

# The Almanac

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

SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 | VOL. 55 NO. 43



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## Rangers fighting CZU fires see a silver lining for county parks

Despite damage and danger, local forests may be safer in the long run

By **Kate Bradshaw**  
Almanac Staff Writer

The CZU Lightning Complex fires, which have burned 86,509 acres are 83% contained as of Wednesday morning, Sept. 9, will alter the landscape of some of the Peninsula and South Bay's most iconic forests for the foreseeable future. In San Mateo County, it's estimated that around 2,700 acres of Pescadero Creek County Park burned. Memorial Park and Sam McDonald Park were not directly impacted by the fires.

We asked two San Mateo County Parks Department staff members, whose careers are dedicated to enabling conservation and recreation in local forests, how they've responded: David Vasquez, a park ranger who supervises the parks most affected by the fires, and Dan Krug, a county arborist who works with the parks department.

### 'This is normally what we do'

For Supervising Ranger David Vasquez, the fires created opportunities for parks staff to put their skills to use and learn from other agencies responding to the fire.

As the managing county park ranger for a district that

covers Pescadero Creek County Park, Memorial Park and Sam McDonald Park, he had been working to support a major renovation project in the works at Memorial Park, which was closed for camping this season due to renovations apart from the fires. The department plans to reopen it in spring 2021.

But when the fires struck, the parks department quickly joined up with other agencies and offered its own expertise and tools to aid the fire suppression efforts.

Park rangers are not trained in firefighting, Vasquez said. But they are uniquely equipped to do a lot of the work involved in protecting land from fires: operating chainsaws, knowing how to manage forests and wildlands, protecting roads and cutting trails.

"This is normally what we do... it goes hand-in-hand with protecting your area from a fire," he said.

Of particular help to the effort were the large pieces of equipment that parks maintenance staff use regularly — tractors, bulldozers and a masticator, which grinds up fire fuels, Vasquez said.

They helped to strengthen the lines cleared to halt the fires and establish fire breaks.



Courtesy San Mateo County Parks Department

**San Mateo County Park Ranger** Brian Christopher cuts down an 80-foot-tall pine tree with its root ball on fire. County rangers pitched in with firefighting efforts to halt the spread of the CZU Lightning Complex wildfires.

Their priority was to protect county park facilities, especially infrastructure like the potable water supply used at the campgrounds at Memorial Park.

They worked late daily cutting

back fire fuels and establishing fire breaks, Vasquez said.

"We had a good purpose. We had a sense of 'We know what we're good at, and what we're good at will be useful and

helpful in this situation,'" he said.

Fighting the fires as part of a much larger operation also

See **CZU FIRES**, page 8

## Smoke from fires turns skies orange

By **Bay City News Service**

Smoke from the August Complex fires in Mendocino County settled on top of a marine layer in the Bay Area Wednesday, darkening the sky in shades of red and orange.

According to Bay Area Air Quality Management District spokesman Ralph Borrmann, the smoke was filtering out blue light, giving skies around the Bay Area a red-orange tint.

In addition to smoke from the

August fires, the Bay Area branch of the National Weather Service noted on Twitter that lower temperatures and weaker winds compared to the last several days were allowing wildfire smoke suspended in the air to fall closer to the ground, contributing to the sky color change.

People throughout the Bay Area took to social media to post photos of the sky. Menlo Park residents also awoke to ash in the air and on outdoor surfaces, which led to the closure of the

Belle Haven and Burgess pools Wednesday.

"Yup, the sky is orange. At 10 am it's too dark without the lights on. Everything is normal. Yup," Dr. Arghavan Salles posted on Twitter from Menlo Park on Wednesday with a photo and the hashtag #ItsTheApocalypse.

Borrmann said that while the air district extended its Spare the Air alerts through Friday, air quality is not being adversely

See **SMOKE**, page 11



Magali Gauthier

**Bistro Vida's** lights are on at lunchtime, as patrons dine in downtown Menlo Park under smoke-filled skies on Wednesday, Sept. 9.

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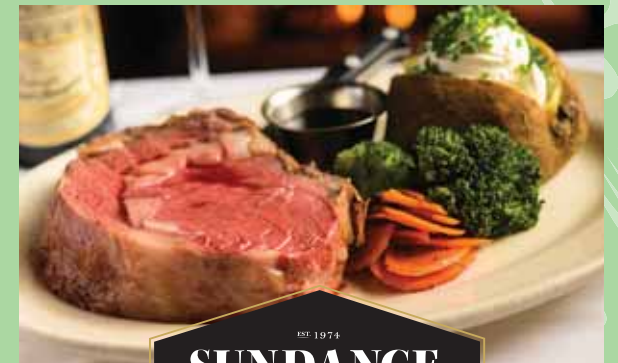
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Magali Gauthier

**Judy Sadoff** smiles at her neighbor Judy Deggeller, who has brought over a dinner of sauteed summer squash, couscous salad and soy sauce-glazed chicken on Aug. 25.

## One woman's homemade meals help feed a community in need

Nightly dinner deliveries sparks new friendship, cookbook fundraiser

By Chris Kenrick

Though they've been Palo Alto neighbors for nearly 50 years, Judy Deggeller and Judy Sadoff did not know one another well.

The pandemic — and Deggeller's delivery of nightly meals to Sadoff — changed all that.

The new friendship led Deggeller to compile her recipes into a self-published cookbook, "Food That Brought Us Together," which so far has

raised more than \$10,000 for the Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto.

The demand for food at the safety-net agency has at least doubled since the start of the pandemic, according to its executive director, Lesia Preston.

Deggeller's neighborly food sharing began with the shut-down order.

"Judy just came across the street one day and said she'd like to give me some dinner. Would 5:30 be OK," recalled

Sadoff, 92.

"I don't turn down someone else's cooking so I said, 'Oh, OK.' And the next night it was there, and the next night and the next night. It went on for quite a while. She knew I wasn't quite up to cooking and that's why I think she chose me for such a long time."

Deggeller, retired from a career in industrial engineering, said she does "not necessarily" love to cook. She and

See **FUNDRAISER**, page 15

## Coronavirus central: More Santa Clara County businesses allowed to reopen

By Embarcadero Media staff

Santa Clara County reported 55 new cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday, bringing the county's total to 8,807. The death toll has stood at 136 since Labor Day weekend. Fifty-six people are hospitalized as of Tuesday.

Santa Clara County reported 175 new cases of the coronavirus on Wednesday, bringing the total to 18,854. Three more people have died since Sept. 6, raising the death toll to 263. There are 113 people hospitalized, 21 of whom are new. Data from both counties are incomplete due to a problem with the state's reporting system for communicable diseases.

### Santa Clara County moves to red tier

After nearly two weeks of being in the purple, Santa Clara County has moved to the less restrictive red tier in California's color-coded classification system that determines how counties can move forward with reopening businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With a lower rate of COVID-19 cases and positive tests that meets the threshold of the state's new reopening criteria, the county will now allow indoor operations of nail salons, gyms and museums; expanding capacity in shopping malls; and reopening K-12 schools if the county can maintain those lower numbers for the next two weeks, starting Tuesday, Sept. 8.

The businesses are required to follow guidelines set by the county's risk reduction order, which

outlines directives pertaining to each industry set by the county and state, the release states.

Despite satisfying the state's conditions for reopening indoor operations of restaurants, places of worship and movie theaters, the county will continue prohibiting those sectors until case rates are lower. (California Gov. Gavin Newsom has said on multiple occasions that county health officers can override state guidelines as long as they don't reopen faster than the state.)

At a news conference on Tuesday afternoon, County Counsel James Williams did not say why those businesses won't be allowed to resume indoor operations or provide a timeline for when they might be able to welcome customers back inside. Williams said the county wants to see a lower case rate, but he was not aware if the county aimed to meet a certain threshold.

### Comprehensive COVID-19 coverage

View interactive charts tracking the spread of the coronavirus in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties online at [paloaltoonline.atavist.com/tracking-the-coronavirus](http://paloaltoonline.atavist.com/tracking-the-coronavirus). Find a comprehensive collection of coverage on the Midpeninsula's response to the new coronavirus by The Almanac and its sister publications, Palo Alto Online, and the Mountain View Voice, at [tinyurl.com/c19-Almanac](http://tinyurl.com/c19-Almanac). ■

*CalMatters and Bay City News Service contributed to this report.*

## Housing bills fizzle in legislature's frantic final day

By Gennady Sheyner

After seeing their ambitious plans to address the housing crisis derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic, state lawmakers concluded their legislative session last week with little progress on a topic that many continue to call out as a top priority.

During a marathon session that stretched from morning to midnight Aug. 31 and featured dozens of votes, frayed nerves and a partisan Senate squabble, the Legislature came up short on

advancing the most ambitious housing bill on the table, Senate Bill 1120. Authored by Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, the bill would have allowed homeowners to subdivide their homes and build duplexes in single-family zones.

Though the Atkins bill received approval in the Assembly just minutes before midnight, it did not return to the Senate in time for the final vote that would have been necessary to advance it to Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk.

A similar fate befell a proposal by state Sen. Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley, to reform the state's density-bonus law by adding incentives for construction of affordable housing and exempting cities from charging development impact fees for these units. The proposal, known as SB 1085, passed in the Assembly by a 67-3 vote on but did not return to the Senate in time for a concurrence vote.

Both housing bills proved contentious in the final weeks of the legislative session, with San Francisco supervisors voting

to formally oppose SB 1085 and various groups coming out against SB 1120, with some characterizing it as an affront to local control and others arguing that it would primarily benefit developers and speculators.

Proponents of Atkins' bill called it a modest proposal that gives homeowners more flexibility and builds on the state's recent successes in encouraging accessory dwelling units. Assemblyman Robert Rivas, D-Hollister, said the new housing will be "small-scale units that are easy to build" and

that will also "create equity for homeowners who want to help us solve this housing crisis."

Assemblywoman Sydney Kamlager, D-Los Angeles, disputed the idea that the new units will be "affordable" and called the bill "an invitation into small communities by developers and speculators." The state, she said, should instead consider ways to develop "non-market, price-guaranteed housing" developments that teachers, grocery workers and California's working-class

See **HOUSING BILLS**, page 16



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The Almanac is published every Friday at

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The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Friday 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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#### CRIME BRIEFS

##### Woman shot to death

A man who allegedly shot and killed his ex-girlfriend during her birthday party and a memorial event for her brother in East Palo Alto on Monday night was arrested Tuesday in Stockton, police said.

Joey Harris, 55, turned himself in to the Stockton Police Department for the death of 56-year-old Cynthia Mose, according to a police press release. They had previously dated and lived together for two years.

East Palo Alto police were first alerted to the shooting through a ShotSpotter activation in the 1700 block of West Bayshore Road, just west of U.S. Highway 101, at 11:11 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 7. Officers who responded found Mose suffering from gunshot wounds and performed life-saving measures while firefighters and paramedics were en route. The woman ultimately died of her injuries at the scene.

Witnesses who spoke to officers named Harris, Mose's ex-boyfriend, as the suspected shooter, according to the release. Harris allegedly shot Mose outside of the party with a firearm before taking off in a car.

Harris and Mose, both Stockton residents, headed to East Palo Alto together earlier in the day for Mose's birthday party and a memorial event for her brother, who died a year prior.

