

The Almanac

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

JANUARY 1, 2020 | VOL. 55 NO. 17



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2019

The Year in Photos

*Images reflecting people, events and the spirit
of our community*

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Thursday, January 23, 2020
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



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Michael Repka, Esq.
CEO, Managing Broker, & General
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Photo by Sammy Dallal/The Almanac

Finding an Alternate life

Executive producer Jeff Allred watches as a scene from “The Alternate” is filmed in Atherton on Dec. 18. The indie movie, directed by Alrik Bursell, was shot in two Atherton homes, including Allred’s. Read the story on Page 8.

Menlo Uptown housing project faces range of questions

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

A proposal from development company Greystar to build nearly 500 housing units on Menlo Park’s Bayside faced scrutiny from the city’s Planning Commission on Dec. 16, as the commission held a public hearing to identify what topics should be studied in the project’s environmental analysis and hosted a study session to give broader feedback on the project.

The 483-unit proposal, called Menlo Uptown, would add 441 rental apartments and 42 for-sale condos to Menlo Park’s housing stock in an area that currently has no housing — though there are other proposals to add housing there. The development would be located at 141 Jefferson Drive and 180-186 Constitution Drive.

As is required by the city, a minimum of 15% of the units — 73, in this case — would be dedicated for rent by low-income tenants. The housing units would be contained in two apartment buildings — slated

to be seven stories with a maximum height of about 85 feet — and the townhome buildings, set to measure about 39 feet in height. One of the apartment buildings would have 2,100 square feet of commercial space intended to serve the public. The apartment buildings would have automated parking garages on the first two levels.

According to project applicant Andrew Morcos, senior development director at Greystar, in 2020, Menlo Park is expected to have about 2.3 jobs for every housing unit, far higher than San Mateo County’s ratio as a whole. “This imbalance is the driver of traffic and congestion in Menlo Park,” he said.

In making the case to the commission for why the housing proposal should be considered when there is already so much traffic in the former M-2 (light industrial) area rezoned under the ConnectMenlo plan, Morcos said, “The M-2 area has an even more significant imbalance than the city as a whole. In it resides four out of five of the largest Menlo Park employers.

... Housing near this job center is the only thing that will meaningfully mitigate impacts from the major employment in this area.”

He added that there is currently about a million square feet of office space under construction within walking distance of the site, which translates to roughly 5,000 new employees who will be drawn to the area.

Environmental review

During the public hearing to talk about what should be studied in the project’s environmental impact review, community members raised concerns about impacts to local schools; urged that a larger proportion of the units be dedicated for below-market-rate rent; asked that local Native American tribes, including those not federally recognized, be contacted when evaluating the site’s tribal and cultural resources; and gave input on a proposed landscaped pedestrian and bike path.

Crystal Leach, associate

See **MENLO UPTOWN**, page 6

Ban on flavored tobacco, vaping devices effective in Menlo Park on Jan. 17

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

In an effort to curb what’s been declared an epidemic of vaping among young people in the area, the Menlo Park City Council voted unanimously on Dec. 17 to adopt an ordinance banning the sale of vaping devices and flavored tobacco citywide, effective Jan. 17.

Across San Mateo County, electronic cigarette use among high school students was reported by the California Student Tobacco Survey to be 20.8%, nearly twice the statewide prevalence of 10.9%.

Furthermore, about 86% of teens who do use tobacco products use flavored ones, and more than 80% of them who use tobacco start with flavored tobacco, according to national research cited in the city ordinance.

Similar bans were approved in early November by supervisors of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to cover unincorporated county areas, and the Palo Alto City Council on Dec. 9 directed staff to prepare an ordinance that would ban vaping device sales in that city.

The ban broadens the city’s definition of what constitutes secondhand smoke to include ‘secondhand aerosol emitted from electronic cigarettes.’

The ban also aligns with a Nov. 19 recommendation by the American Medical Association calling for a ban on all e-cigarette and vaping products that have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Tobacco product sales have been limited to those 21 and older across California since 2016, and Congress voted on Dec. 19 to restrict tobacco product sales, including e-cigarettes, to those 21 and older nationwide, restrictions likely to be put in place later this year.

The president is expected to sign the bill into law, according to several national news publications.

The ordinance will also allow the city manager and code enforcement officer to withdraw permits for tobacco retail operations if the ordinance is violated, and to prohibit vendors from offering free samples or coupons related to tobacco products, selling tobacco product samples out of their packages, and using self-service displays for tobacco product sales. It also clarifies that the ban is not only on selling, but also on distributing flavored tobacco and vape devices.

To alert retailers about the change in policy, county workers will inform them about the ordinance, and volunteers trained by the county will visit existing tobacco retailers and ask them to remove flavored tobacco and e-cigarette products from their shelves.

The ban also imposes additional restrictions on tobacco products and broadens the city’s definition of what constitutes secondhand smoke to include “secondhand aerosol emitted from electronic cigarettes.”

The City Council on Dec. 10 asked that the city look into zoning changes to ban smoke shops and hookah lounges from operating in Menlo Park, a step that will require a review and public hearing at the Planning Commission level.

While voting for the ordinance on Dec. 17, Councilman Ray Mueller added that he is interested in creating a “narrowly tailored exception” in which electronic cigarettes could be sold under medical supervision behind a pharmacy counter, which he said he is interested in discussing in the new year.

Lung injury outbreak

These changes come as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) deals with an outbreak of a new lung disease it’s calling EVALI, short for e-cigarette or vaping product use-associated lung injury. As of Dec. 17, there

See **VAPING**, page 7



Town of Atherton

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150 Watkins Avenue
Atherton, California 94027
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Fax 650-688-6528

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING and NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT THE 2019 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION and

THE 2019 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider adopting an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration and adopting an amendment to the Atherton General Plan consisting of the 2019 General Plan Update described below.

Description: The Project is an update of the Atherton General Plan Land Use Element, Circulation Element (including Scenic Highways), Open Space and Conservation Element, Community Safety Element and Noise Element. The basic land use pattern, designations and areas delineated are unchanged from the 2002 Land Use Element. Other changes are consistent with plans and policies previously adopted by the Atherton City Council.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration have been prepared for the above described project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. A copy of these documents (Draft 2019 General Plan Update, Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program) will be available on January 2, 2020 for public review on-line on the Town website at www.ci.atherton.ca.us under the Town Government tab, Planning Department, 2019 General Plan Update and at the Atherton Town Hall, 150 Watkins Avenue, Atherton, CA. The public review period was from April 4, 2019 to April 24, 2019.

THE ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION held a public hearing on April 24, 2019 to consider adopting the 2019 General Plan Amendment Update Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration and the 2019 General Plan Amendment. At the conclusion of the public hearing the Planning

Commission adopted Resolution 2019-1 recommending that the City Council adopt the 2019 General Plan Amendment Update Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration and the 2019 General Plan Amendment.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the City Council at its regular meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Avenue, Atherton, CA, at which time and place all persons interested may appear and show cause, if they have any, why the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration should not be adopted by the City Council or why the 2019 General Plan Update should not be adopted by the City Council.

IF YOU CHALLENGE the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration or 2019 General Plan Update in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

For further particulars, reference is made to the application on file. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0560 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Date Published: January 1, 2020

Date Posed: January 3, 2020

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/s/ Anthony Suber

Anthony Suber, City Clerk

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Image courtesy Greystar/Heller Manus Architects

Greystar has proposed to build 483 housing units, mostly apartments and some townhomes, on the city's Bayside, near TIDE Academy.

MENLO UPTOWN

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superintendent at the Sequoia Union High School District, said the district has calculated that the project could add as many as 100 high school students, which would strain the capacity at the district's local schools, TIDE Academy and Menlo-Atherton High.

"The reality is that the statutory fees do not even come close to mitigating the impacts of developments on schools," she said. She also urged that a careful review of traffic impacts be done, including the impacts of traffic on air quality, particularly around children, since the proposed development is across Jefferson Drive from TIDE Academy.

Belle Haven resident Pam Jones said she supports, among other things, an increase in the proportion of below-market-rate units to 20% from 15%, and that a proposed bike and pedestrian path be extended toward Belle Haven to make the development more accessible to the existing neighborhood.

The Planning Commission, for its part, gave thorough input on the proposed architecture and design of the project, even while continuing to grapple with the same key issue that it does for every Bayside proposal it encounters: how it can justify approving yet another project in an area already choking with traffic.

"We're seeing impacts far greater than even three or four years ago in that program EIR," said Commissioner Chris DeCardy, referring to the environmental analysis done during the ConnectMenlo rezoning process. "I think the way to address that is in how you're looking at those impacts, and recognizing that for many people in this community, the baseline for traffic is fundamentally unacceptable, and for many people any net addition in greenhouse gases is fundamentally unacceptable."

He added, "I think it's perfectly reasonable to explore no net vehicle miles traveled, (and) no net increased demand for transportation from these projects."

Commissioner Henry Riggs challenged the notion that building housing in a jobs-rich area would automatically enable people to live near where they work and cut car trips. In a lucky scenario, he pointed out, one person in most of the new housing units would work nearby, but that doesn't account for roommates or partners who would be employed elsewhere. The proposal is not located near Caltrain, and the Dumbarton rail line isn't currently active (a feasibility study and environmental review about rail possibilities on the corridor is underway, however).

