

# The Almanac

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

NOVEMBER 20, 2019 | VOL. 54 NO. 11



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## NATURAL FUN

Parks and open space groups sponsor Huddart Park festivities to help families, individuals savor and connect with nature

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**Holiday Fund**  
2019



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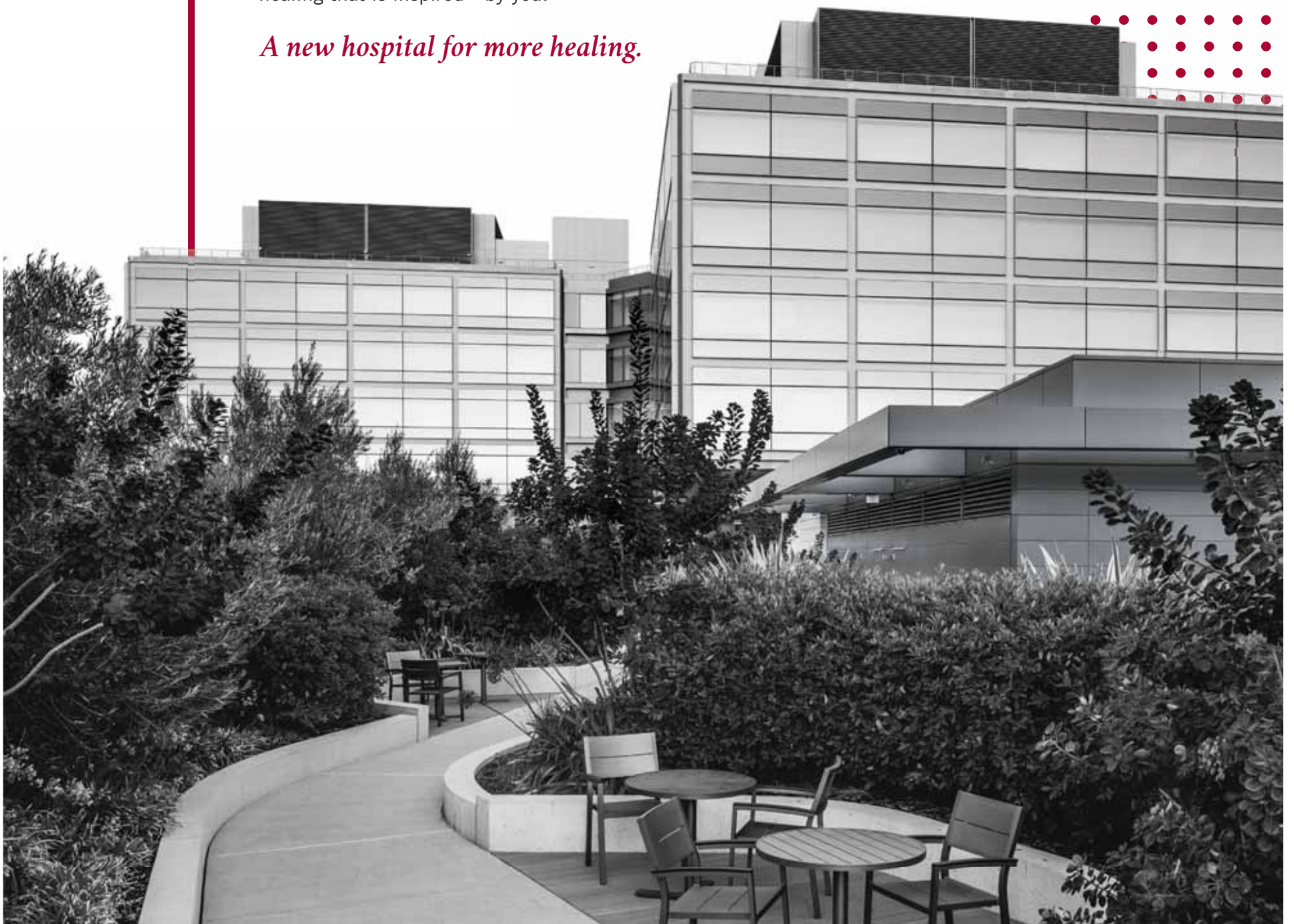


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# Give to The Almanac Holiday Fund

Your gift helps local children  
and families in need



Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$150,000 from more than 150 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed on this page.

## Boys & Girls Clubs

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, and mentoring for 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

## Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

## Fair Oaks Community Center

This multi-service facility, serving the broader Redwood City community, provides assistance with child care, senior programs, citizenship and immigration, housing and employment, and crisis intervention. Programs are available in Spanish and English.

## LifeMoves

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

## Project Read

Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-on-one to help adults improve reading, writing and English language skills so they can function more effectively at home, at work and in the community. Basic English classes, weekly conversation clubs and volunteer-led computer enrichment are also offered.

## Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

## St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

## Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

## StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people and families, with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

## Upward Scholars

Upward Scholars empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

The organizations below provide  
major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.



www.siliconvalleycf.org



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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Homeless for the holidays

Young Menlo Park couple faces fines of \$500 per day for living in driveway RV

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

Arlena Bain and her boyfriend, Alex Mulholland, both 27, might be the young people any great-grandmother would hope could move nearby.

They care for cats. They work together at Wahlburgers in Palo Alto, where they earn that city's minimum wage — \$15 an hour — plus tips. Mulholland takes classes at De Anza College.

Given the area's housing costs, their relatively meager joint income made living on the Peninsula difficult, but they thought they'd found a workable work-around. For months, they've been living quietly in an RV parked in the driveway of Bain's great-grandmother's house on Madera Avenue in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, a setup that offers them some privacy while still being close enough to be of support to the 93-year-old homeowner.

But come Dec. 3, their housing situation will cease to be an option.

According to Bain, the problem started in September when Menlo Park's code enforcement officer, Eleonor Hilario, responded to a complaint from an anonymous neighbor about the presence of the RV.

The complaint triggered an inspection, after which Hilario found the RV to be out of compliance with Menlo Park's municipal code, citing sections

including the prohibition of RV "storage" on properties zoned for single-family residences. She gave the couple verbal warnings before they received a formal notice of violation on Nov. 7, with an initial deadline of Nov. 25 to comply with the ordinances. The deadline has been extended until Dec. 3, but it still doesn't give the couple long to find a new housing situation, they said.

Menlo Park Mayor Ray Mueller told The Almanac that he had requested an extension for the couple through the holidays, but the police department denied the request. According to Mueller, the extension was denied because the couple has already been granted an extension.

As Bain explains it, there was lag time between the initial inspection and the issuance of the notice of violation, and that gap created even more stress because she wasn't entirely certain that the enforcement notice would come through. Yet without having information in writing about what part of the code her home was in violation of, she said, she couldn't take the matter to the local legal aid nonprofit, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, to see if she'd have any way to fight it.

Given less than a month between the formal notice being sent on Nov. 7 and their hard deadline of Dec. 3, they now have little time to find a new



Photo by Magali Gauthier

**Arlena Bain and Alex Mulholland** pet their cat, Tuna, who lives with them and two other cats in their RV in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park.

housing situation or find a new location for the RV, Bain said. To comply with the municipal code, Bain and Mulholland will have to move the RV to a new long-term location, whether or not they continue to live in it. They're considering selling it because RV parks and safe parking facilities in the area are full, Bain said.

"People who get evicted from apartments have longer than we have," Bain said. "In a mobile home, it's like we don't have any rights."

The notice of violation includes a copy of municipal code sections, with purple check marks next to where Hilario found the RV to be out of compliance. Hilario declined to comment for this story.

The notice indicates that the RV's siting violates the city's nuisance ordinance in the

"menace to safety" category and the "storage in yards" section, which prohibits RVs from being stored in a front or side yard for more than five days. It marks a third violation in that section of the code, under the heading "further limits on motor vehicle storage," stating that no more than one vehicle can be stored on a single-family lot, and laying out specific driveway parameters.

Police Comdr. Rich Struckman told The Almanac that the department is still working with Bain and Mulholland to correct the violations. "This is where we're at," he said. "This has been going on since September."

If they don't correct the violations, though, they will be subject to citation and fines. He added that the way the vehicle is parked creates a fire hazard, and that a previous configuration of

the RV made it intrude onto the sidewalk.

"I think the spirit of the ordinance as written long ago is to ... keep the neighborhood tidy," he said. "We have neighbors who are complaining."

"We can't go on forever and ever. Ultimately we have to take action or the problem never goes away."

### Limited options

Bain said she has explored moving the RV into a local RV park, but such parks all seem to have waiting lists and are beyond their budget.

And resources suggested by the code enforcement officer that might help other households, such as a housing support program that helps low-income residents secure down

See **HOMELESS**, page 16

## Menlo Park council adopts state renter law early to curb evictions, rent hikes

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

In response to concerns that landlords are preemptively hiking rent or evicting Menlo Park tenants to get around a new state renter protection law that goes into effect on Jan. 1, the Menlo Park City Council voted unanimously Nov. 12 to enact the law immediately.

The ordinance is intended to thwart landlords seeking to evict renters without reason or raise rent dramatically for tenants before the new state law, AB 1482, takes effect to ban those practices.

In addition, it will apply retroactively to some renters who

have received eviction notices since Sept. 12 but have not yet moved out, and will give tenants who have received major rent increases a clear legal path forward.

Because the council received reports that some Menlo Park landlords were taking advantage of the short window before the law takes effect to raise rent dramatically and evict renters without cause, it scheduled its meeting for Nov. 12 to address the matter. The city's new ordinance is considered an "urgency ordinance" and met the requirements for being expedited more quickly than the typical, slower process, which usually requires a first and second reading.

Susan Lacoste, a retired Menlo Park resident who received a 60-day eviction notice on Oct. 8, the day Gov. Gavin Newsom signed AB 1482, urged the council to approve the ordinance. She introduced herself as someone who has lived in the same apartment for 27 years and worked in various departments at Stanford for 40 years. She lives a quiet life with her cat, watching old movies, gardening and riding a bike with colorful pinwheels around town, she said.

"When I received an eviction notice with no warning, it was like a punch in the stomach," she told the council. "I don't know what to do. I check Craigslist every other day and I get

queasy."

Laura Gates, who also received a notice to vacate by the end of December, wrote in an email to the council that she is a senior in ill health who underwent a leg amputation earlier this year. "Where would I go? I can't leave the area in the middle of a medical crisis and have to start anew with a different hospital and physicians," she wrote.

"The bottom line is that tenants need some protection in this very tough rental market. Between Stanford, Facebook and other large employers it is next to impossible to find a reasonable place to live and impossible in a short period of time. We have been good tenants and

good citizens of Menlo Park and I ask that the City Council do everything it can to protect (its) residents."

After the initial staff report on the issue was released on Nov. 7, the city attorney's office worked with Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto to modify the draft language to ensure it would protect renters who have already received eviction notices but have not yet moved out.

In addition, Assistant City Attorney Cara Silver noted that on Oct. 26, Gov. Newsom declared a state of emergency in response to the wildfires in the state. One provision of the

See **RENTER LAW**, page 10

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## The Almanac

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and Woodside for over 50 years

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94028 and the Woodside portion of  
94062, call 854-2626.Menlo Park council supports major fee hike to pay  
for new transportation infrastructure

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park City Council is considering more than tripling fees for new office, retail and restaurant space and more than quadrupling fees for hotel, manufacturing and medical office uses to pay for new transportation infrastructure.

The matter is set to come before the council on Tuesday, Nov. 19, after The Almanac's press time; check AlmanacNews.com for an update.

At a Nov. 5 meeting, the council accepted the findings of a complex study of what new demands proposed developments will produce on the city's transportation infrastructure.

