on Thursday, Sept. 19, higher education expert Terri Givens will try to answer the questions: "What should you and your student know about making the transition to college?" and "How can the high school experience prepare your child for a successful career in higher education?"

Givens, the former provost at Menlo College, recently founded the Center for Higher Education Leadership, a portal for professional development for higher education leaders. She has also written books and articles on immigration policy and anti-discrimination politics. She serves as a director on several nonprofit boards.

The Parent Education Series is a Sequoia Union High School District program in which experts in subjects including student academic success and well-being teach district parents, staff and community members about their fields.

Future events this school year include a talk on vaping devices by Richard Ceballos, project coordinator of Stanford Tobacco Prevention Toolkit, Nov. 20 at Woodside High School; and a talk on defining healthy boundaries in the digital age on March 11 at Sequoia High School.

The Sept. 19 event runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in M-A's Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton. Tickets are free and light refreshments will be provided. Spanish interpretation will be available.

For more information, contact series director Charlene Margot at cmargot@csmconsulting.net, or go to terrigivens2019ma.eventbrite.com. ■

— by Angela Swartz

LEHUA GREENMAN



"A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer's wave goodbye."

650.245.1845 COMPASS



NOTICE REQUESTING BIDS

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT Large Diameter Sanitary Sewer Main Cleaning and Televising Project

Sealed proposals for the LARGE DIAMETER SANITARY SEWER MAIN CLEANING AND TELEVISIONING PROJECT will be received at the West Bay Sanitary District, 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California 94025 until 2:00 PM on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Bids shall be labeled "West Bay Sanitary District, Proposal for "LARGE DIAMETER SANITARY SEWER MAIN CLEANING AND TELEVISIONING PROJECT."

The Work will include the furnishing of all labor, materials and equipment for the cleaning and televising of approximately 60,000 LF of 18-inch through 54-inch pipelines.

The contract documents may be inspected at the office of the West Bay Sanitary District; San Francisco Builders Exchange, Attn: Deanna Johnson, 850 So. Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94110; Construct Connect, Attn: John Ferniza, 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 100, Norcross, Georgia 30092; Peninsula Builders Exchange, Attn: Andrea Nettles, 282 Harbor Blvd, Bldg D, Belmont, California 94002; Santa Clara Builders Exchange, Attn: Kanani Fonseca, 400 Reed Street, Santa Clara, California 95050; Builders Exchange of Alameda, Attn: Jeannie Kwan, 3055 Alvarado Street, San Leandro, California 94577; Construction Bidboard, Incorporated, Attn: Plan Room, 11622 El Camino Real, Suite 100, San Diego, California 92108; Contra Costa Builders Exchange, Attn: April Hamilton, 2440 Stanwell Drive, Suite B, Concord, California 94520.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of the West Bay Sanitary District upon payment of a check or money order in the amount of \$60.00 for each set. The check or money order must be issued to the West Bay Sanitary District. All payments are nonrefundable.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at the office of the West Bay Sanitary District.

Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or a proposal guaranty bond payable to the order of the West Bay Sanitary District in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid as a guaranty that the bidder will execute the contract if it be awarded to him in conformity with the proposal. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in an amount not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price and a labor and material bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price.

The District ("Owner") reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to determine which proposal is, in the judgment of the District, the lowest responsible bid of a responsible bidder or group of bidders and which proposal should be accepted in the best interest of the District. The District also reserves the right to waive any informalities in any proposal or bid.

Bid proposals received after the time announced for the opening will not be considered. No bidder may withdraw his proposal after the time announced for the opening, or before award and execution of the contract, unless the award is delayed for a period exceeding forty-five (45) days.

Pursuant to the provisions of Public Contract Code Section 22300, and upon the request and at the expense of the Contractor, securities equivalent to the amount withheld by the District to insure performance under the Contract may be deposited with the District, or with a state or federally chartered bank as escrow agent who shall deliver such securities to the Contractor upon satisfactory completion of the contract. Only those securities listed in Government Code Section 16430 or other securities approved by the District are eligible for deposit. The deposit of securities with an escrow agent or the District shall be made in the form and on such terms and conditions as the District may require to protect the interest of the District in the event of the Contractor's default. The Contractor shall be the beneficial owner of any securities that are deposited and shall receive any interest thereon.

