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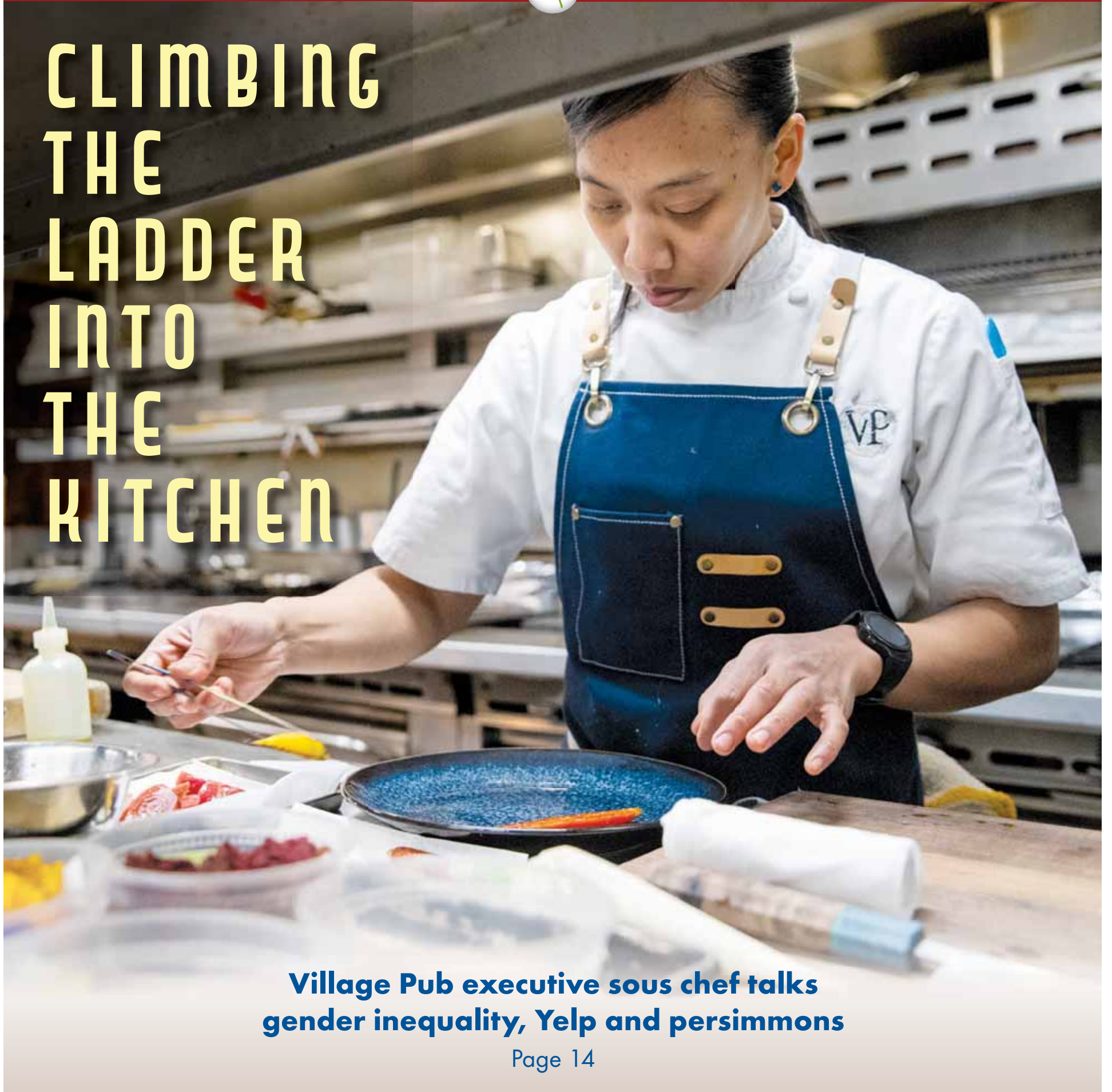
THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

FEBRUARY 26, 2020 | VOL. 55 NO. 25



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CLIMBING THE LADDER INTO THE KITCHEN



**Village Pub executive sous chef talks
gender inequality, Yelp and persimmons**

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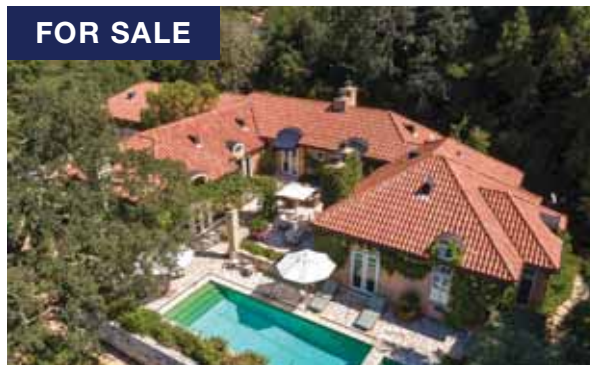


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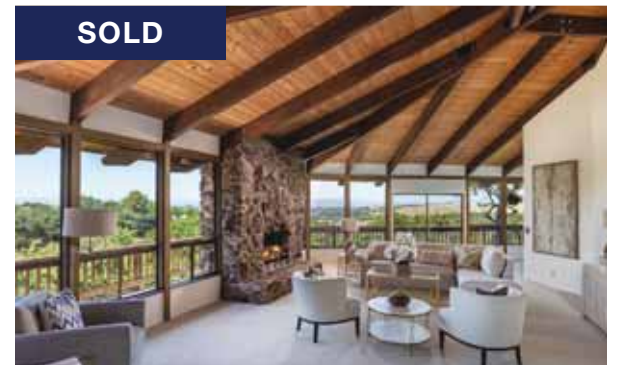


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Owner Bruce Good amassed an incredible collection of high-quality hand-knotted rugs in his nearly four decades in the business, and he has more than 2,500 pieces left to sell in his Santa Cruz Avenue store. The store's entire inventory is priced to sell.

"As I get closer to retirement, there will be more reductions – but less choice," said Good. "The best pieces will go quickly."

He's seen some customers come in and buy a rug for every room in the house, he said. All the rugs the store sells are hand-woven and knotted from traditional producers and cooperatives in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal. The store has pieces in every standard size and offers an array of designs including traditional, contemporary and "transitional" – rugs that can be formal or casual, depending on the furnishings they're paired with. The store offers rugs made from wool, silk and viscose, a material that looks and feels like silk but is more affordable.



Good says the majority of the rugs he sells are made of wool, which is the strongest and hardest material. Viscose offers the soft feeling of silk but is easier to clean.

"I personally really like it," he said. "You can put it into a family room without worrying about it."

The store's selection also includes a large number of antique rugs. Collectors appreciate how a rug's colors soften over the years, giving the piece a fine and distinctive patina.

The traditional handcrafted method makes the rugs both beautiful and durable, said Good.

The Oriental Carpet has been serving Peninsula residents for 46 years, helping homeowners and designers achieve the look and feel that a beautiful, high-quality carpet can bring to a room. Good said the handcrafted rugs last forever – but his sale won't. If you're looking for an attractive rug at an even more attractive price, now is the time to go shopping.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Tracy Clark, president of the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County, discusses the 2020 census with Janet Thomas at a voter registration event held by the league at the Sequoia YMCA in Redwood City on Feb. 18

League of Women Voters celebrates 100 years of working on behalf of democracy

During the presidential election year, local members focus on voter outreach and education

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

A national grassroots organization founded to help women become more engaged in politics when they won the right to vote in the U.S. is celebrating 100 years of existence this month. And members of the local chapter plan to join in the festivities.

The League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County, established in 1955, will celebrate the Feb. 14 anniversary of its parent organization — widely known as the LWV — with a party in August.

The national organization was launched six months before the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified in 1920, granting women the right to vote. The founders' goal was to teach 20 million new voters about political issues and how to cast a vote, according to the national group's website.

The focus of both the national organization and the local chapter has broadened over the years to include all voters — men were welcomed into league chapters in 1973, according to the organization. The league now registers voters, moderates local candidate forums and debates, provides voters with election voter guides, and educates people on

important public policy issues, local chapter President Tracy Clark said.

"It's the best thing I've ever done," Kathleen Weisenberg of Atherton said of joining the local chapter 50 years ago when she moved to the area. "It's a wonderful way to serve our community. ... We're doing an amazing job right now at educating voters on the ballot measures."

'Democracy is not a spectator sport. We all have to jump in to do our part.'

KATHLEEN WEISENBERG,
LONGTIME LWV MEMBER AND
ATHERTON RESIDENT

For example, the local chapter — which includes members living in Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Woodside, East Palo Alto, and Redwood City — will host a presentation on the pros and cons of possible amendments to Proposition 13, which governs property taxes in California. The measure is on the November ballot.

"We're nonpartisan, while the rest of the country is so partisan right now," Clark said. "People look to the league for

nonpartisanship. We co-sponsor events because people know of our nonpartisan format, election guide, evenhandedness and reliability. ... We've remained impartial and relevant for 100 years, and that's an amazing accomplishment."

Leading into the March 3 primary, the chapter worked in precincts with historically low turnout — such as East Palo Alto, Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood and Redwood City — to register voters. Weisenberg noted that it's important, in any community, that "all voices are heard so good laws are passed."

Growing the chapter

The local chapter was initially called the League of Women Voters of Menlo Park, and included 127 members when it was established in 1955, according to chapter officials. It was led by Doris Ensign, who served as its president for the first year.

In November 1961, the members voted to change the name to the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County, reflecting the cities and unincorporated areas within its current membership area.

Four years ago, with membership down to 103, local chapter officials decided to revitalize the group. Attendance at events was down and volunteers were overloaded with work, officials

See **LWV**, page 6

Menlo fire chief picks apart Atherton's idea of splitting from district

By **Rick Radin**
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park Fire Protection District board members joined about 20 residents on Feb. 18 at the district's Station 3 in Atherton to hear Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman explain why he believes Atherton's exit from the district, which the town is considering, would be a bad idea — for the district and for the town.

The chief raised questions pertaining to how mutual aid would be handled following a divorce between the fire district and the town, financial equity among communities within the district, the special characteristics of fire service in Atherton, fire district employment and other issues.

