

# The Almanac

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

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## After over a year, special ed students can finally come back to campus

Parents question why it took the Sequoia high school district so long to bring children back

By Angela Swartz

Seventeen-year-old Tessa Nye sits crying at her computer in her family's Menlo Park home. Her mom Kim Nye explains that as a disabled student, online classes do not work for Tessa.

Although April 5 marked the first day Tessa and her peers in Sequoia Union High School District's Independent Living Skills program could attend classes five days a week on campus, they lost more than a year of learning and socialization during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nye said she is perplexed that special needs students in the nearby Menlo Park City and Palo Alto Unified school district schools got to return to campuses nearly a year ago, while the Sequoia district didn't bring them back.

"I have nothing but respect for (Tessa's) teacher and specialist, but it has absolutely sucked," Nye said.

Tessa has SLC13A5 deficiency, a condition that causes her to have seizures and leads to delays in expressive language

skills, low muscle tone or a lack of muscle control, and episodes of body stiffening or weakness. As a result, she doesn't use a mouse effectively and slams the computer closed if Nye tries to take a bathroom break while she is talking with a teacher, her mother said.

**'The district has failed our children.'**

KIM NYE, MOTHER OF  
SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENT

"There are dozens of little boxes on a screen. ... It's really just a distraction," Nye said.

While doing distance learning, Tessa started showing behaviors that hadn't been a problem before. Her 11-year-old sister Maggie will no longer sit next to Tessa on the couch because Tessa has pulled out her hair too many times, Nye said.

It's as if 30 years of disability rights had been "thrown out," she said, adding that she believed that her daughter's individualized education plan



Magali Gauthier

**Kim Nye** and Maggie, 11, look over as Tessa, 17, plays a game on an iPad in their Menlo Park home on April 6. For Tessa, a special needs student in the Sequoia Union High School District, distance learning during the pandemic "has absolutely sucked," her mother says.

(IEP) was violated. She said on a short-term basis it was appropriate to move to online learning as districts figured out how to make in-person learning work, but distance learning went on for "way too long" for these vulnerable students.

The Zoom lessons felt like they were done simply to "check a box" for the district's 1,350 special education students, she said.

"The district has failed our children," Nye told the district school board in a March letter.

She also spoke of her concerns during a March 10 board meeting.

"Our children cannot speak for themselves, so once again their rights are being violated,"

See **SPECIAL ED STUDENTS**, page 10

## Through their blog, a couple shares hidden coastside gems

By Kate Bradshaw

Dan and Dawn Page, who moved to Montara five years ago, know now that they'll likely never be considered true locals in the eyes of their fellow Montarans.

But that hasn't stopped them from developing and sharing their own experiences of their new hometown with the public.

The couple, married for almost 40 years, represents the author and photographer behind Coastside Slacking, a blog all about the trails, history

and scenery they discover on their hikes together both locally and abroad.

Established in 2016, the project started out as a lifestyle blog for Dawn, a former programmer who was looking for some way to structure her newfound time in retirement. The initiative gave her a project and an outlet for hobbies like photography and cooking.

"You go into retirement and there's a huge identity change you have to make," she said in an interview. "You don't introduce yourself in the way you used to."

The project pivoted about six months later when her husband Dan retired. Dan is a former journalist, and they decided to make the blog a joint effort built around hiking, one of their few shared hobbies. From that point, Dan took on most of the writing while Dawn took most of the photos.

The blog, Dan explained, provided a way for the couple to "continue to be creative, stay healthy and enjoy beautiful area" while building



Courtesy Dawn Page

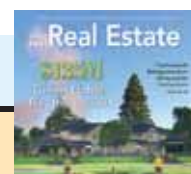
**Cowell-Purissima Coastal Trail** offers an easy and accessible bluff trail above the Pacific Ocean that begins at Cowell Ranch State Beach, a few miles south of Half Moon Bay.