Commissioners were also asked to weigh in on what the public-serving commercial space should be used for. Commission Chair Andrew Barnes' strong recommendation was that the space be used for child care purposes, not a cafe, though that would require an expanded space beyond what's proposed.

The deadline for people to comment on the project's notice of preparation, the step of the environmental review process in which the public may weigh in on what topics should be evaluated, is Friday, Jan. 10.

According to staff, the topics already chosen for further analysis are: air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, traffic noise, population and housing, transportation and tribal cultural resources.

The deadline has been extended beyond the usual 30-day period to give people extra time during the holidays. People may submit comments by mail to Tom Smith, Community Development Department, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025, or by email to tasmith@menlopark.org. ▀

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Q&A with Cecilia Taylor, Menlo Park's new mayor

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Cecilia Taylor, elected to the Menlo Park City Council in 2018, was named the city's new mayor on Dec. 17.

Taylor first ran for City Council in 2016, but was defeated in the city's at-large election. In August 2017, the city was threatened with a legal notice that said it had to switch to district elections or face a lawsuit on grounds that the city's at-large election system made it harder for candidates preferred by minorities to win election.

The city made the switch to district elections in time for the 2018 ballot. When Taylor ran for the seat representing her district in Belle Haven, she won by a wide margin. After serving on the council for a year, she has been chosen by her fellow City Council members to serve as the city's mayor for 2020.

We asked her a series of questions as she starts out in the role. Here are her answers, with some minor edits for length and clarity.

When you were campaigning for City Council, I know a big goal for you was to give a voice to the Belle Haven neighborhood. A year into your council tenure, how do you feel you've done with that goal?

Overall, I feel a sense of accomplishment for 2019, and excitement for the year ahead as the mayor in 2020. I am very grateful that my community has placed their trust in me. In the last year, I have been deeply encouraged to see how engaged my community is in the city's process in comparison to previous years.

Belle Haven residents are serving on commissions and committees, attending City Council meetings, writing letters to the city, and providing inputs through public

comment. In the past year, I have developed deeper empathy and understanding of the needs of my district. Here are some topics on how I gave a voice to District 1 through my role on the council:

1. Expanding hours of operation at the Onetta Harris Community Center, a vital resource for the health and wellness of District 1.

2. Bringing equitable development into discussion over land use policies and practices — i.e., where we build is affecting all areas of Menlo Park. Both (the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan) and ConnectMenlo are close to reaching caps within a two-year period of time.

3. Advocating for constant air quality measurement in an area of our city surrounded a freeway and two highways. The decision to monitor air quality was successfully approved by the City Council in September 2019. Monitors will be installed by early to mid-January 2020.

4. Proposing a moratorium to slow down development until we have measured our Guiding Principles as a city.

5. Improving health and safety of the residents of Menlo Park, specifically relating to traffic, through elevating discussions with the county on boards and committees.

District 1 is not just the neighborhood of Belle Haven; it includes the Life Science areas, M2, and the residential buildings on Haven Avenue. It is important that we maintain inclusion within our entire city.

What do you think is the biggest problem facing Menlo Park?

In my opinion, the biggest problem facing our city is the impact of development without balancing the needs for transportation infrastructure and housing. This directly impacts the quality of life of our residents. For a city of our size, we

have invested in over 2 million square feet of office space while neglecting to plan for adequate housing and traffic mitigations first.

Just to put it in perspective, Menlo Park ranks first throughout the Bay for the greatest year-over-year percentage increase in rents. According to the Healthy Cities, San Mateo County report (2018), 46% of Menlo Park residents are rent burdened and 96% don't live where they work.

As mayor, I want to work with the staff to learn from the past and ensure transparency and accountability.

We need to prioritize easy access to financial reporting and accountability, clear metrics for the city's Guiding Principles and equitable development to prevent economic and residential displacement.

What are your top three priorities as mayor this year?

While my priorities are issues affecting the city as a whole, I recognize that there is a lack of parity between districts. We need to bring all districts to the same level for us to thrive as a city. For me, equity is an investment, not just a word you insert in a sentence in a report. My top three priorities are the following:

1. Focus on financial transparency to ensure that we are investing to meet the needs of our communities. For example, we must invest in providing equal access to public services



Photo by Federica Armstrong.

Menlo Park Mayor Cecilia Taylor and her mother, community activist Pam Jones, in a photo taken the night Taylor was elected in 2018.

in all districts;

2. Invest in traffic infrastructure to mitigate cut-through traffic and safety; and

3. Plan equitable development by prioritizing affordable housing and transportation to address traffic impacts and jobs/housing imbalance. Focus on revitalization of downtown businesses and small businesses throughout the city.

How has serving on the council differed from your expectations?

When I was elected, I did not know what to expect. What was clear to me was that there was a need to serve and represent the communities within the

city. Instead of highlighting problems that we all know exist, I had to shift my thinking to more of a "solution mindset" in how I interacted with the council and the city staff.

I wanted to have an impact quickly and my approach had to be different because I had to learn how to operate within the City Council policies and procedures.

As mayor, I will continue to ask myself these two questions: 1) How can I be most effective? And 2) How can I encourage my city to continue to be civically engaged? We all need to work together along with the city staff to make our city a vibrant and beautiful place to live. ■

VAPING

continued from page 5

have been 2,506 hospitalizations and 54 deaths reported from the outbreak across the U.S.

On Dec. 20, the CDC released four reports about the outbreak, noting that emergency department visits for the condition appear to have peaked in September and are on the decline, though the rate is still higher than when the outbreak began in June. The injuries are believed to be linked to

vitamin E acetate.

In addition, the CDC reports research suggesting that many patients experiencing EVALI remain vulnerable after hospital discharge. The CDC is now recommending that physicians follow up with a patient within two days after he or she is sent home from the hospital.

In addition, it recommends that people not use vaping products containing THC or vitamin E acetate, and that youth, young adults and pregnant women never use vaping products. ■

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The big screen comes to Atherton

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

It's not every day that you'll find a crew staked out at an Atherton home to film a movie, but that was the case last month.

"The Alternate," an indie film written and directed by Oakland resident Alrik Bursell, was filmed entirely on the Peninsula over 17 days in December, with filming for the most part wrapping up on Dec. 22. Shoot locations included two Atherton homes, a Menlo Park home, Taverna restaurant in Palo Alto and The Lariat Tavern in Belmont.

"The neighbors have been really wonderful and open to the idea (of the film)," Bursell said during the filming. "It provides a different look. Most things are shot in Atlanta and Vancouver (Canada). You don't see that many films shot in this part of the Bay Area."

The tie to the Peninsula comes from the film's lead producer, Jeff Allard, who also produced "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre," among other films. The movie was filmed at Allard's Atherton home and another producer's home in Atherton.

The film, which Bursell hopes to debut at film festivals this summer or fall, is a science fiction thriller about a man who discovers a portal to another dimension. There, he finds an

alternative version of his life in which he has the filmmaking career of his dreams and a perfect wife.

He switches places with this other version of himself, but comes to realize that this other life isn't so perfect.

Bursell, who graduated from San Francisco State University with a bachelor's degree in radio and television, has written seven short films, but this is his first feature film. He began working on a draft for it in March 2014, and underwent a long process of refining the script, raising funds and gathering a team after that.

"Seeing the scenes I had written and been thinking about for many years exist on digital film is crazy," he said. "The actors are perfect in the roles. I cried on set one day because it was exactly as I imagined. It's like living the dream that's been in my head for so many years."

"It has been really special to shoot here in Atherton," he said. "Trying to make a feature film is something I've been working toward for 10 years."

Bursell said "The Alternate" is likely to be released to the general public in 2021, but he hopes it can be sooner. It will star Ed Gonzalez Moreno as Jake and the alternative Jake, and Natalia Dominguez as Kris and the alternative Kris.

For more on the film, go to facebook.com/thealternatefilm. 

Right: Makeup artist Elizabeth Fox puts the finishing touches on lead actor Ed Gonzalez before filming a scene in "The Alternate."

Below: Director Alrik Bursell, left, speaks with director of photography Jason Joseffer about an upcoming scene in the movie "The Alternate" during filming in Atherton on Dec. 19. Photos by Sammy Dallal/The Almanac



Two burglaries in Atherton during the holidays

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

There were two burglaries in Atherton from Dec. 19 to Dec. 23, according to the Atherton Police Department.

In the first incident, someone stole a small safe containing about \$10,000 worth of jewelry and other goods from an Atherton home around 8 p.m. on Dec. 19, according to a Dec. 23 police department bulletin. Someone broke a second-story window to enter a home on the unit block of Fenwood Drive near Glenwood Avenue. The resident was not home and the security alarm was not set at the time, police said.

The safe contained necklaces, bracelets and coins, police said. Cmdr. Joe Wade said that police don't know of the make, model or exact dimensions of the safe.

The incident was reported to police on Dec. 22. The resident detected motion on the home's security camera during the time of the burglary, but did not follow up on it, police said.

In the second incident, Atherton police arrested a 31-year-old San Francisco man for breaking into, and taking items from, a home's garage, where homeowners said they saw him watching TV, according to a Dec. 24 police department bulletin.

At about 3:52 p.m. on Dec. 23, police responded to a report that a man was inside a resident's garage on Jennings Lane, near Middlefield Road.

When officers arrived, the man ducked down and appeared to reach for something, police said. He complied when officers ordered him to raise his hands. Baseball bats and a hatchet were found near the man, according to police.