The Atherton City Council and staff have for some time been discussing a possible split from the district and possibly contracting for fire services with another agency. The reason: Atherton contributes far more revenue to the fire district through its property taxes than it receives in benefits, town officials maintain, citing a survey commissioned by the town for fiscal year 2015-16.

The survey said that although Atherton has 8% of the residents in the fire district, it provided 31.7% of the district's total property tax revenues in 2015-16, which led to a subsidy by the town of more than \$7 million in tax revenue for the fire agency's coffers.

Atherton says that it receives only about \$4 million per year in fire services even though it is contributing about \$12 million.

But if the town and the district were to separate, there would be serious consequences, Schapelhouman said at the Feb. 18 meeting. For one thing, the town would block the district from providing so-called automatic aid to Redwood City, and Atherton's new fire service would have to take up that role.

It would also put the remaining portion of the district in a jam because it is hemmed in at its southern border with Palo Alto, which is in another county and doesn't currently provide

automatic aid to the district, Schapelhouman said.

"(Palo Alto) operates on a different model," he said. "If we need assistance, most of it comes from the north."

A split would break up the service arrangements of the district's fire stations, because the current arrangements are based on serving neighborhoods rather than cities. "The stations are not in jurisdictions; they are in geographical locations," Schapelhouman said.

Atherton also presents significant service problems for firefighters. Homes in the community are much larger than in other areas of the district, on average, and are more difficult to cover, requiring crews that are experienced in the community and know how to deal with locked gates, irregularly placed fire hydrants and long, narrow streets that are dark at night, he noted.

"There are extremely large homes in Atherton where there are sometimes two-story basements," Schapelhouman said. "I've fought fires in Atherton and it's not easy. The conditions are much different than in East Palo Alto, where you can sometimes get 20 residents living in a 1,100-square-foot home."

A separation from the district would also affect employee recruitment, since it would introduce an element of uncertainty about the future for employees, Schapelhouman said.

"There's a limited supply of qualified candidates for the positions we have," he said. "We have a lot of new personnel who are young and aggressive, and they want to learn. Right now what they see is uncertainty."

Former fire board member Peter Carpenter, who spoke up briefly at the meeting about the issue of fairness, warned in an email that if Atherton were to withdraw the entire \$12 million the town's taxpayers now contribute to the district, other communities within the district's boundaries, especially East Palo Alto and the unincorporated San Mateo County

See **DISTRICT SEPARATION**, page 6

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The Almanac is published every Wednesday at
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The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, The Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2020 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

League president Tracy Clark notes that the league has “remained impartial and relevant for 100 years, and that’s an amazing accomplishment.”

LWV

continued from page 5

said. (Over the years, the local chapter’s membership dwindled in number as women went back to work, Weisenberg explained.)

A core group of local veteran league leaders banded together to form an ad hoc membership team, chaired by Weisenberg. The chapter contacted the Stanford Graduate School of Business for assistance in analyzing its strengths and weaknesses, and gathered recommendations on how to improve and expand.

The local chapter now has 171 members, Clark said.

Efforts to recruit more members have included upgrading the chapter’s website, sending out more frequent e-newsletters, engaging more with community members through events — such as book discussions and a breakfast with East Palo Alto Mayor Lisa Gauthier — and other outreach, according to the organization.

Chapter priorities

Aside from voter outreach,

the local chapter’s board focuses on education, choosing several topics each year to highlight in the community. For 2020, board members chose sea level rise, voter outreach, housing and transportation, Clark said.

A March 14 event at Woodside Village Church will address climate change and how San Mateo County is responding to sea level rise.

The chapter, in collaboration with the nonprofit Belle Haven Action, won a \$14,000 Silicon Valley Community Foundation grant to increase its outreach program before the March primary. Most of the money goes toward hiring part-time canvassers to walk precincts that have historically low turnout, and hand out election and census flyers.

The chapter in recent weeks has been organizing voter outreach tabling events — about 50 of them — across the South County before March 3.

“Democracy is not a spectator sport,” said Weisenberg. “We all have to jump in to do our part.”

For more on the local chapter, go to lwvssmc.org. ▣

DISTRICT SEPARATION

continued from page 5

areas, would suffer unfairly.

The loss of that revenue, he wrote, would sharply reduce the level of fire and emergency services that the district would then be able to provide to the other 85,000 residents of the fire district who typically have lower property values and per capita incomes.

Martha Poyatos, executive officer for the San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), who spoke at the meeting, said that the agency can’t really judge what a separation would look like until Atherton submits a formal application.

She said LAFCo would be looking at such issues as how fire service would be provided

in Atherton, what response rates would be, and what the impact would be to the fire district of closing down Station 3 in Atherton.

“(The proposal) is unprecedented,” Poyatos said in a telephone interview. “The chief identified some of the issues, but in the LAFCo process you can’t really prejudge.”

Redwood City provides fire service by contract to San Carlos, but the circumstances would be different if, for example, Atherton were also interested in contracting out with Redwood City, she said.

“San Carlos has a fire station and apparatus that Redwood City is using, but Atherton doesn’t have its own fire station,” Poyatos said. “Would (Atherton) be building a station somewhere in town?” ▣

Menlo Park's USGS site to hit the market soon

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

The federal government has decided to put the U.S. Geological Survey's Menlo Park campus up for sale in the coming months.

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved placing the 17-acre site at 345 Middlefield Road — which has served as the headquarters for USGS — on the market sometime in the next five months, according to a Jan. 24 OMB letter. Workers at the campus, which includes 17 buildings and 390,217 square feet of rentable space, began to relocate this past summer to NASA Ames Research Park at Moffett Field in Mountain View in an effort to save money on rent.

"The Menlo Park area is the epicenter of the technology sector and home to such companies as Google, Apple, Intel and E-Trade and the real estate market is one of the strongest in the country with an office vacancy rate of 4% and rents in excess of \$100/SF (square foot)," federal Public Buildings Reform Board officials wrote in a Dec. 27 letter to OMB. The board was established in 2016 to identify opportunities for the federal government to "significantly reduce its inventory of civilian real property and thereby reduce costs," the board's website states.

The USGS move to Moffett Field is scheduled to be completed in early 2023, the letter states. Under the current timeline, completion is expected by

January 2023, USGS spokesperson Paul Laustsen said in an email. The campus is overseen by the General Services Administration, the government agency that serves as property manager for federal office buildings. USGS will decommission the campus after the move, a step that should be completed by September 2023, he said, and the GSA takes over from there.

The USGS site is one of 12 federal properties the board identified last year to sell, and the sites have a total market value between \$500 million and \$750 million, according to the December letter. The properties must be sold within roughly a year following OMB's approval of the plan in January, unless OMB determines that a two-year timeframe is in the "financial interest of the government," the letter states.

It's not yet known how much the Menlo Park property will be listed for.

"Currently, GSA is completing necessary due diligence to submit a Report of Excess within 60 days as required under the FASTA law," a General Services Administration spokesperson said in an email Feb. 21. "Upon completion of this report, GSA will determine the most efficient method to sell the property. The sale strategy will include gathering market information and communicating with the city to ensure that interested parties are made aware of the opportunity and updated information will be posted at disposal.gsa.gov."

Menlo Park resident Nancy

Wagner, who has lived on Morgan Lane for 10 years, is sad to see USGS leave, "just as it was sad to see Sunset (Magazine) leave Menlo Park."

"Both (Sunset and USGS) were draws when we moved in to Menlo Park and they did a lot of community outreach," she added.

Wagner said the move could help address the city's housing needs. She still would not like to see a "mega (housing) complex" built on the USGS property since the area doesn't have the transportation or sewage infrastructure to support an influx of new residents, she said. She also hopes a developer would consider including an open space or a public park since there is a lot of space available on the site.

In the long term, Menlo Park City Council members have expressed interest in seeing affordable housing developed on the site. Although proposals for future use of the USGS property have not yet come before the council, the parcel is zoned for public use and "anything other than that would require rezoning," said Mayor Cecilia Taylor in an email.

In December, after preliminary conversations about creating a temporary safe parking facility at the USGS parking lot for people living in vehicles, then-mayor Ray Mueller announced that he and San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum had decided to drop the idea, determining that it is not feasible.

The idea, as Mueller previously explained, was to bring in



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

The exterior of the United States Geological Survey campus in Menlo Park.

a nonprofit homeless services provider — such as Menlo Park-based LifeMoves — to operate a safe parking site at USGS before the property is sold to private developers.

Former Menlo Park Planning Commission member Stu Soffer,

who lives in the neighborhood, said that he sees the space as a "blank canvas."

"It's an odd spot," Soffer said of the USGS campus, which sits across the street from St.

See **USGS**, page 8

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Cal Fire wrapping up work on Kings Mountain Road

Controlled burn began on Feb. 18 and was expected to end Feb. 21, but continues this week

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is burning a few more piles of debris at Huddart Park on Kings Mountain Road this week, according to spokeswoman Cecile Juliet.

“We’re about halfway through the 15 piles that we have left,” Juliet said. “The smoke isn’t what it was last week. In fact, compared with a project we are doing in Santa Cruz County, there isn’t any smoke at all.”

The work is the final stage of the Kings Mountain Road Emergency Shaded Fuel Break project authorized by a state of emergency declared by Gov. Gavin Newsom and mandating that 35 high-risk areas across the state receive immediate wildfire mitigation work, according to a Feb. 13 San Mateo County Fire Department news release announcing the controlled burn.

The controlled burn began on Feb. 18 and was expected to be completed by Feb. 21, according to the fire department release.

Crews were burning trees that

fell victim to sudden oak death as well as debris from recent project work.

The burn was a pile burn rather than a broadcast burn, according to Cal Fire forester Sarah Collamer, meaning that Cal Fire was burning material that was cut up and stacked in piles. The department tweeted on Feb. 18 that it has 100 debris piles to burn this week.

“We do this very often in Santa Cruz County compared with San Mateo because the air quality district there is more permissive,” she said.

Permission is also needed from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District anytime material is burned in the open air. The district has stopped charging fees to encourage the reduction in fuels that can ignite in a wildfire.

The agencies that were burning have to do a study before proceeding to make sure they aren’t damaging the environment, Collamer said.

People who see smoke coming from the Kings Mountain Road area are being asked not to report it, according to the fire department release. ▀



Photos by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Nicholas Gurr, a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection firefighter, turns away from the heat of the fire while supervising a controlled burn at the entrance of Huddart Park in Woodside on Feb. 18. At right, a pile of vegetation and wood goes up in flames.