Pertaining to Sections 1770, 1773, and 1773.1 of the California Labor Code the successful bidder shall pay not less than the prevailing rate of per diem wages as determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations. Copies of such prevailing rates are on file at the District office of the West Bay Sanitary District and which copies shall be made available to any interested party on request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of such determinations at each job site.

In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code Section 3300, the District has determined that the Contractor shall possess a valid Class A License or a combination of the Class C licenses indicated in Article B8.01-License Requirements, at the time this contract is awarded. Failure to possess the specified license(s) shall render the bid as non-responsive and shall act as a bar to award of the contract to any bidder not possessing said license(s) at the time of award.

West Bay Sanitary District
Board of Directors
San Mateo County, California

/s/ Phil Scott

District Manager

Dated: August 26, 2019

UNEVEN GROUND

continued from page 8

leadership in these more threatened communities.

In North Fair Oaks and East Palo Alto, the county Health Department is working on an initiative called the Community Collaboration for Children's Success. It works with youth and families to figure out how best to support youth using a "trauma-informed community building" model that promotes community empowerment and reflection.

When it comes to local governance in North Fair Oaks, the county's track record on listening to local residents is mixed, says Community Council Chair Ever Rodriguez.

"It is ironic that you have three of the richest cities in the U.S. right next to an area that is disenfranchised and lacking services," he said.

Unlike the 20 cities of San Mateo County, with their well-structured government bodies and councils, he said, "we can only advise the county."

The problem is compounded by low political participation among residents, he added. The community is made up of predominantly working families in the Latino community.

"Our community particu-

larly lacks resident participation because a lot of people have two or three jobs, because, you know, to make the rent they have to have more than one job. Often they have kids. These are really busy people."

In addition, he added, some don't have sufficient English skills or understanding of the political process to fully participate in council meetings.

As he sees it, recent rezoning efforts in North Fair Oaks, which in many ways were led by the county, have yielded mixed results.

On the positive side, there are now community standards in effect to push back against billboards that have constantly been advertising beer or tobacco in the neighborhood. On the negative side, he said, the county hasn't heeded concerns voiced by community members that gentrification pressures will mount if the neighborhood is beautified too much. The county supports moving forward to underground power lines, an expensive step that would improve the appearance of the neighborhood, even though the community council favors using the funding in other ways to improve safety in the community, Rodriguez said.

North Fair Oaks has also been underrepresented in regional

conversations about a revitalized Dumbarton rail line, he asserted. Residents could benefit from greater transit access, and from the added business its downtown area might get if a rail stop were to be added in the community.

In East Palo Alto, Nuestra Casa, a nonprofit that has been working in that city since 2002, uses a grassroots network of "promotoras," people who are trained to be community leaders and disseminate information in the Latino community, which now represents a demographic majority in the communities of East Palo Alto, Belle Haven and North Fair Oaks.

To help bolster community capacity in East Palo Alto to adapt to climate change, Nuestra Casa has partnered with the county on a new initiative to develop leadership focused on that problem, funded by grant money from SB 1, a \$54 billion 2017 transportation measure.

Violet Saena, resilient communities program manager at the nonprofit Acterra, explained that the initiative is aimed at supporting community leaders to work with community members to document how and why the community is vulnerable to climate change, and what can be done to make it less vulnerable.

Another significant commu-

nity concern in East Palo Alto is water quality. Roxano Franco, family advocate at Nuestra Casa, said that the nonprofit is also working with YUCA, Youth United for Community Action, to start a water rights campaign. They worked with the promotoras and canvassers representing the African American and Pacific Islander communities to conduct about 730 surveys throughout the community asking people what they think about water in the city, whether they use tap water for food and drinking, and about their concerns about climate change and sea level rise.

While they're still in the process of analyzing data, she said, "One big issue that came up is that our community wants education on flooding, climate change and sea level rise."

Younger people in particular, she said, are passionate about environmental justice and climate change.

"They're starting to be activists," she said.