On Tuesday, East Palo Alto police took custody of Harris at the Stockton Police Department. He was later booked into San Mateo County jail in connection with Mose's death.

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 11

#### WILDFIRE BRIEFS

##### Fires trigger health emergency declaration

In response to the CZU Lightning Complex fires, San Mateo County Health Officer Dr. Scott Morrow declared a local health emergency on Sept. 9.

The debris and ash from structure fires may contain hazardous substances from household items or building materials that can pose an immediate threat to public health, according to a county press statement.

Declaring a local emergency could help the county receive more funding and will strengthen an emergency regulation that permits people to conduct damage assessments on private property, especially when it is considered necessary to deal with hazardous waste or waste that could become hazardous, according to the county announcement.

"The emergency declaration will help ensure the safety of our residents as they return home, as well as our environment, by facilitating the removal of toxic metals and hazardous materials from the burned areas," said Environmental Health Services Director Heather Forshey.

Go to [smcgo.org/smc-wildfire-recovery](http://smcgo.org/smc-wildfire-recovery) for more information on the fire recovery process and environmental health resources.

—Kate Bradshaw

##### CZU containment

The CZU Lightning Complex wildfires, which have burned 86,509 acres across San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties, are 83% contained, Cal Fire officials said Wednesday.

The fires have been active since the Aug. 16 lightning strikes that caused them. One person died and one person has been injured due to the fires.

More than 1,400 structures have been destroyed, including 925 residences and 171 commercial structures. An additional 90 residences and 16 commercial structures have been damaged.

Evacuation orders and warnings remain in place for some communities in the two counties as 4,300 people remain evacuated, down from a high of 77,000.

—Bay City News Service

#### CORRECTION

In the story about last-minute challengers in the race for the Menlo Park Fire Protection District's board of directors in last week's issue of The Almanac, it erroneously stated that candidate Sean Ballard is chairman of the finance committee. He was the resident representative. Virginia Chang Kiraly chairs the committee.

# Amid COVID-19 challenges, contested school board races take shape

By Tyler Callister  
Almanac Staff Writer

With key decisions to be made about steering schools through the COVID-19 pandemic, November's local school board elections hold extra significance. Distance learning programs, school reopenings and virus safety procedures will all be in the hands of elected board members.

School board elections on Nov. 3 include Sequoia Union High School and Menlo Park City School districts, as well as contested races in the Las Lomas Elementary and Ravenswood City school districts.

Woodside and Portola Valley school districts will sit this one out. Both have uncontested elections, with the number of candidates matching the number of open seats, leaving those boards to simply appoint the new members. In the Woodside School District, two non-incumbents have entered the race for two open spots: Neil Sequeira, a businessman, and Dan Simon, a health care provider.

In the Portola Valley School District, three candidates have applied for three open seats: incumbent Jeff Klugman, current board member Kimberley Morris Rosen, who was appointed to the board in March 2019, and newcomer Gary Hanning, a parent and community volunteer.

## Sequoia Union High School District

This district, which operates

the local comprehensive high schools Menlo-Atherton and Woodside, as well as TIDE Academy, will hold district elections based on where residents live.

Residents of Woodside, Portola Valley and West Menlo Park vote in Trustee Area C, choosing one of three candidates: incumbent Georgia Solkov Jack, Shamar Edwards or Rich Ginn.

As the incumbent, Jack has served on the Sequoia board since 2015. She is a development professional who works for Stanford University.

Edwards is the former principal of TIDE Academy and describes herself as a "transformational school leader with 20 years of experience in public education." She holds a master's degree in education administration with an emphasis in social justice from University of California at Berkeley. She is a public school principal in Sunnyvale, where she is leading trauma-informed restorative justice programs, according to her candidate website.

Ginn formerly served on the Las Lomas school board for eight years, including two as board president. On his website he distinguishes himself from the other candidates by saying that he is the only candidate with a child currently enrolled in the district, the only candidate with a financial background (as a CFO who has an MBA), and that he has a technology background relevant to the current challenges with online learning.

Residents in Menlo Park neighborhoods east of Highway 101 as well as East Palo Alto will vote in

Trustee Area E, which includes two candidates vying for one seat: Jacqui Cebrian and Shawneece Stevenson.

A second-generation public school teacher and 13-year resident of Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood, Cebrian's candidate statement says she is passionate about reading. "I believe we need to keep our students and staff safe, while providing the greatest access to in-person learning that conditions allow. Everyone's preference is for school to return to normal. The reason people choose otherwise is because we are in a health emergency. Technology is a hurdle we can and should conquer in providing equal access to an engaging education," she said in her statement.

Stevenson is a social worker, a parent of two children at Menlo-Atherton High School and a 22-year East Palo Alto resident. She has served on the Menlo-Atherton Foundation board and worked closely with Black Student Union clubs at Menlo-Atherton and Sequoia high schools. She also served as on the district's COVID-19 reopening task force.

## Menlo Park City School District

In the Menlo Park City School District, which includes Oak Knoll, Laurel and Encinal elementary schools, along with Hillview Middle School, three candidates are running for two open seats: incumbent David Ackerman, Francesca Segrè and

Robert Maclay.

Ackerman joined the school board in 2016 and is the former principal of Oak Knoll Elementary School. He drew national media attention (from outlets including Newsweek and CBS) in 2007 when he wrote a letter to parents titled "The Future of Homework," in which he expressed doubt about the usefulness of homework for young children while announcing a more limited homework program for the school.

Segrè is a former journalist of 20 years, reporting for KQED, the New York Times and Reuters, among others. She also worked for the California Legislature as education policy specialist for then-state Assemblyman Rich Gordon. "I'm running for Menlo Park City School District Board because I believe every child, regardless of circumstance, regardless of COVID-19, should have the education and opportunities to build the life of their dreams," her candidate statement says.

Maclay is a district parent. "Our schools build the foundation of our community. The schools through the board and district leadership must build a collaborative and trusting relationship with the community," he said in his candidate statement.

## Las Lomas Elementary School District

Las Lomas Elementary School District includes Las Lomas Elementary and La Entrada schools. Three candidates — no

incumbents among them — are competing for two seats on the school board: Jason Morimoto, Molly Finn and Dr. Jody Leng.

Morimoto has been on the Las Lomas PTA and is a financial executive and parent. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from UC Berkeley.

As a legal executive, Finn emphasized her legal background. "I noticed that the two school board members that are stepping down both have legal backgrounds, and the three remaining do not ... If elected, I am happy to use my legal experience and skills in issue spotting to ensure we stay compliant while delivering an excellent education for our students," she said in her candidate statement.

A practicing physician anesthesiologist, Leng worked on the Las Lomas Elementary School District Pandemic Recovery Committee to help plan the reopening of the schools for both virtual and in-person learning. "Having worked with patients since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, I understand what it takes to maintain safety on a daily basis, while striving to help people feel comfortable in this new normal," she said in her statement.

## Ravenswood City School District

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See **SCHOOL BOARD**, page 11

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# Locals challenge former councilwoman's ballot designation

By **Kate Bradshaw**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Two current and former City Council members in the area have challenged the three-word personal description that former Menlo Park Councilwoman Kirsten Keith has asked to be placed next to her name on the November ballot.

Keith is a candidate for the San Mateo County Harbor District who describes herself as a "Conservation Agency Director."



Courtesy Scott R. Kline  
**Kirsten Keith**

The San Mateo County Elections Office has looked into the challenge and will let the description remain on the ballot.

Keith is running for the District 5 seat on the San Mateo County Harbor District against another Menlo Park resident, incumbent Virginia Chang Kiraly, who is also running to keep her seat on the Menlo Park

Fire Protection District board.

Keith works as an attorney and was appointed by the City Council to be Menlo Park's representative on the board of directors for the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) in 2013.

She said in an email that she chose the designation because her seven years on the board of BAWSCA is the most relevant for the elected office she is seeking on the harbor district board, and because she cannot use more than three words to describe her position because it is not an elected office.

She noted that she describes her full title in her candidate statement, and provided alternate designations that included her work as an attorney, but the Elections Office confirmed that her first proposed designation was "legal and appropriate."

The elections code, she added, "does not state that a candidate is required to designate a profession, vocation or occupation that provides the largest percentage of income or takes up the most hours in a week."

Portola Valley Vice Mayor Maryann Derwin said

she and former Menlo Park Councilman Heyward Robinson challenged Keith's ballot designation.

"We both saw it and said, 'No, this is not right,'" Derwin said in an interview.

After receiving the challenge, the county Elections Office contacted Keith, who provided additional information and reference materials that "reaffirmed that her designation was factually accurate and a principal profession," Jim Irizarry, assistant chief elections officer for the San Mateo County Elections Office, told *The Almanac* in an email.

Derwin said that she challenged the designation for several reasons — first, that being a BAWSCA board member does not appear to be Keith's primary occupation. She is a private criminal defense attorney who works with the San Mateo County Private Defender program.

"That's something she should tout," Derwin said.

By contrast, the BAWSCA board meets six times per year, has 26 members, and pays board members \$100 per

meeting, said Heyward Robinson in an email to the county Elections Office challenging the description.

According to Irizarry, the ballot designation, a description that appears under a candidate's name on the ballot, is meant to convey "the current principal professions, vocations or occupations of the candidate."

Another problem she had with the designation, Derwin said, is that it could lead voters to believe Keith is an executive director, rather than a member of a board of directors.

A third issue, Derwin said, is that BAWSCA isn't exclusively an environmental nonprofit. It supports a number of water conservation initiatives, such as its "Lawn Be Gone!" program, which provides rebates to households to replace their lawns with more water-efficient native plants. But its primary goals, its website states, are to ensure a reliable water supply, high quality water and a fair price.

Keith recently wrote a piece on Medium about additional efforts to conserve water

that BAWSCA takes, at [is.gd/keithbawasca](https://www.is.gd/keithbawasca). Other programs include rebate offerings for rain water barrels and high-efficiency toilets.

Legally, Irizarry said, the county is required to reject a ballot designation in a few circumstances — like if someone says he or she is an incumbent but really isn't.

In this situation, though, the county Elections Office doesn't have the authority to reject the designation and would have to take the candidate to court, he said.

"We were not provided information that would warrant that action, and we do not conduct background investigations or inquiries into candidates' lives," he said. "When a candidate files to run for office and selects their designation, they do so with the understanding that false information they provide would be considered perjury. Absent information to the contrary, we assume the truthfulness of the information provided by the candidate." ■

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## CZU FIRES

continued from page 1

helped them get to know other people who work in adjacent agencies — like the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, whose crew members were also out fighting fires, he said.

Their work was "a small effort in the whole picture of things," he said. "We did everything we could and I think it made a difference."

### The forest's future

The fires burned a large swath of Pescadero Creek County Park — up to Old Haul Road, a popular hiking and equestrian path that cuts through the park.

But given the devastation faced by families who lost their homes and at other parks such as Big Basin, Krug said that San Mateo County parks were fortunate nonetheless. They were spared from more destruction, and the fire's path through county land may help reduce the threat of future fires.

San Mateo County represented the northern end of the CZU fires, and the wind generally cooperated to move the fires away from core park areas, he said.