Residents’ letter raises alarm over housing proposal

Fire officials’ recommendations should be key to Stanford plan approval, residents say

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

A group of 250 Portola Valley residents is demanding that the town Planning Commission adopt a group of Woodside Fire Protection District recommendations for the proposed housing project known as the Stanford Wedge.

Residents of the community of 4,500 have expressed concern about the safety of the Stanford University project that would place 27 single-family homes and 12 rental units on a 6-acre parcel near the intersection of Alpine Road and Westridge Drive.

For example, an analysis from the fire district recommends that the development maintain “defensible space” of 100 feet from each side and from the front and rear of all structures, whereas plans for the development call for only 8 to 12 feet of open space between units.

Under the precautionary “defensible space” scenario, the site could accommodate only six or seven homes versus the number that Stanford envisions, according to the letter.

Other concerns include limited escape routes from the town in the event of a fire or other emergency. The project would dump traffic onto two-lane Alpine Road at a critical juncture and could cause a traffic snarl in a fire emergency, the letter maintains.

“Emergency escape routes are heavily dependent on unobstructed passage along Alpine Road and Westridge Drive,” the letter states. It also poses a series of questions about the environmental review process for the project application.

For example, why has the town staff not compelled Stanford to address and resolve in writing the fire district’s minimum requirement for structural separation? And why has the town allowed Stanford to ignore the district’s requirement for two district-approved independent fire modeling studies and a fire protection plan before beginning its environmental impact assessment?

The letter claims that the Planning Commission is ignoring the fire district’s concerns about the proposed siting of the project and its stated requirements for structural separation “months after those concerns and requirements were transmitted in writing to the Town.”

That the Planning Commission “sees no reason to address and resolve those critical concerns and requirements before proceeding with an environmental assessment of the project as proposed is similarly disturbing and

unacceptable,” the letter states.

In response, Town Manager Jeremy Dennis, a former city planner in Palo Alto, told The Almanac that the Planning Commission fully intends to analyze the fire risk that the proposed development presents and will attempt to mitigate any problems.

Portola Valley and Stanford will be doing two fire modeling studies as part of the environmental impact report process, he said.

Stanford will pay for the impact report, but Portola Valley will manage the EIR process, Dennis said.

“There will be two fire modeling studies coming,” said Dennis, who emphasized that the Planning Commission’s work on the EIR is in its early stages and could take a few months.

“The EIR will take a significant amount of information with potential impacts of the project, including noise, biological, cultural and traffic and will identify potential mitigation if the impacts can be mitigated,” he said.

“The Planning Commission will be reviewing these studies for a long time,” he added. “That’s what the EIR process is all about.” ▀

USGS

continued from page 7

Patrick’s Seminary & University, near housing and Menlo-Atherton High School. “Its traditional usage is as a research park. What people will want to put in is housing. I don’t think a shopping center would go there because it would be a real traffic problem.”

Background on the site

USGS takes up 330,607 square feet on the campus, while other tenants — the Transportation Security Administration, Veteran’s Health Administration, Defense Contract Management Agency and Office of Personnel Management — occupy just 13,540 square feet.

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

The General Services Administration is obligated under federal law to charge market-rate rent for its properties, even in pricey locales such as the Bay Area, where office space goes for a premium cost.

The plan to move was first announced in 2016. ▀

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Silicon Valley pioneer Larry Tesler of Portola Valley dies at 74

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

Portola Valley resident Larry Tesler, who created computer concepts such as “cut,” “copy,” and “paste,” died on Feb. 17 at the age of 74, according to reports from CNN, Associated Press and the Washington Post.

Born in New York, Tesler came to the West Coast to attend Stanford University, where he received a degree in mathematics in 1965, according to the news reports.

He joined Xerox Corp.’s Palo

Alto Research Center in 1973, where he pioneered concepts that helped make computers more user-friendly, specifically moving text using cut-and-paste functions and inserting text by clicking on a screen and typing, according to the obituary published by the AP.

Before Tesler’s work, computer users had to work with computer programs in different “modes,” where the same commands meant different things depending on how they were used, the AP obituary noted.

For instance, text could be entered in one mode, but to change the text, the user would have to switch the computer to a different mode.

Tesler helped refine the concept of imodeless computing, in which a user could perform a variety of functions without changing how the computer would operate, according to CNN.

Tesler joined Steve Jobs at Apple in 1980, where he worked on a variety of personal computer products, including the Lisa

computer, the Newton personal digital assistant and the Macintosh, CNN reported.

The cut-copy-paste command was incorporated into the Lisa computer in 1983, then became a standard function on the Macintosh operating system, which was introduced a year later, the AP obituary said.

Computer objects like external keyboards, the mouse, icons and windows were refined into finished products while Tesler was at Apple, where in 1993 he became chief scientist, a role

that had previously been held by Steve Wozniak, according to the Washington Post.

Tesler spent 17 years at Apple before co-founding an educational software company and, later, holding executive positions at Amazon, Yahoo and the genetics-testing service 23andMe, CNN reported.

He worked as an independent consultant in his final years, helping Silicon Valley companies make their products more accessible to users, the Washington Post said. ▣

Menlo fire board taking its show on the road

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District is moving its governing board meetings around to different fire stations to make it more convenient for the public to attend and to manage issues on the agenda so that they are aired at meetings in the communities in which the stations are located, when appropriate.

The fire board normally meets at the Station 1 headquarters on Middlefield Road

in Menlo Park, but holding meetings at stations in different neighborhoods could help the district’s outreach to the communities it serves, including Menlo Park, Atherton and East Palo Alto, district officials say.

“We’re trying to make it easier for people to attend meetings by holding them at the fire stations in their areas,” said Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman, “It’s the first time we’ve ever tried it.”

The January meeting was held at Station 2 in East Palo

Alto and was the introductory meeting for Robert Jones as the board’s first president from East Palo Alto, according to a district announcement.

This month’s meeting took place at Station 3 on Feb. 12 in Atherton, where town officials are considering withdrawing the town from the district.

The board’s March meeting will be held at Fire Station 77 on Chilco Street in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, according to the announcement. On the agenda will be a

recommendation to purchase land at 1283 Willow Road from the city of Menlo Park for a proposed Station 88.

The meeting in April will be at Station 4, which covers the western areas of Menlo Park and Atherton. Planned topics will include the prospect of Atherton leaving the fire district and the planned \$20 million station that will replace the 70-year-old Station 4.

In May, the board will meet at Station 5 in the North Fair Oaks area of Menlo Park, where

the topic of Atherton’s recent discussions of possibly leaving the fire district will again be on the agenda. Also to be discussed are a new fire station location; problematic traffic control devices in the area; and the reduction of lanes on Middlefield Road in North Fair Oaks that will affect emergency response times, according to a district announcement.

Finally, the June meeting will be held at the remodeled Station 6 in downtown Menlo Park, where the focus will be on development, congestion and traffic on El Camino Real in and around downtown. ▣

Real estate developer with Woodside ties sentenced for bankruptcy fraud

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

A Bay Area real estate developer who owned a home in Woodside

was sentenced on Feb. 18 to 12 months and a day in prison and ordered to pay a \$150,000 fine for bankruptcy fraud, according to a press release from the U.S. Department of Justice.

William Garlock, 70, of Tiburon, pleaded guilty last September to one count of fraudulent withholding of recorded information in a bankruptcy case and one count of fraudulent

concealment of bankruptcy assets, the press release said.

According to the plea agreement, Garlock admitted that, after a number of his investors forced him into involuntary bankruptcy in federal bankruptcy court in March 2012, he filed bankruptcy schedules that failed to list assets he either owned or controlled, including the Woodside home and a horse.

He admitted that he fraudulently concealed these assets from the bankruptcy trustee and his creditors, according to the press release.

Garlock also admitted that after the bankruptcy trustee obtained an order from the bankruptcy judge requiring him to comply with his statutory duties to cooperate with the trustee and surrender records to the trustee, he fraudulently withheld certain records, including documents identifying him as wholly owning a

commercial parking garage that had been sold for a large profit several months before the initiation of the bankruptcy case.

A federal grand jury indicted Garlock in a superseding indictment on March 21, 2019, charging him with fraudulent withholding of recorded information in a bankruptcy case and fraudulent concealment of bankruptcy assets.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Vince Chhabria sentenced Garlock to a three-year period of supervised release and ordered him to volunteer 100 hours of his time each year during that period for community service related to the needs of financially disadvantaged people, according to the press release.

A hearing has been set for April 15 to make a final determination of restitution. Garlock will begin serving the sentence on June 12. ▣

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Outside spending in Senate race ramps up in final days

By Kate Bradshaw

With only a week until California's March 3 primary, candidates running to represent District 13 in the state Senate are ramping up their campaign fundraising and spending efforts to convince voters to select them.

Democrat Shelly Masur of Burlingame raised the most in the recent campaign filing period, Jan. 19 and Feb. 15, pulling in \$110,072 as of Feb. 20. Her campaign has so far raised \$498,610 according to the California Secretary of State's online portal for campaign finance data.

Democrat Josh Becker of Menlo Park remains in the lead for campaign funds raised overall, with \$996,229. In the period between Jan. 19 and Feb. 15, his campaign brought in \$84,958 and spent \$616,515. Democrat Annie Oliva of Millbrae raised \$38,055 during the same period and spent \$184,194.

Democrat Sally Lieber of Mountain View raised \$3,835 in the recent period, spending \$25,750. This follows a strong period of fundraising in early January. Campaign finance records show that her

contributions from Jan. 1 to Feb. 15 totaled \$106,871, with \$35,088 in expenditures.

Not every candidate's finance reports are available online. The latest updates for Democrat Mike Brownrigg of Burlingame, Republican Alex Glew of Los Altos and Libertarian John Webster of Mountain View were not available online by the close of business on Feb. 20. This story will be updated as that information becomes available.

However, these numbers only tell part of the story.

In just the past couple of weeks, independent political action committees have pumped hundreds of thousands of dollars into several campaigns.