The study then broke down, into a per-square-foot or per-unit dollar amount, what the city could charge to pay for new infrastructure. But whether to charge the maximum amount for all uses, or to lower those fees to stay competitive with other cities and incentivize some uses which could be at the expense of generating much-needed local transportation funding was the question at the root of the council's discussion.

According to Mark Spencer, principal at transportation consulting firm W-Trans, which has been developing the city's transportation master plan, doing the study and drafting the potential transportation impact fee list, impact fees can be used for new arterial streets, sidewalks, bike

Land use	Unit	Current fee	Maximum fee	2019 proposed fee	Increase factor
Office	sq. ft.	\$ 5.01	\$ 17.60	\$ 17.60	3.5
Restaurant	sq. ft.	\$ 5.01	\$ 152.16	\$ 17.60	3.5
Retail	sq. ft.	\$ 5.01	\$ 58.32	\$ 17.60	3.5
R&D	sq. ft.	\$ 3.60	\$ 7.50	\$ 7.50	2.1
Manufacturing	sq. ft.	\$ 2.46	\$ 10.26	\$ 10.26	4.2
Warehousing	sq. ft.	\$ 1.08	\$ 2.91	\$ 2.91	2.7
Medical Office	sq. ft.	\$ 11.62	\$ 52.97	\$ 52.97	4.6
Single Family	unit	\$ 3,393.74	\$ 15,155.24	\$ 7,577.62	2.2
Multifamily	unit	\$ 2,083.08	\$ 8,572.66	\$ 4,286.00	2.1
Hotel	room	\$ 1,982.23	\$ 9,184.99	\$ 9,184.99	4.6
Childcare	sq. ft.	\$ 5.01	\$ 170.23	\$ 2.91	0.6
Secondary unit	unit	\$ 772.43	\$ 3,449.40	\$ -	-

Data courtesy city of Menlo Park.

The proposed new transportation impact fees could more than quadruple costs for manufacturing, medical office and hotel uses.

lanes and multimodal projects, but can't be used for existing road needs, deficiencies, operations or maintenance.

Fees can also be used toward a city's required contribution for regional transportation projects, typically set at 12% of the project's cost.

As he explained it, there's some wiggle room for city councils to set transportation impact fees, but they can't go higher than the maximum allowable fee. And there may be compelling reasons to keep those fees lower.

For instance, the study calculates that the city could charge 30 times its current rate per square foot for restaurant space, 34 times its current rate for child care space and 11 times its current rate for retail space.

However, given the significant child care shortage on the Peninsula and the council's expressed desire to attract eateries and shops to enliven the city's downtown

area, raising the fees so high could deter developers from constructing buildings for such uses. Still, the proposed fee schedule would increase new restaurant, office and retail use to \$17.60 per square foot, up from the current \$5.01.

The study found the city could charge developers as much as \$15,150 for a new single-family home, or \$8,570 for a new apartment, but because of the need for more housing, staff recommended the city charge half of those amounts.

However, such fees would still be more than double the current rates. Staff also recommended waiving the fee for secondary housing units entirely. The current fee is \$772, and under the study, the maximum the city could charge is \$3,450.

Even if the city charged the full maximum fee rates for all uses, it could generate only about \$77.5 million, based on which projects would be eligible for impact

fee funding, which is still far below the estimated \$164 million needed for outstanding projects, explained Spencer.

One question the study brings up is what to do with proposed developments that have been approved but haven't had their transportation impact fees paid or building permits pulled. Staff recommended grandfathering the residential and mixed-use proposals in under the current fee rates, but requiring developers behind office and hotel proposals to pay the new rates once they are finalized.

The City Council plans to hold a hearing on the fees on Nov. 19 and potentially adopt the ordinance on Dec. 10.

In addition, a subcommittee made up of Councilwoman Betsy Nash and Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor will meet with staff to come up with some alternatives for potentially lower rates for child care, retail and restaurant uses. ■

## Dozens arrested in large sweep for illegal guns, drugs

By Sue Dremann

Federal and state law-enforcement agents cracked down on illegal guns and drugs in Northern California last week, arresting and charging more than two dozen people, the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives announced Friday, Nov. 15.

More than a dozen agencies took part in the sweep, making arrests all over the Bay Area, including in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and Redwood City, U.S. Attorney David L. Anderson and Rayfield Roundtree, special agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) San Francisco Field Division, said in a press release.

Detectives seized more than 130 firearms, 39 pounds of methamphetamine and about 20 pounds of marijuana during the operation, which took place in 11 cities. The ATF spearheaded the

investigation, and the operation was years in the making.

The defendants have been charged with state and federal crimes. San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said nine people will be prosecuted on state charges. A summary will be issued separately by his office.

The U.S. Attorney's Office released the names of 15 people charged with federal crimes, but a list of defendants facing state crimes has not immediately been released.

The federal defendants and charges are:

■ **Francisco Nunez-Nepita, 21, East Palo Alto:**

Conspiracy to deal firearms without a license; dealing in firearms without a license and aiding and abetting; possession of a machine gun and aiding and abetting. Maximum sentence: five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine (counts 1 and 2); 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine (count 3).

■ **Erizondo Mora-Tapia, 25, East Palo Alto:**

Conspiracy to deal firearms without a license; dealing firearms without a license and aiding and abetting. Maximum sentence: five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, per count.

■ **William Alexis-Villa, 22, Menlo Park:**

Conspiracy to deal firearms without a license; dealing firearms without a license and aiding and abetting; possession of a machine gun and aiding and abetting; possession of an unregistered firearm (two counts). Maximum sentence: five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine (counts 1 and 2); 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine (count 3); 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, (count 4), per count.

■ **Jose Buenrostro, 30, Redwood City:**

Conspiring to deal firearms without a license and dealing firearms without a license; felon in

possession of a firearm or ammunition; conspiring to distribute or possess with intent to distribute, and distributing or possessing with intent to distribute 50 grams and more of methamphetamine. Maximum sentence: five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, (count 1); 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine (count 2); 40 years in prison and a \$5 million fine (count 3).

■ **Jonathan Robert Figueroa, 25, Redwood City:**

Conspiracy to deal firearms without a license, in violation; dealing firearms without a license and aiding and abetting. Maximum sentence: five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, per count.

■ **Noe Robledo-Lopez, Jr., 19, Redwood City:**

Possession of an unregistered firearm. Maximum sentence: 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

■ **Mario Carlos, 24, Cottonwood:**

See GUNS, page 7

# Portola Valley agrees to new, higher-priced solid waste contract

By Rick Radin  
Almanac Staff Writer

The Portola Valley Town Council unanimously agreed to a 10-year contract with GreenWaste Recovery for solid waste disposal Nov. 13, the same contract that the Woodside council balked at signing the previous evening.

The contract calls for a 32% rate increase for customers using curbside service, plus a whopping 50% to 400% rate hike for service that requires drivers to walk or drive onto properties to empty disposal cans, according to GreenWaste.

In Portola Valley, 40% of customers will be entitled to the larger increase for so-called "concierge services" compared with 28% in Woodside, according to the company.

"We figured out the cost if everything was curbside and then subtracted that from our total projected cost to determine what to charge (for special services)," said GreenWaste communications director Emily Hanson.

Four percent of Portola Valley

concierge service customers will receive a 100% increase, 30% will receive a 101% to 200% increase and 5% will get an increase of more than 200%, according to the company.

Faced with multiple complaints about the large concierge service increases, the Woodside council decided to delay its decision until a special meeting Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Woodside was considering putting out a request for proposals to get quotes from other providers and also wanted to find out about Portola Valley's decision before making a move.

GreenWaste could serve Portola Valley separately if Woodside decided to go with a different provider, according to the company.

The new contracts would allow for an 11% profit for GreenWaste, compared with a 2% loss in 2018-19, according to Hanson.

A number of negative factors are squeezing the bottom line, according to the company, including China's recent refusal to buy all but the cleanest and most valuable recycling.

Stocks of waste paper for recycling are piling up at collection

points in the Bay Area, said Joe Sloan of Sloan Vasquez McAfee, the consulting firm that negotiated the contracts with GreenWaste.

Before China's change in policy, a ton of waste paper sold for between \$100 to \$200. Today, a recycler must pay \$40 a ton to get someone to haul it away, Sloan said.

The price of a full-sized garbage and recycling truck providing curbside service has also risen from about \$250,000 when the current contract took effect to between \$400,000 and \$500,000 today, Hanson said.

Statewide, communities are receiving an average of 30% to 70% in rate increases, Sloan said.

"The (current) rates are artificially suppressed," Hanson told the Portola Valley council. "It's not our role to keep coming back (over the course of a 10-year contract)."

GreenWaste implemented one 3% hike in 2014 over cost-of-living increases under the current deal, according to the company.

The huge concierge service increases come, in part, from the need to buy and use smaller

collection trucks to serve hillside neighborhoods where most of the drive-on and walk-on collection occurs, Hanson said.

"The smaller trucks also have to make more trips to San Jose to dump their loads during the day (which takes them offline)," she said.

One resident at the meeting questioned the fairness of the rate hikes for concierge services, and another asked why the town didn't seek other bids.

"In my business, we wouldn't think of awarding a contract without competing bids," resident Bob Schultz said.

The council seemed sympathetic to the multitude of economic pressures that Hanson and Sloan said GreenWaste and the industry in general are facing.

"Rates are going up a lot, but I'm confident we're getting the best deal we can get," said

Portola Valley council member Craig Hughes. "We don't have a reasonable alternative."

"I'm comfortable not going out for a (request for proposals)," added Vice Mayor Jeff Aalfs. "They did an excellent job explaining why (rates are going up)."

Rate increases for concierge services will be phased in between Jan. 1 and June 30, and new rates for curbside services begin Jan. 1.

"We wanted to give the people with extra services the time to modify their services," Hanson said.

GreenWaste will be sending out a mailer to Portola Valley customers on Nov. 25 that will enable them to choose alternative services if they want, as well as the number and sizes of carts that they need, Hanson said.

"If you do nothing, what you have on your account is what you will receive," she said. ■

## Woodside may consider seeking competitive bids for garbage contract

By Rick Radin  
Almanac Staff Writer

The Woodside Town Council expressed its dissatisfaction with a proposed 10-year solid waste disposal contract with San Jose-based GreenWaste Recovery on Nov. 12 by agreeing to consider seeking competing proposals from other agencies.

The GreenWaste contract calls for a 32% rate increase for 68% of customers who have curbside

service and hikes from 50% to 403% for "concierge service" customers who need workers to walk or drive onto their properties to reach their collection carts.

GreenWaste has said that the higher drive-on and walk-on fees are a result of needing to buy smaller collection trucks that can navigate narrow hillside roads, the additional employee time needed to service the properties, and other factors.

The drive-on and walk-on customers have previously paid the

same as curbside customers.

Portola Valley and Woodside have virtually the same solid waste disposal contract, and Portola Valley approved the contract at its Nov. 13 council meeting.

The Woodside council will meet again after The Almanac's press deadline at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19, to weigh the results of the Portola Valley meeting, as well as the possibility of filing a request for proposals from other companies. Check AlmanacNews.com for updates. ■

### GUNS

continued from page 6

Felon in possession of a firearm or ammunition. Maximum sentence: 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

■ Erik Acevedo-Cruz, 19, Fremont:

Conspiracy to deal firearms without a license; dealing firearms without a license and aiding and abetting; possession of an unregistered firearm. Maximum sentence: five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine (counts 1 and 2); 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine (count 3).

■ Vladimir Magallan-Gallegos, 26, Modesto:

Possession with intent to distribute 50 grams and more of methamphetamine. Maximum sentence: 40 years in prison and a

\$5 million fine.