Krug has a joint role in San Mateo County, where he spends about 40% of his time as a county arborist reviewing tree protection and removal plans in the

planning and building departments, and about 60% of his time on the county parks department's natural resources team, tackling tree-related issues.

He advises parks staff how to mitigate hazards posed by the forests they maintain, when to remove them, and how to reduce wildfire fuels within county parks.

When the CZU fires broke out, Krug kept a close eye on them. As they progressed, he went out to the fire line to document how the flames were moving through the forests, taking photos and helping out fire agencies with fuel reduction projects.

Reducing fuel, he said, meant primarily clearing brush from infrastructure such as roads and in important areas in the parks.

Laypeople sometimes say that San Mateo County doesn't burn because of the marine layer and the forest's proximity to the ocean, he said.

"But this is a prime example that it does — that it can," he said. "Under the correct conditions, anything could happen. That's pretty much what we saw."

Because the area hasn't seen fire activity in recent memory, there's a lot the county parks department still needs to learn about how fires impact this ecosystem, he said.

In some areas where the fire was known to burn at very high heats, there may still be stumps or

logs burning in the ground, Krug said in a Sept. 1 interview.

Historically, the area was logged about 50 years ago and then everything was allowed to regrow. That resulted in a forest that was overly dense, he said.

Park visitors see that dense forest and think that's how it should be, he said.

"But the land was altered to create that status," he said. "There are ways to improve the ecology and the habitat value in that by being more proactive."

The county parks system has a fire fuel mitigation process and had plans in the works before the fires struck to manage parts of the area that burned. That said, he added, it didn't seem likely that those efforts would have made any difference with the CZU fires.

When asked whether these fires could have been predicted, he responded, "I wouldn't say that."

One point for cautious optimism is that redwood trees — even the younger, second-generation ones that have grown in densely after the area was initially logged — are genetically designed to handle heat from fires and thrive, he said.

Still, Cal Fire has reported that some trees are simply falling over due to fire damage.

"Unmanaged areas of the forest come with all sorts of hazards, naturally," Krug said. "Throw in something like this,

and it becomes potentially more hazardous."

"We fully expect trees to fall onto trails and within off-trail areas for some time — through the winter or for the foreseeable future," he added. "What will happen long-term is an unknown for us."

From a forestry perspective, he added, a silver lining is that the way that the fire burned on county property helped to reduce the fire fuel loads on the ground, and could help the department better manage the forest moving forward, he said.

"It's a unique opportunity to

have a naturally caused fire like this, and we need to consider taking the opportunity to revitalize management of the land."

After the fire is suppressed comes work to repair what's damaged and work toward restoration, he said.

"It's a long road ahead of us to be able to make the area safe. ... There's going to be a broad closure likely for some time until we're really able to assess what is hazardous, and we would implore the public to heed the closures." ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at [kbradshaw@almanacnews.com](mailto:kbradshaw@almanacnews.com)



Courtesy San Mateo County Parks Department

**San Mateo County park rangers** cut pines and allow some to burn.

## Old Port Lobster Shack owner sentenced for failing to pay nearly \$1M in taxes

By Julia Brown  
Almanac Assistant Editor

A 60-year-old Portola Valley man who failed to pay nearly \$1 million in state taxes has been sentenced to six months in county jail with five years of supervised probation, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

Old Port Lobster Shack owner Russell Howard Deutsch, who pleaded no contest to felony tax

evasion and grand theft in February, was sentenced in a virtual hearing Aug. 19. Prosecutors had asked the court to impose a one-year sentence in county jail, while the probation department recommended six months in jail and the defense asked for two months' home detention, according to District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

Judge Susan Greenberg determined the county jail time could be served on electronic home monitoring, with a stay on the

monitoring until Sept. 19, Wagstaffe said.

Deutsch is also subject to search and seizure, fines and fees, and genetic marker testing, and cannot possess dangerous weapons or ammunition.

In March 2016, Deutsch initially pleaded not guilty to charges of tax evasion, grand theft and fraud, including failing to pay \$950,628 in sales taxes owed to the state over eight years. During a search of his home at the time, investigators

found over \$600,000 in cash, according to the District Attorney's Office. A defense motion to return the cash found at his home was denied in 2018.

Greenberg said the "lenient" plea deal was based on Deutsch's age, significant health issues and lack of any criminal history, according to the District Attorney's Office. The DA's office had asked for three years and four months in state prison.

Deutsch operated seafood restaurants in Portola Valley,

Redwood City and San Jose. He opened the first Old Port Lobster Shack in Redwood City in 2006 and later expanded to Ladera, Napa and San Jose. The Ladera location and a relocated Redwood City restaurant remain open.

The case was continued to Nov. 6 for a restitution hearing. Deutsch remains out of custody on \$290,000 bail. ■

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## Mail-in voting has no partisan advantage, Stanford researchers say

By Sue Dremann

Mail-in and absentee ballots improve voter turnout and make elections more democratic, but the argument that one political party would have an advantage over another in a mail-in ballot election doesn't appear credible, studies by multiple Stanford University researchers have found.

Implementing a broad mail-in ballot program could have some potential pitfalls in the November election, however, for states and counties when putting together the necessary infrastructure for distributing and sorting the ballots and ensuring that all of the votes are counted, they said.

In one study, Stanford political scientists Adam Bonica, an associate professor, and Hakeem Jefferson, an assistant professor, both of the Department of Political Science, analyzed election results in Colorado, one of the few states that conducts its elections completely by mail. Voter turnout increased about 9.4% after the program was rolled out in 2013, according to a working paper they co-authored, which studied data from five elections between 2010 and 2018. That percentage was even higher among people ages 30 and younger, where they found voter turnout increased by 15%.

Turnout was also high for blue-collar workers, voters without a high school diploma, those with less wealth and people of color, the researchers found.

"These findings suggest that making it easier to vote increases electoral participation among those who may otherwise remain unengaged," they wrote.

Bonica and Jefferson did not find that Colorado's all-mail voting disproportionately benefited either the Republican or Democratic parties, but turnout

among Independents was nearly 12% higher than in previous elections, the researchers said.

"Colorado's experience demonstrates that all-mail voting is not only safer than in-person voting but also better for democratic representation, with all age, income, race, occupational and education groups benefiting from its introduction," according to the working paper.

To address rapid changes for this November's election, the researchers suggested states and counties should offer in-person voting options with safety measures to avoid duplicative voting and allow people who miss the deadline to receive a mail-in or absentee ballot a chance to head to the polls.

Another Stanford study by Andrew Hall, a political science professor, examined data from California, Utah and Washington, three states that have gradually expanded their vote-by-mail programs. Mail-in and absentee voting did not affect overall turnout for either Republicans or Democrats, and mail-in voting didn't affect the share of votes that went to Democratic candidates. Mail-in voting did increase turnout by about 2% on average, Hall and his team found.

"Our paper has a clear takeaway: claims that vote-by-mail fundamentally advantages one party over the other appear overblown," the researchers wrote.

Hall is also continuing a study of absentee voting, which includes analysis of a primary election held during the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, his findings so far are consistent with the earlier study. But holding an election during the pandemic poses unprecedented challenges, and it's difficult to predict exactly what will happen in November, he said in an interview with Stanford News Service.

"Vote-by-mail is an extremely helpful part of the overall, non-partisan election toolkit, but it is not a panacea. Voters should consider their local context, including prospects for logistical issues with vote-by-mail and the safety precautions their local officials are implementing to support in-person voting before deciding how they want to vote," he said.

Nathaniel Persily, a Stanford researcher and law professor, said he has concerns about ensuring that all mail-in ballots

are counted.

"In such a short period of time it is very difficult for states to adapt to this new environment and it requires changes at every step in the administration of the election, from the beginning of registering votes to the end of counting their votes," Persily, former senior research director of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration, told Stanford News Service. He is co-leading research with Charles Stewart III of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology through

the Healthy Elections Project.

In Florida's primary election earlier this year, Persily and Stewart found that mail-in ballots cast by African Americans, Latinos, first-time voters and young people were significantly less likely to be counted because the ballot was received late, signatures were missing or they did not match the signature on file.

"That's a real concern as we approach the (general) election," Persily said.

See **MAIL-IN VOTING**, page 11

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 **Stanford** MEDICINE

# Bay Area schools awarded \$12 million to launch campus-based mental health services

By Kevin Forestieri

Students in schools across Santa Clara and San Mateo counties will soon have better access to mental health services located right on campus, thanks to a statewide push for schools to integrate health care with education.

In July, state officials announced that both Santa Clara and San Mateo counties would each receive \$6 million to test out new ways to detect and prevent mental illness in children and adolescents. County health departments are required to ally with local schools, with a goal of reaching students before mental illness becomes a debilitating problem.

But each county is taking a

different approach: San Mateo is turning the funds around to help its neediest students with universal health screenings and by hiring in-house staff who can connect underserved families to the mental health services they need. Santa Clara is taking the long view, vowing to add mental health professionals at hundreds of schools and laying the groundwork for a mass-scale rollout of school wellness centers equipped to provide therapy on campus.

Last year, the California Legislature set aside \$50 million in the state budget for counties willing to find ways to incorporate mental health services into public schools, adding incentives to its long-standing push to get schools more involved in

the mental well-being of their students. Education and health care are largely intertwined, and schools have the potential to be the first line of defense in detecting mental health conditions long before they worsen.

“We’ve learned more and more that we cannot separate health from education,” said Santa Clara County Superintendent Mary Ann Dewan. “Education has influence on our determinants of health. They are tied together, whether our systems are ready to work cohesively and collectively or not.”

The two Bay Area counties to score grant funding, Santa Clara and San Mateo, received a combined \$12 million from the fund — about one-fourth of the pool of grant money made available to the entire state.

Santa Clara’s proposal calls for the creation of wellness centers at all of the county’s 55 high schools and 68 middle schools, with a goal of later extending to the 258 elementary schools. The wellness centers would be a place for individual or group counseling as well as a supportive environment for students who are coping with anxiety, depression and other common problems afflicting students.

The data trends are showing that more students are experiencing anxiety, Dewan said, and that the youth suicide rate among children ages 10 to 14 more than doubled between 2007 and 2014. Santa Clara County faced its own increase in youth suicides in recent years, leading to an epidemiological study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to investigate the public health issue.

The problem is largely blamed on a lack of available and accessible mental health care, particularly prevention and early intervention to prevent illnesses from going undetected and worsening for years. Roughly 1 in 5 children in the U.S. have a mental, emotional or behavioral disorder, but only about 20% of those children actually receive care from a

mental health provider.

That’s where schools can step in. Citing a 2003 study, Dewan said kids are 21 times more likely to tap into mental health services if they are easily available on campus. The wellness centers, she said, could be a central hub for that kind of support.

“It’s a place where student groups can meet, and for vulnerable youth on campus who feel like they have nowhere else to go. That wellness center can be that place for them,” Dewan said.

The grant also proposes an increase in mental health staffing at schools, along with training for school staff to better integrate mental health into day-to-day academics and interactions with students. Dewan cautioned that the wellness centers are not going to be a wholesale replacement for psychiatric and psychological care.

The \$6 million is not expected to pay for all of these services, and will instead be used to tee up the county’s ambitious goals. The county is expecting to use the first year to study the existing unmet needs and pick schools to pilot wellness centers, which can act as a template for other campuses to follow suit.