Currently, Oliva leads among the candidates with the largest amount of independent spending on her behalf at \$576,120. The vast majority of that funding continues to be from one committee, the California Real Estate Independent Expenditure Committee, which is associated with the California Association of Realtors. Oliva sat on the board of directors of the San Mateo County Association of Realtors years ago and has the organization's endorsement. It

is part of the California Association of Realtors. The California Fair Political Practices Committee is in the process of deciding whether to investigate a claim that Oliva has collaborated with the independent spending group regarding campaign materials in violation of the Political Reform Act.

Independent spending supporting Masur has also soared in recent weeks. An independent committee called Californians for Strong Schools and Healthy Communities Supporting Shelly Masur For Senate 2020, sponsored by "education and health care organizations," has raised \$350,000 since the start of the new year and spent \$224,706. The committee has secured funds from independent committees tied to the California Medical Association and numerous teachers associations, including the California Teachers Association.

Since Feb. 10, independent supporters of Becker have spent a total of \$381,176 on behalf of his election. Most of it, \$366,000, has come from the Committee for Positive Social Change Supporting Josh Becker for Senate 2020, an independent

expenditure committee that received \$500,000 from LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman. They paid for mailers, polling and campaign consulting.

One of the committees that has been very active in the District 13 race in recent weeks is the Californians Allied for Patient Protection Independent Expenditure Account, a group tied to an attack ad in the local Assembly race in 2016.

That committee has spent more than \$116,562 in opposition to Lieber, while offering widespread support to other Democratic candidates in the race — providing \$15,176 each to Becker, Brownrigg, Masur and Oliva.

Another independent committee, the Silicon Valley Jobs PAC, which is sponsored by the state's Chamber of Commerce and received major funds from a political action committee Californians for Independent Work sponsored by Lyft, as well as an independent committee for pharmaceutical research and manufacturing, has spent \$45,000 on digital ads opposing Lieber.

Independent spending on Brownrigg comes primarily from

a \$460,000 independent contribution from his mother. Of that, \$457,400 has been spent.

Becker also recently announced that he has received an endorsement from U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, who is joining the likes of Gov. Gavin Newsom and incumbent Sen. Jerry Hill. Becker said he's known Harris for 15 years and that she's been supportive of his work with the nonprofit Full Circle Fund, particularly that organization's grant making efforts to address the income gap and environmental justice. He added that he's supported Harris' work regarding criminal justice reform and rehabilitation.

In a statement, Harris said, "His intelligence, passion, energy and independence will make him an extremely effective State Senator for his district and for the people of California."

District 13 stretches from South San Francisco to Sunnyvale and from north of Pacifica to Año Nuevo State Park on the coast. ■

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CLIMBING THE LADDER INTO THE KITCHEN



Village Pub executive sous chef talks gender inequality, Yelp and persimmons

Story by Elena Kadvany
Photos by Magali Gauthier

Edalyn Garcia turns the bonbon over and over in her hands, inspecting it with a level of scrutiny usually reserved for scientific experiments.

I watched her digest the chocolate visually, deliberately before taking her first bite. She popped it into her mouth and chewed, the gears in her mind almost visibly turning.

I met Garcia, executive sous chef at The Village Pub, over dinner at Protege in Palo Alto, her chosen restaurant for this installment of my “At the table” interview series with local chefs.

Garcia, 31, embodies focus and discipline. At 23 years old, she represented the United States as team captain in an international culinary competition. She was the first female sous chef at the Michelin-starred Plumed Horse in Saratoga. She trains in mixed martial arts and Muay Thai kickboxing. She practices intermittent fasting. She references Angela Duckworth’s “Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance” as a manual for how to be a better mentor and manager.

Garcia was born in the Philippines and came to the United States when she was two and a half years old. Raised by a single

mother in Santa Clara, she fell in love with cooking as an emotional outlet when her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Cooking “saved my life,” she has said, “because it gave me a sense of hope.” In choosing a career in restaurants, she broke with a familial and cultural expectation that she would become a nurse.

After culinary school, Garcia steadily worked her way up the ladder at some of the area’s best fine dining restaurants, including the Plumed Horse, Madera and The Village Pub.

As the second in command at The Village Pub’s kitchen, she spends more time managing cooks than cooking on the line. She’s one of the unseen but crucial people who make things run smoothly at one of the Peninsula’s most well-regarded restaurants. Diners don’t know her name, but they should.

I hadn’t heard of Garcia until I listened to her on Copper & Heat, a locally produced podcast that digs into kitchen culture, talking frankly about the pressures and expectations women face in fine-dining restaurants.

In Protege’s dining room, over bluefin tuna, caviar-topped scallops and the coddled hen egg with obligatory shaves of black truffle, I talked with Garcia about the roots of her intense drive, how she

works to create a healthy kitchen culture at The Village Pub and where she goes when she’s craving sweet Filipino spaghetti.

What got you interested in a career in cooking?

Being Filipino, whenever there is any type of celebration, they cook for a small army. They cook so much food. We’re about hospitality. We like that people are able to take food home. Sometimes it gets really out of hand. The food that we cook (the most) in any celebration is pancit. Depending on where you are in the Philippines they prepare it differently. In my family’s case, it’s usually made with noodles that are made out of bean threads with a bunch of vegetables, pork belly and shrimp, soy sauce being the base.

I was pretty lost when I was trying to figure out what I wanted to do. Coming out of high school I felt like I didn’t have too much opportunity because ... my mother was a single mother. Just not having that financial backing, that was difficult. It was ... pursue something where I knew that I could make money fast.

But it wasn’t until I was going through a rough time — I found out that my mom got diagnosed with breast cancer. It had metastasized. The doctors had told us (she had) a year and a half (to live).



Top: Edalyn Garcia, the executive sous chef at The Village Pub in Woodside, tosses roasted beets in olive oil. Above: The heirloom carrots and chiongia beet salad is a market dish at The Village Pub made up of seared carrots, carrot shavings and roasted beets topped with edible flowers, carrot tops and popped sorghum alongside puréed silken tofu.

That hit me like a ton of bricks. I needed that outlet. I needed something to get my mind off of it. I know it kind of sounds selfish, but people have their ways of dealing with things. (Cooking) was my outlet that I needed. The more that I think about it, I realize the reason why I gravitated towards it so much is because that was one of the only times of my life when I felt like I was in control. There are a lot of things in cooking that you can't control but for the most part, you can. You can control the heat. You can control how big or how small this portion can be.

That's really what got me through. I think that's the reason why I fell in love with it so much and so quickly, and why I never gave up even during the hardest moments.

Where was your first restaurant job?

I did my stage (an unpaid internship) at Google. I realized

very early on that I'm not about that large-scale, corporate (cooking). It didn't bring me as much joy as working in an actual restaurant does. From there I went to work at the Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara (and then) at Madera at the Rosewood.

What was Madera like?

Very difficult. That's when I realized, this is what they were talking about when they tell you 'your ass is going to get handed to you.' It was definitely nothing I had ever experienced at the Hyatt Regency or Google. That was probably one of the first times where I felt like I wasn't good enough.

What has The Village Pub been like for you? What's the kitchen culture like there?

It has been probably one of the greatest learning experiences I've ever had. It's pretty family oriented. A lot of people have been there for a long time.

How much of your role is managing versus cooking? What are your responsibilities as executive sous chef?

Right now managing versus cooking is 60--40, 60 being the managing. (I'm) training, hiring, showing (cooks) how to work a station, pulling them aside and having one-on-one talks with them... telling them what I expect, the potential that I see in them. I'm actually reading a book right now called "Grit" by Angela Duckworth. I take a lot of pride in trying to really foster the cooks and really let them know that I believe in them, that I expect more from them because they can do it.

You talked about this in Copper and Heat, but can you speak to what it takes to move up in a kitchen as a woman?

You have to show that you want it more than anybody else. What I found from reading the book "Grit" — a lot of it has to do with your pride and perseverance. How much are you willing to take? What makes you different from other people is that you're just willing to work harder than them. Most of the time, you have to make that sacrifice. If you really want to move up in the ranks, you do have something to prove. Because how else are they going to trust you with running an operation if you don't show them that you have what it takes?

I didn't really think about, 'I'm a woman working in the culinary industry.' There were moments where I didn't feel like people would take me as seriously or didn't think that I could do certain things because I was female, because I'm small, because I'm of color, whatever the case may be. I think what really helped me is just

holding close to myself what was important to me and making sure that I did right by my family. They remain my drive to get better, to be the best version of myself not only as a chef, but as a person. You do find yourself a lot in cooking.

Copper and Heat host and cook Katy Osuna starts the podcast by saying that the restaurant industry is systematically sexist. Do you agree with that?

When I first started out cooking, I didn't feel like it was that much of the case but as I got older and I stayed at The Village Pub, the more that I saw that. We had a cook (who) was very green. He had already started some pretty bad habits, like always munching on food. I'm not cool with that. If you're hungry, that's cool. Take a step off the line. He'd talk about, 'I'm a man, I need to eat.' I remember overhearing both my sous chef, Juan, and my chef de cuisine telling him to stop eating. He would not say anything back to them. He wouldn't say a word.

He and I had a bit of conflict. I would get on his case for basically not doing his job. I was having the conversations with him with another manager present — that's how we do it at Bacchus Management; when you need to have a conversation (with a staff member), you need to have another manager present. He brought up, 'When Chef Steven or Chef Juan talk to me, they're so nice.' I wish I could see the facial reaction that I made when he said that. But that was when I realized, wow, this is real.

So you felt like because you're a woman, he reacted to you differently than the male chefs?

Yeah. When a female is trying to direct males or getting angry at them in the same manner that a male chef would, they find it more like bickering or being mothered.

Did being on the podcast spur conversations with people at work?

Yes. It really got me thinking. I would go and ask a lot of the women why they felt like there weren't as many females in higher places (in restaurants). Motherhood would always come up. One of my good friends who I met in culinary school currently works in corporate dining and is a mother of four now. She and I talked about if she'd want to go back to the fine dining industry. I'm like, 'You can do it.' She's like, 'No I can't. How am I going to do that? Who's going to watch the kids? How am I going to make that money?'

I think now I'm seeing more women come up and be promoted. I think sometimes they are discouraged, afraid to put themselves out there and go for that position.

Do you feel like you've noticed a change in restaurant culture with more conversation around all these issues?

I do. I feel like more people are sensitive to people's emotions. At The Village Pub the way we like to approach things is give them praise in public, but then reprimand them in private.