■ Daniel Zaragoza, 32, Oakland: Felon in possession of a firearm or ammunition. Maximum sentence: 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

■ Cristian Rafael Morales, 23, San Mateo:

Distribution of methamphetamine. Maximum sentence: 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

■ Jonathan Flores, 20, San Mateo: Two counts of distribution of 50 grams and more of methamphetamine. Maximum sentence: 40 years in prison and a \$5 million fine, per count.

■ Francisco Garibay, 21, South San Francisco:

Two counts of distribution of 50 grams and more of methamphetamine. Maximum sentence: 40 years in prison and a \$5 million

fine, per count.

■ Jesus Antonio Tapia, 19, Sunnyvale:

Conspiracy to deal firearms without a license; dealing firearms without a license and aiding and abetting; possession of an unregistered firearm. Maximum sentence: five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each of the first two counts and 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for the possession count.

■ Hernan Padilla-Landa, 25, Tracy:

Conspiracy to deal firearms without a license; dealing firearms without a license and aiding and abetting; possession of a firearm with a removed serial number. Maximum sentence: five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for the first two counts; 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for count 3. ■

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8083	India Berber	4.1 x 5.11	Crème	\$1,005	\$250
9504	Pakistan Gabbeh	3.5 x 5.9	Burgandy/Blue	\$2,105	\$450
7322	Pakistan Gabbeh	4.1 x 6.2	Blue/Gold	\$2,085	\$450
7694	Afghan Balouch	3.10 x 5.10	Rust/Navy	\$705	\$250
10923	India Sultanabad	4 x 6	Brown/Red	\$1,805	\$450
9276	India Boro	4 x 6	Saffron	\$2,885	\$750
1316	Persian Gabbeh Soumak	3.11 x 5.10	Red	\$3,005	\$650
9509	India Fine Tabriz	4.1 x 6.4	Ivory/Blue	\$2,845	\$750
9511	India Fine Tabriz	4 x 6.3	Green/Beige	\$2,755	\$750
2615	Pakistan Tabriz 16/16	4.0 x 6.1	Blue/ Ivory	\$2,445	\$650
9506	Fine India Tabriz	4.2 x 6	Beige	\$2,755	\$750
7697	Afghan Balouch	3.4 x 6.1	Red	\$702	\$250
9507	India Fine Tabriz	4.2 x 6	Ivory/Blue	\$2,845	\$650
6291	Iran Gabbeh	4.5 x 6	Rust/Green	\$3,395	\$970
832	Pakistan Sultanabad	3.5 x 6.1	Beige	\$1,500	\$350
9273	India Boro	4.2 x 6	Blue	\$2,885	\$750
9280	India Boro	4.1 x 6.2	Blue	\$2,885	\$750
9271	India Haji Jalili Tabriz	4 x 6	Burgandy/Ivory	\$2,885	\$750
545	Pakistan Sultanabad	4.1 x 6.1	Red/Burgandy	\$1,685	\$350
8090	India Berber	4.2 x 5.11	Beige	\$865	\$295
1374	Tuffenkian Rag Weave	4 x 6	Grey/Gold	\$5,505	\$950
10940	India Sultanabad	4.1 x 6.3	Silver/Sand	\$1,915	\$550
10936	India Sultanabad	4 x 5.9	Navy/Red	\$1,725	\$450
1240	India Kazak	4.2 x 5.11	Ivory/Blue	\$1,715	\$750
950	Iran Gabbeh	3.10 x 5.9	Gold/Red	\$4,185	\$750

### 5 x 7

10031	India Shiraz	5 x 6.9	Rust/Navy	\$3,355	\$950
8094	India Berber	5.10 x 6.10	Grey/Ivory	\$1,395	\$425
9030	Persian Gabbeh	4.8 x 6.7	Red/Gold	\$2,505	\$950
8735	Persian Kashkuli	4.6 x 6.5	Ivory/Rust	\$5,005	\$1,850
851	Nepal Modern	5.2 x 7.2	Black/Gold	\$2,505	\$850
1402	India Kazak	4.6 x 6.8	Navy/Beige	\$2,505	\$950
7368	Turkish Konya	4.5 x 7.2	Blue/Ivory	\$1,255	\$450
11733	Old Persian Malayer	4.11 x 6.6	Rust/Navy	\$1,005	\$450
10828	India Kazak	4.10 x 6.10	Green/Rust	\$2,505	\$950
1053	Nepal Modern w/Silk	5.1 x 7.2	Green/Rust	\$5,715	\$1,525
952	Iran Gabbeh	5.2 x 7.7	Beige/Brown	\$4,755	\$950
9032	India Modern Jute	5.3 x 7.6	Gold/Brown	\$1,785	\$550
1115	Pakistan Sultanabad	5.7 x 7	Beige/Red	\$3,445	\$850
9951	India Ikat	4.9 x 7.10	Blue/Ivory	\$3,875	\$1,450
1785	Pakistan Chobi	5.7 x 7.9	Chocolate	\$4,675	\$1,250
9020	India Pebbles	5 x 7.10	Grey/Beige	\$2,505	\$850
2092	India Haji Jalili	5.3 x 7.1	Beige/Gold	\$3,275	\$1,250
9270	India Haji Jalili	5 x 7.9	Red/Burgandy	\$4,655	\$1,550
11730	Antique Persian Kurd	4.5 x 7.7	Rust/Navy	\$1,005	\$450
8232	Pakistan Chobi	5.1 x 6.8	Beige	\$3,745	\$1,250
8734	Persian Kashkuli	5.8 x 7.8	Ivory/Navy	\$8,505	\$1,850

### 6 x 9

Stock #	Description	Size	Color	Original Price	Sale Price
2246	Pakistan Chobi	5.1 x 9.4	Chocolate	\$3,495	\$750
2612	Pakistan Chobi	6 x 8.10	Red/Ivory	\$3,975	\$950
12421	India Isfahan	5.10 x 9	Pink/Ivory	\$1,755	\$850
8440	India Oushak	6 x 9	Red/Ivory	\$7,905	\$1,250
5847	Turkish Kazak	6.3 x 9.3	Gold/Red	\$5,005	\$450
6082	India Bidjar	6.1 x 8.9	Rust/Blue	\$2,970	\$950
7206	India Soumak	6.2 x 8.10	Blue/Ivory	\$1,775	\$550
4996	India Sultanabad	6 x 9	Beige/Brown	\$2,575	\$950
8015	Pakistan Antique wash	5.10 x 8.10	Beige/Peach	\$2,505	\$950
811	Iran Gabbeh Soumak	5.7 x 7.10	Gold/Red	\$5,315	\$1,650
14532	Turkish Bidjar	6 x 9	Gold/Red	\$4,550	\$750
11734	Pakistan Chobi	6 x 9	Beige/Green	\$5,005	\$1,950
8228	India Oushak	6.8 x 8.7	Beige	\$7,445	\$1,950
9948	India Tabriz	5.10 x 8.10	Ivory/Brown	\$5,155	\$2,250
1126	Pakistan Chobi	6 x 9.4	Beige	\$3,805	\$950
1437	India Oushak	5.9 x 8.9	Beige/Rose	\$1,815	\$850
10693	India Kazak	6 x 9	Beige	\$4,415	\$1,250
1445	India Haji Jalili	6 x 9.1	Brown/Navy	\$6,685	\$1,950
294	Persian Kurd	5.3 x 9	Navy/Red	\$6,525	\$950
800	Pakistan Ghazani	6 x 8.8	Red/Burgandy	\$3,215	\$950
2180	India Herati	6.1 9.2	Navy/Red	\$4,745	\$950
2088	India Haji Jalili	7 x 9	Navy/Rust	\$6,300	\$1,950

### 8 x 10

9267	India Haji Jalili	7.10 x 10.2	Burgandy/Gold	\$9,565	\$2,675
9266	India Haji Jalili	7.10 x 10	Burgandy/Gray	\$9,405	\$2,575
2045	India Antique Look Kazak	7.8 x 9.9	Navy/Rust	\$6,775	\$1,950
9939	India Fine Tabriz	7.10 x 10.4	Rust\$8,905	\$11,950	
5078	India Esplande	7.11 x 10.4	Grey/Beige	\$5,595	\$1,650
11967	India William Morris Design	8 x 10	Rust/Beige	\$3,605	\$1,350
9830	Pakistan Bokhara	7.1 x 10.5	Taupe	\$6,005	\$990
6628	India Esplande	8 x 10.7	Beige/Gold	\$6,855	\$1,950
10554	India Kozen	7.10 x 9.10	Beige	\$8,405	\$1,990
1220	Rajasthan N	7.10 x 10	Buirgand/Brown	\$7,445	\$2,150
10059	Rajasthan K	8.3 x 10.1	Burgandy/Blue	\$7,505	\$990
12618	Afghan Elephant Foot	8.5 x 11	Burgandy	\$4,005	\$990
10896	India Rhapsody with Silk	7.9 x 10.3	Grey	\$8,965	\$1,550
10917	India Rathey with Silk	8 x 10	Beige/Blue	\$10,005	\$3,550
1101	Pakistan Aryana	8 x 9.7	Beige/Rust	\$7,220	\$1,950
7874	Pakistan Chobi	8.2 x 10.7	Rose/Ivory	\$4,500	\$990
12911	Rajstan K	8 x 10.2	Rust/Beige	\$5,045	\$2,250
7225	India Ikat	7.8 x 9.9	Navy/Rust	\$6,305	\$1,350
10538	India Mulberry with Silk	8.3 x 10.4	Blue	\$15,345	\$4,550
4004	India Pur Silk Tabriz	8.2 x 9.11	Beige /Green	\$19,295	\$2,950

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**RENTER LAW***continued from page 5*

declaration is that it puts a statewide criminal penalty on “price gouging” on goods and services — including rental housing — defined as increases of more than 10%.

Silver explained that AB 1482 has two parts, each offering new legal protections to some renters statewide starting Jan. 1 and lasting for the next five years.

The first part covers eviction. Specifically, a landlord cannot evict a tenant unless he or she has a “just cause.” Evictions are allowed in situations where it’s the tenant’s fault — for example, if the tenant doesn’t pay rent, is a nuisance, or violates another lease term — and in some circumstances where the tenant is not at fault, such as if the landlord takes the housing units off the market, moves in, or allows a family member to move in.

In the latter category of these “no-fault” evictions, landlords would be required to pay anywhere between one and four

months’ rent to the displaced household to help cover relocation costs. Households earning more than 80% of the area median income will get one month’s rent as relocation assistance; those under that income level will get a payment equivalent to three months of rent, or four if the household includes a minor, senior or person with disabilities, in compliance with a separate relocation assistance ordinance the city council passed earlier this year.

The second part covers rent increases. Under the law, a landlord can increase rent only by 5% plus the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index, or by 10%, whichever is lower. Since this year’s annual increase in the index was 4%, the maximum allowable rent increase in 2020 will be 9%.

Under the new law, there is a provision that starting in 2020, the baseline rent to which that 9% increase can be applied is whatever a tenant’s rent was on March 15, 2019. However, the law permits a landlord to keep

overpayments if he or she has increased rent and the tenant has paid it before the rent increase limits take effect in the new year.

In that scenario, renters were in a tricky situation: They could either risk eviction by not paying the additional rent, or overpay the landlord, Silver explained. Menlo Park’s newly adopted policy offers legal protection to tenants who choose not to overpay between now and the new year, a form of “affirmative defense,” as described by Councilwoman Catherine Carlton.

However, the state and city policies come with a significant asterisk: The law doesn’t apply in a number of rental housing situations.