In San Mateo, the approach is more focused. Four high-needs school districts — Jefferson Elementary, Jefferson Union, Bayshore Elementary and Cabrillo Unified — will be staffed to do universal screening for all students, checking for emotional or behavioral health disorders in need of intervention. The goal is to catch symptoms early and support students before it becomes more difficult — and more expensive — to treat them.

The mental health system at large is geared too much toward treating students too late at a time when they are experiencing severe symptoms, said Mary McGrath, executive director of safe and supportive schools at the San Mateo County Office of Education. Kids aren’t getting help until they need residential care, drug treatment and multiple hospitalizations, she said, and it’s reaching that point earlier than ever.

“If you would do a kind of social biopsy of a case, there were signs super early,” McGrath said. “And for most kids we’re starting to see the psychiatric emergency around fifth grade, when it used to be high school.”

The county is also planning to use the funds to contract with an organization called Care Solace, which McGrath said will be an

important link between families and mental health providers in the community. They’ll be responsible for navigating the difficult and labyrinthine process of finding the right kind of care based on insurance and the illness, and do a “warm handoff” that ensures families actually get help, she said.

San Mateo will also be using the \$6 million to provide a baseline level of support for 12 participating school districts, ranging from the neediest to the most well-resourced. McGrath said the pool of districts will have access to a new social-emotional learning curriculum and training for staff to better work with students experiencing high stress and trauma.

Some therapists have already been hired to help students in need at the four school districts, but it’s not nearly enough. Jefferson Union has four therapists for its entire student body, McGrath said, forcing them to triage.

Though the grant was launched long before the spread of COVID-19, McGrath said the program couldn’t be launching at a better time, as families are collectively going through the trauma and economic hardship wrought by the global pandemic. Even before the spread of COVID-19, she said some of the needier communities in San Mateo County were already struggling and barely making ends meet, even while working multiple jobs.

“We have so many families that are so stressed out and so impacted by financial situations that there are transportation issues keeping parents from even being able to get their kids — or themselves — the treatment they need.”

The following San Mateo County school districts are included in the grant program:

- Bayshore School District
- Burlingame Elementary School District
- Cabrillo Union School District
- Jefferson Elementary School District
- Jefferson Union High School District
- Hillsborough Elementary School District
- Pacifica School District
- Ravenswood School District
- San Bruno Park School District
- San Carlos School District
- San Mateo Foster City School District
- Sequoia Union High School District

Email Kevin Forestieri at [kforestieri@mv-voice.com](mailto:kforestieri@mv-voice.com)

## Michael Bergin Brennan

June 28, 1941 - August 22, 2020

Michael “Captain” Brennan was born in San Jose. He grew up in Atherton, attending Saint Joseph, Sacred Heart schools, Bellarmine Prep in San Jose, he excelled in football, receiving an All American honorable mention

Mike attended San Jose State University and received his BA from San Francisco State.

His family was a great supporter of Nativity Church in Menlo Park where Mike was

an altar boy for several years. His family spent most summers in Carmel which remained a favorite haunt in his adult years.

After leaving the Marine Corp he joined TWA as a pilot. He retired as captain on the 767 aircraft. Mike flew out of SFO and JFK during his 33 year career at TWA.

Thoroughly enjoying his international travel, he loved the cultures and cuisines of the world. His personality was uplifting and entertaining. Always a fun and exciting tale to be told by Mike. He was an avid reader spending a generous amount of free time relaxing with a good book. It was not uncommon for him to be reading several books at one time.

Mike and his wife of 40 years, Colienne, traveled extensively throughout the world. Loving the Hawaiian lifestyle, they were married on the beach in Kona Hawaii in 1980. In the last 15 years their entire family and friends joined them at their villa in Cabo San Lucas.

Mike is survived by his wife Colienne Auxier-Brennan, sister Cate Sullivan (Jim), brother Stephen (deceased), daughters Kelly Weinberg (Bo), Catherine Williams (Chico) and Jennifer Coriell (Jeff), son Christopher. Grandsons Dusty Weinberg, Reece Weinberg and Holden Coriell, Gavin Neri and Gus Neri. Nephews Jon Sullivan, Mike Sullivan, Derek Llewellyn and niece Sage Neri. Dog, “Como” and cat “Lily”.

*Where never lark or even eagle flew, while with silent, lifting mind trod, the high untrodden sanctity of space, put out my hand and touch the face of God.*

We thank you Michael for letting us share your wonderful life. Donations may be sent to St. Jude Children Hospital.



### OBITUARY

Local residents who died recently include **Marilyn Donaldson Kelly**, 86, a teacher and longtime Menlo Park resident who died on Aug. 29.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at [almanacnews.com/obituaries](http://almanacnews.com/obituaries).

PAID OBITUARY



Magali Gauthier

**The smoke-covered sky** casts an orange hue over U.S. Highway 280 in Menlo Park as drivers use their headlights at midday on Sept. 9.

**SMOKE**

*continued from page 1*

affected by the smoke because the marine layer is, in effect, insulating low-lying areas.

Parts of the Bay Area at higher elevations may be more susceptible to poor air quality, but parts of the Bay Area that lie at or close to sea level were not being impacted as in previous days.

ground level as weather conditions change, so the air district is encouraging people to stay indoors when they smell smoke.

“As this morning’s eerily dark and orange skies demonstrate,

**Ash in the air led to the closure of the Belle Haven and Burgess pools on Wednesday.**

There have now been 25 straight days in which the air district has issued the alerts, which ban the burning of wood and other solid fuels both indoors and outdoors, following lightning strikes that sparked wildfires around Northern California in mid-August.

Most of the smoke is aloft, but may come down to the

smoke from the many fires that continue to burn throughout the Bay Area and other parts of California are continuing to impact the region,” air district executive officer Jack Broadbent said in a statement Wednesday.

Borrmann said the sky color was not expected to change much on Thursday, after *The Almanac* went to press.

Updates about air quality in the Bay Area can be found at [baaqmd.gov](http://baaqmd.gov). ■

*Almanac Assistant Editor Julia Brown contributed to this report.*

**SCHOOL BOARD**

*continued from page 7*

seven candidates vying for two seats: incumbent Marielena Gaona Mendoza, Zeb Feldman, Julian Alberto Garcia, Mele K. Latu, Joel Rivera, Bronwyn Alexander and Jenny Varghese Bloom.

Gaona Mendoza was first elected to the board in 2016. She works as a special education teacher in the Redwood

City School District.

Feldman said he wants to bring his expertise as a labor contract negotiator to the Ravenswood City School District. He lived in East Palo Alto for 11 years, and he attended public schools in Menlo Park and graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School.

Garcia is making his second bid for Ravenswood school board. He said his top priority would be closing the digital divide in

Ravenswood, which has been exacerbated by the shutdown.

Latu is a community collaborations manager for Emerson Collective, the social change organization founded by Laurene Powell Jobs.

Rivera is a construction labor manager and parent, whose wife is a teacher in the district.

Alexander is a teacher of 28 years who left her longtime job at Belle Haven Elementary School in Menlo Park last year

so she could run for a school board seat in this election. “If you elect me, I will advocate for your schools, your students, and your educators,” she said in her candidate statement.

A district parent and college admissions counselor at Insight

Education, Bloom said, “I bring to the table my experience across an expanse of fields within education which can inform and help discern best practices moving forward.” ■

*Email Tyler Callister at [tcallister@almanacnews.com](mailto:tcallister@almanacnews.com)*

**CRIME BRIEFS**

*continued from page 6*

The fatal shooting marks the city’s fifth homicide this year.

Anyone with information about the homicide is asked to contact East Palo Alto police Detective Andrea Dion 650-853-7247. Anonymous tips can be left by voicemail or text message to 650-409-6792 or by email to [epatipnow.org](mailto:epatipnow.org).

—*Embarcadero Media staff*

**Brandishing a firearm**

A little over a week after a driver on Aug. 28 reported that

another driver had brandished a firearm in a threatening manner, the Menlo Park Police Department on Sept. 8 reported it had arrested a suspect in the brandishing case.

On Aug. 28, a driver reported to the police department that he was involved in a traffic altercation on Sand Hill Road, during which another driver grabbed a firearm from his center console and brandished it threateningly. The suspect left before police officers arrived.

On Tuesday morning, Sept. 8, a Menlo Park police officer patrolling the area near Marsh

Road and U.S. Highway 101 saw a vehicle that matched the suspect description from the brandishing incident, according to a press statement from the police department.

The officer pulled over the vehicle and found a loaded firearm inside. The suspect, a 49-year-old man from Redwood City, was arrested for possession of a concealed firearm and booked into the county jail. The case is being sent to the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office for prosecution, the department said.

—*Kate Bradshaw*

earthquake. We need to mobilize around all levels of government and civil society and that includes Congress appropriating more money and it includes massive efforts about educating people about how to vote safely and we need people to volunteer,” he said.

To help voters and election officials, the Healthy Elections Project has prepared resource guide, which includes tips on signature verification and vote tallying. ■

*Email Sue Dremann at [sdremann@paweekly.com](mailto:sdremann@paweekly.com)*

**MAIL-IN VOTING**

*continued from page 9*

States would also need to develop infrastructure such as mail-in ballots, sorters and scanners to meet the increased demand, he said during an interview with Stanford Legal.

Americans must prepare to vote in a different way this year, he said.

“We need to start treating this election like we would a natural disaster, like a hurricane or

**Gerhard “Hardy” Steiner**

*March 27, 1944 – August 2, 2020*

Hardy was born on March 27, 1944 during WWII in Bad Reichenhall Germany to Ferdinand and Anna Steiner passed away on August 2, 2020 at 5:20 am at the age of 76. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Annalise and his wife Jane.



He interned as a cook in Germany and came to the United States at the age of 18 in 1962 to work at Dinah’s Shack in Palo Alto. He eventually became Head Chef there and stayed until Dinah’s closed in 1989. After taking a little time off, Hardy and his wife Jane opened Hardy’s Bavaria a German restaurant in Sunnyvale. They both loved people and made many friends at their restaurant before retiring in 2003.

Hardy was an accomplished pilot with a passion for travel, and an avid reader and a heart open to people of all cultures and religions often calling himself a citizen of the world. He had a wonderful sense of humor and an extremely kind and generous spirit. His eyes twinkled with enjoyment at the least provocation and he truly loved life to the fullest. Hardy was a true gentleman and a great friend to so many and he will be missed deeply by his brother Peter Steiner, sister in law Karin Steiner, Paula Pierce his friend for the last 58 years and all who knew him.