I always want my cooks to feel like when I'm around, that they feel safe. But at the same time I want to instill some fear into them, not because I want them to have a bad experience at the restaurant, but I feel working in the kitchen you need to learn to work in uncomfortable situations. That's how you're going to thrive. There are situations where you have a millisecond to come up with a solution to something. ... Something I always tell them is, 'I'm not going to get on you for needing help. I'm gonna get on you if you need help and you didn't tell me.' You need to communicate.

How do you take care of your mental health as a chef?

Going to the gym is definitely a big thing. Having a good support system. Being able to be open with other people and to pay attention to others. ... Cry. I do it all the time. Showing emotion is not weakness. I think that's what being a chef was ... A lot the male chefs that I work with (now), they're not afraid to show emotions.

How does menu development work at The Village Pub? Are you involved in that process?

For the most part, it will be the chef de cuisine with Executive Chef Mark Sullivan. Sometimes I will throw some ideas out before they have their menu meeting. One of my favorite ones that I've done was a beet and persimmon salad. Persimmons are one of my favorite fruits. There was a beet salad with labneh. We would ferment that in-house. We got this really good olive oil that's pretty acidic so I didn't need to make a vinaigrette for the salad. I made this crumble that consisted of beet powder, cashews, levain bread, a little bit of citric acid, a little bit of powdered sugar for the sweetness. That combination is just awesome. If you were to close your eyes, it was very reminiscent of Fruity Pebbles. For me it was really nostalgic.

Do you feel like Filipino flavors have influenced your cooking style at all?

Not too much. Growing up, my family really only cooked food from that region. It's pretty vegetable driven, but it's also very driven by fermented fish, a lot of fish sauce. There's this other type

See **VILLAGE PUB**, page 16



Top: Garcia sears rainbow baby carrots. Above: Edalyn Garcia plates the restaurant's market dish, an heirloom carrots and chiongia beet salad.

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Deborah Ruth Hamilton

April 4, 1959 – October 31, 2019

Debbie Hamilton made her exit at age 60 having accomplished what many hope to realize. She lived a life of adventure, of love, of closeness to nature and to her two sons by blood, her two adopted sons and all those lucky enough to have been a part of her life. She climbed mountains, lived in Yosemite Valley accompanied by granite giants and a community of climbers. Later, she married a cowboy and built a life as a public health nurse in the wild country of Montana and Wyoming. She was a mom, a wife, a rancher, a lover of open spaces and the people who inhabit them.



Debbie grew up in Portola Valley, California, where her parents, Arla and Howard Middleton, encouraged a love of the outdoors. With her sister, Hilary, and brother, Craig, Deb discovered as a teenager the magic of the Sierra Nevada. Backpacking, bouldering, and climbing became her passion; the rock faces of Yosemite her siren call. As a student at CU Boulder in the 70s, Debbie would listen with friends to the music of Neil Young and Dan Fogelberg – “there’s a light in the depth of your darkness, let it shine.” She would later live that anthem.

Paralyzed from a car accident at age 46, she experienced the depths of despair – the nightmare of waking from a dream in which she could move, only to find that she could not. She emerged as a person who would appreciate what it is to depend on others, however she did not allow her changed abilities to dampen her dreams. Debbie loved the great outdoors and continued to experience this love through adaptive programs. A favorite quote she lived by was “I’m a risk taker. I have always felt that if I don’t try anything I won’t learn anything; if I don’t take a risk, I’ll stay where I am.” She was an advocate, strong-willed and determined to better the lives of those with differing abilities. She delighted in skiing in the Black Hills, surfing at Santa Monica, and hunting for antelope, all with the help of volunteers – the sense of accomplishment made greater because of her disability.

People mattered, and they stayed with her throughout her life. Debbie relished reunions with friends from elementary school and college days. She loved her extended family and exulted in being an aunt and a grandmother. After many years of ranching with her husband Bruce, and raising two remarkable sons in Will and Casey, Debbie chose to return to her native California and the foothills of her beloved Sierra Nevada. Rekindling a flame that had sparked in high school, she reconnected with Robin, who provided care, love and an exciting new chapter.

Throughout her life, Debbie insisted on writing her own story. Her life took turns that she would never have imagined. As she navigated them, she inspired us also to look beyond limitations, to relish moments with those we love, and to enjoy the pleasure of a warm day – smiling face turned upward to catch a moment of the sun’s exquisite radiance.

PAID OBITUARY



Garcia sautéés chantarelle and maitake mushrooms in butter in the restaurant’s kitchen.

VILLAGE PUB

continued from page 15

of fish sauce, patis, which is more fermented. It is super intense. It’s more viscous. It’s kind of milky. There’s a dried fish, daing, that my family always cooked. It made the house stink like nobody’s business.

Have you found any decent Filipino food on the Peninsula?

Does fast food count? I love going to Jollibee.

What’s next for you, career wise?

I would love to venture off into pastry, which one of my friends actually gave me shit about. She’s like, ‘You can’t do that. You’re gonna lower the amount of female chefs.’ I’m trying to make myself better. Being in pastry is a really good skill to have. Right now I’m focusing on trying to get more skills and in certain areas... things that I’ve never (done before). I feel like that’s the way you’re going to get better.

When you go out to eat are you looking for inspiration and thinking about it as work or are you able to eat just for the sake of eating?

I think that’s pretty important, trying to find inspiration. There are times when you do get those roadblocks ... I don’t want to be a food critic (when I eat out). I don’t want to be too judgmental. I don’t want to be a Yelper. I don’t want to be too hard on a restaurant because I know what it’s like to be back there. Maybe they were understaffed, having a bad day, something broke down, whatever the case may be. I know the type of pressure they’re under.

Do you pay attention to The Village Pub’s Yelp?

I do. One of the big reasons why is because some of the guests are kind of passive aggressive. You ask them, ‘How was your meal?’ They’ll say that everything was fine, and then all of a

sudden there’s an angry review. We could have made your experience better had you told us that something wasn’t right. (“How was your meal”) is not an empty question. Let us fix our mistakes. Let us make it better for you. We’re all about that at The Village Pub and Bacchus Management in general — making sure that we provide that better experience. Their motto is that the guests leave happier than they came in.

Do you eat out often?

When was the last time I went out to eat? I don’t remember. If I do, I’ll go to more simple ... more casual places. My last eating adventure, a group of friends and I — we actually all worked together at one point at The Village Pub — we went to what I like to call the triangle: Plumed Horse, Pasta Armellino and La Fondue. We start at La Fondue.

Korean food is really big down in Santa Clara. It’s one of my go-to’s for comfort food. There are two places that we go to the most: Jang Mo Jip and Gooyi Gooyi. The fancier one we like to go to is Jang Su Jang.

Why did you choose Protege for this dinner?

I’ve heard a lot of good things about it. I like the concept of it as well where it’s not ... stuck-up. You don’t have to worry too much about what you’re going to wear. I also like that the price point isn’t as crazy as a lot of places (with a tasting menu). ... that’s really important because I think that’s what’s going to bring more people to come to enjoy this type of food and become more educated about this type of food. You hear so many people say, ‘Why would we want to pay so much money for that when I can go here and eat this much food?’ They don’t think about the quality. They just think about the quantity. They don’t think about all the other moving parts behind it. I hope places like this will encourage other people to try (fine dining).

What do you think about the fine dining scene on the Peninsula?

I think it’s great. It’s coming up. For a while there was only San Francisco. Now I’m glad that it’s starting to branch out. A lot of people that have been working in San Francisco are opening spots in other places. I think that’s awesome. It’s not so condensed.

What would you tell a young woman who’s interested in pursuing a career in restaurants?

Your limits are the only things that you make for yourself and not anything that you were born into. Your limitations are your own. It’s your responsibility as to whether you’re going to break those limitations or let them control you. There have been so many times where I felt like I was so limited. How am I going to make things better for my family? Once I realized that I had more control ... I knew that I could do better and excel in this career, as long as I have that passion.

I think what I can say to the male chefs that are out there, push your female (chefs). Don’t think that they have a limitation. Just as much as women have a responsibility, males have that too. I know when I first got promoted at Plumed Horse, something that Chef Peter (Armellino) said to me was that I was his first female sous chef. That meant a lot to me. ▣

Elena Kadvanly is a staff writer with the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac’s sister publication, and writes the Peninsula Foodist blog for Embarcadero Media. This article first appeared as an “At the table” feature of Embarcadero’s TheSixFifty.com.

On the cover:

Edalyn Garcia places a seared baby carrot shaving while plating the restaurant’s market dish, an heirloom carrot and chiongia beet salad. Photo by Magali Gauthier

Menlo Park district puts the brakes on possible November parcel tax measure

Consultant to explore possible dates for renewal or replacement of funding source

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park City School District officials appear to be leaning against placing a ballot measure to renew or replace an existing parcel tax on the November ballot.

But the school board at its Feb. 13 meeting directed district consultants to continue examining that date along with other possible election dates, and return to the board next month with a recommendation.

During the meeting, staff and board members discussed the merits of different options for putting a parcel tax measure before voters. The existing tax expires in 2024.

The discussion followed a presentation by Whitehurst/Mosher Campaign Strategy and Media, a political consulting firm district hired to advise the district on the parcel tax. Whitehurst will study the potential of various election day options — ranging from the November ballot to special elections as late as 2022 — to optimize voter support and minimize costs to the district.

“I still think it’s important to see the data for those time periods, and let’s keep November 2020 in the mix,” said board President Stacey Jones. “But right now I’m not hearing a lot of confidence in that date.”

At a January meeting, Superintendent Erik Burmeister warned board members that the Nov. 3 ballot will be crowded with tax-related state propositions, and it would be a “completely different election” than any the district has faced before. He and board members are unsure how a measure on the November ballot to amend Proposition 13, which governs property taxes in California, might affect the district’s funding, making it difficult to accurately assess the need for a parcel tax.

The “split-roll” initiative would amend Proposition 13 to increase taxes on certain commercial and business properties, but not on homeowners. About 40% of the \$12 billion it would generate would go to public schools, according to EdSource.org.

Board Vice President Sherwin Chen said at the meeting that he “finds it very hard” to make a case for putting a parcel tax measure on the November ballot, and would rather know the effects of the changes to Proposition 13 before having voters

make a decision.