Police searched the rest of the property and determined that the man had ransacked the garage and a second garage on the property. He collected wine, a gaming system, a lantern, a blanket and other items, police said.

Police also discovered that he was on probation for vehicle theft

and vandalism in San Francisco.

The man was booked into San Mateo County Jail for burglary and trespassing.

This is the 20th residential burglary in town in 2019, according to police. In 2018, there were 26, a significant majority of which occurred near the end of the year.

Police said they continue to conduct patrols during the holiday season "in an effort to deter and apprehend burglars."

"Please remember to lock your residence and vehicles and set your alarm when you are home and away," the Dec. 23 bulletin urged. "If you see or hear anything that is suspicious please contact the Atherton Police Department right away at 650-688-6500." 

Editor's note: It is The Almanac's policy to withhold the names of those arrested for most crimes until the District Attorney's Office has determined that there is sufficient evidence to file charges in the case.

■ POLICE CALLS

These reports are from the Menlo Park and Atherton police departments and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted. Police received the reports on the dates shown.

WOODSIDE

Misdemeanor warrant: A sheriff's deputy stopped a Redwood City man in traffic when he was spotted using a cell phone while driving at the intersection of Alameda de Las Pulgas and Woodside Road. After checking records it was determined that the driver did not have a license and had an outstanding warrant with the Redwood City Police Department. He was cited and released on a promise to appear in court. Dec. 19.

Burglary: Someone smashed a rear window and broke into a home in the 400 block of Las Pulgas Drive and stole jewelry worth about \$1,000. Dec. 18.

Fraud: Someone gained access to a victim's bank account via a cell phone, with a loss of about \$5,960, in the 200 block of Highland Terrace. The theft was reversed by the victim's bank. Dec. 14.

Driving under the influence:

After a Woodside woman hit a pole in a parking lot in the 4200 block of Farm Hill Boulevard, she displayed signs of being under the influence of drugs. She was arrested and booked into San Mateo County Jail. Dec. 16.

Possession of narcotics: A Campbell woman was arrested at the intersection of Martin Lane and Woodside Road for multiple misdemeanor and felony warrants from San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia. She was arrested and booked into San Mateo County Jail. Dec. 12.

Identity theft: An unknown person used a victim's personal information to withdraw cash from bank accounts in the amount of \$305. There are no leads. Dec. 13.

Traffic accident:

■ A non-injury accident was reported at the intersection of La Honda and Portola roads. Dec. 22.

■ A driver lost control of his vehicle and collided with a street sign in the 400 block of Las Pulgas Drive. No injuries were reported. Dec. 20.

■ An accident with minor injuries was reported in 2300 block of Woodside Road. Dec. 16.

Oak Knoll, Las Lomitas schools earn Distinguished Schools honor

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Two local schools have been named 2020 California Distinguished Schools, according to the California Department of Education, which named the recognized schools on Dec. 18.

Oak Knoll in Menlo Park and Las Lomitas in Atherton were two of the 323 elementary schools chosen for the statewide honor. The award reflects “outstanding education programs and practices,” and represents “not just excellent teaching, learning, and collaboration, but also highly successful school climate efforts,” state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond said in announcing the honorees.

Oak Knoll Principal Kristen Gracia said in a prepared statement: “We believe that our success is the result of three things: the clarity of our school mission and goals, our positive school culture and climate, and our strong relationships and instruction. Our students are so fortunate to have such incredible teachers. Our high-quality teachers are the main reason our students thrive.”

The state chooses distinguished

schools based on a variety of assessments, and also one model program or practice that the school chooses to highlight.

The state Department of Education chose Oak Knoll, in part, because the school’s students have maintained a high level of achievement on Smarter Balanced Assessments, the most widely used standardized tests statewide, according to a Menlo Park City School District press release.

During the 2017-18 school year — the year in which the award was based — 85% of students met or exceeded English language arts standards, and nearly 82% did so with math standards, according to state-released testing results.

At that time, the achievement of “disaggregated groups” — socio-economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, English learners, and students who are Hispanic, Pacific Islander or African-American — continued to rise for gains of a 14% average growth in math and a 27% average growth in English language arts across all student groups, according to the district.

“Oak Knoll serves a wide range of students with very different life experiences and speaking over a

dozen different home languages, yet maintains cohesion through a positive school climate where students, teachers, and parents remain engaged and motivated,” the press release says.

In addition to its strong academic performance and assessment measures, Oak Knoll was recognized for its model practice called Teacher, Peer, Admin, according to the Menlo Park district. With this practice, two teachers and an administrator visit classrooms together, discuss observations, and then share them schoolwide.

During the 2017-18 school year, 87% of Las Lomitas students met or exceeded English language arts standards, and 88% met or exceeded math standards.

Las Lomitas district officials could not be reached for comment for this story.

Oak Knoll previously received the Distinguished School award in 2014 for its equity work and growth mindset instruction, according to the Menlo Park district.

Las Lomitas previously received the award in 2010.

View the full list of winners at tinyurl.com/2020distinguishedschools. ■



Photo by Sammy Dallal/The Almanac

A sweet afternoon at the library

Caleb Zuniga, 10, left, helps his brother Joseph Zuniga, 12, with his gingerbread house at the Belle Haven Library in Menlo Park on Friday afternoon, Dec. 13. The library invited kids to “decorate graham cracker mini gingerbread houses with as much icing and candy as you want!” It was a free event for children in grades 4 through 12.

State Senate candidates to discuss climate crisis

A coalition of local environmental nonprofits have organized a forum to be held on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at which local voters can get more information on how District 13 state Senate candidates stand on environmental issues.

The nonpartisan forum is scheduled for 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Menlo-Atherton High School performing arts center at 555 Middlefield Road. Admission is free, though people are encouraged to register.

District 13 covers the Peninsula between South San Francisco and Sunnyvale, including the Coastside. There are seven candidates: Josh Becker, Michael Brownrigg, Sally Lieber, Shelly Masur, Annie Oliva, Alexander Glew and John Webster. All but Webster are expected to attend the forum.

Participating candidates will provide opening statements,

then respond to questions from the event’s cosponsors: 350 Silicon Valley, Acterra, Citizens’ Climate Lobby, and Sustainable San Mateo County. There will also be questions from the audience.

Other supporting organizations are Canopy, Carbon Free Silicon Valley, Climate Reality-Santa Clara County, Cool Block Palo Alto, Cool Planet First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, Elders Climate Action-NorCal, Fossil Free Mid-Peninsula, Friends of Caltrain, Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve, Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks, Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action, Sea Hugger, Sustainable Silicon Valley, Sunrise Movement-Palo Alto Hub, Thrive Alliance of Non-profits in San Mateo County, and Youth Climate Action Network.

Go to is.gd/envtforum to register online for the event.

MENLO BRIEFS

Budget workshop

The city will be hosting an informational workshop to provide residents information about how its annual budgeting process works and hear feedback from the community on Thursday, Jan. 9, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The event is intended to be interactive and allow people to learn more about the city’s finances.

— By Kate Bradshaw



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Correction

A story in The Almanac’s Dec. 25 edition incorrectly described Menlo Park’s District 1 as representing the Sharon Heights neighborhood and where the

seat will be up for elections in 2020. It is District 5. District 1 covers the Belle Haven neighborhood and the Bay side of the city north of U.S. 101, and is currently represented by Mayor Cecilia Taylor.

Give to The Almanac Holiday Fund

*Your gift helps local children
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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.

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The Almanac Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

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.

Thank you for donating to the Holiday Fund

Almanac Holiday Fund Donor List

As of December 16, 116,254 donors have contributed \$97,034 to the Almanac Holiday Fund.

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Glens neighborhood plans, wildfire prevention among new mayor's priorities

By Rick Radin
 Almanac Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Ned Fluet

Ned Fluet, a former state deputy attorney general and assistant U.S. attorney, represents the town's District 7.

Public service is part of the history of Woodside's new mayor Ned Fluet, who worked as a deputy attorney general in California and as an assistant U.S. attorney, among other government positions, before moving to private practice.

So, he said, it was a natural progression for him to run for the Woodside Town Council in 2018 after four years of living in the town.

He currently works for the firm of Lakin Spears in Palo Alto, specializing in trust and estate, elder abuse, and commercial litigation.

"After I went back (to private practice), I wanted to support my community and give back," Fluet said in an interview with The Almanac.

Although four out of the seven council seats were open in 2018, the town has district elections and Fluet was in the only contested race — the contest for the District 7 seat. He defeated Frank Rosenblum for the post, and said he enjoyed the campaigning.

"I knocked on a lot of doors, and that was the fun part, meeting people face to face," Fluet said.

Daniel Yost, Woodside's mayor in 2019, said he nominated Fluet for mayor pro tem in his first year on the council, which is usually the first step to becoming mayor, in part because he was the one candidate who had to run a campaign.

A main priority of the council in 2020, Fluet said, will be to finalize the development plans for the Glens neighborhood that are taking smaller parcels out of the nonconforming category, revising rules that were limiting homeowners' ability to expand their properties.

Woodside will be looking to take the same action in another area of town, most likely his own district, which includes the Old La Honda road areas and neighborhoods west of Portola Road.

The council will also be looking to publicize a subsidy

program for vegetation management and "home hardening" to help protect homes against wildfires, Fluet said.

"We want to get the word out as much as possible about the defensible space program, with financial help up to \$3,000 for home hardening, clearing brush and trees, fireproof vents," he said.