The sense that the youth in these communities are observing the environment closely and developing skills for resiliency was borne out through The Almanac's own partnership for this project with students from Girls to Women, a summer program for middle school-aged

girls in East Palo Alto. We provided six students with disposable cameras and asked them to take pictures of what was healthy or unhealthy in their community.

We interviewed four of them, and all commented that they noticed a lot of trash on the streets, but added that they felt their community was fairly healthy and had improved even in the duration of their childhoods.

Nathalia, 12, said the assignment made her realize that "there's a lot of trash everywhere."

"There are dead animals in the street sometimes," said Sitara, 13.

Selijah, 11, said that while seeing missing person posters made her and others uncomfortable, there's a lot about the community she likes — for example, that a new fire station was built nearby to fight the growing number of fires.

And when she was asked to take pictures of healthy things in the community, she captured rich images of the local animal shelter, a mural, flowers growing in the park, and the Ecumenical Hunger Program.

"Those things stood out because they made me feel like our city is getting better," she said. ■

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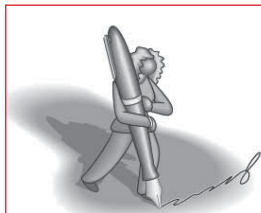
IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Learning our history, raising our consciousness, leveling the ground

By Karen Grove

A huge thank you to The Almanac and Kate Bradshaw for the important and well-researched series, “Uneven Ground: How unequal land use harms communities in southern San Mateo County.”

It’s extremely timely — on Oct. 3, Richard Rothstein, acclaimed author of “The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of how our Government Segregated America,” will be speaking in San Mateo. On Nov. 17, Menlo Together is hosting a conversation about how public policies that segregated America have affected Menlo Park specifically. And just last week, author Alex Schafran spoke at the Menlo Park Library about his book, “The Road to Resegregation: Northern California and the Failure of Politics”. Something is in the air!



Karen Grove is a west Menlo Park resident, co-founder of Menlo Together, and chair of the Grove Foundation.

GUEST OPINION

As Rothstein and Bradshaw both reveal, historical laws and political decisions segregated cities and concentrated people of color in neighborhoods with few services, underfunded schools, and outsized environmental challenges, including in Menlo Park.

In Belle Haven, we see the legacy of these policies today. As Bradshaw describes, “While it’s easy to dismiss this history as a time when laws and attitudes were different, the impacts of these discriminatory actions persist in the health outcomes these neighborhoods experience today.” Reduced life expectancy, higher rates of asthma, obesity and mental illness, and lower academic and economic success in the Belle Haven neighborhood can all be attributed to our city’s design.

For those of us who live in Menlo Park, we have the ability to solve this problem

because we have the Belle Haven neighborhood that is impacted by our history, and we have the resources to achieve equity. Our City Council will respond to us, so let’s continue to study the past, learn from it and demand policies that create equal opportunity for all.

To do so, we’ll have to intentionally change old habits.

In 1952 the city was establishing a general plan, and arguments were made to increase minimum lot sizes in order to “protect what we’ve got” and prevent “slums and blighted areas” by taking steps to “maintain population density at its present level” (from the June 5, 1952, Menlo Park Recorder).

We must recognize that when we (west and central Menlo Park residents) argue against higher density housing in our neighborhoods to “preserve neighborhood character” we are repeating the language of those before us, who “protected” their all-white communities from people of color. We must remember that when we say, “I support affordable housing, just not here!” we are repeating a

history we all condemn. As with many of our historical racist actions, we not only exclude and harm people of color, but also our store clerks, nurses, public servants, artists and young adults of all races and ethnicities. Likewise, we can all benefit if we choose to learn from history and chart a new path.

This is a call to action. This is the moment to learn from our history and shape the future of Menlo Park for the better. We can make Menlo Park a connected, inclusive, multi-generational, diverse and welcoming city we can proudly call home.

Next time affordable housing or additional housing is proposed near our central or west Menlo Park homes, I hope we’ll all remember how our voices fit into the arc of history and choose the side of inclusion and equity.