PAID OBITUARY



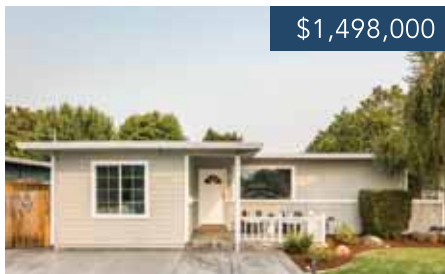
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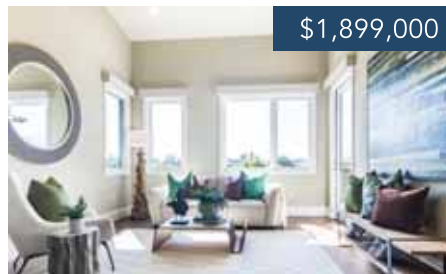
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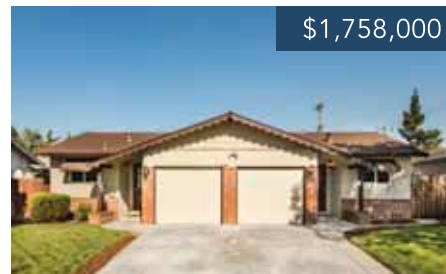
\$1,498,000

582 Manzanita Avenue, Sunnyvale  
4 Bd | 3 Bth  
[www.582Manzanita.com](http://www.582Manzanita.com)



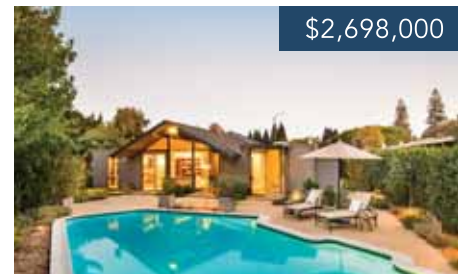
\$1,899,000

86 3rd Street #306, Los Altos  
2 Bd | 2 Bth  
[www.86Third306.com](http://www.86Third306.com)



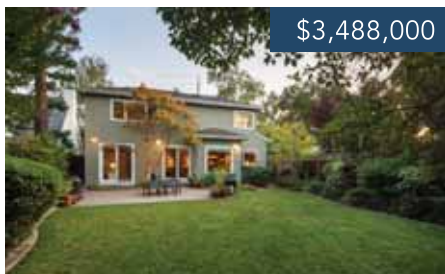
\$1,758,000

1690 & 1692 Blue Jay Dr., Sunnyvale  
4 Bd | 2 Bth  
[www.1690-1692BlueJay.com](http://www.1690-1692BlueJay.com)



\$2,698,000

1221 Eichler Court, Mountain View  
4 Bd | 2 Bth  
[www.1221Eichler.com](http://www.1221Eichler.com)



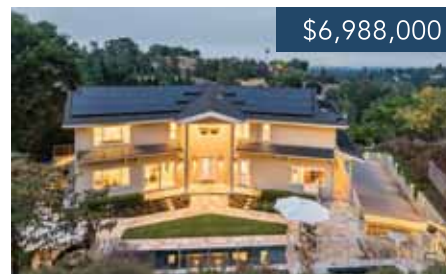
\$3,488,000

1356 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park  
4 Bd | 3 Bth  
[www.1356Cloud.com](http://www.1356Cloud.com)



\$2,488,000

188 Elliott Dr, Menlo Park  
4 Bd | 2 Bth  
[www.188Elliott.com](http://www.188Elliott.com)



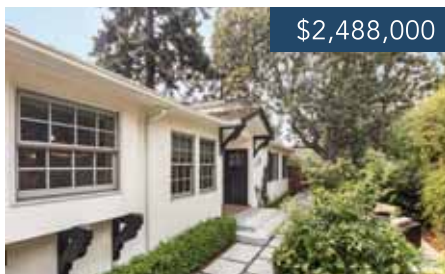
\$6,988,000

12733 Dianne Dr., Los Altos Hills  
5 Bd | 8 Bth (5 full, 3 half)  
[www.12733Dianne.com](http://www.12733Dianne.com)



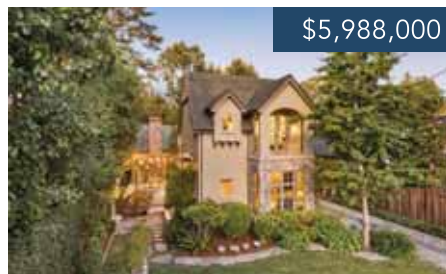
\$1,488,000

419 Pope Street, Menlo Park  
2 Bd | 1 Bth  
[www.419Pope.com](http://www.419Pope.com)



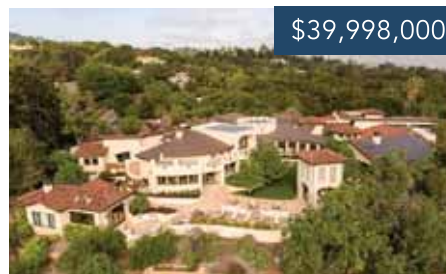
\$2,488,000

759 Middle Avenue, Menlo Park  
4 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
[www.759Middle.com](http://www.759Middle.com)



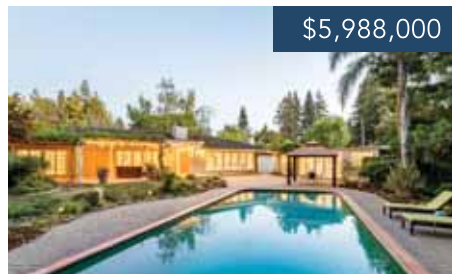
\$5,988,000

925 Lincoln Avenue, Palo Alto  
4 Bd | 4 Bth  
[www.925LincolnAvenue.com](http://www.925LincolnAvenue.com)



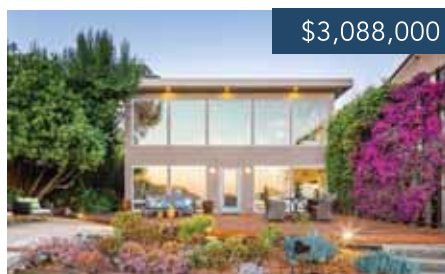
\$39,998,000

27500 La Vida Real, Los Altos Hills  
5 Bd | 12 Bth (7 full, 5 half)  
[www.27500LaVida.com](http://www.27500LaVida.com)



\$5,988,000

196 Patricia Drive, Atherton  
4 Bd | 3 Bth  
[www.196Patricia.com](http://www.196Patricia.com)



\$3,088,000

771 Lakeview Way, Emerald Hills  
3 Bd | 3 Bth  
[www.771Lakeview.com](http://www.771Lakeview.com)



\$3,988,000

764 Channing Avenue, Palo Alto  
4 Bd | 3 Bth  
[www.764Channing.com](http://www.764Channing.com)



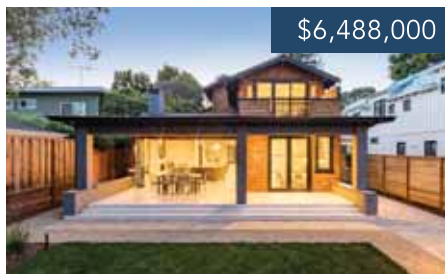
\$6,488,000

1290 Pitman, Palo Alto  
4 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
[www.1290Pitman.com](http://www.1290Pitman.com)



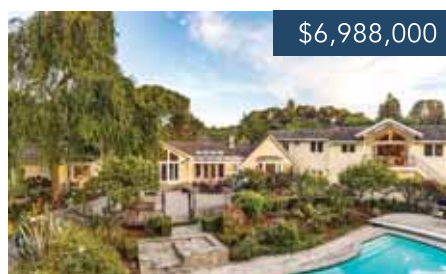
\$5,988,000

848 Southampton Drive, Palo Alto  
5 Bd | 6 Bth (4 full, 2 half)  
[www.848SouthamptonDr.com](http://www.848SouthamptonDr.com)



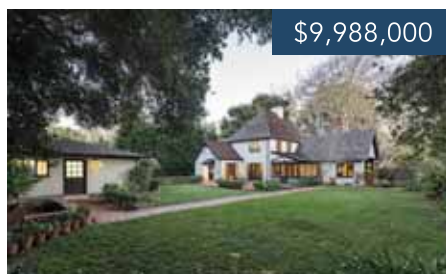
\$6,488,000

734 Channing Ave., Palo Alto  
6 Bd | 5 Bth  
[www.734Channing.com](http://www.734Channing.com)



\$6,988,000

11491 Old Ranch Rd, Los Altos Hills  
6 Bd | 6.5 Bth  
[www.11491OldRanch.com](http://www.11491OldRanch.com)



\$9,988,000

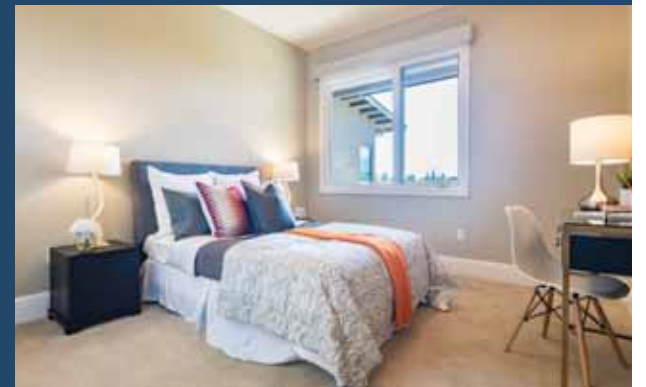
435 Santa Rita Ave., Palo Alto  
4 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
[www.435SantaRita.com](http://www.435SantaRita.com)

Michael Repka | 650.900.7000 | DRE #01854880  
[michael@deleonrealty.com](mailto:michael@deleonrealty.com) | [www.deleonrealty.com](http://www.deleonrealty.com) | DRE #01903224



# COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY

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For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

[www.86Third306.com](http://www.86Third306.com)

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Annie Watson (Buyer's Agent) | DRE # 01964881 | 650.862.5506 | [annie@deleonrealty.com](mailto:annie@deleonrealty.com)

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The Almanac

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The Almanac  
Online

**FUNDRAISER**

*continued from page 5*

her husband, Marty, had grown accustomed to eating out frequently, or eating “very simply” at home.

But the pandemic sent her back to the kitchen.

“As long as I was cooking, I decided to make extra for people I was concerned were confined to their homes or maybe weren’t familiar with having groceries delivered,” Deggeller said. “I just started taking (Sadoff) dinner, and she appreciated it so much.”

Deggeller also made nightly meals for another friend, and both recipients urged her to collect the recipes into a cookbook. She ignored the suggestions until she heard the hunger-relief program was contending with a crush of new clients and realized a cookbook could help raise funds.

She gathered 37 of the recipes she’d made for Sadoff — everything from “Best Chicken Soup You’ll Ever Eat” to “Yam and Plantain Curry with Crispy Shallots” — and built her book through CreateMyCookbook.com.

Recipes — all credited — came from family friends and various online and newspaper



Magali Gauthier

**Judy Deggeller** sprinkles sesame seeds over soy sauce-glazed chicken on Aug. 25. Cooking more often due to the pandemic, she self-published a cookbook to raise money for the Ecumenical Hunger Program.

sources. They include her mother’s split pea soup and her husband’s preparation for fresh-caught salmon. To capture and upload iPhone photos for the book, Deggeller had to go back and make many of the dishes again.

In emails to family and friends, she offered a copy of her cookbook to anyone making a \$20 donation to the nonprofit organization.

“One woman gave me \$1,000 and only took one cookbook,” Deggeller said. “Someone else

gave \$60 and took three. My daughter-in-law put it on Facebook and sold 42 in the first 10 minutes to her younger friends in Sunnyvale.”