Specifically, renters of single-family homes or condos not owned by a corporation, real estate investment trust or limited liability company; housing units that are 15 years old or newer; school dorms; already-restricted affordable housing; and duplexes in which an owner occupies one of the units are not eligible for these protections.

## Atherton police host toy drive for school

The Atherton Police Activities League and Police Officers’ Association are collecting toys for Adelante Selby Lane Spanish Immersion School, formerly Selby Lane School, in Atherton for the holidays.

You can drop off toys and other gifts in the lobby of the Atherton Police Department at 83 Ashfield Road.

The organizations are collecting: Legos, art supplies,

Hot Wheels, jump ropes, science projects, Barbies, dolls, action figures, blankets, warm clothes, basketballs, soccer balls, sports equipment and jewelry-making kits.

The deadline to drop off donated items is Friday, Dec. 13.

For more information, contact Jennifer Frew at 650-752-0503 or [jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us).

— By Angela Swartz

Other situations not covered by these protections for renters include when an owner is renting out a bedroom or two in his or her home, or when a renter shares a bathroom or kitchen facility with the owner. Hotels, hospitals, religious facilities and care facilities are also exempt.

After the council’s vote, Lacoste told The Almanac she felt relieved, at least for the next few months, noting that she is still concerned about the possibility that the owner will choose to upgrade the apartments or take them off the market.

“Well, it’s a load off my mind for the moment,” she said. ▣

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# Belle Haven celebration remembers historic walk to school

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

**T**hursday, Nov. 14, marked the 59th year since 6-year-old African American student Ruby Bridges was escorted by federal marshals to attend her first day at an all-white elementary school in Louisiana. Her walk to school that day ushered in a milestone of the civil rights movement.

To celebrate and remember that walk, local organizations supporting children and their safety teamed up to coordinate a Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day celebration in Belle Haven, led by Menlo Park Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor and Menlo Park's Parents for Safe Routes founder Jennifer Wolosin.

The 7:30 a.m. event started at Karl E. Clark Park at 313 Market Place, where family turnout far surpassed organizers' expectations with somewhere between 60 and 100 people in attendance.

Taylor, Menlo Park's City Council representative for District 1, which includes the Belle Haven neighborhood, shared remarks with attendees and offered a short history lesson on Bridges' impact. In a text

**Genesis Young, 7,** leads students and community members on Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in Menlo Park on Nov. 14 to remember Bridges' civil rights achievement in desegregating her all-white elementary school in 1960.



Photo by Sammy Dallal

message to The Almanac, she explained that as an adult, Bridges has continued advocacy work with children because they have "clean hearts" and haven't yet learned racism, as Bridges states.

From there, participants split into two groups to walk to Belle Haven Elementary and Beechwood School.

A number of community organizations supported the event, which was co-sponsored by Safe Kids Santa Clara/San Mateo, San Mateo County Safe Routes to School, Stanford Children's Health, Parents for Safe Routes, the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County and the San Mateo

County Office of Education.

According to Taylor, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital worked with Cafe Zoe to provide students fruit, pastries and juice; the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Peninsula provided chairs; San Mateo County Safe Routes to School gave students reflective slap bracelets to be

more visible as pedestrians; the city provided the sound system; and the Menlo Park Police Department provided safe passage for the students from the park to the two schools.

"It was an amazing, magical morning," said Wolosin. "We had no idea how many people were going to show up."

The concept for the event started in South San Francisco last year and spread through the county, she said.

The event was intended to "remember how important inclusion and integration are, how far we've come, and maybe how far we still have to go to truly be an integrated community," she added. "It just felt very authentic and happy."

The walk to Beechwood School also enabled students to experience the new sidewalks the city of Menlo Park recently installed on Terminal Avenue, Wolosin said. As an advocate for safe routes to school, she said, it made her reflect on who cities build infrastructure for. To have the event focused on looking out for young kids, especially in communities that have historically been under-resourced, she said "marries together a lot of great causes." ▣



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# Natural fun

Parks and open space groups sponsor Huddart Park festivities to help families, individuals savor and connect with nature

Photos by Federica Armstrong



**Clockwise, from top left:** A mini-pumpkin painting activity brought out the artist in both young and old; a sample of the artwork; Dick Young, docent with the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks, answers questions about local animals living in the Huddart Park habitat; families participate in a 1-mile nature walk.

The invitation was enticing: “Experience a beautiful day in Huddart Park” by joining other area families and individuals for a free event that would include arts and crafts, short and long nature walks, educational programs, book-readings — even “family-friendly yoga stretches to connect to nature.”

And nearly 325 accepted that invitation on Saturday, Oct. 26, converging on the county park off Kings Mountain Road in Woodside to celebrate fall in an evergreen forest.

Arts and crafts projects included mini-pumpkin painting, and fall leaf and yarn art projects. Participants learned from volunteer docents about animals whose skulls and hides, displayed and available for hands-on

examining, were found over time in the park, and about birds whose nests were recovered and available to observe.

Master Falconer Antonio Balestreri joined the nature-lovers at Huddart with two owls for a presentation on the special nature of the raptors.

The two-and-a-half-hour event was sponsored by Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), San Mateo County Parks, and the Friends of Huddart and



Wunderlich Parks. “Our goal with this free event is to engage families and individuals all over the Bay,” wrote Rose Cheng of POST in an email.

“We want to connect the youth to nature at a young age and show them how special the outdoors can be,” she added.

“We also work to impart the message that protecting open space where we live is crucial to our physical and mental health — and organizations like POST and County Parks help support that mission.”

POST sponsors a series of events designed to get people outdoors and connected with the natural environment — one set for the near future for those who enjoy sunsets and are in good physical shape for hiking is a Dec. 7 hike at Mindego Hill in the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve, from 2 to 5 p.m.

For a schedule of future events, go to [openspacetrust.org/events](http://openspacetrust.org/events). ■

‘We want to connect the youth to nature at a young age and show them how special the outdoors can be.’

ROSE CHENG OF PENINSULA OPEN SPACE TRUST (POST)

**Clockwise, from top left:** Docents displayed nests of birds who inhabit Huddart, along with photos of them; participants were unhurried on the 1-mile nature walk; Sharon Savatski, volunteer docent for the nonprofit Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks and POST, with a trio of fellow travelers on the 1-mile nature walk; docent Dick Young explains the eating habits of woodrats that inhabit Huddart Park.

**On the cover:** A 1-mile nature walk drew families and individuals eager to experience the beauties and wonders of Huddart Park on Oct. 26. Photo by Federica Armstrong.

# Mayor, county supervisor to explore RV safe parking program

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

With much of the U.S. Geological Survey departing from its Menlo Park headquarters to Mountain View, the Menlo Park City Council has been talking about what can be done with the federally-owned property.

In the long term, council members have expressed interest in seeing affordable housing developed on the site. But in the meantime?

Maybe the secluded campus could be used to provide safe parking access for a growing number of people in the region who are living in RVs.

That's the idea Menlo Park Mayor Ray Mueller said he and San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum have just begun to discuss, and plan to bring in more stakeholders to explore.

While the USGS headquarters at 345 Middlefield Road hasn't been fully abandoned yet, Mueller said, "There's still plenty of ample parking on-site



**Alex Mulholland and Malik Hogan** sweep the driveway near the RV where Mulholland lives with Arlena Bain, the homeowner's great-granddaughter, in Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood. They have until Dec. 3 to relocate the RV or face fines of up to \$500 per day.

not being utilized."

The effort is very preliminary, both Mueller and Slocum emphasized, but they're definitely interested in exploring the concept. They plan to work with Congresswoman Anna Eshoo to explore the idea, as the initiative

would need an OK at the federal level to move forward.

Mueller said he'd be interested in partnering on such an initiative with Menlo Park-based homeless services provider LifeMoves, which operates a safe parking facility in San Jose.

Slocum said he's also working with staff to identify best practices for safe parking lots by studying others in Santa Clara and Oakland.

"There's more to it than just a parking lot," he said, noting that other safe parking sites offer wraparound services to support the households served there. In addition, he said, the county has identified a separate potential safe parking site at a county-owned parking lot near the U.S. 101/Woodside Road interchange

in Redwood City and is working with the city of Redwood City to explore starting a safe parking program there.

In Slocum's district, which includes East Palo Alto, North Fair Oaks and Menlo Park northeast of El Camino Real, as well as other unincorporated areas, the number of households living in RVs is growing significantly.

In a January count of the number of people experiencing homelessness countywide, the number of people living in RVs was up 127% from 2017, with a total of 494 people counted, compared with 218 in 2017. In Redwood City, there were 102 RVs counted and in East Palo Alto there were 53.

After the January count, the county followed up with a survey of 80 RV households. Many people living in RVs, the county reported, are working, lived in the county before moving into an RV, are living in an RV because of the high cost of housing, and are looking for other housing options.

Of the 80 RV households

surveyed, 59% of respondents were employed, and 69% reported living in the county before they moved into their RV.

When asked why they lived in an RV, 54% reported it was because of the high cost of rent, while 13% said it was because of an eviction.

Even though 57% said they were looking for housing and saw the RV as a temporary housing situation, 64% said they'd been living in an RV for a year or more.

In addition, about 9% of RV households included children.

While signs of people sleeping on the street in RVs or other vehicles are unlikely to be visible in Menlo Park because of the city's long-standing overnight parking ban, it doesn't mean former Menlo Park households aren't living in vehicles: They just spend their nights outside city boundaries.

Toby Sanchez is one of those former Menlo Park residents displaced into vehicle living. He and his roommate had been long-term renters in the run-down Stanford Inn, before the owner converted the rooms into short-term Airbnb rentals and recently received approval to redevelop the site into commercial space, condos and a penthouse. When The Almanac checked in with him in August, he shared that he and his roommate had been sleeping in a car for months.

"We have jobs. At least we're working," he said. "We're still making it. We don't have a choice, really."

They go to neighboring cities like Redwood City and Mountain View, seek out areas where RVs are parked and try to blend in.

These areas are not hard to find, he added.

"People are sleeping in cars everywhere," he said. "We're homeless, not criminals." ■



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### HOMELESS

continued from page 5

payments to buy a property, aren't helpful for their situation.

"We obviously can't afford an apartment if we live in an RV," she said.

On top of their existing challenges with looking for a new housing situation, she added, is that when she's applied for apartments before, she's run into difficulty because applications typically ask for paystubs to confirm income, which don't account for tips, so her income appears lower than it is to potential landlords.

"Even to try (to get) another

job to get a higher income in the time they gave us is not possible," she asserted. "The city is forcing us to be homeless and it doesn't need to be that way."

Mulholland's mother, Susyn Almond, who sits on the city of Mountain View's Rental Housing Committee, expressed frustration with the situation.

"I feel like my son and I are sort of the prototype ... of what's happening in Silicon Valley housing," she said.

"I live in a mother-in-law unit in Mountain View; he lives in an RV. ... He's starting a new part of his life, going to college, and gets hit with this even more insecure housing. ... It just kills me." ■

# Portola Valley faces quandary over affordable housing sites

By Rick Radin  
Almanac Staff Writer

An ad hoc committee formed to evaluate Portola Valley properties that could be used for building affordable housing will apparently pass along its findings without identifying an ideal site or sites, according to the chairman of the committee.

The committee had previously narrowed down the choices to four sites out of more than 30 the town owns, but it has found that each of the four had major drawbacks that would either inspire community opposition or inhibit development of a significant number of units, according to committee chairman Steve Toben.

In spite of the quandary over

identifying a location, the need to face the housing supply crisis isn't going away, Toben said.

Portola Valley will need to meet state affordable housing mandates as well as answer the need to build housing that teachers and firefighters can afford, or risk losing them to other cities and towns where they can find places to live, Toben said.