See **COASTSIDE**, page 11

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# Local News

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Courtesy Morgan Helfand

**From left:** Adin, Ben and Morgan Helfand are taking part in Moderna's trial of the COVID-19 vaccine in teens, traveling to Banning, California, to take part. They are pictured on March 17 when they got their second doses.

## Woodside siblings join Moderna's landmark COVID-19 vaccine trial for teens

By Angela Swartz

In the early morning hours of Feb. 17, three Woodside siblings piled into their mom's Acura for a seven-hour, 445-mile drive to Banning, California. For the teens, who'd been stuck at home for nearly a year during the pandemic, the trip had a special purpose: to be part of Moderna's landmark vaccine trial.

Interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine early, the Helfand siblings — Adin, 17,

Morgan, 15, and Ben, 12 — applied to take part in the study and were accepted.

"It was exciting to have some sort of change," said Morgan, a sophomore at Woodside High School, about their trip down to Southern California. "Up until the trial, we had not gotten on an airplane (since the pandemic began). It was a reason to get out of our small hometown. It was a window into the future and being able to exit quarantine."

With '90s music playing on Spotify, the teens arrived at

the Velocity Clinical Research facility for the first part of the trial after stopping for lunch in Pasadena. Researchers recorded their weight and height, took their blood pressure and temperature, then took a blood sample and COVID-19 nasal swab test. They signed consent waivers, then received their first of two jabs (the second would come 28 days later). They waited for an hour to see if they had reactions to the shots.

See **VACCINE TRIAL**, page 14

## Counties halt use of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine

Rare cases of serious blood clots found in six women, according to federal health authorities

By Sue Dremann

A rare side effect from the one-shot Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine has caused health leaders in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties to pause its administration, they announced on Tuesday.

The decision follows a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration to temporarily halt its use, county health officials said in separate statements.

Although very rare — only six cases out of about 7 million doses administered nationwide are known of the concerning side effects — CDC and FDA officials and the local authorities said they were halting the shots out of an abundance of caution.

The CDC and FDA are reviewing data involving a rare and severe type of blood clot that occurred after receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. A CDC panel met to discuss it on Wednesday, April 14, but took no action, with members saying they needed more information.

"In these cases, a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination," Dr. Anne Schuchat, the CDC's

principal deputy director and Peter Marks, director of the FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, said in a joint statement on Tuesday.

Dr. Anand Chabra, San Mateo County's COVID-19 vaccination branch chief, said in a Tuesday statement that the county would also pause all of its J&J vaccinations and has directed its partnering clinics and hospitals to suspend its administration until the vaccine is officially cleared by the CDC and FDA.

In San Mateo County a total of 564,367 COVID-19 shots have been delivered by the county health department, health care providers and hospitals, pharmacies, community clinics and other partners. Of the total, 22,306 shots are of the J&J vaccine.

"This represents 3.952% of total vaccines administered in San Mateo County, the others being the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines," he said.

More than 5,700 doses of the J&J vaccine have been used by the county health department and its vendors in mass vaccination and community events for all eligible residents, homeless populations and homebound residents, in addition to other settings, he added.

"San Mateo County Health received 500 (Johnson & Johnson) Janssen doses this week, which will be held pending further state

See **JOHNSON & JOHNSON**, page 16

## Menlo Park council votes to end library late fees and expand scholarship program for recreation services

By Kate Bradshaw

Overdue fees at the Menlo Park Library will soon be a thing of the past, following a unanimous vote by Menlo Park's City Council on Tuesday to eliminate them.

In addition, the council agreed to direct staff to develop a pilot program to offer need-based scholarships for recreation programs throughout the city and

to adopt a new equity statement: "The City of Menlo Park provides services and infrastructure that contribute to quality-of-life for all Menlo Park residents."

### Ending library fees

Traditionally, Menlo Park has aligned with the San Mateo County Libraries system, which, until it went fine-free, charged

people \$0.25 per day per item, up to \$8 per item, and blocked people from checking out materials when an account owed more than \$15, according to staff. The city expected to collect \$42,000 in overdue fines in the 2020-21 fiscal year.