The tax in question is Measure X, which passed in 2017 with an initial annual rate of \$360 per parcel. The board last year had preliminary discussions about putting a measure before voters to renew or replace Measure X at a higher taxation rate to help address deficit spending that could result from last year’s teacher salary hike.

According to a staff presentation prepared for an October meeting, with implementation of a 5% raise for district teachers during the 2019-20 school year, the district’s required reserve funds will drop below the minimum amount specified in board policy — at least 15% of total annual spending — within two years without a higher level of tax revenue.

‘Right now I’m not hearing a lot of confidence in that date.’

BOARD PRESIDENT STACEY JONES,
REGARDING A NOVEMBER
PARCEL TAX VOTE

District consultant John Whitehurst agreed that presidential elections are not the best times to place a parcel tax measure on the ballot. They bring out more voters, but cost more, and attention to the tax measure could be overshadowed by the national race.

Board member David Ackerman said that November isn’t an ideal time to place a measure on the ballot regardless of whether there’s a presidential election. He argued that community members won’t be actively campaigning as much during the summer months leading up to an election, making it more difficult to inform voters about a measure.

Compensation

At the same meeting, the school board without comment approved, by a 5-0 vote, principles of compensation to help attract and retain district employees other than teachers and some other certificated staff. The approved principles are similar to the “teacher compensation philosophy” approved by the board last year — principles that emphasize maintaining teacher compensation at a higher level than that of neighboring districts.

The groups that will be affected

by the newly approved policy include: classified employees represented by CSEA; unrepresented certificated employees, including psychologists, counselors, occupational therapists, and site and district administration; Early Learning Center preschool teachers; and assistant teachers.

Last fall, the district’s teachers represented by the Menlo Park Education Association received a 5% raise after the school board approved the teacher compensation principles. The board last approved raises for all district employees in June 2017, when it authorized a 2% pay hike for the 2017-18 school year and a 3% increase for 2018-19, according to the district website.

New chief business officer

The school board voted 5-0 to hire Marites Fermin as the district’s chief business officer at the same meeting. Fermin’s contact begins on Feb. 27 and runs through June 30, 2021, with the potential for renewal. Fermin will make \$202,565 annually, according to her contract.

“I’m delighted that I’m here to work with you and collaborate with the team at Menlo Park City School District,” she said during the meeting.

Fermin will take over some of the duties performed by Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the district’s former chief business and operations officer, said Parke Treadway, the district’s public information officer, in an email. Sheikholeslami left the district at the end of October for the Pleasanton Unified School District.

Fermin’s focus will be the business and financial management of the district, Treadway said. The operations duties that Sheikholeslami performed are now under a new position called director of maintenance, operations and transportation. Ruben Trabanino, the district’s former supervisor of maintenance, custodial and grounds, filled the operations position in December. This returns the district to a business and operations organization similar to what it had prior to Sheikholeslami’s role, Treadway said.

Video of the meeting can be viewed at vimeo.com/391419581. ■

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Robert L. Dehn

November 6, 1941 - January 23, 2020

Robert L. Dehn, 78, a 51-year resident of Menlo Park, passed away on January 23, 2020 following a brief illness.

Robert “Bob” Dehn was born on November 6, 1941 to Leslie and Lorna Dehn in Albany, California. Bob grew up in Albany and Berkeley. He graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in chemistry.

Following his graduation, Bob started work as a pharmaceutical chemist at Stanford Research Institute, which later became SRI International. It was there that he spent his entire professional career. It was also at SRI that he met his wife of 52 years, Fran McGroary. After receiving his MBA from Santa Clara University, Bob moved into marketing and business development for the Life Sciences Division of SRI where he continued until his retirement in 2007.

Active in the Menlo Park community, Bob served on the Menlo Park Library Commission for 11 years, as commissioner and later project consultant, helping to spearhead the passage of the bond measure that funded the expansion and renovation of the main library in 1992. He was a tireless volunteer at both the Church of the Nativity parish and Nativity School.

Following his retirement, Bob volunteered at St Anthony’s Padua Dining Room in Menlo Park. He enjoyed various jobs, including volunteer coordinator, cook’s assistant and fundraising director.

Bob is survived by his wife Fran, daughter Elizabeth Dehn, son Peter (Rachel) Dehn, grandsons Oliver, Byron and Zac and sister Marlene Dehn.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, February 29th at 11 a.m., at the Church of the Nativity, 210 Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to St Anthony’s Padua Dining Room, 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park.



PAID OBITUARY

Kathleen Marie Shade

June 28, 1943 – February 1, 2020

Our beloved mother passed away with family by her side on February 1, 2020 in Redwood City, CA. She was 76 years old. Kathy was born to James and Margaret Lannin in San Francisco, June 28, 1943. She grew up in San Carlos and graduated in 1961 from Carlmont High School.

She worked in the electronics industry for many years and the past 16 years in the real estate field. She was adventurous, enjoyed the outdoors and LOVED taking pictures. Kathy was selfless, hardworking and kind-hearted. She was a dedicated mother and treasured each moment with her children and grandkids. She lived life to the fullest.

She is the loving and devoted mother of Richard Shade and wife Anna, Jennifer Lewman and husband Mark, Kimberly Milos and husband Pete, and Sean Shade. Cherished grandma of McKenna, Kaylenn, Lucas, Jordynn, Mikaela, Abigail, Zachary, Jacob, Gabriel, Megan and Danielle.

Kathy’s Celebration of Life Service for family and friends will be held Saturday, February 29 at 11:00AM at Redeemer Redwood City, 468 Grand Street, Redwood City, CA 94062. A private interment for family will be held at Alta Mesa Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be made in her name to Redeemer Redwood City, “Poland Mission Trip” at the address above.

Online guestbook available at crippenandflynncapels.com

PAID OBITUARY

Ballot error affects Measure P voters

Printing snafu leaves Portola Valley schools parcel tax measure off some ballots

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

About 2,046 San Mateo County voters, including people set to vote on a Portola Valley School District parcel tax measure, received incorrect March 3 ballots because of a printing error, according to the county Elections Office.

Affected voters were sent replacement ballots two days after Elections Office officials learned about the error on Feb. 6. The problem occurred because the printing vendor did not follow the county's mapping instructions for the ballot, Jim Irizarry, San Mateo County's assistant chief elections officer and assessor-county clerk recorder, said in an email.

Some voters received ballots with one measure when they should have received another, while some received a measure

where there should have been none, Irizarry said. Others received ballots with a missing measure, he said.

For example, some Woodside voters received ballots without the school district's Measure P, a ballot initiative to renew a parcel tax that currently generates about \$1.2 million annually for classroom programs and teaching staff, according to county records. Voters in other precincts set to vote on Measure P received ballots with La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District's parcel tax measure instead, according to the county.

All voters who live within the school district boundaries — which go beyond those of the town of Portola Valley — can vote on Measure P. The district includes Woodside residents who live in the Skylonda and Skywood Acres neighborhoods and off Philips and Family Farm roads and part of Mountain Home Road. See a map of the school district boundaries at is.gd/PVSDmap.

The Elections Office called

1,219 voters and emailed 944 voters about the misprint, Irizarry said. Elections officials sent a notice about the misprint to all affected voters with their replacement ballots, he said.

"We have no concern of a voter's selection being counted on a measure they were not meant to receive," Irizarry said. "Our system can identify whether it was sent by an affected voter, and whether it is the misprint ballot. Those ballots are set aside and, if no second ballot is received during the voting period, it will be 'duplicated' by our staff. In the duplication process, staff will take a blank ballot of the correct style, which the voter should have received originally, and fill it out with the voter's selections."

Measure P would update the district's Measure O parcel tax, which expires in June 2021. It would continue the tax at its current rate of \$581 per parcel in its first year, then increase it by 3% in each following year.

The district has a message on its website informing voters of the error.

"We want to make sure that everyone in our district has an opportunity to vote," said

Superintendent Roberta Zarea in an email. "We appreciate that the County has sent out replacement ballots and is working to correct the issue."

Irizarry said county elections officials met with the vendor to ensure it reprograms its administrative permissions to restrict lower-level employees from changing the county's foundational database. The database, at the vendor level, will require approval by the company's chief technology officer and the county before any changes are made, he said.

"Our relationship with our ballot printing vendor spans over 14 years and this is the first time an incident of this nature has occurred," he said. "They are one of the largest printing vendors in the United States having printed over 50 million ballots for scores of jurisdictions throughout the nation. They are amongst the best and we have an excellent working relationship."

County officials will open a request for information process to assess the county's ballot printing after the fall general election, he added. ■

Local kids compete in spelling bee

Three local students will be put to the test this Saturday when they compete in the Bay Area Regional Spelling Bee in the hope of advancing to the national contest in May.

Encinal School fifth grader Riaan Shetty, Hillview Middle School eighth grader Benjamin Goudge, and Nativity Elementary School sixth grader Bridget Semler are among the 51 kids who qualified to participate in the regional event on Feb. 29 at Pleasanton's Amador Theater, according to a spokesperson for The E. W. Scripps Company, which runs the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

This is Riaan's third consecutive year as Encinal's spelling bee champion, said Parke Treadway, the Menlo Park City School District's public information officer.

Winners of the local school spelling bees participated in an online spelling challenge and had to earn a score of at least 31 out of 50 possible points to qualify for the regional event.

The winner of the regional spelling bee will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May.

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Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Art Center branches out, pays tribute to the trees

'Rooted' examines the art of the arboreal, both symbolically and scientifically

by Karla Kane

Following in the footsteps of last year's nature-themed exhibitions that focused on the sky and encounters between humans and non-human animals, the Palo Alto Art Center is currently making like the Lorax and speaking for the trees.

"This community cares deeply about its trees," Art Center Curator Selene Foster pointed out at the opening celebration for "Rooted: Trees in Contemporary Art." After all, she said, "We are named after El Palo Alto, a tall tree."

Through a variety of works by 20 artists, "Rooted" explores trees as subjects, materials and symbols, from fairy-tale whimsy to scientific accuracy.

"The Woulds," by Andy Diaz Hope and Laurel Roth Hope, is a multimedia installation that invites visitors into an enchanted and enchanting geometric forest of colors, wood, mirrors and glass, and a soundscape of bird song.

The woods are a common fairy-tale theme, often representing a transformative experience or journey, Roth Hope said at the opening gala. "We wanted to create a mythological forest someone can travel through and possibly be changed (by)."