"There's a lack of housing possibilities for people who are indispensable to the community," he said. "We know that there are teachers who would love to live in Portola Valley, but they see that the community is not supportive of housing."

"I have spoken to individuals inside the (Portola Valley) district," Toben added. "The teachers are not residents of

our community, and they are hesitant to go public with their concerns."

At the top of the list of town-owned locations is a small plot at the Town Center that could accommodate a maximum of four to six units.

A second site is in the Blue Oaks neighborhood at the south end of town, but that site is currently deeded as dedicated open space, and neighbors have complained that building there would create evacuation

problems in the event of a wildfire or other emergency, Toben said.

The town has also been met with significant opposition to development of a third site — known as the Road Remnant, on Alpine Road west of the intersection with Portola Road — because it is adjacent to the Frog Pond, a vernal pool that is much loved by many residents because of its scenic beauty.

The fourth site, the Ford Field

baseball diamond on Alpine Road, could only accommodate one 1,200-square-foot home, the committee concluded.

The committee planned to hold one more public meeting on Nov. 18 before passing along a prioritized list of possibilities to the Town Council, outlining the strengths and weaknesses of each site, Toben said.

"It will be up to the council to make a decision balancing the interests of the entire community," he said. ▀

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#### Town of Woodside

#### Notice of Availability / Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

Public Review Period: November 18, 2019, through December 18, 2019

**Project Title:** 600 Old La Honda Road Retaining Wall / Slope Repair Project (CUSE2019-0007 and CEQA2019-0007)

**Project Description:** The project involves construction of a retaining wall to stabilize the hillside adjacent to an existing garage and driveway above Dennis Martin Creek, within a Town-designated Stream Corridor. The retaining wall and soldier beams (I-beams) would stabilize the slope following a landslide. The retaining wall would be located above the top-of-bank of Dennis Martin Creek; however, it would extend into the Dennis Martin Stream Corridor by approximately 23 feet, therefore requiring a Conditional Use Permit from the Town of Woodside. The retaining wall would be constructed into bedrock to protect the slope above the retaining wall but would not stabilize the slope below the retaining wall.

**Project Location:** 600 Old La Honda Road (APN: 075-220-200)

**Lead Agency:** Town of Woodside  
P.O. Box 620005 (Mail)  
2955 Woodside Road  
Woodside, CA 94062

**Contact Person:** Sage Schaan, AICP CEP, Principal Planner  
Tel. (650) 851-6790 / Fax. (650) 851-2195

**Public Hearing:** The Woodside Planning Commission meeting to consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration is scheduled for **December 18, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in Independence Hall located at 2955 Woodside Road.** Notice of the Planning Commission public hearing will also be provided in a newspaper of local circulation, to neighbors within 300 feet of the project, and to all organizations or individuals who have previously requested such notice in writing.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration, Project Plans, and referenced documents are available for review during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Woodside Town Hall, located at 2955 Woodside Road in Woodside, California 94062. The Mitigated Negative Declaration will be available on the Woodside website: [www.woodsidetown.org](http://www.woodsidetown.org)

Please submit any written comments on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration by 5:00 p.m. on December 18, 2019 to Sage Schaan at [sschaan@woodsidetown.org](mailto:sschaan@woodsidetown.org) or by mail at the Town of Woodside, at the address listed above.



**Kelicy Zhang**, 11, left, and **Renee Zhang**, 5, look for their own chestnuts. The pick-your-own farm provides visitors with buckets and gloves during harvest season, which typically runs from mid-October through November.

## It's chestnut season

Rare crop grows in La Honda hills, and is ready for the reaping

By **Lloyd Lee**

Photos by **Sammy Dallal**

In the unincorporated Santa Cruz Mountains community of La Honda, high above Woodside in southern San Mateo County, there's a 20-acre farm that nurtures a rare crop for this area: chestnuts. Skyline Chestnuts in La Honda is the only such farm in the Bay Area, and among only a handful on the entire west coast.

Owner Hans Johsens said the Santa Cruz Mountains provide ideal growing conditions for his American-hybrid and Japanese chestnut trees — the coastal fog and rain help sustain the trees, the air currents help facilitate wind pollination and the steep

and relatively rocky terrain provides efficient drainage of excess water. And the area is isolated from the fungal disease, commonly known as chestnut blight, that decimated the American chestnut in the early 1900s.

With all the right conditions in place, the 120 trees planted in the La Honda orchard can produce several tons of chestnuts on their branches during the short harvesting season, he said.

Johsens said thousands of visitors come up to Skyline each fall between mid-October and Thanksgiving Day to reap and eat the rewards. The farm typically sells out of its harvest within weeks.

On a recent Saturday, people

were out in the orchard with buckets and leather gloves gathering up chestnuts to take home.

"We've never seen a chestnut tree before," said Melanie Barnett, a California native and senior research scientist at Stanford University. Melanie recently came to the farm with her husband, Bill Barnett, to see a chestnut tree and eat a chestnut for the first time.

"We're gonna find out how to roast them or how to prepare them," Melanie Barnett said. "I've heard some people boil them?"

The origin of the farm is hazy. According to Johsens, a Spanish settler moved into the mountains and planted the chestnut trees in the mid-19th century during the California Gold Rush. Over the years, the farm was passed down

through two families and eventually purchased in the 1980s by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, which acquires land with the purpose of preserving open space for the public.

But without the proper resources to maintain a chestnut farm, the land was left largely neglected. Then Johsens stepped in, a burly, bearded but gentle retired mechanic who has managed the farm for 15 years since Skyline Chestnuts re-opened to the public in 2004.

"I've done a tremendous amount of work since the beginning," Johsens, 58, said. "When I first got here, there was a huge amount of underbrush and forest trees that had grown up through the canopy of the chestnut trees, so we could only access about 20% of the crop the first year."

Disruptive interlopers also became an issue. Overzealous gatherers would trespass during closed hours and scavenge for chestnuts in the dark with flashlights. Some would bring ropes with grappling hooks to yank the branches down and pick unripe chestnuts off the trees, damaging the entire plant in the process.

This year, Johsens suspects the yield will be consistent with the last — around 2 1/2 tons. But with climate change exacerbating violent weather fluctuations, annual yields can vary even in the favorable environmental conditions of the mountains.

"In 2014, we had the worst season ever where we were only open for 10 days because there was no crop out there, and we had been preceded by five years of severe drought," Johsens said. "The annual rainfall up here was 16 inches. Normally we get 45 to 50 inches."

Johsens also needs to clear more

ground and plant more trees as the number of visitors increases each year in part because of social media. According to Johsens, a thousand people had visited the farm on a recent Sunday.

Loui Zhang, a Saratoga resident who came to the farm with his family, was among the season's earlier gatherers. Zhang said he

**'I love it (here). I got a real strong connection to it, and it's a connection I don't have elsewhere in my life.'**

HANS JOHSENS,  
SKYLINE CHESTNUTS OWNER

knew exactly what he was going to do with the chestnuts after he purchased them for \$7.50 a pound.

"Stew," Zhang curtly said, while crouched down, digging through sticks and leaves

with equipment provided by the orchard to find the perfect chestnuts. "Maybe cooked with some water. It's delicious. No other ingredients you need to add in."

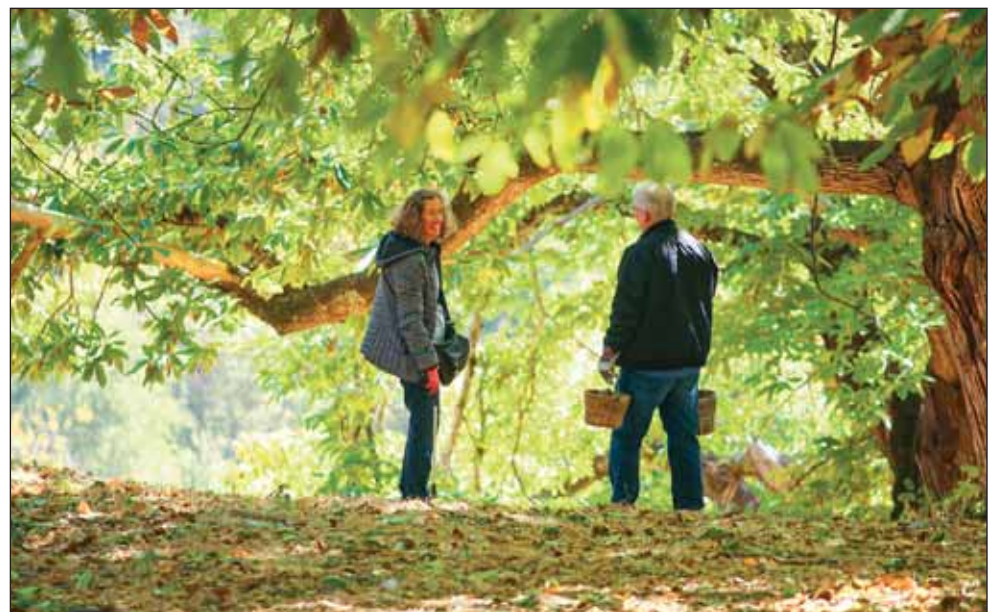
Sachiyo Akiba, who brought her daughter, Akari, and son, Yamato, said she planned to use the chestnuts to make kuri gohan, or chestnut rice, a traditional Japanese dish usually eaten in the fall.

To keep these customers happy and returning next year, Johsens is determined to put himself and his small team of laborers and staff through the arduous process of maintaining the land. And to him it's worth it.

"I don't know what it is," Johsens said. "I love it (here). I got a real strong connection to it, and it's a connection I don't have elsewhere in my life."

*Skyline Chestnuts is open Wednesday through Sunday during harvest season, which typically runs from early October through November, or until the chestnuts stop dropping from the trees. For more information, go to [skylinechestnuts.com](http://skylinechestnuts.com).*

*Lloyd Lee is a writer and editorial assistant at the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac's sister publication.*



**Left: San Jose resident** Neil Catic searches for the best chestnuts out of his harvest from the Skyline Chestnuts farm. **Right: Sunnyvale residents** Melanie Barnett, left, and Glen Barnett harvest chestnuts for the first time during a visit to Skyline Chestnuts, a 20-acre pick-your-own farm located in the Santa Cruz Mountains above Woodside.



Created by two friends who live in Menlo Park and Palo Alto's Crescent Park, the new mobile app MyNabes lets neighbors post requests for everything from sport partners to the loan of tools.

## Two locals launch MyNabes neighborhood app

Mobile networking app brings residents together in real time

By Sue Dremann

Photos by Magali Gauthier

When Elodie Bottine lived in Paris as a young woman, she learned of a 93-year-old neighbor who lived alone in the same apartment building since 1935. The neighbor had no one to look after her, so Bottine looked in, then took care of her until she died at age 102.

Now a mother of two and an entrepreneur living in Menlo Park's Menlo Oaks neighborhood, Bottine longed for similar inter-generational connections. In fast-paced and overscheduled Silicon Valley, she found them lacking.

She and a friend, Raluca Perkins, a resident of Palo Alto's Crescent Park neighborhood, have launched a smartphone application to help their neighbors build community. MyNabes links people together in real time without the bother of annoying advertising and negative comments found on other social-networking sites, she said.

Two years ago, Bottine set out

to build her own neighborhood social-networking mobile application. The free app lets people connect in 19 categories, from sports to playdates, volunteer opportunities and tool sharing to "need it now" for immediate needs, such as a cup of sugar. The new app launched on Oct. 16.