I urge you to attend the upcoming events to learn more, stay abreast of the issues, attend City Council meetings and make your voice heard. Let’s be the change we want to see in the world, together!

Our dire downtown Menlo Park

By Sloane Citron

When visitors come to see me in my offices in downtown Menlo Park, they often remark that they’re surprised to see how rundown Santa Cruz Avenue has become. I’m not. For a generation, the City Council has occupied itself with everything to do with downtown except the actual downtown itself. It’s a pity.

I love Menlo Park. I’ve had a home and an office here for 25 years, and I’ve watched what has taken — or rather — not taken place. While almost every downtown area around us — Burlingame to Los Altos — has been updated and beautified, Menlo Park’s downtown has languished. Pitiful attempts to spruce it up — remember the pop-up park? — have done little, and now the city and shop owners are starting to pay the price of ineptitude and indifference.

Downtown is unkempt, the infrastructure is old and failing, the sidewalks are broken and filthy, the town is a growing magnet for transients and homeless with their belongings stored on the streets, news boxes are dirty and broken, the plantings are amateurish and

trite, “temporary” plastic store signs have become the norm. All in all, it’s a mess.

The disinterest in the care of our downtown creates a cycle:



Sloane Citron is a longtime Menlo Park father, homeowner and publisher. He has had an office in downtown for more than 25 years and intimately knows the streets and businesses of the area.

GUEST OPINION

As the quality of the area falls, fewer people come to downtown. As fewer people come downtown, more stores fail, and as more stores fail and are replaced by empty storefronts, even fewer people want to make the trip downtown. I’m worried that we are headed for oblivion.

That there are now a frightening and growing number of empty storefronts should therefore not be a surprise. While other downtowns are bustling, ours is failing. Gone are a number of smaller businesses and now larger ones are leaving with huge spaces to fill. Oriental Carpet is “retiring”; Village Stationers is gone; and the Flegel’s building is for sale

with the “Building to be Delivered Vacant.”

Soon there will be tens of thousands of square feet of fresh retail space in all the newly constructed buildings on El Camino that will further diminish the prospect of businesses that want to take on the risk of a deteriorating downtown. As far as parking? While the City Council does its best to reduce parking, there is still more than an ample amount. In 30 years of coming downtown, I have always found a space within five minutes. The best problem we could have is that there is not enough parking.

Our city councils are famous for studying things to death and then making the wrong decision. They need to take a moment out of re-examing El Camino for the hundredth time and from flirting with Facebook and put immediate, action-oriented attention onto fixing downtown. We need a “can-do” person put in charge, unleashed from the paralyzing Menlo Park bureaucracy, who can get the job done in the fastest time possible. Otherwise, it is possible that the abyss will grow too large to ever bridge.

LETTERS

Our readers write

With trees, small and short get high marks

Editor:

The article in The Almanac “Preparing for the Worst: Atherton Emergency Group Trains Readies for Disaster” (Aug. 14) by Angela Swartz, stated the top concerns for ADAPT members surveyed were: Canopy fires, windstorms, earthquakes, security threat, gas explosion, downed power lines, blocked evacuation routes. All, but one concern dealt with trees.

Mr. Prussing said: “Trees in town are more overgrown than they were 30 years ago, and this poses a greater threat of fires.”

Property owners are not taking on the responsibility they should be for themselves or their neighbors. Not only would keeping our trees thinned and cut back prevent fires, but it would also keep our utility bills down (allowing

the sun to shine in and meet our needs), and help people spend less time cleaning up after their neighbor’s trees.

When planting new trees and bushes, maybe one should consider small, short trees and bushes. They would be easier and less expensive to maintain and care for.

As we all become more conscious and consistent in caring for our trees, we will all benefit.

Jackie Leonard-Dimmick
Walnut Avenue, Atherton

Another idea for being prepared for a disaster

Editor:

In today’s information age, to be prepared for a disaster, you need to have the user names and passwords for your computer and smartphone written down. Make sure to include your phone unlock codes on this list. Keep a copy in your safe deposit box, and give a copy to a trusted friend or family member who lives outside the area.