As a hills resident, Fluet said that he and his neighbors are constantly reminded of the wildfire threat: He and his family lost power twice in the PG&E electricity shutoffs in October, once for four days.

He said that he is in favor of any steps that could reduce the threat of fire, with one caveat: "I want (PG&E) to provide ample notice so that towns and cities can try to accommodate older and vulnerable populations who would need power for air conditioning and medical devices," he said.

Fluet, 42, grew up in the small town of Mount Prospect, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. He attended the University of California at Los Angeles and the Loyola University of Chicago School of Law.

His wife, Katy Fluet, is also an attorney, and the couple have two daughters. ■

LEHUA GREENMAN



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Manager's Corner



by Phil Scott
District Manager

West Bay Sanitary District is a Special Independent District of the State of California that was formed in 1902. Since then, it has grown to serve over 55,000 customers while retaining its dedication to protecting the public health and the environment by providing cost-effective sanitary sewer service.

I have been the District Manager for 10 years now and this will be my last Winter Bulletin addressing you from the Manager's Corner. I am honored to have served the public in the water and wastewater (and now recycled water) industries since 1981 and will be retiring in 2020. It's time to let the younger men and women with fresh ideas and bright hopes for the future build upon the foundation that has been laid as they continue to make West Bay an innovative, responsive district dedicated to serving you.

I firmly believe in the Athenian Oath which calls upon all public servants to "transfer this City"—in our case, the District—"in better condition than which it was received." I know that the fine men and women whom I have had the distinct pleasure of hiring, working with and mentoring will take their duty seriously and work to continually improve our West Bay Sanitary District. They are the best group I've ever worked with.

Our 30 employees work hard to keep pipes clean and wastewater flowing through pump stations all the way to the regional treatment plant in Redwood Shores. Our West Bay staff is dedicated, extensively trained in best practices, and committed to excellence. It is also supported by the absolute finest Board of Directors ever.

The District Board is comprised of sound fiscal stewards who wisely develop policy that allows the District to replace pipe and infrastructure to keep wastewater moving and who ensure that staff has all the tools, equipment and supplies needed to serve our community. The Board also invests in training, in new equipment, new maintenance techniques, new technologies and in coaching and mentoring employees.

I truly have never worked for a more supportive and unified Board in my career. I am grateful to have ended my career in service working under such a fine group of men and women, including our Board President Fran Dehn, Treasurer Roy Theile-Sardina, Secretary George Otte, Director Ned Moritz, and Director David Walker.

I am also very proud to say I have done my best to serve the terrific communities and cities of Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Atherton and unincorporated portions of San Mateo County. Thank you one and all for a perfect finish to a career in public service. Happy New Year to all and I wish you a safe and wonderful holiday season.

WEST BAY'S CERTIFIED STAFF ENSURES SEWER SYSTEM WORKS SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY

You've probably seen our underground pipeline inspection, trenchless repairs, and sewer system cleaning vehicles on the road from time to time. The West Bay Sanitary District crews work diligently to assess the condition of the sewer system as well as cleaning all of the public sewer mains in the area year after year.

This ensures waste water collection is kept in the pipes and is transported safely underground to the local waste water treatment plant in Redwood Shores. Maintaining a sewer system is not easy and takes qualified people to do the work.

Every member of our maintenance staff has received certification through the California Water Environmental Association (CWEA). We're also very proud that the Santa Clara Valley section of the CWEA has recognized Damian Madrigal as Supervisor of the Year and Victor Garcia as a Collection System Person of the Year.

"I am very proud of our entire staff and our success in reducing sanitary sewer overflows," Operations Superintendent Sergio Ramirez said. "We have gone from over 40 overflows per year to only four in an entire year, well below the State's average, and we'll continue our efforts to reach zero!"

The district also provides a courtesy cleaning when homeowners have a conforming property line clean out. We encourage everyone to "call us first" so we can help assess whether a plumbing issue is related to the public sewer main or the private sewer lateral.



Roots, such as this one displayed by Justin Kinder, are a common cause of sewer damage.

DISTRICT BOARD APPROVES GENERAL FUND, CAPITAL ASSETS BUDGETS FOR 2019-20

The General Fund and Capital Assets Fund budgets were approved by the Board of Directors in June. The District continues to hold adequate reserves and is on track to maintain its goal of replacing 1.5% of the system's aging pipeline each year.

General Fund operating income for fiscal year 2019-20 is projected at \$31,363,053, while expenditures are currently budgeted at \$29,146,904. During the 2018-19 fiscal year, the District completed a \$6,416,000 payoff of the balance owed on the \$13 million in Silicon Valley Clean Water bonds issued in 2018, saving the District interest charges that would have been paid in upcoming years.

Expenditures from the Capital Assets Fund are budgeted at \$6,874,050. The District maintains a strong reserve balance in accordance with good government standards and as protection against a natural disaster or other catastrophic event.

HOME SEWER WARRANTY PLANS AVAILABLE FOR WEST BAY CUSTOMERS

West Bay is continuing its partnership with Home Emergency Insurance Solutions (HEIS) to offer sewer line repair service plans to District customers. This is an optional service provided to our customers and the District receives no compensation from it.

You may be unaware that it is your responsibility as a homeowner to repair the exterior sewer line that runs from the West Bay Sanitary District service connection (typically in the center of the street) to your home. Repairs can be expensive and are usually not covered by basic homeowners insurance. HEIS provides up to \$6,000 per year for repairs on sewer laterals between the home and sewer main for \$18.99/month.

Have questions? Call Home Emergency Insurance Solutions at 1-855-807-6628 or visit the secure website www.WestBaySewerPlan.com.

For a sewer emergency or sewer-related problems, please call us first! You can reach us day or night at (650) 321-0384. If the main public sewer line is blocked, only West Bay has the authority to clear the system. If the public sewer main line is clear, we may advise you to contact a plumbing contractor to resolve the issue on your property.

SHARON HEIGHTS WATER RECYCLING PROJECT RECEIVES GOLDEN ACORN AWARD

The West Bay Sanitary District is proud to be this year's recipient of a Golden Acorn Award for Environmental Stewardship from the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce. The Golden Acorn awards, which are now in their 43rd year and celebrate community achievement through volunteer efforts and contributions made by organizations and individuals, are a Menlo Park tradition.

The District was honored for its Sharon Heights recycled water project, a partnership with Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club for the construction of a satellite treatment facility at Sharon Heights. It has the capacity to treat a half-million gallons per day and can deliver an estimated 80 million gallons per day of recycled water. The facility will save approximately 50 millions of gallons of Hetch Hetchy water annually.



District Manager Phil Scott and Robin Driscoll of Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club display Golden Acorn awards received for their public-private partnership.

The project was the first to use recycled water in Menlo Park and replaces the drinkable water that had been used for irrigation at Sharon Heights Golf Club and in industrial applications. It has potential for future growth and is 80% complete.

The award recognizes creative, responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices. The Sharon Heights project benefits the entire community by saving precious water resources and is cost-neutral to District ratepayers.

Funding for this \$22.6 million West Bay Sanitary District Recycled Water Project—Sharon Heights has been provided in full or in part by Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. Funding has also been provided through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which is capitalized through a variety of funding sources including grants from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and state bond proceeds.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ENHANCE SERVICE

The **Belle Haven Phase III project** is replacing and rehabilitating nearly two miles of sewer mains primarily in the Belle Haven neighborhood in Menlo Park. Additional improvements are also being made as part of the project in Atherton, Portola Valley and unincorporated San Mateo County areas near Sand Hill Road and in the Alameda de las Pulgas area.

The recently completed **Alpine Road Sewer Project** involved replacing approximately 4,000 feet of aging sewer mains along Alpine Road in Portola Valley. The four-month project included successfully replacing a failing asbestos cement pipe with plastic pipe and performing required remediation.



Over two miles of pipe is being replaced in the Belle Haven area.

HELP FIGHT CLOGS FROM FOG! (FATS, OILS AND GREASE)

Fats, oils, and grease—or FOG for short—introduced into the sewer system by West Bay residents and businesses can cause sewer clogs that disrupt service or require repairs at the homeowner's expense. After these seemingly innocent cooking residues enter the sewer system, they solidify and can build up and plug drain lines in your home, building, or complex. FOG blockages can create sanitary sewer overflows inside your home or business and can also lead to overflow onto streets, where effluent may enter the storm drainage basins that lead to creeks and streams flowing into San Francisco Bay.

In the food industry, grease usually refers to fats and oils derived from animal and vegetable sources, including coffee grounds, meats, nuts, cereals, beans and waxes/paraffin. The District works with restaurants and businesses in a proactive FOG program that helps keep grease traps clean and encourages recycling of grease and oils instead of disposing them into the sewer system. As a result, less than 10% of District sewer blockages are FOG-related.

You can help reduce fats, oils and grease from accumulating in the pipelines by recycling or disposing of your grease in the garbage rather than pouring it down the drain. Wipe off grease and food scraps from plates, utensils, pots and pans prior to washing. Small amounts of grease can be collected in milk or ice cream cartons for disposal. If you have larger amounts, up to 10 gallons of home-generated cooking oil may be recycled at the Shoreway Material Recovery facility at 225 Shoreway Road in San Carlos.



Cooking oils can solidify and cause sewer line clogs that disrupt service or need repairs.