A number of Bay Area library systems have eliminated overdue fines in recent years, according to staff. Studies indicate that overdue fines disproportionately

affect low-income residents and communities of color and that the cost to track and collect the overdue fines often exceeds the value of the fines that are collected.

In 2018, the San Mateo County Libraries system opted to eliminate overdue fines systemwide after conducting a pilot program in 2016 and 2017 to stop charging fines to children and teen library users. It found that

children's circulation increased by 28% and registration for new library cards increased 70% in the first year of the program. After that success, the library system started fine-free cards for seniors ages 62 and up and saw an 8% increase in circulation in the first six months of the program, according to a memo from Anne-Marie Despain,

See **MENLO COUNCIL**, page 15

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## AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

The O'Connor Tract Co-Operative Water Company has levels of manganese above the secondary drinking water standard.

Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. Our water system is in violation of a secondary drinking water standard. Violation of a secondary standard does not pose an immediate threat to health.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Average results for water samples for the last four quarters have manganese levels of 61 ppb in well #1 and 140 ppb in well #2 (ppb=parts per billion). This is above the secondary drinking water standard, or secondary maximum contaminant level of 50 ppb.

Manganese concentrations above the standard may have an effect on taste and tend to leave black deposits in some plumbing systems.

### What should I do?

- **You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water).** There is no health risk.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

### What happened? What is being done?

O'Connor Water has been above the secondary standard for manganese for many years, and this has been described to members in the annual Report on Water Quality Measurements. Recent state regulations have imposed stricter requirements for complying with the secondary standard for manganese. The state has issued the company a citation for noncompliance. The state ordered the company to start quarterly monitoring in February 2012, and this monitoring is still ongoing at both wells. The state also required that manganese monitoring be continued quarterly and that the results of these tests be reported to all water consumers.

The Company is working with State agencies and the City of Menlo Park to complete the planning of a manganese treatment facility that will then be installed and operational on the Company's property.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this public notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For further information contact:  
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## CRIME BRIEFS

### Human remains found in the Skylonda/Woodside area

The remains of an as-yet-unidentified person were found on Monday at about 9 a.m. in the Skylonda/Woodside area near Kebet Ridge Road, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said in a statement on Monday night, April 12.

The area, which is west of La Honda Road, is heavily wooded with a meadow at the top, according to Google Maps. Sheriff's detectives and the county Coroner's Office were called to the scene and are investigating. The age, race and gender of the person is currently unknown, the Sheriff's Office said.

A resident of the area found the remains, the Sheriff's Office said, but it is not releasing more specific information regarding the location.

Anyone who might have information is encouraged to contact Detective Piper at 650-363-4062 or [jpiper@smcgov.org](mailto:jpiper@smcgov.org). Anonymous callers may use the anonymous tipline at 1-800-547-2700.

### Three rapes reported on Stanford University campus

Stanford University Department of Public Safety is investigating reports of three rapes on the campus over a three-week period in March, the department has confirmed in an email.

The incidents, on March 9, 25 and 27, were not related to one another and involved acquaintances of the three women who reported the attacks.

The March 9 incident occurred at Building A, Escondido Village Graduate Residence, between 8 and 11 p.m. The victim, who reported the incident on March 10, is a 19-year-old female Stanford student who was allegedly raped by a 20-year-old male non-student. Police have completed their investigation and have submitted the case to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office for review.

The second incident occurred at Crothers Memorial Hall, 621 Escondido Mall, between March 25 at 11:30 p.m. and March 26 at midnight. A 21-year-old female Stanford student reported the incident on March 29. The man under investigation is a 20-year-old Stanford student.

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 11

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Modified in-person library service to return April 22

All San Mateo County libraries will offer in-library express service, which includes computer and printing access, browsing materials and Wi-Fi access, beginning Thursday, April 22, according to an April 6 county libraries blog post.

County library locations include Atherton, Portola Valley, Woodside and North Fair Oaks.