Originally commissioned by San Francisco's Contemporary Jewish Museum, "The Woulds" takes inspiration, according to Diaz Hope, from a Jewish folktale in which multidimensional-perceiving sparrows sing to souls as they come down to Earth from the tree of life in Heaven.

"We tried to envision a forest seen through the eyes of these sparrows," he said.

In Azucena Hernandez's pyrographic "Ember" series, on view in the Glass Gallery, wood also serves a soulful — and poignantly somber — purpose. Begun in 2015 in honor of Dia de los Muertos, the series depicts the victims of institutional violence and racism, their portraits burned into slices of wood. It is a series that, to Hernandez's



Photo by Sammy Dallal

Esther Rubin and her grandson experience the art exhibition "Rooted: Trees in Contemporary Art," on display at the Palo Alto Art Center.

chagrin, continues to expand.

"As long as you feel anything, if you look at the portraits and you remember the faces, remember the names, that's my goal," she said at the opening event, noting that it's important that her subjects are seen as real people, not merely statistics or names in the media.

"I think it's very symbolic, the fact that they are on wood," she said, "because they were cut down too soon."

Jamie Vasta uses glitter — which she noted is commonly associated with messy children's projects and thought of as a "cheap, throwaway thing" — to create powerfully compelling imagery, including "Inferno," which depicts a raging wildfire, creating an interesting contrast between the festive, sparkly material and the traumatic subject matter.

James Chronister's oil-on-canvas paintings of thick woodlands, "Summer 8" and "Deinze," are difficult to distinguish from photographs at first glance, so meticulous is the detail in the black paint/white background landscapes based on photos taken while hiking with family in his native Montana.

"It's kind of like California is the place I came to remember what Montana was like," Chronister, who's now based in San Francisco, mused.

New Mexico artist Scott Greene's "UV Celltree" and "Fake News" take a humorous look at the "new invasive species" of phone towers disguised as trees, made to blend in with the natural environment (with questionable results). In some of his paintings, the towers have become ecological "snags," or dead trees that become habitat for new life.

Maria Elena Gonzalez's "T2 23-33" was created by using rubbings of the bark of birch trees as musical notation, capturing, as it were, the language and music of the trees. Maria Elena Gonzalez's "T2 23-33" was created by using rubbings of the bark of birch trees as musical notation, capturing, as it were, the language and music of the trees (sadly, there's currently no way to hear it at the Art Center).

"When people would ask me if I was a composer I'd say, 'No, it's the tree that's the composer.' I facilitate that tree to sing to us," Gonzalez told the opening-night crowd. "You're looking at the composer: nature."

Stephen Galloway's large-scale "The Royal Oak and Other Stories" is installed in the window spaces in front of the Art Center and in its courtyard. At the opening gala, he said he tries to create unexpected encounters "where there is natural imagery in places



Photo by Sammy Dallal

Palo Alto Art Center Director Karen Kienle takes in the exhibition "Rooted: Trees in Contemporary Art."

where you wouldn't expect it but also being portrayed in ways you don't quite understand, or are not familiar to you straight off." He said he hopes his work helps generate questions and results in viewers becoming more engaged when looking at the natural world.

For all the intriguing works of art on display, the goal of "Rooted" is indeed also to help people appreciate the diversity and beauty of the real, live trees around them and the importance of a healthy urban canopy.

Local oak trees, in all their acorn-dropping glory, receive special attention thanks to the work of artist and educator Ann McMillan, whose oak depictions not only line the wall near the adult studios and in the lobby "nook" but are also contained in a free booklet offered to exhibition goers. In "Oaks of Palo Alto," produced by the Art Center in partnership with Canopy, the Palo Alto-based urban-tree nonprofit, McMillan's illustrations cover both the native California oaks (valley and coast live oaks are endemic to Palo Alto) and the cultivated species found in the city.

"Native oaks are adapted to our climate, critical for wildlife, hold historic and cultural significance and are one of the key components of establishing resilient landscapes in the mid-peninsula," according to the booklet. One of Canopy's major endeavors is its Great Oak Count, which surveys the local native-oak population.

"I was really honored to do this

project," said McMillan, who's also a Palo Alto Art Center instructor. "I started out my art life as a scientific illustrator and it was such a pleasure to do it again."

Other tree-appreciation tools include a planned March 15 Arbor Day celebration for families, and Canopy's printed Tree Walk guide to the Art Center's grounds and its surrounding area, with which visitors can take a self-directed stroll and learn more about the trees they may pass everyday and yet know little about (fun fact: The most common street tree in Palo Alto is the southern magnolia). As the ancient proverb quoted on the back of the guide states, "No shade tree? Blame not the sun but yourself." ▣

Karla Kane is the arts and entertainment editor for the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac's sister publication.

INFORMATION

What: "Rooted: Trees in Contemporary Art."

Where: Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road.

When: Through April 5, Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday open until 9 p.m. An Arbor Day celebration will be held on Sunday, March 15, 1-5 p.m.

Cost: Free.

Info: tinyurl.com/y8ppz5z8.

Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Submitting items for the Calendar

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

Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Theater

'The Mystery of Edwin Drood' Based on the unfinished Charles Dickens novel, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" is a unique musical with multiple endings about a choirmaster who is madly in love with one of his students. Feb. 27-March 15; times vary. \$15-\$36; discount available. Lohman Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. foothill.edu

Concerts

California Bach Society The 30-voice chamber choir led by Paul Flight presents two British masterworks, Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Mass in G minor" and Herbert Howell's "Requiem." Feb. 29, 8 p.m. \$10-\$35; discounts available. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. calbach.org

Michael Barenboim and West-Eastern Divan Ensemble The West-Eastern Divan Ensemble, led by violinist Michael Barenboim, draws upon select players of the acclaimed West-Eastern Divan Orchestra

to share music's ability to heal and unite. March 4, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$16-\$84; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

Music of Venice The Stanford Baroque Soloists, led by Anthony Martin, present the winter program, "La Serenissima," the music of Venice, with works by Gabrieli, Monteverdi, Rosenmuller and Vivaldi. Feb. 27, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, Stanford University, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. arts.stanford.edu

'My Grandfather's Fiddle' Musician Kevin Carr performs "My Grandfather's Fiddle" as a solo storytelling and musical piece, including folk tales and music from many lands played on fiddle, banjo, accordion and various bagpipes. March 3, 1-2:30 p.m. \$15. Albert and Janet Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. paloaltojcc.org

Ballroom Cultural Series Filoli's Ballroom Cultural Series features nine unique events ranging from live music to interactive performances. This upcoming Sunday, the husband-and-wife duo of cellist Rebecca Rust and bassoonist Friedrich Edelmann come to Filoli for a special stateside performance. March 1, 3-5 p.m. \$30. Filoli Gardens, 86 Cañada Road, Woodside. filoli.org

Talks & Lectures

Afternoon Literary Seminar Author and former adjunct professor Kimberly Ford leads a discussion on "Love in the Time of Cholera," a novel written by the Nobel Prize-winning author Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Feb. 26, 1-2:30 p.m. \$48-\$160. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

The Battle to Keep the Internet Open and Free Barbara van Schewick talks about net neutrality, what it is and why it matters for democracy, innovation and free speech. March 3, 6-7:20 p.m. Free; RSVP online. Building 200, Room 203, Lane History Corner, 564-570 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. pacscenar.stanford.edu

Women who Identify, Recruit and Elect Women's rights and civil rights activist Carol Mayer Marshall talks about WIRE, the non-partisan organization she founded to help women get elected or appointed to office in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. March 2, 7-8 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Family

A Day at the Farm Visitors can reserve a day at the Hidden Villa farm and tailor the reservation to include private farm tours for up to 30 people and one of three picnic areas. Dates vary through May 23; times vary. \$180-\$275; prices vary between packages. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hidden-villa.org

Museums & Exhibits

'My Climate. Your Climate. Their Climate.' Cafe Zoe showcases Barbara Coll's nature photography and Colleen Sullivan's monprint artworks in the local artists' collaborative exhibition, "My Climate. Your Climate. Their Climate." Through Feb. 29; times vary. Free.

Cafe Zoe, 1929 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park. cafezoeohub.com

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

'The Square Show' "The Square Show" is a group exhibition of 6-inch-by-6-inch works ideal for gift-giving and new collectors. Through Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Sundays. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. portolaartgallery.com

Film

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour REI is hosting the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour, an international film competition featuring the world's best footage on mountain subjects. Feb. 27-28, 7 p.m. \$22. Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway, Redwood City. snowlands.org

'The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari' To celebrate the 100th anniversary of "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari," Menlo Park Library is screening the classic German expressionist horror film followed by a discussion with film expert Nick Szegda. Feb. 26, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Lessons & Classes

Ask the Career Advisor Career advisers provide one-on-one help with job hunting, resumes and general career advice. Feb. 26, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free. JobTrain, 1200 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park. eventbrite.com

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. 282546
The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.
The following registered owner(s) abandoning the use of the fictitious business name(s):
ECE GEZER
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
ECE GEZER
1175 Park Place #301
San Mateo 94403
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
HOPEFULL CARDS
1175 Park Place #301
San Mateo 94403
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON: Sep. 17, 2019.
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY:
Individual.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on January 27, 2020
(ALM Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020)

GET AT ME ENTERPRISES
GET @ ME
GET @ ME ENTERPRISES
GET @ ME ENTERTAINMENT
GET AT ME
GET AT ME ENTERTAINMENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283788
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Get At Me Enterprises, 2.) Get @ Me, 3.) Get @ Me Enterprises, 4.) Get @ Me Entertainment, 5.) Get At Me, 6.) Get At Me Entertainment, located at 1848 Bay Rd., East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
JASON AUZENNE
2633 Fordham St.
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 2/2001.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 28, 2020.
(ALM Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020)

BRYAN HOUSE CLEANING AND JANITORIAL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283822
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Bryan House Cleaning and Janitorial, located at 1855 Woodside Rd. Apt. 210, Redwood City, CA 94061, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
EDGAR JACOME FAJARDO
1855 Woodside Rd. Apt. 210
Redwood City, CA 94061

This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/31/20.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 31, 2020.
(ALM Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020)

HATCH
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283818
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Hatch, located at 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Suite D, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
HATCH BABY, INC.
3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Suite D
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 30, 2020.
(ALM Feb. 12, 19, 26; Mar. 4, 2020)

DASH LIMOUSINE AND SEDAN SERVICE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283844
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Dash Limousine and Sedan Service, located at 550 Washington St. Ste. 104, Daly City, CA 94015, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MAD DASH TRANSPORTATION, INC.
550 Washington St. Ste. 104
Daly City, CA 94015
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 4/11/2012.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 4, 2020.
(ALM Feb. 12, 19, 26; Mar. 4, 2020)

LIGHT ARCHER STUDIO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283884
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Light Archer Studio, located at 1075 Curtis Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
WILLIAM J. FRIMEL
189 Hawthorne Drive
Atherton, CA 94027
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 February 10, 2020.
(ALM Feb. 26; Mar. 4, 11, 18, 2020)

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 February 10, 2020.
(ALM Feb. 26; Mar. 4, 11, 18, 2020)

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

Employment

Application Architect

Application Architect sought by Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford (Menlo Park, CA) responsible for IT application strategy. Req: Bach in CS, ElectrcI or Electrnc Eng'g, IT, MIS or clsly rel'td + 5yr exp OR Master's + 3 yrs exp. May telecommute up to 2 days/week at mgr discretion. Send resume to Dorothy Dekker, HR, LPCH, 4300 Bohannon Dr, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Principals only/no calls. Must have unrestricted auth to work in US. Drug/bkground screening req'd. EOE.