Word also went out through networks in Deggeller’s Palo Alto University Rotary Club

and her husband’s Palo Alto Kiwanis Club. The first 100 books were gone in three days, raising \$5,000. The second printing also sold out, for an additional \$5,000. Deggeller has ordered more copies.

Delivering the first \$5,000 check to Ecumenical Hunger Program’s associate director, LaKesha Roberts-Evans, Deggeller asked what it would be used for.

“When she said ‘fresh vegetables,’ tears came to my eyes,” Deggeller said. “To think of people not knowing where their next meal is coming from and eating out of cans — it made me so happy we were doing this.”

While Deggeller no longer delivers meals to Sadoff every night, the relationship has blossomed.

“I still take her things now and then,” Deggeller said. “I didn’t know her well before COVID but, when this is all over, we’ll have her over a lot.”

Sadoff added: “I was very grateful to Judy and her husband, Marty, for feeding me such nutritious food, and now I have more friends.”

People wanting to make a donation to Ecumenical Hunger Program and receive a cookbook can email Deggeller at [jdeggeller@pacbell.net](mailto:jdeggeller@pacbell.net). ■

## Demand at food banks doubled since pandemic began

East Palo Alto’s Ecumenical Hunger Program currently distributes 1,000 boxes of food per week, at least double the pre-pandemic level of 350 to 500, said Executive Director Lesia Preston.

With families out of work and many not qualifying for government assistance, “the greatest need is food,” she wrote in an email.

The 45-year-old nonprofit, which typically provides food, clothing, furniture, household items and social support to local families in need, has temporarily closed all services except for essential food programs, Preston said. She and key staff members are working seven days a week to locate food resources and have them brought to the nonprofit’s campus in time for scheduled distributions.

Traditional food bank resources are “diminishing,” she said.

At Second Harvest Food Bank of Silicon Valley, a

major supplier to Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP), demand has doubled since the start of the pandemic.

“Even before COVID-19, Second Harvest was responding to a level of food insecurity in Silicon Valley that indicated there was already a crisis happening, providing groceries to more than 260,000 people per month,” Second Harvest spokeswoman Diane Baker Hayward said.

The agency now serves more than a half million people per month, she said.

To supplement food supplies from the food bank, Preston and her staff have contacted local grocery stores, warehouses, restaurants and farms to see if they can get donations or purchase critical supplies in bulk.

“As EHP can no longer accept volunteers, staff members are wearing multiple hats, which include sourcing food, picking up and accepting fresh food

donations, stocking the food pantry, packing food boxes, directing traffic and more,” Preston said.

Food boxes containing protein, vegetables, grains, cereals and canned goods are distributed using a drive-thru method at the agency’s Pulgas Avenue headquarters in East Palo Alto.

Donations can be shipped, mailed or dropped off Tuesday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at Pulgas Avenue, East Palo Alto.

For more information on how to donate, go to [ehp-cares.org](http://ehp-cares.org), email Associate Director LaKesha Evans at [Lakesha@ehpcares.org](mailto:Lakesha@ehpcares.org) or call 650-323-7781 ext. 1200.

Those needing food assistance can call 650-323-7781 or stop by the agency Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon or 2:30-4:30 p.m.

For more information about Second Harvest Food Bank, go to [shfb.org](http://shfb.org).

—Chris Kenrick

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE**  
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD  
WOODSIDE, CA 94062

**NOTICE OF NOMINEES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following persons have been nominated for the offices designated to be filled at the General Municipal Election to be held in the Town of Woodside on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

**District 1**

Jennifer R. Wall Councilmember

**District 3**

Chris Shaw Councilmember

**District 5**

John R. Carvell Councilmember

**District 7**

Ned Fluet Councilmember

# Employment

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If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email [digitalads@pawekly.com](mailto:digitalads@pawekly.com).

# California secretary of state talks voting access, election safety

By Bay City News Service

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla spoke to reporters Sept. 9 about voting access and safety this year during the pandemic.

"To say this is an unprecedented year" with the political climate and the pandemic "would be an understatement," said Padilla, who is the state's chief elections officer.

The Nov. 3 presidential election is approaching and is less

than eight weeks away. Padilla described the date as "the last day to vote," and stressed voting by mail.

He said voting by mail is the safest choice.

Every registered voter will get a ballot in the mail if their address on file is correct. Vote-by-mail ballots will be sent out during the first week of October.

The last day for mailing out ballots to voters is Oct. 5, but for military and overseas voters, ballots are mailed out 45

days in advance.

Ballots typically would be counted if they are postmarked by Election Day and received up to three days afterward, but this year ballots will be accepted up to 17 days after Election Day, Padilla said.

New this year is a notification system that allows voters to get a text, email or call telling them where in the process their ballot is, such as when it has been received and when it has been counted.

The system is called Where's My Ballot and it is meant to build trust in the voting process, Padilla said.

More than 900,000 voters have signed up, but there are 21 million registered voters in California. To sign up for Where's My Ballot, people can go to [california.ballottrax.net/voter/](http://california.ballottrax.net/voter/).

In-person voting will still be available this year, but it's going to be different, according to Padilla.

There will be masks, hand sanitizer and social distancing, he said. In-person voting might be necessary if a person lost their ballot or made a mistake on the one they received.

Padilla said some polling locations have changed because of the pandemic. Some may have needed to be larger, and in larger cities some organizations are making their large facilities available.

In the Bay Area, the Chase Center in San Francisco and the Oakland Coliseum will be places to vote.

Voters can drop off their ballot at a polling location or in a dropbox.

The last day to register to vote is Oct. 19, but state law allows for same-day registration in case

someone misses the deadline for registering online or updating their registration.

Voters must go to a polling place to register and vote the same day.

Citizens can register to vote or update their registration by going to [RegisterToVote.ca.gov](http://RegisterToVote.ca.gov).

Voters can check the status of their registration at [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/). They are urged to update their registration as soon as possible to be sure they get a ballot.

"We also recommend you vote early," he said.

To protect against fraud in the vote-by-mail process, Padilla said the state has several protections in place.

Watermarks on the ballots are unique to each election. Companies that print the ballots must be certified by the state.

Return envelopes have unique barcodes, and ballots are scanned to make sure people didn't vote somewhere else.

Each signature is checked.

People can help others to vote by becoming a poll worker, providing ideas for voting locations or even offering to host a location.

For more information, visit [PollWorker.sos.ca.gov](http://PollWorker.sos.ca.gov).

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE  
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD  
WOODSIDE, CA 94062**

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020  
6:00 PM**

**This meeting is compliant with the Governor's Executive Order N-25-20 issued on March 4, 2020, allowing for deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act. The purpose of this is to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The meeting will be held by teleconferencing. The public may participate via Zoom meeting.**

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATING BY TELECONFERENCE: BILDNER, DARE, ELFISHAWY, KUTAY, LONDON, VOELKE, AND WALL

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

**Meeting ID:** 879 6465 2851

#### Weblink:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87964652851>

#### Remote Public Comments:

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be read into the record.

**Email:** [sharper@woodsidetown.org](mailto:sharper@woodsidetown.org)

#### PUBLIC HEARING

1. 150 and 170 Fox Hollow Road LLAJ2020-0001

John Hamilton Planner: Sage Schaan, Principal Planner

Presentation, review, and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a Lot Line Adjustment between two existing parcels at 150 and 170 Fox Hollow, to reconfigure an existing lot line.

2. Town-wide ZAOM2020-0002

Town of Woodside Planner: Joseph Balatbat, Associate Planner

A resolution of intent and recommendation to the Town Council to amend Chapter 153, Zoning, pertaining to Paved Area and Surface Coverage regulations for equestrian uses.

3. Town-wide ZAOM2020-0003

Town of Woodside Planner: Jackie Young, Planning Director

A resolution of intent and recommendation to the Town Council to amend Chapter 153, Zoning, pertaining to building and plate height, including building and plate height for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's).

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING SAGE SCHAAN, PRINCIPAL PLANNER; AT [SSCHAAN@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG](mailto:sschaan@woodsidetown.org) OR JOSEPH BALATBAT, ASSISTANT PLANNER; AT [JBALATBAT@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG](mailto:jbalatbat@woodsidetown.org) OR JACKIE YOUNG, PLANNING DIRECTOR; AT [JYOUNG@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG](mailto:jyoung@woodsidetown.org)

#### HOUSING BILLS

*continued from page 5*

families deserve.

"I don't think we should be asking for an invasion by developers into communities across the state because we are too lazy, quite frankly, to have more meaningful conversations about how we're protecting communities and finding ways to build housing that people truly can afford," Kamlager said.

Others saw the failure of SB 1120 to advance, despite passing in both chambers of the Legislature, as a significant defeat. Randy Shaw, director of San Francisco's Tenderloin Housing Clinic and editor of Beyond Chron wrote in a Sept. 1 post that "when it came to taking major steps toward building more housing — the actions candidate Newsom promoted during his 2018 campaign — the governor and legislature failed miserably."

"Do legislators believe the pandemic has ended California's housing shortage? Their actions are consistent with such a misguided view," Shaw wrote.

Brian Hanlon, president and CEO of California YIMBY, said in a statement that California was "on the cusp of passing significant housing reform last night but the Legislature snatched defeat from the jaws of victory."

"Californians don't have the luxury of waiting out the housing crisis; our elected leaders shouldn't hold them hostage to politics any longer," Hanlon said.

Meanwhile, the San Francisco-based nonprofit Livable California, which last year vehemently opposed Senate Bill 50, celebrated the defeat of SB 1120, even despite the vote of support in the Assembly.

"We'll take the technical win!" the group said in a newsletter.

The sheer multitude of bills, many of them dealing with COVID-19, created tension between the two parties in the Senate, particularly after the Democrats proposed limiting the number of speakers and the speaking time allotted, for each bill. Republicans, most of whom were ordered to participate virtually as a COVID-19 precaution (this was because state Sen. Brian Jones, R-Santee, tested positive for the virus), strongly objected and claimed they were being silenced.

"Not only do you kick us out of the Chamber for no good reason, but now you're going to not allow us to debate and speak on behalf of our constituents," said state Sen. Melissa Melendez, R-Lake Elsinore. ▀

*Email Gennady Sheyner at [gshyner@paweekly.com](mailto:gshyner@paweekly.com)*



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED INCREASE IN REFUSE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND GREEN WASTE RATES IN THE TOWN OF ATHERTON

Property Owner/Tenant:

Pursuant to the requirements of Proposition 218 and Article XIID of the California Constitution, this notice provides information regarding proposed increases to the existing refuse and green waste rates in the Town of Atherton.

### Notice of Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Increase in Refuse, Commercial, and Green Waste rates

A public hearing on proposed increases in residential garbage cart rates will be held by the City Council on:

**Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2020**

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**Place: This meeting is being held virtually, Atherton CA Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://zoom.us/j/506897786>**

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

One tap mobile

+16699006833,506897786# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

<http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=41>

This notice is being sent to the refuse service billing address for all parcels in Atherton. This notice also describes how to file a protest regarding the proposed rate increase. All property owners/tenants and other interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and be heard on the proposed rate increase.