Bottine was put off by the negativity she found on other sites, she said. On a French-cooking networking site she belongs to, what should have been a pleasant exchange between people was frequently negative. A woman seeking ingredients for a traditional recipe was bombarded with unflattering comments criticizing the recipe as too fattening or too sugary.

"All she wanted was to find out where she could buy the ingredients," Bottine said.

Perkins agreed.

"We wanted a tool to connect neighbors to each other, one where people can't bash each other. When communities work together and help each other out,

it is the best way to create a social bond for all generations, and that is our future," she said.

On MyNabes, users reply to a posting by sending a private message to a neighbor. Those making a request post what they want under one of the app's categories: Loan of tools or objects, Playdates, Need a hand/DIY, Sport partners, Pets, Groceries, Donate/exchange, Meeting with neighbors, Babysitters, Carpool, Request advice, Events and celebrations, Teaching/coaching, Volunteers, Courtesy visits, Garage sale, Computer and web, Daily help/work and Need it now.

After making a request through a short post, a user can also decide the urgency of his or her request by choosing either "now," "when-ever" or by a specified date. Users can also choose who will see the post by selecting "just your street," "your neighborhood" or "your nearby neighborhood."

Lastly, posters choose how they want to compensate someone for the favor by selecting one of six reward categories. Compensation can be a simple thank you, sharing fruits or vegetables, exchanges of items or errands, a drink, homemade cooking or money.

Bottine said her children were in French school where they didn't have the opportunity for many playdates. She also likes to run and could have used such an app to plan get-togethers for her children and herself, she said.

The "need it now" category is kind of an SOS catch-all, and one to which Perkins said she relates.

"I was at home and the fire alarm started ringing," Perkins said, recalling a frantic moment when the children were at home and she couldn't leave the house. Using the app, she could have

quickly borrowed a battery from a neighbor to end the noise, she said.

The same goes for a badly needed wrench while in the midst of a plumbing project or those two eggs that are so desperately needed while in the middle of a recipe. One post under the groceries category could save a trip to the store if a neighbor is already there.

Perkins and Bottine said the app can help save on trips, thus benefiting the environment. Instead of purchasing a tool one only needs to use a couple of times a year, the app lets neighbors share with each other.

The categories also offer opportunities to check on an elderly or sick neighbor. Retired neighbors can connect with younger ones when they volunteer skills, such as tutoring or woodworking, Bottine said. Perkins said she met with some of her neighbors on her street to discuss what they'd like to see in a neighborhoods app. The categories align with their suggestions.

"Our goal is to bring a social

bond between all generations," Bottine added.

Bottine and Perkins said they chose to launch the app around Halloween, which is one of the few times of the year when people get out to mingle with their neighbors.

How to engage the new population of immigrants is a frequent lament among neighborhood associations. Perkins, a native of Romania, said MyNabes helps eliminate social and cultural differences for new immigrants and could make it easier to connect.

"Everybody comes from a different way to approach people. This app offers a way for people who don't connect by knocking on doors and who don't want to bother other people to reach people. It's bringing knocking on neighbor's doors back into the modern age."

The MyNabes app is downloadable on Google Play and the Apple App Store.

Sue Dremann is a staff writer with the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac's sister paper.



Raluca Perkins of Palo Alto and Elodie Bottine of Menlo Park launched the app MyNabes, which they hope brings a social bond between all generations on Oct. 15.

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# Teachers awarded Jeanie Ritchie Grants for innovative projects

By Angela Swartz  
Almanac Staff Writer

Teaching mindfulness, learning as if in a one-room schoolhouse and tracking if more active students earn higher grades are just a few of the 26 projects that earned grant funding from the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation this school year.

The foundation, through its annual Jeanie Ritchie Grants, announced on Oct. 29 that it will award \$39,000 — with grants ranging from \$122 to \$6,250 — to teachers to fund innovative curriculum and projects in Menlo Park City School District classrooms during the 2019-20 school year.

“For our kids, they are getting the unique chance to see what true innovation looks like — it’s messy and often not how you expected it to be, but it is always a learning experience and can even be fun,” said Colleen Cutcliffe, chair of the grant committee and a district parent, in a prepared statement. “I am grateful to all of the parents and community supporters who have donated to MPAEF (Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation) to enable our district

leadership to carry these important grant opportunities forward to our teachers.”

The mission of the grant program is to allow teachers to pursue innovative teaching programs in their classroom, grade or school, and to provide educational experiences that students would not have otherwise. The grant program began in 1984 to honor Jeanie Ritchie, a founder of the education foundation.

Below are some of the programs funded by the grants:

**A Mindful Classroom:** Encinal School teacher Rachel Naishtut will be teaching her students a variety of mindfulness techniques — mindful listening, mindful breathing, mindful movement and practicing gratitude. These techniques will help students focus on academics, as well as be more aware of those around them.

**Active-Academics:** Physical education teachers across school sites will engage fourth through eighth grade students to determine if it is possible to collect individual student activity data and correlate that to academic performance. Data collection will start with participating students wearing Fitbit fitness monitors

throughout the day.

**Apple Valley:** Encinal School second grade students will experience the interactive “Apple Valley” curriculum, where they will pretend they are living in rural California in the 1800s and attending classes in a one-room schoolhouse in rural California. They will practice reciting poetry, use chalk and slates, bring lunches in boxes and sacks, and do chores at school and at home.

**Call and Response:** This grant gives elementary and middle school students the chance to hear professional musicians perform and discuss what makes jazz a unique American art form. Jazz Band, Band 2 and Orchestra 2 students at Hillview Middle School will work in small groups with the professional musicians on the specifics of instrumental technique, phrasing, articulation and how a jazz ensemble rehearsal differs from other ensemble rehearsals.

**Dinosaurs Rock Assembly:** Encinal School third graders will participate in an assembly

program where there will be life-size dinosaur fossils and other prehistoric items that are 10,000 years old to over 500 million years old. There will be a visual display and interactive presentation. The program includes a real fossil dig.

**Engineering in Action:** A Hillview Middle School project that combines engineering and art in an outdoor interactive exhibit for students. Students will build a board from PVC

pipes attached to a steel wall using magnets.

**Melba Beals:** Hillview Middle School teacher Valerie Cypert will teach seventh graders about Melba Beals — one of the students from the Little Rock Nine, a group of nine African American students who helped desegregate Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Students will read an excerpt from Beal’s book “Warriors Don’t Cry” and complete an activity that deepens their understanding of her experience. The project culminates with an in-person presentation from Beals.

**Microloans:** Oak Knoll School teacher Michelle Tom’s fifth grade class will participate in a unit on poverty and hunger. Students will learn about factors contributing to poverty, develop and research solutions, and then apply for and use microloans to start their own businesses.

**Outdoor Classroom:** Natural STEAM: The goal of this grant at Encinal School is to provide supplies that help get students outdoors in a focused, productive way, connecting them with nature while completing STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) challenges and learning math, reading, writing and science. Regular work will include math practice with chalk, silent reading, partner reading and a writing workshop.

**Start the Growing:** The grant for Sandra Horowitz’s project for Laurel School fifth grade students will the school purchase a sturdy, lockable, walk-in greenhouse so that students can learn about how new plants can be started from seeds, cuttings, roots or bulbs.

The grant recipients will be honored at a reception on Nov. 20 in Menlo Park. ■

‘For our kids, they are getting the unique chance to see what true innovation looks like.’

COLLEEN CUTCLIFFE

## Portola Valley school district shares new classroom designs

Classrooms will be funded by \$49.5 million bond measure

Parents, community members and administrators gathered at Ormondale School on Nov. 5 to view mock-ups of schematic design plans for changes to the Portola Valley School District’s two schools. The new classroom construction will be funded by the \$49.5 million Measure Z bond, which voters passed last November to fund school repairs and renovations. A new two-story classroom building at Corte Madera School is estimated to cost between \$38.4 million and \$42.5 million. At Ormondale School, projects costing \$10.9 million to \$12 million are included as first-phase priorities.

Construction is slated to begin in spring 2021, according to district officials. The design of the buildings will aesthetically match the surrounding residential neighborhoods, with gabled roofs, large clear windows and lots of natural light, said Brent McClure, principal at CAW Architects, which is designing the new classrooms.

Teachers will be able to mix indoor and outdoor learning on the newly designed campuses, directly connecting students with nature, he said. Classrooms will be organized around a central atrium at Corte Madera, the district’s 4-8 school, and workers will build a deck which will overlook the Frog Pond. The deck could be used for lessons on the watershed and seasons, as well as bird watching, McClure said. Superintendent Roberta Zarea noted that the Frog Pond is not currently used as part of classroom lessons.

District officials want the new buildings to be “highly sustainable” and have solar panels, McClure said. CAW will determine in the next

couple of months how close the new buildings will be to attaining net zero energy waste, he said. Net zero energy waste buildings are operated to reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, or recover solid waste streams, which results in zero waste disposal, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Many of the classrooms at Corte Madera will connect to one another to allow for large group gatherings, and they will have large windows, McClure said. These features aid 21st-century learning, which includes team teaching, both indoor and outdoor activities, and large meeting spaces. The new campus configuration will open up views of Windy Hill Open Space Preserve, he said.

Community members told the district they want to incorporate the surrounding open space into Corte Madera’s new design, McClure said. This helped shape the design of the school, he said.

A gardening program at Ormondale, the district’s K-3 school, helped shape part of the campus’ new design, he said. The campus will feature a greenhouse and offer therapy centered on playing with plants.

District officials expect construction workers to complete work on the new classrooms in January 2023.

The event on Nov. 5 was one of two recent open houses to exhibit diagrams of new campus designs. Designs will be completed around February or March, Zarea said.

Visit [pvsd.net/facilities/measure\\_z\\_bond](http://pvsd.net/facilities/measure_z_bond) to view the designs.

— By Angela Swartz

## Menlo Park school district raises substitute teacher pay

Substitute teachers in the Menlo Park City School District have received a 6% pay increase this school year. The district is also introducing a bonus for longer-term substitute teachers.

The district announced it has bumped pay for subs — who in Menlo Park are called guest teachers — from last school year’s rate of \$170 per day to \$180 per day this year, according to a press release. It will also offer a new annual bonus of \$2,500 for long-term guest teachers. Both changes were effective Nov. 1, and the district plans to keep them in place in future years.

“Having a cadre of well supported, flexible, and positive Guest Teachers and Guest Paraprofessionals ensures that the high quality teaching and learning throughout the district can continue without interruption when employees are out ill or attending essential professional development,” the district said in its press release. “Gone are the days of low pay and tough conditions for substitute teachers.”

Those who commit to subbing in the district for a minimum of 100 days in a given school year will receive the \$2,500 bonus. Guest teachers can apply for the incentive through the human

resources department.

Substitutes who teach special education and bilingual classrooms now earn \$190 per day, while retired district teachers earn \$195 per day for guest teaching. People teaching in these categories were previously paid the general rate, according to Parke Treadway, the district’s public information officer.

Last year, officials in the K-8 district, which serves about 3,000 students, told The Almanac it had a shortage of guest teachers. Other nearby districts have also faced shortages of substitute teachers.

“The guest teacher pool is very fluid and we would welcome as many new guest teachers as we can recruit,” Treadway said.

The district already offers a higher rate of \$285 per day for guest teachers who sub long-term with the district. Long-term rates apply after 20 consecutive days in an assignment, and the higher rate is paid retroactively to the first day on an assignment.

No experience is needed to become a guest teacher.

For more information, contact [hr@mpcsd.org](mailto:hr@mpcsd.org) or call 650-321-7140.

For more on the district’s guest teacher pay rates, go to [tinyurl.com/mpcsdsubs](http://tinyurl.com/mpcsdsubs).