Sr. Virtualization Storage Eng'r

Sr. Virtualization Storage Eng'r sought by Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford (Menlo Park, CA) Responsible for virtual storage infrastructure. Req: Bach (3 or 4 yrs deg) in CS, Comp Eng'g, Math or clsly rel'td + 8yr exp. Must have VMware Professional Certification. May telecommute up to 1 day/week at mgr discretion. Send resume to Dorothy Dekker, HR, LPCH, 4300 Bohannon Dr, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Principals only/no calls. Must have unrestricted auth to work in US. Drug/bkground screening req'd. EOE

Advertising deadline is Thursday at noon.

To place an ad or get a quote,
contact Nico Navarrete at 650.223.6582
or email digitalads@pawekly.com.

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, 11:00 a.m.-noon. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 370 Santa Teresa St., Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Sculpture Walk This docent tour explores the extensive collection of 20th-century outdoor sculpture in Stanford's Quad and south campus. March 1, 2-3:30 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Wildflower Hikes Filoli hosts a 90-minute hike through fields and woodlands blooming with native wildflowers. Saturdays; Through May 2, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$15. Filoli Gardens, 86 CaOada Road, Woodside. filoli.org

Home & Garden

Meet the Seed Library Menlo Park Library introduces its new seed library and answers questions about how to "check out" seeds, the best tips for growing and more. March 4, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Community Groups

Knitting Meetup Compare patterns, share techniques and trade tips on stitches with the Menlo Park Crocheting-Knitting-Yarners, which meet up at the library on the fourth Wednesday of every month. March 4, 7-9 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Police strategic plan community meeting Chief David Bertini of the Menlo Park Police Department invites community members to be a part of the planning process for the department's future and goals. Feb. 29, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Menlo Park Senior Center, 110 Terminal Ave., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Author Events

Dr. Madeline Levine Madeline Levine, author of "The Price of Privilege," talks about her new book "Ready or Not," which focuses on the resilience, optimism and emotional skill set that helps young people weather any storm in their life. Feb. 28, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$10-\$40; discount for students and educators. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

'Facebook: The Inside Story' Tech journalist Steven Levy talks about his new book, "Facebook: The Inside Story," which is based on hundreds of interviews inside and outside the company and digs deep into the decisions and choices that made the social media company what it is today. March 4, 6-8:30 p.m. Free. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. computerhistory.org

Jenny Odell Stanford University hosts a talk with Jenny Odell, a multi-disciplinary artist and author of the New York Times best-selling book, "How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy." Feb. 27, 6:45-7:45 p.m. Free. Anderson Collection, Stanford University, 314 Lomita Drive, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

Susan Fowler Susan Fowler, a former Uber software engineer, talks about her experiences of misogyny at the ride-sharing platform company in her new book, "Whistleblower: My Journey to Silicon Valley and Fight for Justice at Uber." Feb. 26, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$15-\$45; discount for students. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

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Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Is there such a thing as bad technology?

By Arhaan Gupta-Rastogi

‘Bad workers always blame their tools.’ I remember the first time I heard this proverb, because it immediately made me think of the debates currently raging around digital technology.

In a recent article published in the MIT Technology Review,

for example, we’re told that “Screen time might be physically changing kids’ brains,” and that

these changes are not good. The point seems to be that exposure to tech is bad for our brains, and the blame for this damage lies squarely with the tech itself. But what is our responsibility? Are we right to blame our tools?

The question of whether

technology is bad or good largely misses the point. Like all tools, context matters. If I use a bicycle to ride to school, this is good. If I use a bicycle to ride into a pedestrian, this is bad. Is any of this the bike’s fault?

The same can be said about drugs. If a doctor prescribes a painkiller and it’s taken according to the doctor’s instructions, then there’s no problem. However, if someone buys that same painkiller

on the street or takes too much of it, then there can be serious problems. A life-saving medical device in the hands of someone not trained to use it is, by the same logic, a weapon.

It may seem that arguing for the moral neutrality of

technology is a pointless exercise. I get this, but it also has important consequences for how we live in the world. By blaming tech, we essentially evade our own responsibility to act ethically and appropriately in the world. The morality of technology, whether by this we mean simple devices like pencils or complex ones like AI, resides with us. How we use technology is who we are. As we work and live in the world, pointing at the evils of technology allows us to feel blameless, even as we do serious (and often unstudied) damage to ourselves and the world around us. It’s not us, it’s our tools!

What’s to be done? The clearest option is probably education. We can have sessions and even classes in school that deal with the moral and neurological impact of digital technology, but we can also invest in humanities courses that help us to think critically and make tough decisions when the correct answer

isn’t clear. Many kids use fake birth dates to get Apple IDs and Google accounts before they’re 13. Is this OK? Probably not, but *why* is it not OK? There’s no rulebook for this, and context matters.

In the end, technology is neither bad nor good. It is for us to decide how to use the tools we create and take responsibility for our use. It is worth remembering that in regulating technology, we’re really regulating ourselves.



Menlo Park resident Arhaan Gupta-Rastogi is a seventh grader at a local school.

GUEST OPINION

LETTER

Our readers write

A vote for Brownrigg

Editor:

I am voting for Michael Brownrigg for state senator in the coming election. Let me share my reasoning for this choice.

State senators have to vote on many issues affecting all of California, not just our small area. Michael has broad experience, including 12 years in the U.S. Foreign Service. He has served for 10 years on the Burlingame City Council, twice as mayor, as well as eight years on

the Planning Commission.

He has not had endorsements/money from special interest groups. He has spent time prior to this election holding house parties, nearly 100 in all where he can listen to concerns from residents. Michael, who listens well, is skillful in bringing people together to solve problems.

With climate change, homelessness, overloaded roads and underfunded schools we need thoughtful, articulate, independent problem solvers representing us in the state Senate. I hope you will join me in voting for Michael Brownrigg.

Anne G Moser
Spruce Avenue, Menlo Park

THE 34TH ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY

Short Story Contest

Prizes for First, Second and Third place winners in each category:

Adult, Young Adult (15-17) and Teen (12-14)

FOR OFFICIAL RULES & ENTRY FORM, VISIT:

www.paloaltoonline.com/short_story

ALL stories must be 2,500 words or less

ENTRY DEADLINE: March 27, 2020 at 5pm

Sponsored by:



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P L A T I N U M

COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY



370 Mountain Home Court, Woodside

A Bucolic Masterpiece Perfectly Located

This splendid estate of nearly 3.93 acres (per county) sits on the most coveted street in Woodside and is walking distance to downtown Woodside. The home is every entertainer's dream, and includes a recreation room, gym, and guesthouse, for a total of 4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms, and a living area of 10,969 sq. ft. (per drawings). Amenities include a pool, tennis court, exquisite landscape with lush grounds, pergola, and walkways that meander along the creek through wisteria-entwined arbors. Mere moments to Huddart Park, The Horse Park at Woodside, Highway 280, and extensive network of trails for equestrians, hikers, and bikers. Children may attend excellent schools, such as Woodside Elementary (K-8) (#13 Elementary School in California) (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.370MountainHome.com
Offered at \$13,988,000

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in the Nation.*

*As ranked by REAL Trends 2019 Team Volume list. Published in the *Wall Street Journal* in June 2019.

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

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

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P L A T I N U M

COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY



1023 Forest Avenue, Palo Alto

The Grand Dame of Crescent Park

The grace and elegance of the Victorian era blend seamlessly with the very best of modern amenities in this stunning Queen Anne Victorian home, an architectural masterpiece in prestigious Crescent Park. Boasting 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths on 4,516 sq. ft. of living space (per independent third party measurement) on a 9,984 sq. ft. lot (per county), this home affords a rare opportunity to own a piece of Bay Area history while still enjoying a contemporary lifestyle. Alluring appointments such as coved and coffered ceilings, antique windows, and embossed wall coverings whisk you away to a bygone era, while the brilliant kitchen, updated baths, and superb master suite are firmly rooted in the present. Third-level bonus space includes a kitchen and bath, offering flexible use for a variety of household needs. Adding the finishing touch, this home enjoys a location close to the excitement of downtown Palo Alto, and provides access to top-rated Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.1023Forest.com

Offered at \$5,488,000

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Palo Alto, All Residential Properties.

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

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



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NEW LISTING 76 FAIRVIEW AVENUE, ATHERTON Offered at \$10,380,000

~ .91 acre / 5 bed, 4 full and 2 half baths / 1-bedroom guest house with kitchen / Two customized offices
Lap Pool and Spa / Menlo Park schools



1 ODELL PLACE, CENTRAL ATHERTON Offered at \$7,295,000

European Country Villa built in 2010 / ~0.78 ac gated lot / 5 bed, office, 5.5 bath / Separate media room
Temp-controlled wine cellar / Sport court / Menlo Park Schools

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RANKED #25 TEAM NATIONALLY, PER THE WALL STREET JOURNAL,
2019 REPORT OF THE TOP RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS
(Published in June 2019).

GULLIXSON.com

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