**Description:** The purpose of this notice is to provide information regarding proposed increases to the existing refuse and green waste rates in the Town of Atherton. A full and complete listing of the proposed new rates for Residential Garbage Carts, Green Waste Carts, Commercial Rates and Commercial Organic Rates are available by request and included in the mailer. The explanation and reasons for rate increases and methodology for rate calculations are also available by request and included in the mailer. This notice was mailed to all Atherton Residents with detailed rate information described.

A copy of the City Council staff report and supporting material can be found online, by Friday October 16, 2020 here:

**<https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=41>**

#### **Protest Procedures:**

The City Council of the Town of Atherton will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m. ***This meeting will be held virtually.*** At this hearing, the City Council will consider public comment as well as written protests by ratepayers and property owners against the proposed increase in green waste fees. Any person may appear at the public hearing and be heard on any matter related to the proposed increase in rates.

**Written protests must be received prior to the close of the public hearing on October 21, 2020.** In order to be valid, a protest must clearly bear date, designation of service address or assessor's parcel number (APN), printed name, and original signature of the record owner, or trustee, or authorized signatory of a corporation/partnership, or customer of record with respect to the property identified on the protest. The customer of record is the name of the person whose name is printed on the refuse bill for the parcel. Protests not bearing the original signature shall not be counted. Protests which have been altered by someone other than the person who signed them shall not be counted.

The Town of Atherton must receive any written protest at Town Hall by 5:00 p.m. on October 21, 2020, or the written protest must be presented at the virtual City Council meeting on October 21, 2020 prior to the close of the public hearing on the matter. If you wish to mail a written protest, please send it in a sealed envelope addressed to Garbage Cart Rates, Attn: City Clerk, Town of Atherton, 150 Watkins Ave., Atherton, CA 94027. In accordance with the California Constitution as amended by Proposition 218, only one protest is allowed per parcel. For example, if both the tenant and the owner of the same parcel filed a protest, only one protest would be counted.

If written protests are presented by a majority of affected property owners/customers prior to close of the public hearing, the City Council cannot adopt the proposed rates and another rate structure would have to be proposed.

If you have any questions on the item please contact Robert Barron, Finance Director, at [rboarron@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:rboarron@ci.atherton.ca.us) or 650-752-0552. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the City Clerk at (650) 752-0529 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

**Date Posted:** October 2, 2020

**Date Published:** October 2, 2020

**Date Published:** September 11, 2020

*/s/ Anthony Suber*

Anthony Suber, City Clerk

# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Art's next act

Events (mostly online) to look forward to this autumn

By Karla Kane  
and Heather Zimmerman

As everyone knows, 2020 has been ... challenging. It was an unusual spring; it's been a weird summer; as autumn rolls around it seems clear that it, too, will be a strange season. Arts organizations have been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. They've had to adapt, go virtual, and face the very real threat of disappearing altogether. Nevertheless, arts persist. And though some groups are delaying their seasons until 2021, there are still plenty of options for fall.

Below are some highlights of the upcoming season. Many events will take place in cyberspace. Some groups are not yet sure exactly when — or in what format — their events will take shape. This year more than ever, plans change and evolve swiftly, so readers are advised to check with organizations directly for the latest details. For continuing coverage, check AlmanacNews.com/arts, subscribe to our Weekend Express email (sign up at AlmanacNews.com/express) and browse event listings (or submit your own) at AlmanacNews.com/calendar.

### Performing arts organizations

In the spotlight: Kicking off its 90th season, the venerable Palo Alto Players presents a show that mixes the ancient with the oh-so-modern comedy "An Act of God," performed via livestream through Sept. 20. Written by David Javerbaum and based, fittingly enough for these online times, on a Twitter feed, the show stars the energetic

Emily Scott as God, with support from her two "wing men" — the deferential angel Gabriel (Steve Schwartz) and the peskily curious angel Michael (Brandon Silberstein). This divine trinity (with the actors streaming from their respective homes) leads a webinar, through which God can communicate directly with humanity, clear up some misconceptions and offer an updated version of the Ten Commandments. She may even let you know which book in the Old Testament she finds funnier than the Book of Mormon and "The Book of Mormon." Though the 90-minute one-act play, directed by Debi Durst, was originally planned to hit the Palo Alto stage in June, it works quite nicely in Zoom form, including making use of the chat function. Due to explicit language and adult themes, the suggested viewing age is 16 and up. Other Palo Alto Players autumn plans include "Allegiance" (Nov. 6-22); paplayers.org.

**Stanford Live:** As of early September, the full details on Stanford Live's upcoming season have not yet been released, but many plans are percolating. Starting Sept. 27, the campus-based organization will begin presenting an HD virtual concert series filmed in Bing Concert Hall and featuring the St. Lawrence String Quartet, Garrick Ohlsson, Vân-Anh (Vanessa) Võ, and the Kronos Quartet. Other performances filmed remotely will be made available, along with a Stanford Live podcast, a virtual book tour event with comedian Colin Quinn, an "interactive theater experience" with 600 Highwaymen, and more events still in the works. Artist Constance Hockaday, in association with Stanford Live, is developing the podcast project "Artists-in-Presidents: Fireside Chats for 2020," for which she has invited 50 artists to present fireside chat-inspired addresses (with guidance from presidential speechwriters) along with the presidential campaign; live.stanford.edu.

**Los Altos Stage Company:** While it has a full slate of shows scheduled for the year, as of early September, Los Altos

Stage company was "in a holding pattern" and not yet sure in what format it would present its planned autumn shows ("Tiny Beautiful Things," Sept. 24-Oct. 18; "I and You," Nov. 4-29) in order to best follow Santa Clara County's health guidelines, said Managing Director Ed Sengstack; losaltosstage.org.

**The Pear Theatre:** The Pear will be presenting an eight-person production of the ancient Greek comedy "Lysistrata," filmed live outdoors and streamed online (Oct. 2-Nov. 8). "Somewhere" is planned for Dec. 4-20. Meanwhile, the Pear Improv Crew will perform its next show on Sept. 26 via Zoom, and "Hamlet's Ghost," written by Pear Playwright Guild's Neva Hutchinson, will receive a Zoom reading Sept. 25-26; thepear.org.

**Dragon Productions Theater Company:** The Dragon has a number of autumn events, including an adaptation of Trevor Allen's "The Creature" as an episodic podcast (starting Oct. 8) and visual poems, with original animations (starting Oct. 17). "All We Have to Fear..." an original, online immersive experience set in an 8-bit world, combines video gameplay with live actors and artists. The production will be available in October through November. Other plans include an Agatha Christie audiobook club (Tuesdays, Sept. 15-29), "Live at the Dragon," circus shows and more; dragonproductions.net.

**EnActe Arts:** Online upcoming productions include the family drama "Swapna" (Sept. 16) and "Letters to a Daughter from Prison" (Oct. 16-18); enacte.org.

**Peninsula Youth Theatre:** "Stories on Stage" shows for children are moving online for autumn, including "The Wizard of Oz" (Oct. 9-10) and "My Father's Dragon" (Nov. 6-7); pytnet.org.

**TheatreWorks Silicon Valley** is delaying the start of its official 51st season until March. However, it's offering a smattering of theater from a distance, including access to a streaming video performance of "Hershey Felder as George Gershwin Alone" on Sept. 13 and an online workshop reading of "Pandora," by



Courtesy Stanford Live

Vân-Anh Võ will perform as part of Stanford Live's autumn season.

playwright Laurel Ollstein Sept. 24-28; theatreworks.org.

**Community School of Music and Arts:** Online concerts hosted on CSMA's YouTube channel include faculty members Vong Bringhurst (voice, Oct. 10) and Yulia Fomicheva (cello, with pianist Keisuke Nakagoshi, Nov. 7), and Sarah Cahill (piano, Dec. 19); arts4all.org/events.

The annual **United Nations Association Film Festival** will be held virtually this year, screening 60 documentary films from around the world online Oct. 15-25 with the theme of "The Power of Empathy," unaff.org.

### Galleries and museums

**Cantor Arts Center and Anderson Collection:** Stanford University's Cantor Arts Center and Anderson Collection have both been closed since shelter-in-place orders were issued this spring and will remain shuttered for the time being. But their Museums From Home program is offering a variety of new ways to experience art at the two institutions, even when it's not possible to be there in person.

Earlier this month, the Cantor rolled out its first virtual tour, which offers a look at "The Medium is the Message: Art Since 1950" exhibition. The self-guided tour provides a three-dimensional "visit" inside the gallery, with controls on the virtual tour that give users a 360-degree look at each room in the gallery, and

allow them to get a closer look at the art on display and click on wall text for each piece. A Cantor spokesperson said that the museum plans to launch more virtual tours this fall.

The tour rounds out a robust collection of videos of artist talks, discussions, new and archival lectures and online activities that offer deep dives into both individual works of art and overarching themes, including a "micro-video" series that tackles one painting at a time from the Anderson Collection. Cantor Arts Center and Anderson Collection, Stanford; museum.stanford.edu.

"Peninsula Photo Contest" (Sept. 12-Nov. 15); online only, at the **Palo Alto Art Center**; cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/csd/artcenter.

**Virtual Great Glass Pumpkin Patch** (Sept. 24-Oct. 4). Online only for 2020; greatglasspumpkinpatch.com.

"Rise Up! The Fight for Women's Suffrage" in-person outdoor exhibition through Jan. 31. Related to the exhibit are a series of online discussions: "Elected Women Speak Up" (Sept. 12); "Women's Suffrage in Santa Clara County" (Sept. 17) and "Race and the Suffrage Movement" (Nov. 10) at the **Los Altos History Museum**. losaltoshistory.org.

"Reaching for the Sky," works by Jim Caldwell through Sept. 15; "Women in High Chroma" works by Chandrika Marla



Scott Lasky Photography

Emily Scott as God in Palo Alto Players' "An Act of God."

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(Sept. 17-Oct. 23) in-person exhibits at **Art Ventures** gallery; [artventuresgallery.com](http://artventuresgallery.com).

Steve Dellicarpini (through Sept. 13); "Number Cruncher" by Shannon Wright (Sept. 19-Oct. 18); Cynthia Gonzalez (Oct. 24-Nov. 22); Paul Kos (Nov. 28-Dec. 28) in-person exhibits at the Art Kiosk; [fungcollaboratives.org/projects/current/art-kiosk/description/](http://fungcollaboratives.org/projects/current/art-kiosk/description/).

"Escape from Covid19" group show (through October) in-person exhibition at **Gallery House**. Also viewable online; [galleryhouse.art](http://galleryhouse.art)

"Artworks by Mary Stahl" through Sept. 26; Karen White "Open Spaces" (Sept. 30-Nov. 1) in-person exhibits at **Viewpoints Gallery**; [viewpointsgallery.com](http://viewpointsgallery.com).

In-person exhibitions: "Nathan Oliveira: Muse"; "Seeking Nature" group show. Virtual exhibition: "Surreal Art for Surreal Times: The Salvador Dali Collection" at **Pamela Walsh Gallery**. 540 Ramona St., Palo Alto; [pamelawalshgallery.com](http://pamelawalshgallery.com).