Express service will be available Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m.

Curbside services, which include holds pickup, printing, and no-appointment walk-up service, will continue to be available at most locations starting Monday, April 19, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Library programs and classes will remain virtual.

For more information, go to [smcl.org/blogs](http://smcl.org/blogs).

### Equestrian merit scholarship award

The Mounted Patrol Foundation and the Woodside-area Horse Owners Association (WHOA!) are accepting applications for a \$10,000 Woodside-area equestrian merit scholarship award, according to a press release.

Applicants must be seniors who attend high school in San Mateo, Santa Clara or San Francisco counties, and who have been accepted to and plan to attend a college, university or other continuing education program this fall. They also must have a demonstrated involvement in equestrian activities, as well as academic achievement, community service and financial need.

The scholarship will be awarded in early June.

Applications are due May 7. Apply at [whoa94062.org/grants-awards](http://whoa94062.org/grants-awards).

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 16

# Coronavirus central: Santa Clara County opens up vaccine appointments early

State updates capacity guidance for places of worship and cultural ceremonies

By Embarcadero Media staff

**S**an Mateo County as of Monday had 40,910 cumulative cases of COVID-19, with 556 deaths. There were 22 people hospitalized. Santa Clara County as of Monday had 116,324 cumulative COVID-19 cases and 1,999 deaths. There were 94 people hospitalized, 14 of whom were new.

## Additional vaccine doses leads Santa Clara County to open up appointments

Santa Clara County was set to receive about 300,000 additional COVID-19 vaccine doses and planned to open up tens of thousands of additional vaccine appointments this week, health leaders said during a press conference on April 13.

"This is close to four to five times the vaccines we have been

getting," Supervisor Otto Lee said of the boost in doses. "This is really a game changer," he said.

The increased supply, after weeks of shortages, is coming directly to the county's health system from the federal government under a program operated by the federal Health Resources & Services Administration. As a result of the expanded vaccine supply, the county opened vaccine eligibility to all residents and workers ages 16 or older on Tuesday, two days earlier than the April 15 date designated by the state.

The news comes on the heels of a county announcement to halt administration of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration caution has caused severe health reactions in six

people, including a rare form of blood clot. Officials said earlier in the day that doses of the J&J vaccine would not impact the county's vaccine distribution effort and could easily be made up from suppliers Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech.

Health officials breathed a collective sigh of relief at Tuesday's press conference after learning about the large allocation from the federal government earlier in the day.

"We're thrilled to provide expanded access to these highly effective vaccines, especially for those most impacted by COVID-19," said Dr. Marty Fenster-sheib, the county's testing and vaccine officer. "Vaccines are the county's No. 1 priority and they will save lives. After many weeks of supply challenges, we will be able to offer vaccination

See **CORONAVIRUS**, page 11

## Facebook opens vaccine clinic at its headquarters

By Kate Bradshaw

**F**acebook has turned part of its Menlo Park headquarters into a clinic to provide vaccines to eligible residents of Belle Haven, East Palo Alto and North Fair Oaks.

"We are really excited to open our doors for community members to come and get vaccinated," said Ashley Quintana, public policy manager for Facebook, in an interview.

The first clinic was held on April 10, from 12:30 to 4 p.m. All of the available doses were used, according to Facebook spokesperson Chloe Meyere.

The company plans to offer the clinic each week at Building 28 at its headquarters, located at 164 Jefferson Drive in Menlo Park. No appointments are needed. For the latest updates on the clinics each week, go to [facebook.com/Ravenswoodfhn](https://facebook.com/Ravenswoodfhn).

Vaccines will be provided to people who are eligible based on current criteria. The state opened vaccine appointments to everyone age 16 and up on April 15.

The effort is a public-private partnership between Facebook, local nonprofits like Belle Haven Action and Nuestra Casa, the Ravenswood Family Health Center, the county of San Mateo and the cities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, Quintana said.