STUDY COMPLETED ON PROPOSED RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTER

The District has completed a feasibility study to explore the viability of a recycled water treatment plant at the Flow Equalization Resource Recovery Facility at the District's former treatment plant behind Bedwell Bayfront Park. The Resource Recovery Center could produce 500,000 gallons per day of recycled water for reuse.

Construction of the facility would require raising the levee adjacent to the facility to protect against king tides, high tides that occur twice a year.

The District is laying the groundwork for increasing the use of recycled water in East Menlo Park (Connect Menlo area). In a public-private partnership with Facebook, the West Bay Board of Directors spearheaded the effort to install 2,800 feet of purple recycled water pipe parallel with the storm drain pipe Facebook was replacing on Chilco Street. This pipe can be used in the future to distribute recycled water in the area without having to dig up the street again.

Recycled water from the proposed facility could potentially be used for irrigation, industrial purposes, firefighting, public fill stations and even for flushing toilets in the Bayfront (M-2) area. This regional approach would be sustainable, less expensive and available to a broader user base than expensive on-site treatment systems.

2019

THE YEAR

in PHOTOS

Images reflecting people, events and the spirit of our community



Photo By Sammy Dallal

A woman dressed as a Handmaid (from Margaret Atwood's "The Handmaid's Tale") prepares the Baby Trump balloon to protest President Trump's fundraising visit to Los Trancos Woods near Portola Valley on Sept. 17.

Over the past 12 months, The Almanac's photographers have had a busy year documenting the stories in our coverage area. It was a year when children protested to raise awareness about climate change, and some adults protested President Donald Trump's visit to Los Trancos Woods near Portola Valley. Protesters even came to Atherton, outside Uber investor Bill Gurley's home, to support better working conditions and compensation for gig economy workers.

We took time to learn the stories behind groups like Menlo-Atherton High School's cheerleading teams, the a cappella singing teams from various tech companies that came together for several Techapella fundraiser shows, and the Bawdy Caste, which performed the Rocky Horror Picture Show every month for years before the Guild Theatre closed in September.

We also captured quieter, more

everyday moments too, of people finding meaning by observing and learning about the natural world; supporting children, seniors and animals in need; and dedicating themselves to art. We saw the natural world through new eyes after visiting Brookside Orchids with orchid expert Mark Pendleton, hunting for mushrooms with Dr. George Caughey and seeing avian photographer Marquis Kuhn at work.

We documented the new investments toward children's well-being at a new playground at Nealon Park and an early learning center for preschool-aged kids. We saw Barbara Kalt, senior advocate, at work and learned how several local nonprofits have worked to support horses. And we highlighted the work of local artists like Mitchell Johnson. These photos are just a small sampling of the vibrancy in our communities we captured this year.



Photo by Magali Gauthier

Freddie Wynn, a senior at Menlo-Atherton High School, does the splits midair during a cheer squad practice on Sept. 25.



Photo by Magali Gauthier

Joe Squillaciotti waves goodbye to Alice's Restaurant's owners as he rides off on his horse, Drifter, on Sept. 4.



Photo By Sammy Dallal

Eilir Bjorlin and **Jillian Scott**, students at Oak Knoll Elementary School, participate in a climate strike protest on Sept. 20.

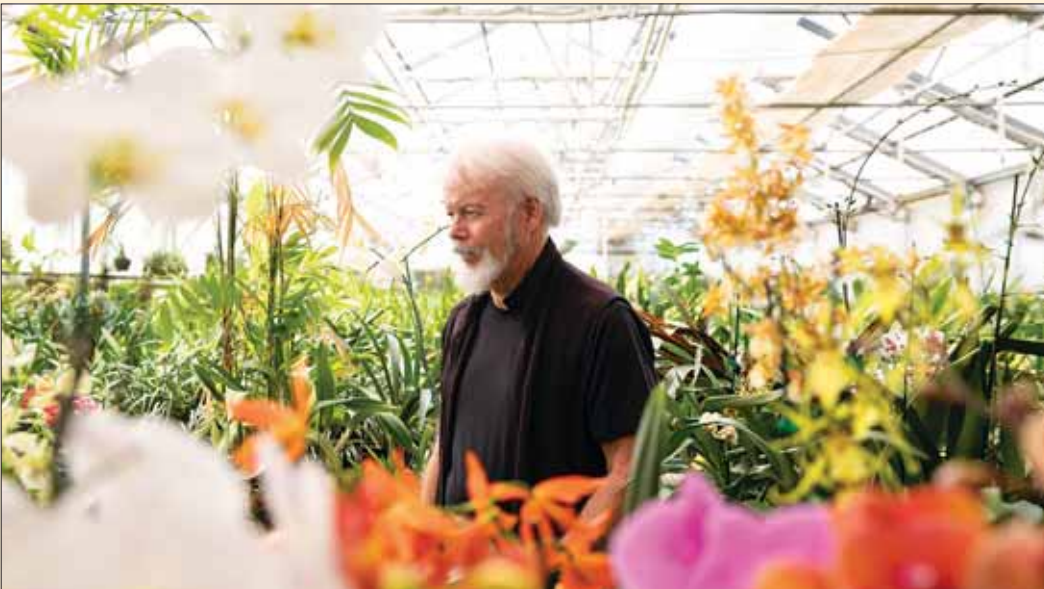


Photo by Magali Gauthier

Mark Pendleton, manager of Brookside Orchids, walks through the nursery in Portola Valley on March 20.



Photo by Magali Gauthier

A *Volvopluteus gloiocephalus*, or “big sheath mushroom,” in a Woodside field.

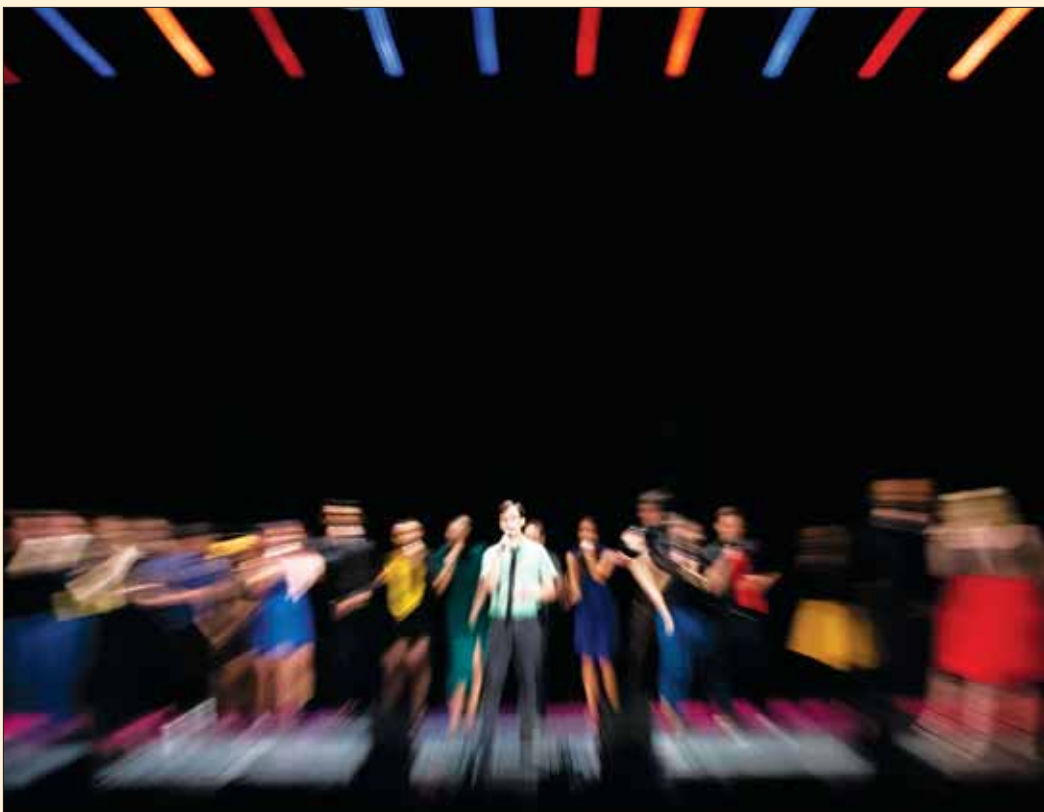


Photo by Magali Gauthier

Alphabeat's Paul Miller performs “Good Things Come to Those Who Wait” by Nathan Sykes at Techapella at the Fox Theatre in Redwood City on Oct. 20.

On the Cover: Clockwise, from top left corner. **Jerry Anderson** of Woodside started a vineyard in his retirement. | Sammy Dallal. **Menlo Park Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor** at National Night Out in Belle Haven. | Magali Gauthier. **Rocky Horror Picture Show**. | Magali Gauthier.

Center: Laila Thompson-Wainer, a kicker on the Menlo-Atherton football team kicks the ball held by Lucas Giarrusso. | Sammy Dallal.

From bottom left and up: Danielle Fafchamps dyes clay in her Portola Valley studio. | Magali Gauthier. **Members of Facebook's The Vocal Network** rehearse before a Techapella concert. | Magali Gauthier. **Protesters** carry signs at President Trump's fundraising visit to Los Trancos Woods. | Sammy Dallal. **Uber driver Carlos Ramos** and other gig economy workers protest in Atherton at an Uber investor's home for better working conditions and compensation. | Sammy Dallal.



Photo by Magali Gauthier

A worker walks past machines sorting mixed paper and transporting trash at the Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos on April 29.



Photo by Magali Gauthier

Barbara Kalt watches as Rosemary Skinner draws during an art class at Rosener House in Menlo Park on June 10.