— By Angela Swartz

## Tim Bond named TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's next artistic leader

Bond will join venerable theater company in March, taking over for founder Robert Kelley

By Karla Kane

Tim Bond has been appointed the next artistic director of TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, the arts organization announced Nov. 12. Bond will take over for founder Robert Kelley of Menlo Park, who will step down in June after 50 years with the Tony Award-winning regional theater company.

"We are delighted Tim Bond has accepted this position," TheatreWorks board of trustees Chairman Roy Johnson said in a press release. "With his stellar national career at major regional theatres as both an award-winning director and administrator, his tireless promotion of new works, and his extensive commitment to diversity and inclusion, Tim brings an extraordinary blend of experience and expertise. We are confident he will honor the profound legacy of Robert Kelley, ensuring TheatreWorks continues the work Kelley began 50 years ago of presenting art that serves

our community and contributes to the national theatre narrative."

Bond, who holds a bachelor's degree in dramatic arts from Howard University and a master's degree in directing from the

University of Washington, is one of the world's leading interpreters of the works of August Wilson and, over a three-decade career, has worked as artistic director of Seattle Group Theatre, associate artistic director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and producing artistic director at Syracuse Stage.

He was also a professor at the Syracuse University Department of Drama and University of Washington's School of Drama, heading its actor training program.

"Our three-year search process involved our Board, staff, and members of the community. Out of the over 100 candidates who initially expressed interest in the position, I can't think of a better individual to carry forward

**'I can't think of a better individual to carry forward the values of artistic excellence, community, diversity, and a respect for New Work and the role of music in theatre than Tim Bond.'**

PHIL SANTORA, THEATREWORKS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Photo by Alan Alabastro

**Tim Bond** will become the second artistic director in TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's 50-year history when he replaces founding Artistic Director Robert Kelley next year.

the values of artistic excellence, community, diversity, and a respect for New Work and the role of music in theatre than Tim Bond," TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Executive Director Phil Santora said in the press release. "He brings an international scope of experience with a commitment to our home community. He is the perfect artistic director for our 51st season and beyond."

Bond has also served on the national boards of trustees for Theatre Communications Group and the International

Association of Theatre for Children and Young Audiences (ASSITEJ), according to the press statement.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue Robert Kelley's great work, and to lead this spirited company into its next exciting phase," Bond said.

More information is available at [theatreworks.org](http://theatreworks.org).

*Karla Kane is the arts and entertainment editor with the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac's sister paper.*

## Royal drama at the Dragon

Tudor tale, 'Anne of the Thousand Days,' is an intimate approach to history

By Karla Kane

Though it all went down nearly 500 years ago, the tempestuous, world-changing romance between England's King Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn, remains an eternally compelling topic. It's juicy royal drama that seems to make great, well, drama, no matter how many books, movies or plays come out about it. Dragon Productions Theatre Company's current take on Maxwell Anderson's 1948 play "Anne of the Thousand Days" offers a stylized yet human examination of the fateful couple.

In case you aren't a history nerd like me and need a refresher, Henry's desire to get rid of his first wife and marry Anne Boleyn, who refused to be his mistress like her sister, Mary, led him to make a break from Catholicism and create the Anglican church, reshaping world history in accordance with his lust/love/desire for a legitimate

son. This also set him on an increasingly tyrannical path that would see him marry four more wives before he finally wore out.

Anne Boleyn, maligned by her detractors and idolized by her fans, serves as a complicated heroine (or anti-heroine). Was she a witch, a calculating schemer, a whore? Or a feminist icon, victim and modern reformer? In Anderson's play, Anne is definitely a sympathetic protagonist. Played quite well at the Dragon by Ivette Deltoro, she's a fiercely intelligent, independent young woman who's dragged unwillingly into the royal circle, eventually embraces her powerful new station, then finds herself out of favor and about to lose her head (spoiler alert?) in one of history's most spectacular rises and downfalls.

Peter Ray Juarez, as Henry VIII, offers a surprising and ultimately very winning performance, his every facial expression reflecting the arrogant, yet charming,

monarch's thoughts and feelings and his smooth voice reminiscent of a televangelist. His Bluff King Hal is still young and virile, the ideal Renaissance prince, and not yet fully the ill, paranoid despot he'd become. Juarez gets audience laughs as he displays Henry's astounding, clueless ego and sense of entitlement, a living example of male privilege and power in action, but he shows, too, his genuine desire to live up to his kingly duties, to get that elusive, all-important male heir and to be truly loved.

Though it's definitely Henry and Anne's story, there are a number of fascinating side characters and the Dragon's ensemble members (directed by Melinda Marks), including Lisa Burton, Helena G. Clarkson, April Culver, Tonya Duncan, Ronald Feichtmeir and Keenan Flagg, all tackle multiple roles, sometimes even switching characters within the same scene and featuring a number of

gender-bending casting choices. It's fun to watch, seeing folks take on roles they would not have been offered in more traditional versions. Those unfamiliar with the history, however, may find themselves confused.

Interludes of period-style music, often led by Flagg on classical guitar and vocals with others joining in, is a nice touch (although he struggled opening night with the melody to "I Had a Little Nut Tree").

For a "costume drama," this production is not heavily costumed. Henry, as befitting the king, gets the most sumptuous of Marley Teter's attire, while most of the cast are outfitted in neutral clothes (think gray yoga pants and boots) with key period elements (a hat here, a cardinal's cloak there) representing their various characters. Deltoro's neck goes from holding Anne's trademark "B" necklace to a white ruff to one in blood red, representing her grim fate.

Anderson's script is witty and poetic and the structure of the show, framed by Anne's imprisonment in the Tower of London,

her execution night, flashing back to key moments of her "thousand days" with Henry, is well done. Audiences will laugh (or cry) knowingly at dialogue that resonates, such as when Henry and his mates engage in some ye olde "locker room talk," and appreciate the irony of Henry's doubt that a woman could ever rule England. (He and Anne's only living child, Elizabeth, whose birth deeply disappoints them both, would of course go on to reign as one of the nation's most successful sovereigns, among several other notable English queens.)

Dragon's "Anne of the Thousand Days" is another good version of a great old story, an intimate tale with global implications. ■

### ■ INFORMATION

What: "Anne of the Thousand Days."  
Where: Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City.  
When: Through Nov. 24. Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m.  
Cost: \$29-\$37.  
Info: [Dragonproductions.net](http://Dragonproductions.net).

# Public Notices

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

GOMEZ FARM  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 282930  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Gomez Farm, located at 585 Shell Parkway Apt. 5103, Redwood City, CA 94065, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
Oscar J. Gomez-Sacasa  
585 Shell Parkway Apt. 5103  
Redwood City, CA 94065  
Myrian L. Gomez  
585 Shell Parkway Apt. 5103  
Redwood City, CA 94065  
This business is conducted by: Married Couple.  
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 October 23, 2019.  
(Almanac Oct 30; Nov 6, 13, 20, 2019)

WONG PROPERTIES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 282889  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Wong Properties, located at 751 Warrington Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
WONGFRATRIS LLC  
751 Warrington Ave.  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
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 Jan. 2, 2019.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 18, 2019.  
(ALM Oct. 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2019)

LA MICHOCANITA GRILL  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 282980  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
La Michoacanita Grill, located at 1226 Jervis Ave., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
JAIME E. CABALLERO  
1226 Jervis Ave.  
E. 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 10-29-2019.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 29, 2019.  
(ALM Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2019)

DINO FIXES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 282823  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Dino Fixes, located at 1041 Ruth Ct., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
BERNARDINO CARDENAS  
1041 Ruth Ct.  
E. 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 10/15/2019.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 15, 2019.  
(ALM Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2019)

THE CLEAN MASTER  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 282972  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
The Clean Master, located at 3510 Hoover

St., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
JAZMIN MARTINEZ  
3510 Hoover St.  
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 10/29/19.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 29, 2019.  
(ALM Nov. 13, 20, 27; Dec. 4, 2019)

JR JANITORIAL  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 283020  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
JR Janitorial, located at 2224 Menalto Ave., East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
MIGUEL MORENO MORENO  
2224 Menalto Ave.  
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 11/1/2019.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 4, 2019.  
(ALM Nov. 13, 20, 27; Dec. 4, 2019)

EMBLT FINANCIAL GROUP  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 283035  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
EMBLT Financial Group, located at 80 Yale Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
SANFORD PRINGLE  
80 Yale Rd.  
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 November 5, 2019.  
(ALM Nov. 20, 27; Dec. 4, 11, 2019)

## 997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. : 00000008515298 Title Order No.: 1110948 FHA/VA/PMI No.: ATTENTION RECORDER: THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE TO AN ATTACHED SUMMARY APPLIES ONLY TO COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR, NOT TO THIS RECORDED ORIGINAL NOTICE. NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED. YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 04/15/2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 04/28/2004 as Instrument No. 2004-083184 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of SAN MATEO County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: WILLIAM COATS AND SHERRI COATS, HUSBAND AND WIFE, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by California Civil Code 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 12/04/2019 TIME OF SALE: 1:00 PM PLACE OF SALE: AT THE MARSHALL STREET ENTRANCE TO THE HALL OF JUSTICE AND RECORDS, 400 COUNTY CENTER, REDWOOD CITY,

CA 94061. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 10 JOAQUIN ROAD, PORTOLA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 94028 APN#: 080-130-220 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$634,394.72. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 714-730-2727 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site [www.servicelinkASAP.com](http://www.servicelinkASAP.com) for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 00000008515298. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AGENCY SALES and POSTING 714-730-2727 [www.servicelinkASAP.com](http://www.servicelinkASAP.com) BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP as Trustee 3990 E. Concourse Street, Suite 350 Ontario, CA 91764 (866) 795-1852 Dated: 10/29/2019 BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. A-4709057 11/13/2019, 11/20/2019, 11/27/2019

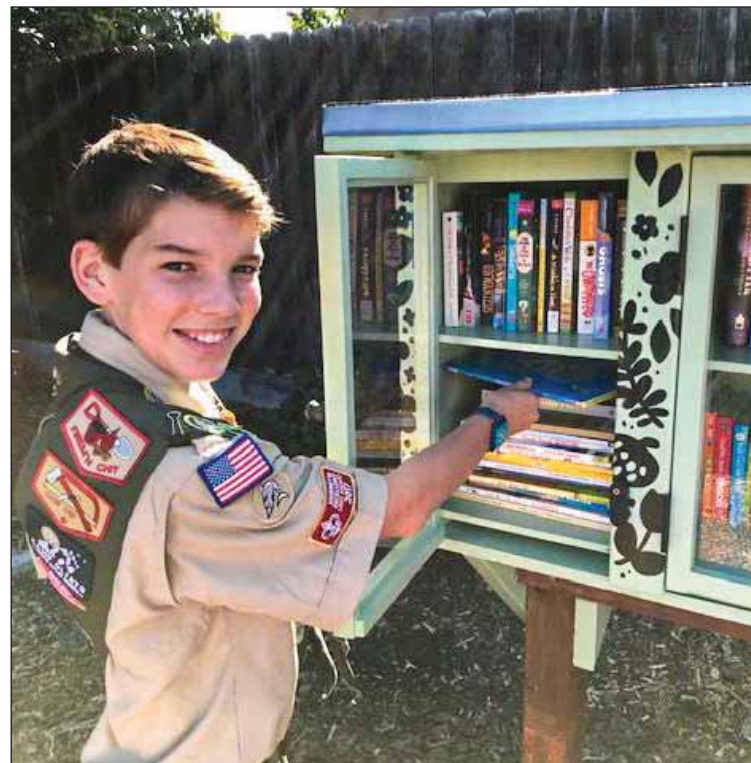


Photo courtesy of Menlo Park Rotary Club

**Thomas Garff** of Menlo Park poses with the Little Free Library structure he built. The photo was taken at an Oct. 26 event in the Belle Haven community garden, where the library was installed.