### Bookstores, libraries and more

**Menlo Park Library** online events include: Bridget Quinn, "She Votes: How U.S. Women Won Suffrage, and What Happened Next" (Sept. 21); Menlo Park StoryFest, featuring

storytellers sharing tales from around the world, for adults and children ages 5 and up. (Thursdays, Oct. 1-29); Author Gayle Romasanta, "Journey for Justice: The Life of Larry Itliong" (Oct. 8); [menlopark.org/library](http://menlopark.org/library)

**Palo Alto Library:** Last month, the library kicked off Palo Alto Reads, a monthlong program aimed at encouraging the community to read and discuss a selected book that has themes relevant to our region. This year's selected book, "The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America" by Richard Rothstein, explores institutionalized racism in housing and city planning through redlining and other practices that segregated communities along racial lines. In addition to reserving a copy of the book from the library, readers can learn more about "The Color of Law" by watching a video of a virtual conversation with Rothstein that took place last month. Palo Alto Reads runs through Sept. 15; [paloalto.bibliocommons.com](http://paloalto.bibliocommons.com).

**Kepler's** virtual author events include: Story Time with Drew Daywalt (Sept. 15); Online Evening Literary Seminar: The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil, George Saunders (Oct. 12 or 14); Rick Riordan (Oct.



Courtesy Cantor Arts Center

**An installation view** of "The Medium is the Message: Art since 1950" at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University.

13); Namwali Serpell with Carmen Maria Machado (Oct. 19); Online Evening Literary Seminar: Let's Pretend This Never Happened, Jenny Lawson (Nov. 9 or 11); Online Evening Literary Seminar: A Manual for Cleaning Women, Lucia Berlin (Nov. 30 or Dec. 2); [keplers.org](http://keplers.org)

**Books Inc.** (Mountain View and Palo Alto) virtual author events include: Kevin C. O'Leary (Sept. 15); City Arts & Lectures Presents Yaa Gyasi (Sept. 22); Ronny Joseph Lvovski with Michelle Tam (Sept. 23); City Arts & Lectures Presents Claudia Rankine (Oct. 1); [booksinc.net](http://booksinc.net)

**Stanford University's** online

author events and seminars include: Daniel Yergin "The New Map: Energy, Climate, and the Clash of Nations" (Sept. 14); Talks with the Artists: An Interview with fnch (Sept. 17); 30th Annual Jonathan J. King Lectureship (webinar) — How Exercise Helps Us Find Happiness, Hope, Connection, and Courage in the Time of COVID (Sept. 23); Lecture, When Breath Becomes Air: A Conversation with Lucy Kalanithi (Oct. 6); [events.stanford.edu/](http://events.stanford.edu/)

**Oshman Family Jewish Community Center:** To say that 2020 has brought numerous unexpected events is a

tremendous understatement. But of the things most of us can say they never expected to happen, on the positive side, that might include the experience of watching a renowned author discuss their work from the comfort of one's own home. The Oshman Family Jewish Community Center is hosting "Book Fest in Your Living Room," which features virtual discussions with two respected authors who will share thoughts on their newly published books. Jodi Picoult will talk about her new work, "The Book of Two Ways: A Novel," in conversation with Judy Blume on Sept. 23. The following week, on Sept. 30, author Deepak Chopra will discuss his newest book, "Total Meditation: Practices In Living the Awakened Life."

Other events include Community Conversations Presents Terrific Tastings: Piemonte on the Palate (Sept. 13); Community Conversations Presents a Rosh Hashanah Cabaret (Sept. 22); Community Conversations Presents The Wonderful World of Rodgers and Hammerstein (Oct. 27); [paloaltojcc.org](http://paloaltojcc.org). ■

Email Karla Kane and Heather Zimmerman at [kkane@paweekly.com](mailto:kkane@paweekly.com) and [hzimmerman@paweekly.com](mailto:hzimmerman@paweekly.com)

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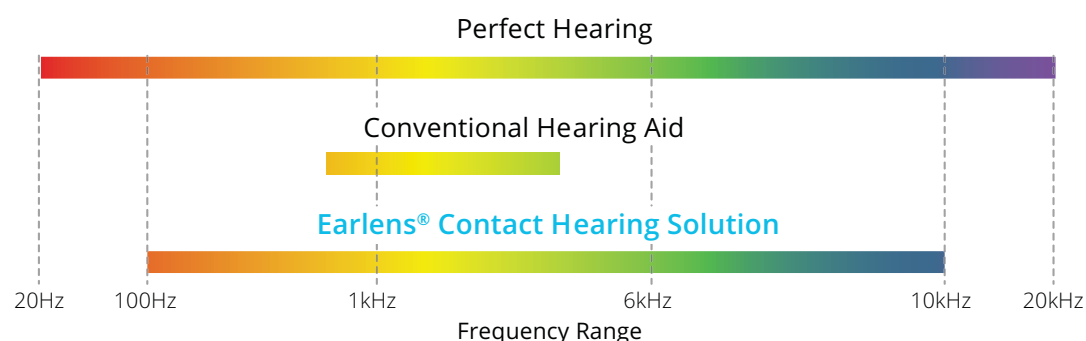
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## Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 284865  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
City Arborist, located at 2282 Sharon Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025; Mailing Address: 325 Sharon Park Dr. #646, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
HENRY ARDALAN  
2282 Sharon Road  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
AZAR DALE  
2282 Sharon Road  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: Married Couple.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above 4/10/1997.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 5, 2020.  
(ALM Aug. 21, 28; Sep. 4, 11, 2020)

GUSTAVO ESPINO'S GARDENING AND HANDYMAN SERVICE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 285010  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Gustavo Espino's Gardening and Handyman Service, located at 253 Hayden Way, La Honda, CA 94020, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
GUSTAVO JOEL ESPINO RODRIGUEZ  
253 Hayden Way  
La Honda, CA 94020  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 6/22/20.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 17, 2020.  
(ALM Sep. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2020)

PRODUCT INSIGHTS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 285076  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Product Insights, located at 678 College Av., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
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678 College Av.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
PAUL MICHAEL NEWBY  
925 Lincoln Av.  
Palo Alto, CA 94301  
This business is conducted by: Copartners.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on August 20, 2020.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 27, 2020.  
(ALM Sep. 11, 18, 25; Oct. 2, 2020)

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email [asantillan@paweekly.com](mailto:asantillan@paweekly.com) for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

### 997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF  
JODI ANN VALENTI  
CASE NO. 20-PRO-00971  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: JODI VALENTI a.k.a. JODI ANN VALENTI  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by JACQUILINE VALENTI in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO. The Petition for Probate requests that JACQUILINE VALENTI be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court on 09/30/2020 at 9:00 A.M. in Dept. 28 located at 400 COUNTY CENTER, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063, SOUTHERN BRANCH.  
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner: SETH E. WATKINS, LAW OFFICE OF SETH E. WATKINS, 1771 WOODSIDE RD., REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061, Telephone: (650) 367-1771 ext. 1402 8/28, 9/4, 9/11/20  
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FOOD & DRINK



## The ghost in Shiook's kitchen

Courtesy Proposition Chicken

Dishes from Proposition Chicken, which has locations in San Francisco and Oakland and recently launched a delivery-only outpost on the Peninsula from Shiook Singaporean Kitchen in Menlo Park.

### Menlo Park restaurant shares its staff with SF eatery making deliveries on the Peninsula

By Elena Kadvanly

Proposition Chicken, a popular fast-casual chicken eatery in San Francisco and Oakland, has no physical presence on the Peninsula. But thanks to an unlikely partnership born of COVID-19, the restaurant is now delivering its food locally.

Through a new startup called Local Food Group, Proposition Chicken ingredients are prepped in San Francisco, then picked up and brought to the 20-year-old Shiook Singapore Kitchen in downtown Menlo Park, where kitchen staff cook the dishes to order. The food is available for pickup at Shiook or delivery via third party apps like DoorDash and Uber Eats.

This allows Proposition Chicken to expand to a new area without the costly overhead of opening a brick-and-mortar restaurant, while Shiook gets a small percentage of the orders' revenue.

Ari Feingold, owner of Proposition Chicken, said he's long wanted to open a location in the South Bay but after the pandemic hit, started digging into alternative ways to grow his business, including through delivery-only concepts. He eventually decided to work with Local Food Group, which he thought was "in the best position to help us get the food out there in the exact way it would be if you ordered it at the restaurant," including being willing to pick up the prepared ingredients daily.

"We do want to get down to the South Bay and build an actual restaurant there but right now, especially in our industry, it's super important to be creative and figure out new ways to grow and new ways to do things during this time," Feingold said.

Dennis Lim, who's run Shiook at 1127 Chestnut St. for two decades, said the partnership is still new — it started a few weeks ago — but the Proposition Chicken orders

have been keeping his staff busy, while Shiook's business is still down 50%.

"I'm hoping they make enough for me to keep my guys employed," Lim said. "Maybe chicken sandwiches have more mass appeal than my Singaporean food."

Jon Goldsmith, CEO and founder of Local Food Group, declined an interview request. The company's website consists of a single landing page that reads: "We're building the restaurant group of the future. Are you a restaurant owner in the SF Bay Area looking to grow delivery sales?" According to LinkedIn, Local Food Group's chief operating officer and co-founder is Andrew Munday, the director of operations on DoorDash's founding team.

The group appears to be pursuing a new coronavirus-era model: connecting restaurants interested in launching in delivery-only concepts with ones that, desperate for additional revenue, are willing to share their workforce for a cut. This is distinct from the growing trend of ghost kitchens, spaces that restaurants use only to prepare and deliver food, with no service component. Virtual Kitchen Co and DoorDash also operate shared ghost kitchens on the Peninsula.

Lim declined to say how much he receives from the Proposition Chicken orders but said he was eager to try out a new model that could bring in any amount of money. Despite a cohort of loyal customers in Menlo Park, Lim said he's struggling to keep his Singaporean restaurant afloat. He said he's trying to negotiate rent relief with his landlord and is looking for any solution to survive.

"I'm getting to the point where I might have to close, so I'm trying everything just to stay in business," Lim said.

For Feingold, opening a delivery-only version of Proposition Chicken might not have been in the cards before the pandemic. Even during the shutdown, his restaurants have fared reasonably well, given pickup and takeout was always a big part of their business. But he, too, has been looking for creative ways to survive.

"I'm not sure I would have jumped into this ghost world, for lack of a better phrase, if it wasn't for some of the complications that have come through this pandemic," he said.

Proposition Chicken's menu revolves around chicken, which comes fried, flipped (rotisserie) or fake (actually barbecued tofu) on a salad, sandwich or as an entree. All the marinades, sauces, hand-cut fries and buttermilk biscuits are made from scratch. Feingold said his biggest concern about getting into the delivery-only world was that the quality of the food could suffer. They spent months taste testing until he was satisfied that a customer getting a fried chicken sandwich delivered in Menlo Park will have the exact same experience as someone getting takeout from the restaurants in San Francisco or Oakland.

"The food is cooked fresh. It's exactly the same as Proposition Chicken," Feingold said. "Because if it wasn't, I wouldn't do it."

The delivery-only menu is almost identical to one served at the brick-and-mortar Proposition Chicken locations; only three dishes aren't available locally (soup, potato wedges and chicken wings).

Feingold said they're looking to offer delivery soon through restaurants with extra capacity in Sunnyvale and San Jose, with "many more locations in the pipeline." ■

Email Elena Kadvanly at [ekadvanly@paweekly.com](mailto:ekadvanly@paweekly.com)



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