Photo by Magali Gauthier

Actors from The Bawdy Caste perform the cabaret scene in front of the projected film during a midnight showing of The Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Guild Theatre on April 7.



Photo by Magali Gauthier

Children practice their frog jumps during a classroom singing activity at Menlo Park's Early Learning Center.



Photo by Magali Gauthier

Sergeant Edward Soares holds his K-9 partner Duke while Emmanuel, 9, pets him at a National Night Out event in Hamilton Park in Belle Haven on Aug. 6.



Photo by Magali Gauthier

Matthew, 6, runs down a netted tunnel at the new all-abilities playground at Nealon Park in Menlo Park on Nov. 25.

Lillian (Lily) Duzanica

November 13, 1926 – November 19, 2019

Lily was born in Los Gatos to David and Emilia Garibaldi and was extremely proud of her Italian heritage. Both her parents were immigrants from Frisolino in the Liguria Province of Italy. Lily had many interests in her life including writing her family's history that dated to the 7th Century and included Giuseppe Garibaldi, the liberator of present day Italy. Her father was given Giuseppe as his middle name at birth in 1866 in honor of his cousin Giuseppe.



She grew up in North Beach in San Francisco and then moved to Menlo Park with the family during high school in 1940. Her high school sweetheart, John Duzanica joined the US Navy upon their graduation from Sequoia High School in 1944 and saw duty in the South Pacific for the remainder of the war. They were married at Nativity Church in Menlo Park in 1948 before John started his junior year at Santa Clara University. Lily and John settled and built their own home in downtown Menlo Park in 1952 and Lily considered herself an excellent cement finisher among her many other building talents.

After John's passing in 1978 Lily devoted her time to learning new hobbies, traveling the world and to doing numerous charitable works which included volunteering for many years with The American Cancer Society and Stanford's Children's Hospital but her true devotion was always to her family. She felt that nothing was more important than maintaining a very loving and strong family. Her home became a hub for family, friends and neighbors to come by an visit for 5 minutes, 5 hours, or 5 months. She accepted all who came with open arms and would always feed you like you hadn't eaten in days. She was an amazing listener and would never judge people.

She would think nothing of jumping in the car and driving through the mountains of La Honda to visit her kids and grandkids and maybe deliver a batch of her home-made "Secret Family Recipe" raviolis. She hosted dinners and lunches, Christmas' and Thanksgivings, and always included anyone who might show up. She was a wonderful, kind, and compassionate person who always stayed positive and was always there when you needed advice.

In the last few years of her life she started to suffer from memory loss and needed to change her lifestyle from an extremely independent single woman to one who through time would require assistance. This can never be an easy task for anyone to try to accomplish, especially for someone similar to her. With the help of the Rosenor House, Lily made the transition from her extremely independent lifestyle, to a person who required help and she did it with grace and dignity and a beautiful smile. Rosenor House's sophisticated, advanced and compassionate care made that transition easier. Estela and Tisi, her caregivers, loved and cherished her as daughters would a mother, and she returned that love and more.

The family embraces all the love that she received from all who she loved, and hopes that her love will grow in them as they live a beautiful and fulfilled life as Lily did.

Peace and Love

PAID OBITUARY

What were the best reads of 2019? Local bibliophiles offer favorite titles

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

With five library locations, two bookstores and a robust book club scene within The Almanac's coverage area, there was no shortage of local readers consuming all the literature 2019 had to offer. We asked our local book experts to share some of their favorite reads of the year and data on what titles were most popular.

Bookstore picks

Aggie Zivaljevic, general book buyer at Kepler's Books in Menlo Park, shared two suggestions for Almanac readers: The novel "On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous" by Ocean Vuong, and the short story collection "The Heart Is a Full-Wild Beast: New and Selected Stories" by John L'Heureux.

Of Vuong's book she writes: "The autobiographical debut novel by Ocean Vuong, a young queer Vietnamese poet, might ... well be the most beautiful book in the world. Written in the form of a letter to his mother who cannot read, the book is a lyrical, tender testament to the mother/son/grandmother relationship and their immigrant experience."

Describing L'Heureux's book, she states: "A posthumously published collection by beloved local author John L'Heureux, a former Jesuit priest and the longtime director of the Stanford Creative Program, is the book I keep at my bedside. These illuminating stories range from humorous to tragic, each a true gift of compassion and grace."

Kepler's also offered two recommendations for children.

Caitlin Jordan, Kepler's buyer for children's books, recommends "The Oddmire, Book 1: Changeling," by William Ritter. "The writing in this is incredible," she said in an email to The Almanac. "It is original and classic, funny, and astounding. I felt like I found a treasure when I

opened this book."

She also recommends "Greek Myths and Mazes" by Jan Bajtlik. She describes it as "a combination of interactive mazes and facts about Greek mythology (that) will keep you engaged and leave you more informed. Wonderful illustrations and interesting facts make this an excellent choice for the budding historian or mythologist — a unique addition to any bookshelf."

Jack Feldman, owner of Feldman's Books, said that since he runs a used bookstore, it can be hard to say what the most popular title sold in his store this year has been — it could be anything from "The Iliad" to something that came out recently, he noted. Generally, though, mathematics, history, poetry, literature, travel writing, children's books and antiquarian books are popular among the store's visitors, he added.

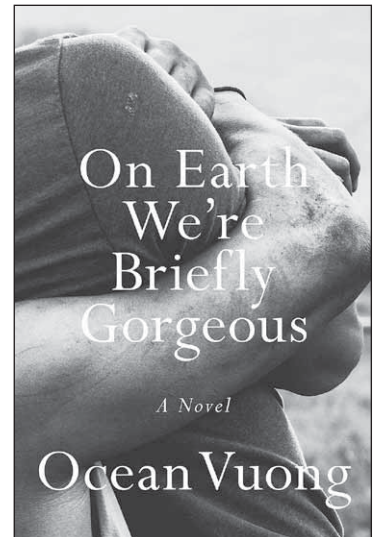
His personal favorite read of the last couple of years is "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles, followed closely by "1Q84" by Haruki Murakami and "The Goldfinch" by Donna Tartt, he said.

After The Almanac contacted several local book clubs through the website Meetup.com, an organizer of the Peninsula Gal Pals' Wine and Book Club, based in Menlo Park, reported that the group's favorite read of the year was "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine," by Gail Honeyman.

What people read

The Almanac also contacted local libraries to find out what the most popular books that people checked out or borrowed digitally were over the course of the year.

In Menlo Park, data from Library Services Director Sean Reinhart show that the three most popular adult titles in 2019 were nonfiction. They were "Save Me the Plums: My Gourmet Memoir," by Ruth



Book art courtesy of Penguin Random House

"On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous" by Ocean Vuong has been longlisted for the 2019 National Book Award for Fiction and the Carnegie Medal. It is recommended to local readers by Kepler's book buyer Aggie Zivaljevic.

Reichl, which led with 50 checkouts; "Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, Her Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed," by Lori Gottlieb, with 47 checkouts; and "The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life," by David Brooks, with 42 checkouts.

The remaining top 10 titles were, in order:

- "Redemption" by David Baldacci
- "Mrs. Everything" by Jennifer Weiner
- "Big Sky" by Kate Atkinson
- "Skin Game" by Stuart Woods and Parnell Hall
- "The New Girl" by Daniel Silva

■ "Summer of '69" by Elin Hilderbrand

■ "Fleishman is in Trouble" by Taffy Brodesser-Akner

The Almanac also contacted the Atherton, Woodside and Portola Valley libraries to find out what the top titles were in those locations. Since these are all part of the San Mateo County Libraries system, it was simpler to collect the most popular titles systemwide than by specific location, according to libraries spokesperson Katie Woods.

The most popular titles in 2019 in the county library system were as follows, listed in separate categories for print and e-books.

In print:

- Adult fiction: "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens
- Adult nonfiction: "Educated: A Memoir" by Tara Westover
- Youth picture book: "The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!"



Book art courtesy of Mo Willems/Hyperion Books for Children

"The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!"

by Mo Willems was the most popular children's picture book checked out of the San Mateo County library system this year, according to libraries spokesperson Katie Woods.

See **YEAR IN BOOKS**, page 20



Almanac readers, what is local journalism worth to you?

As we celebrate being Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside's most trusted news source, we also look ahead to **sustaining our award-winning journalism** in the decades to come.

With local retail advertising steadily declining around the nation, **the future of local journalism is in the hands of our readers**.

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The **Almanac**

The **Almanac** *Online*

Frequent coyote sightings in West Menlo, Sharon Heights

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Sharon Heights and West Menlo Park residents have been making frequent posts on the online network Nextdoor recently reporting coyote sightings in the area.

Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA spokeswoman Buffy Tarbox said that while the organization cannot confirm that it has received more reports of sightings than usual, it's not uncommon for coyotes to be seen in urban areas of the Peninsula.

Whether it's due to people leaving dog or cat food outside that draws the coyotes in, or the animals themselves — cats in particular — the coyotes are probably coming into

Whether it's due to people leaving dog or cat food outside that draws the coyotes in, or the animals themselves — cats in particular — the coyotes are probably coming into neighborhoods because there is food there, according to Buffy Tarbox of the Peninsula Humane Society.

neighborhoods because there is food there, she said.