## Community garden now offers food for the mind, thanks to local Scout

By **Renee Batti**  
Almanac Editor

Five years ago, the Menlo Park Rotary Club and the city joined forces with community volunteers and established a garden that would serve the Belle Haven community. It was situated on city-owned property at Ivy Drive and Hill Avenue, and its 25 beds of volunteer-tended soil would support the growing of vegetables, fruit and flowers.

Last month the Belle Haven community garden acquired a feature aimed at providing a bounty for those wishing to expand their worlds through the magic of reading. Eagle Scout candidate Thomas Garff, 13, designed, built and installed a Little Free Library to plant in the garden, complete with books for the picking.

The city of Menlo Park, the Rotary Club and Facebook on Oct. 26 hosted a ceremony to unveil the wooden, book-filled enclosure, with Mayor

Pro Tem Cecelia Taylor presenting a proclamation recognizing Thomas "as an outstanding example of volunteerism and community service for others to follow."

Thomas, a Hillview Middle School student and Willows resident, estimates that he spent more than 40 hours on the project, with fellow scouts volunteering an additional 100 hours, according to Tom Gibboney of the Rotary Club. But not all the work was done by the kids: Thomas' grandfather pitched in as well, and traveled from his home in Utah to attend the unveiling ceremony and presentation of the proclamation honoring young Thomas, Gibboney said.

Facebook helped with funding for the project, and Lauren Swezey of that company also attended the ceremony, Gibboney said.

According to the proclamation, Thomas has given more than 150 hours of volunteer service to the Menlo Park community through activities such as community beautification projects, canned food drives, and collecting donated Spanish-language books for a service trip to Guatemala with Operation Smile, among other projects. He has also volunteered in Spanish immersion programs at local elementary schools, the proclamation said.

Thomas is expected to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout in January, according to the proclamation. ■

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# Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

## Submitting items for the Calendar

Go to [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com) and see the Community Calendar module at the top right side of the page. Click on "Add your event." If the event is of interest to a large number of people, also e-mail a press release to [Editor@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:Editor@AlmanacNews.com).

Visit [AlmanacNews.com/calendar](http://AlmanacNews.com/calendar) to see more calendar listings

### Theater

**'A Christmas Story'** Based on the motion picture, Janie Scott's "A Christmas Story" musical chronicles the young and bespectacled Ralphie Parker as he schemes his way toward the holiday gift of his dreams. Nov. 21-24; times vary. \$27-\$57; discounts available. Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. [paplayers.org](http://paplayers.org)

**'Anne of the Thousand Days'** Maxwell Anderson's historical drama chronicles the Queen of England, Anne Boleyn, on the eve of her death, as she reflects on the journey that led her to become a queen, a mother and, eventually, a woman condemned to death. Nov. 21-24; times vary. \$29-\$175; discount available. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. [dragonproductions.net](http://dragonproductions.net)

**Cirque Leviosa** Cirque Leviosa is a "Harry Potter" themed show for children and families. Audience members are invited to wear wizarding costumes. Nov. 20, 7 p.m. \$20. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. [dragonproductions.net](http://dragonproductions.net)

**'Into the Woods'** Broadway by the Bay concludes its 2019 season with "Into the Woods," a Tony-winning musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine. Nov. 23-24; times vary. \$48-\$70; discounts available. Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway St., Redwood City. [app.arts-people.com](http://app.arts-people.com)

**'Miracle on 34th Street'** The heartwarming holiday classic, "Miracle on 34th Street," is retold in the tradition of a live 1940s era radio broadcast. Nov. 21-Dec. 22; times vary. \$20-\$38; discount for students. Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. [losaltosstage.org](http://losaltosstage.org)

**'The Resistible Rise Of Arturo Ui'** Foothill Theatre Arts presents Bertolt Brecht's satirical

play about the rise of a demagogue, "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui," in an adaptation by American playwright, Bruce Norris (Clybourne Park). Nov. 8-24; Thursdays through Sundays; times vary. \$5-\$20, discounts available. Foothill College, 12345 S. El Monte Road, Los Altos. [foothill.edu](http://foothill.edu)

**'Urinetown'** Menlo-Atherton High School's Performing Arts Center hosts the Tony Award-winning musical "Urinetown." Nov. 22-24. \$12-\$15. Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. [madrama.org](http://madrama.org)

**3D Cabaret Part 2** Three veteran South Bay performers return to the Pear Flambe Cabaret with "3D Cabaret Part 2." David Mister, David Murphy, and Dave Leon perform a wide range of showtunes along with several guest singers. Nov. 22-23, 8 p.m. \$20. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. [thepear.org](http://thepear.org)

### Concerts

**Peninsula Symphony with Stanford Symphonic Chorus** Peninsula Symphony and Stanford Symphonic Chorus perform "Chichester Psalms," a work in three movements, each based on the text of a complete Psalm, paired with the excerpt of another Psalm and all sung in Hebrew. Nov. 22, 24; times vary. \$10-\$20; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. [ragazzi.org](http://ragazzi.org)

**Redwood Symphony** The second subscription concert of Redwood Symphony's 35th season features Bay Area-based composer Mason Bates, Academy Award winner Alexandre Desplat and more. Nov. 23, 8-10 p.m. \$30; discounts available. Canada College Main Theatre, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City. [redwoodsymphony.org](http://redwoodsymphony.org)

**University Singers** Robert Huw Morgan directs the University Singers' program of German Romantic music, including works by Clara Schumann and Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel.

Nov. 20, 7:30-9 p.m. \$13-\$23; discounts available. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. [events.stanford.edu](http://events.stanford.edu)

### Music

**Collage Vocal Ensemble** For their ninth season, Collage Vocal Ensemble takes inspiration from music by Kirke Mechem, Charles Wood, Ross Lee Finney and Harry Belafonte, among others. Nov. 24, 4-6 p.m. Free; donations suggested. St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. [stbedesmenlo-park.org](http://stbedesmenlo-park.org)

### Talks & Lectures

**The Rebirth of Polynesian Voyaging** Guest speaker Jonathan Ching shares his experience sailing with a Hokule'a, a deep sea voyaging canoe that has important ties to ancient Hawaiian traditions. Nov. 20, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. [menlopark.org](http://menlopark.org)

**USGS lecture on sea level rise** USGS research oceanographer Sean Vitousek talks about the unprecedented civil engineering challenge of rising sea levels. Nov. 21, 7-8 p.m. Free. USGS Menlo Park, 345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. [usgs.gov](http://usgs.gov)

**Significant U.S. Supreme Court Cases** Attorney Barbara Creed tells the facts and issues in three cases on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court this term, and leads a discussion about how the court will approach these cases. Nov. 25, 6:45-8 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. [my.lww.org](http://my.lww.org)

**Susannah Cahalan** Susannah Cahalan is joined by Dr. Shaili Jain, a psychiatrist, researcher, author and PTSD specialist, to talk about her new book, "The Great Pretender." Nov. 20, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$15-\$45; discount for students. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

### Family

**'A Biscuit for Chocolate'** Local author Nancy Tomkins and illustrator Joan Hausman visit to share their new children's book, "A Biscuit for Chocolate." Nov. 21, 4-5 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. [menlopark.org](http://menlopark.org)

**Stunt Dog Experience** Meet a cast of professional performers and over a dozen talented rescue dogs as they pull off tricks, big air stunts, comedy antics and athletic feats. Nov. 23, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. \$35-\$45. Albert and Janet Schultz Cultural Arts Hall (Bldg F), 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. [paloaltojcc.org](http://paloaltojcc.org)

### Museums & Exhibits

**The Melancholy Museum** Mark Dion, known for his work on the history of museums and their collections, delves into the original Stanford family collection to create a cabinet of curiosities for the 21st century. Ongoing; closed Tuesdays; times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. [museum.stanford.edu](http://museum.stanford.edu)

**Surf Sequence** "Surf Sequence" explores Ansel Adams' relationship with water in different forms with a series of spontaneously captured surf images. Nov. 20-May 18, 2020; closed Tuesdays; times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. [events.stanford.edu](http://events.stanford.edu)

**Richard Diebenkorn** See an intimate and interactive installation of famed Bay Area artist Richard Diebenkorn's paintings and sketchbooks that shed light on the artist's process, including his shift from figurative to more abstract work. Ongoing; closed Tuesdays; times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. [museum.stanford.edu](http://museum.stanford.edu)

### Galleries

**'Collusion'** This joint exhibition by Inna Chernenkina and Marina Goldberg features oil and

watercolor paintings of colorful landscape, cityscape and still life scenes. Through Dec. 31; closed Sundays; 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. [portolaartgallery.com](http://portolaartgallery.com)

### Food & Drink

**Brunch on the Farm** Gather ingredients from the Hidden Villa farm and make a colorful, fresh breakfast the old-fashioned way. Nov. 24, 9:30-11:30 a.m. \$25. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. [hiddenvilla.org](http://hiddenvilla.org)

**Holiday Teas** Each traditional-tiered tray served at every table includes finger sandwiches, freshly-made scones, and delicate holiday treats, all served alongside clotted cream and Filoli Clock Tower Shop jam. Nov. 26, 1:30 p.m. \$65-\$75; discount for members. Filoli Gardens, 86 Old Canada Road, Woodside. [filoli.org](http://filoli.org)

**Beaujolais Nouveau Celebration** Left Bank Brasserie Menlo Park celebrates Beaujolais Nouveau, the "first wine" of the harvest season. Event includes complimentary wine tasting and live music. Nov. 21, 5-9 p.m. \$11-\$44. Left Bank Brasserie Menlo Park, 635 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. [leftbank.com](http://leftbank.com)

**Monday Night Pub Quiz** Teams and individuals compete in a trivia contest for a chance to win prizes and surprises. Nov. 25, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free; food and drink available for purchase. Freewheel Brewing Company, 3736 Florence St., Redwood City. [freewheelbrewing.com](http://freewheelbrewing.com)

### Lessons & Classes

**Persian Dance Class** Shadan Mirabedi teaches the fundamental techniques of classical miniature and regional folkloric Iranian dances. Nov. 25-Dec. 9; Mondays, 8-9 p.m. \$146-\$201. Arrilaga Family Recreation Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park. [menlopark.org](http://menlopark.org)



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COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY

**2.5%**  
Commission Paid to  
Buyer's Agent  
Waived if DeLeon buyer's agent

## TIMELESS LUXURY, CONTEMPORARY DESIGN

1740 Oak Avenue, Menlo Park  
Offered at \$6,988,000  
[www.1740OakAve.com](http://www.1740OakAve.com)

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Saturday  
1:30pm-4:30pm



## LUXURIOUS LIVING IN A PREMIER ADULT COMMUNITY

555 Byron Street #101, Palo Alto  
Offered at \$1,788,000  
[www.555ByronSt.com](http://www.555ByronSt.com)

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Saturday  
1:30pm-4:30pm



**Note: One resident must be at least 55 years old**

## CLASSIC CHARM, MODERN AMENITIES IN CRESCENT PARK

640 Fulton Street, Palo Alto  
Offered at \$3,488,000  
[www.640Fulton.com](http://www.640Fulton.com)

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Sunday  
1:30pm-4:30pm



## STUNNING ESTATE WITH SUPREME PRIVACY

86 Tallwood Court, Atherton  
Offered at \$14,988,000  
[www.86Tallwood.com](http://www.86Tallwood.com)

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Sunday  
1:30pm-4:30pm



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