Sue Kayton
Doris Drive, Menlo Park

What’s on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Almanac aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

Tell us what’s on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words. You can also submit a longer piece of 450 to 600 words for consideration to publish as a guest opinion column.

Questions? Email Editor Renee Batti at rbatti@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6528.



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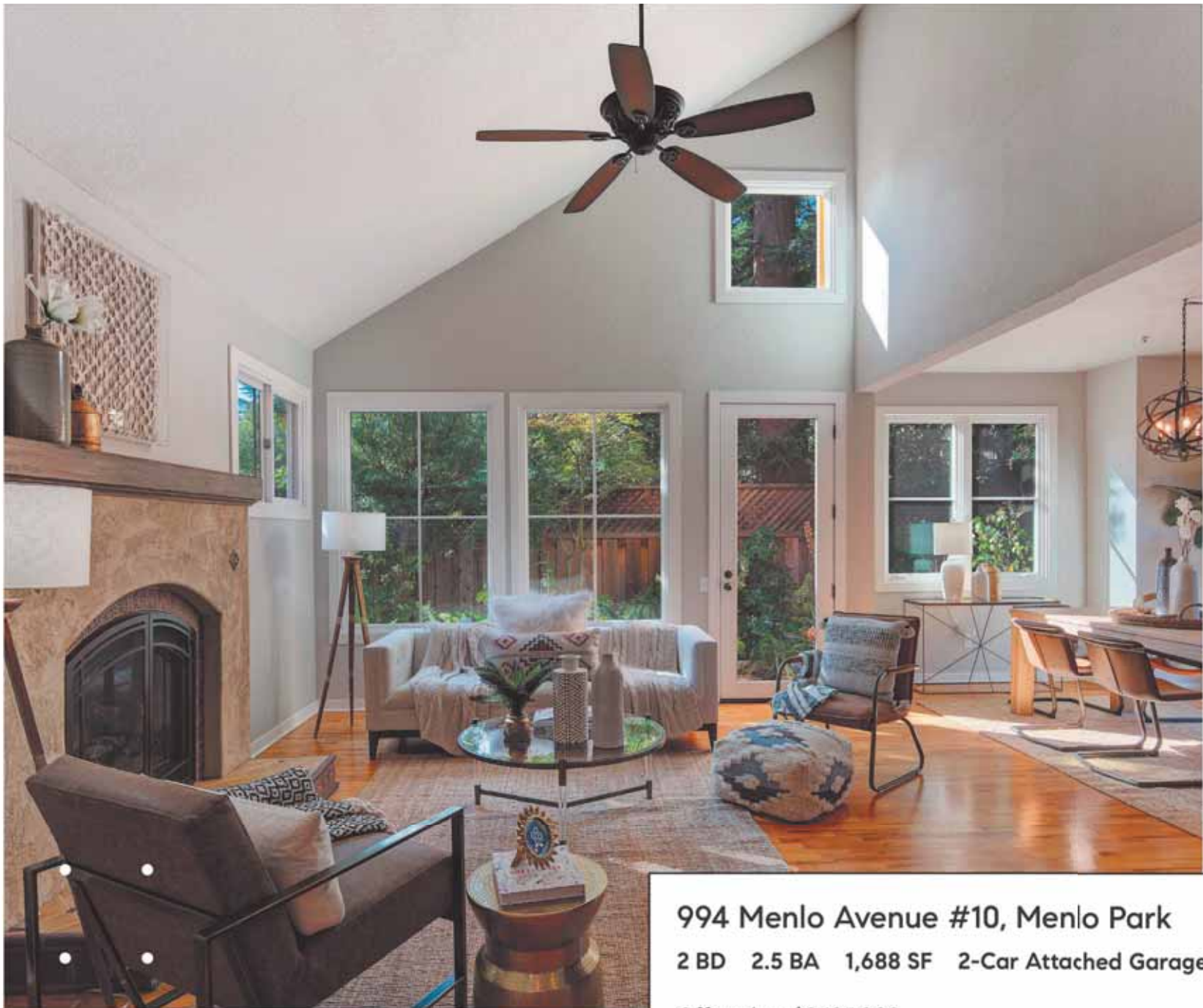
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