The increase in postings may have more to do with people being more aware and paying more attention. Often, coyotes can look like dogs, and they are reported as stray dogs. Generally, the humane society receives more calls about coyotes in Daly City and South San Francisco, she said.

Coyotes live in urban areas,

but are wild animals. If you see a coyote in the neighborhood, the humane society recommends avoiding it.

A few tips: Keep cats indoors and dogs on a leash while walking outside, and make sure to bring all animals in at night. Harming coyotes intentionally is illegal, Tarbox noted.

Coyotes can be active during the day or night, so seeing them



Photo courtesy of Celine Malvoisin

This coyote was seen near Sharon Park in daylight on Dec. 11.

during the day “does not mean they are in distress or ill,” she said. They usually hunt at dawn and dusk.

“We just want to do everything to coexist as peacefully as

possible in the environment we share with them,” she said. “They don’t want a negative interaction with a human any more than humans want a negative interaction with a coyote.”

YEAR IN BOOKS

continued from page 18

by Mo Willems

■ Youth fiction: “The Berenstain Bears Play Football!” by Mike Berenstain

■ Youth nonfiction: “Minecraft: Guide to Farming” by Mojang Ab and The Official Minecraft Team

In e-book format:

■ Youth fiction: “Wonder” by R.J. Palacio

■ Adult fiction: “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens

■ Adult nonfiction: “Becoming” by Michelle Obama

The Almanac also asked county library staffers for a book recommendation. One recommendation is “The Unkindest

Tide” by Seanan McGuire, the 13th book in a fantasy series for adults.

Caroline, a senior librarian with the county wrote: “I have read almost everything this author has written, and in my opinion, there’s not a bad book in the bunch. This is the 13th volume in the story of October “Toby” Daye, knight of the

realm, since she woke up from being transformed into a koi fish and trapped in a pond in the Japanese Tea Garden (yes, the one in San Francisco).

“Toby sets out with her squire, fiancé and various other allies to fulfill her debt to the Sea Witch in the Duchy of Ships. Of course, things don’t go quite as planned. You’ll find elves, shapeshifters,

and magical beings of all kinds in this volume, as well as adventure and intrigue and an engrossing storyline. Toby is tough but human (in a manner of speaking) and McGuire has built her a complex, interwoven world. If you want to start from the beginning (I highly recommend it!), the first book in the series is ‘Rosemary and Rue.’”

Craving a new voice in Peninsula dining?



Every other week, top local food reporter Elena Kadvany provides insight into the latest openings and closings, what she's eating that she's excited about, interviews with chefs and the trends affecting local restaurants.



Sign up for food reporting you won't find anywhere else at almanacnews.com/express

Food & Drink

Year in review

Dining out on the Peninsula

Old favorites closed, a few got revived, fine dining took flight and delivery services got bigger

by Elena Kadvany

This was both a dynamic and a trying year for the Peninsula dining scene. Palo Alto's Maum won its first Michelin star. Bacchus Management Group, perhaps the area's best-known restaurant group, added swanky Selby's to its family, which includes the Village Pub in Woodside. International eateries opened or are on their way here, from Teleferic Barcelona to Singapore's Killiney Kopitiam.

Restaurant owners spoke out about struggling to keep their businesses afloat amid a tight labor market, high turnover and the increasing cost of doing business in the Bay Area. These pressures will continue to play out in 2020, with many in the industry worried about the future of the locally owned, middle-range neighborhood restaurant.

Read on for a roundup of noteworthy restaurant news of the year and the openings we're most looking forward to in 2020.

TEARFUL GOODBYES We said goodbye this year to a handful of longtime eateries: **The Prolific Oven** (39 years) and **Round Table Pizza** in Palo Alto (52 years), **Applewood Pizza** in Menlo Park (36 years), **Martin's West** in Redwood City (10 years) and **Cho's Mandarin Dim Sum** in Los Altos (39 years, including at the original Palo Alto location), and Mountain View's **Tied House** (31 years), which closed abruptly over the weekend, the owner said because of a need to remediate a chemical spill linked to a prior tenant's dry cleaning business.

While there's no singular reason for the closures, the owner of The Prolific Oven had some pertinent words for what customers can do to prevent family-run independent food businesses from becoming an endangered species: "It's in the power of the people where they choose to spend their money," said Regina Chan, whose parents Henry and Sophia Chan bought the bakery in 1996. "I hope that I'm wrong and that small businesses and family businesses can continue to thrive in the Bay Area, but it's going to be up to the consumers to really show that."

HAPPIEST REVIVALS A happy counternarrative to all the closures was the revival of much-loved restaurants this year. **Mike's Cafe** gave Palo Alto's Midtown neighborhood its favorite restaurant back after a lengthy renovation. New owners renovated and rejuvenated the 167-year-old **Alpine Inn**, giving the Portola Valley community a gathering place and watering hole (now, plus wines on tap and wood-fired pizza) for generations to come. **Su Hong** Palo Alto closed, but a former waiter reopened it under a new name, keeping on the same chef and changing little on the menu. **Rose International Market** returned to Mountain View after a four-year development-induced hiatus. And in a holiday miracle for sandwich lovers everywhere, **Woodside Deli** reopened in Redwood City last week, with the owners of Colombo's Delicatessen in Pacifica, who are related to the original owners of the local deli, at the helm.

MOST EXPENSIVE BURGER Selby's wanted to make a name for itself by serving "the coldest martini on the West Coast," but perhaps should have

considered going with "the most expensive burger on the Peninsula." The swanky restaurant, located on the border of Redwood City and Atherton, drew attention for its \$50 Black Label cheeseburger: a patty of dry-aged hanger steak, short rib and chuck, topped with black truffles and ... Époisses, a soft cow's milk cheese from Burgundy.

A MICHELIN STAR FOR MAUM The chefs at **Maum**, Palo Alto's high-end Korean restaurant, took home their first Michelin star in June, less than a year after opening. Chef Michael Kim said the accolade had been a "lifelong professional goal" for him and his wife and co-chef, Meichih, who draw on their Korean and Taiwanese roots at Maum, which means "heart and soul" in Korean. Fine dining continues to grow on the Midpeninsula, which is now home to six Michelin-starred restaurants, including Maum (Baumé, Protégé, The Village Pub, Chez TJ, Madera).

THE YEAR OF DELIVERY? In a sign of the times, DoorDash opened its first shared delivery kitchen in Redwood City in October. Under one roof, several food businesses — Nation's Giant Hamburgers, Rooster & Rice, Humphrey Slocombe, The Halal Guys and Chick-fil-A — can deliver throughout the Peninsula without having a brick-and-mortar restaurant here. The bright red, 6,000-square-foot building is emblematic of shifts and tensions in the dining industry, spurred by the growth of third-party delivery apps like DoorDash, Caviar, UberEats and others.

NATURAL WINE BOOM The Peninsula got its first dedicated natural wine bar this year with **Salvaje**. The downtown Palo Alto bar (369 Lytton Ave.) defines natural wines as those made organically on biodynamic farms with minimal intervention and little to no sulfates or other additives. (Salvaje appropriately means "wild" in Spanish.) The small, cozy Spanish-style building Salvaje occupies feels like having a drink in your friend's living room, and the intimate setting is ideal for peppering the helpful staff and owners with questions if you're unfamiliar with natural wines.

MOST ANTICIPATED OPENINGS OF 2020 Early 2020 will see the local debut of two ambitious, modern Indian restaurants with connections to San Francisco: **Ettan** (518 Bryant St., Palo Alto) and **Rooh** (473 University Ave., Palo Alto). The former will be led by Srijith Gopinathan, a native of southern India and executive chef at the Michelin-starred Campton Place Restaurant in San Francisco. The latter is a new outpost of a popular San Francisco restaurant of the same name, but with a unique focus on open-fire cooking.

In Mountain View, beer drinkers and pretzel lovers are still not-so-patiently waiting for the much-delayed arrival of **Ludwig's German Table** (383 Castro St.), which will likely materialize next year. Owner Ben Bate spoke out this year about the costly setbacks he's faced in the city permitting process. **A**

Elena Kadvany writes for the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac's sister publication. Her blog, Peninsula Foodist, can be found at AlmanacNews.com.



Photo by Sammy Dallal

Selby's Restaurant's black-label burger with epoisses and Australian black truffles is served with fries.



Photo by Sammy Dallal

John Edwards enjoys an afternoon playing his guitar at the **Alpine Inn** after the beloved historic restaurant, watering hole and community gathering place in Portola Valley reopened in September.



Photo by Sammy Dallal

John Traesche, a server at the natural wine bar **Salvaje** in Palo Alto, opens a bottle of **Orange**, an Austrian chardonnay.



Almanac file photo

Mountain Mike's Pizza took over the space on El Camino Real formerly occupied by **Applewood Pizza**, which had operated in Menlo Park for 36 years before closing in 2019.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

LINDSEY HUTCHINSON WELLNESS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283186
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Lindsey Hutchinson Wellness, located at 1388 Elder Avenue, Menlo park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
LINDSEY WALKER HUTCHINSON
1388 Elder Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 21, 2019.
(ALM Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2019; Jan. 1, 2020)

LA STANZA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283287
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
La Stanza, located at 651 Oak Grove Ave., Suite H, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ANGELO CUCCO
1364 Laurel St. #1
San Carlos, CA 94070
MIGUEL ANGEL PRADO LUNA
1235 Jefferson Ave. #217
Redwood City, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: A General Partnership.
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 December 6, 2019.
(ALM Dec. 18, 25, 2019; Jan. 1, 8, 2020)

MALLET SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283222
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Mallett Sports and Entertainment, located at 50 Woodside Plaza #106, Redwood City, CA 94061, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MALLET SPORTS LLC
50 Woodside Plaza #106
Redwood City, CA 94061
CA
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/20/2014.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 26, 2019.
(ALM Dec. 18, 25, 2019; Jan. 1, 8, 2020)

HORIZON VIEWS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283475
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Horizon Views, located at 14826 Skyline Blvd. #4, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
BARBARA HEYDORN
14826 Skyline Blvd. #4
Woodside, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/23/2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 23, 2019.
(Alm Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2020)

997 All Other Legals

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER: 19CIV00085
(Numero del Caso):

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
MAYSA HAMZA
and DOES 1 —10, Inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTA DEMANDADO EL DEMANDANTE):
VLADIMIR ROZNYATOVSKI and TATIANA BAYEVA

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the Information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court

For legal advertising call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578.

and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and cost on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
SAN MATEO SUPERIOR COURT
400 COUNTY CENTER,
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063
The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
David S. Henshaw
1871 The Alameda, Ste. 333
San Jose, CA 95126
Phone: (408) 533-1075

DATE: January 8, 2019
(Fecha):
Neal Taniguchi
Clerk, by /s/ _____, Deputy
(Secretario) (Adjunto)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served
(ALM Dec. 18, 25, 2019; Jan. 1, 8, 2020)

Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar
to see more calendar listings

Theater

‘Pride and Prejudice’ TheatreWorks Silicon Valley brings literature's most infamous battle of the sexes to life. Through Jan. 4, 2020; times vary. \$34-\$108. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatretworks.org

Concerts

Free Organ Recital Weekly noon-time organ recitals on the two Flentrop organs at All Saints' Episcopal Church. Each recital will include at least one work by J.S. Bach. Through May 26, 12:15-12:45 p.m. Free. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. asaints.org

Talks & Lectures

E-Library Tips Learn how to easily access the digital library with your phone or tablet. Jan. 7, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Get Ready for Spring Gardening Learn about proper site selecting, how to prepare soil and the best timing for seeds and seedling. Jan. 8, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Restorative Parenting Karen Junker, certified trainer by the International Institute for Restorative Practices, discusses how to maintain healthy, conflict-free relationships and work towards creating a balanced, positive relationship between parents, children and family. Jan. 8, 6:30 p.m. Free. Hillview Middle School, 1100 Elder Ave., Menlo Park. mpcsd-speakersseries.com

Family

Walk This Whey Learn about the history of dairy animals, walk with one of Hidden Villa's goats and taste milks and cheeses from different dairy animals. Jan. 4, 2020, 10-11:30 a.m. \$25. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

Museums & Exhibits

A Gift of Art from Marilyn F. Symmes Marilyn F. Symmes' gift to the Cantor Arts Center is an eclectic selection of prints and drawings highlighting different ways of thinking about artworks as both images and objects. Through May 18, 2020; times vary; closed Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Baylug Lego Holiday Show Bay Area Lego User Group and the Bay Area Lego Train Club co-host the annual holiday show featuring train layouts, Bay Area landmarks, castles, miniature cities, sculptures, portraits and more all made out of Legos. Through Jan. 5, 2020, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$3. The Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. moah.org

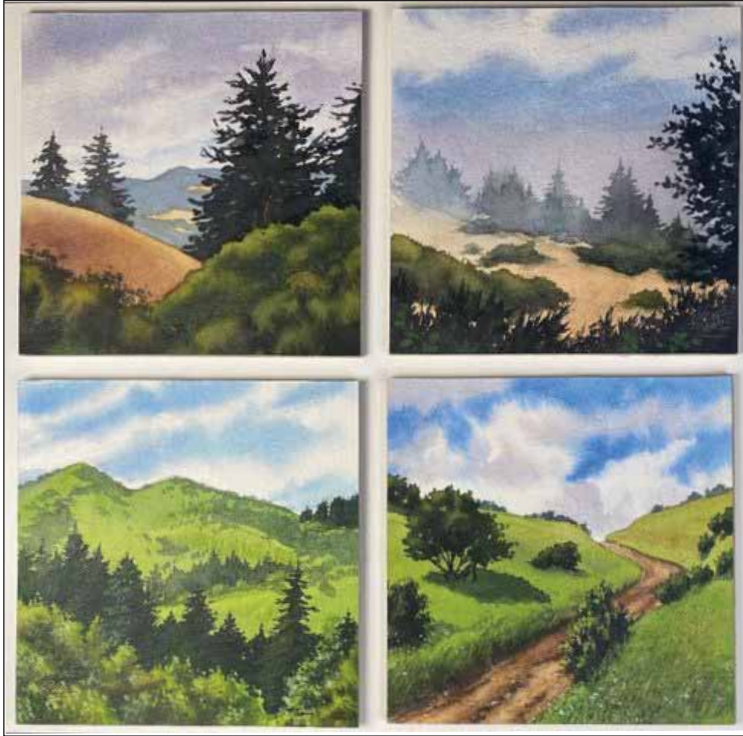
Cointraptions "Cointraptions: Classic Coin-Operated Machines" explores what life was like before the era of credit cards with classic coin-operated machines, including gambling devices, a mutoscope, vending machines and more. Through Feb. 16, 2020; Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. The Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. moah.org

Edward Weston and Ansel Adams This exhibit features landscapes, still lifes, nudes and portraits created by Edward Weston in Mexico and Ansel Adams in the American southwest. Through Jan. 6, 2020; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Flight Simulator Rally Embark on a flight through the Hiller Aviation Museum's Flight Sim Zone, a state-of-the-art flight simulator. Jan. 5, 2-3:30 p.m. Free; event included with museum admission. Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Road, San Carlos. hiller.org

‘Jordan Casteel: Returning the Gaze’ Featuring paintings made in the last five years, Jordan Casteel's large-scale portraits of Harlem community members are intimate portrayals of often overlooked members of society. Through Feb. 2, 2020, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

‘Left of Center’ "Left of Center" exhibition seeks to show how modes of art-making that originated on the West Coast decisively changed the topography of American modernism. Through Sept. 20; times vary; closed



Art squared

“The Square Show,” which takes place this month through February at Portola Art Gallery, features 6x6 works by gallery artists. The exhibition includes these four watercolor paintings by Palo Alto artist Steve Curl. The gallery is at the Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park. It's open Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, go to portolaartgallery.com or call 650-321-0220.

Tuesdays. Free. Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

‘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; times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

‘Our Sacred Coast’ Artist Ian Wing's "Our Sacred Coast" is an exhibition of landscapes including plein air and studio pieces depicting select locations across the California coastline. Through Jan. 20; times vary. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. arts4all.org

‘Process and Pattern’ Memory, history and making collide in the work of contemporary artists McArthur Binion, Charles Gaines, Julie Mehretu and Analia Saban. Through Feb. 17; closed Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive, Stanford. 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; times vary; closed Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

‘Surf Sequence’ "Surf Sequence" explores Ansel Adams' relationship with water in different forms with a series of spontaneously captured surf images. Through May 18; times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

‘West x Southwest’ The Capital Group Foundation's gift of 1,000 photographs includes works by American photographers Ansel Adams, Edward Curtis, John Gutmann, Helen Levitt, Wright Morris, Gordon Parks and Edward Weston. Through Jan. 5; 12:30 p.m. Free. Stanford University, 450 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

Film

‘The Year We Thought About Love’ Menlo Park Library screens an inspirational documentary about a Boston LGBTQ youth theater troupe. Jan. 6, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Food & Drink

Brunch on the Farm Gather ingredients from the Hidden Villa farm and make a colorful, fresh breakfast the old-fashioned way. Jan. 5, 9:30-11:30 a.m. \$25. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

Health & Wellness

Windhover Tour Open for public tours every Saturday, the Windhover building is a meditative space built with the intention of promoting mental and spiritual well-being. Saturdays; ongoing, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 370 Santa Teresa St., Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Outdoor Recreation

Earthquake Hike Hike along the San Andreas Fault and learn about the wonders of the plate tectonics and the remnants left by thousands of previous earthquakes. Jan. 5, 2-4:30 p.m. Free. Los Trancos Preserve, 4185 Page Mill Road, Los Altos. openspace.org

New Year's Day Hike/Walk The Pathways Committee holds an annual New Year's hike with multiple loops of varying distances. Jan. 1, 1 p.m. Free. Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. losaltoshills.ca.gov

Trail Run Run to the top of Windy Hill with trail-running docents Anna Lee and Ray Curiel. Jan. 7, 7-9 a.m. Free. Windy Hill Preserve, 555 Portola Road, Portola Valley. openspace.org

Winter Waterfowl Embark on a birding expedition with docents Kate Gudmundson, Laura Levin, Mary Brunkhorst and Dennis Smith to look for waterfowl and other birds visiting the San Francisco Bay as they migrate along the Pacific Flyway. Jan. 1, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Free. Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Area, Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. openspace.org

Author Events

Abigail Hing Wen's ‘Loveboat Taipei’ Author Abigail Hing Wen debuts her highly anticipated romantic comedy book "Loveboat, Taipei." Jan. 6, 7-9 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

Tara Sim's “Scavenge the Stars” Author Tara Sim launches her new book "Scavenge the Stars," a gender-swapped retelling of "The Count of Monte Cristo." Jan. 7, 7-9 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

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