Courtesy Charles Ommanney/Facebook

**Signs for the new vaccination clinic** at Facebook's Menlo Park headquarters are translated into Spanish and Tongan to aid visitors.

Quintana said that, as a person of Latinx descent who is from the community, "This is really close to my heart."

"The partnership with the clinic is a great way to make sure we are serving the communities that need it most," she said.

Facebook has also partnered with Gov. Gavin Newsom's office and nine nonprofits to support pop-up vaccine clinics in the Central Valley, Inland Empire, San Diego and south central Los Angeles.

In addition, the company plans to give ad credits to nonprofits and trusted organizations in California to help underserved communities access vaccine appointments.

The initiative aims to provide vaccinations to 10,000 people in the first several weeks, depending on supply, according to a Facebook statement.

"As more COVID-19 vaccines roll out across the country, we are finally seeing glimmers of hope, which can grow so long as we continue to make progress," said Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg in a statement. "I hope that everyone will get vaccinated once they're eligible to protect themselves and their loved ones, so we can bring an end to the pandemic." ■

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

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Great Schools Raise Home Values

**Dear Monica: This year our town will vote on a parcel tax that directly supports the schools here. What is your opinion on this as it affects real estate values?**

Valerie L.

Dear Valerie: What I have learned in the years I have been a real estate broker is that nothing affects real estate values more than schools.

People will pay more to live in a good school district. When a parcel tax is on the ballot, I do some research to confirm the details, and then I vote "Yes". Support for schools is one of the best ways to support the value of your community and of your property. If you have school-aged children, there are even more reasons to support a parcel tax. It simply makes good sense.

Contact me at [monica@monicacorman.com](mailto:monica@monicacorman.com). Office: 650-465-5971, COMPASS. WSJ Nationally Ranked. Real Trends Bay Area Top 100 Agents

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# State and federal funds will help local school districts with reopening costs

By Angela Swartz and Elena Kadvany

State and federal funds will soon flow to local school districts to cover their additional reopening costs during the pandemic. These costs include not only safety precautions needed to welcome students back to campuses, but additional programming expenses that are resulting from the emotional and academic impact on children who've spent the better part of the last year confined to their homes.

The state funds are earmarked in Assembly Bill (AB 86), the nearly \$6 billion COVID-19 relief package, aimed at accelerating a safe return to in-person instruction and provide schools with resources to expand academic, mental health and social-emotional support.

The federal American Rescue Plan provides more than \$122 billion to help K-12 schools reopen amid the pandemic.

## Breakdown of the state funding

The expanded learning opportunities grant makes up \$4.6 billion of the state funding. This money will go toward extended instructional learning time, learning support, health, counseling, mental health and social emotional learning, community learning hubs, support for credit-deficient students, and staff training.

The state's \$2 billion in-person

instruction grants are available to school districts offering in-person instruction, including hybrid models, by April 1, and funding will be reduced by 1% for each instructional day that all required groups are not learning in-person. The funds can be used to help cover COVID-19 testing, cleaning and disinfection, personal protective equipment, ventilation, salaries, and social and mental health support services.

Half the state funding will be allocated in May and the other half will be given in August, according to a press release. All districts must approve a spending plan by June 1 and to receive the extra funds, they must have reopened in some capacity by May 15.

## San Mateo County

The Sequoia Union High School District, which has about 9,300 students and is home to Woodside and Menlo-Atherton high schools, along with TIDE Academy, will receive nearly \$9.1 million. Sequoia classrooms reopened to students April 5.

The Menlo Park City School District, which reopened this past fall to those of its 2,932 students who wanted to come back to campuses, is set to receive \$2.4 million. District officials are appealing a decision by the U.S. Department of Education to remove funds and services from the district because of erroneous census data, according to

a March 25 school governing board presentation.

Some \$455,004 will go to the Portola Valley School District, which has 495 students. Of that, \$146,477 will go toward in-person instruction and \$308,527 will go to expanded learning opportunities. It cost nearly \$1 million to reopen Portola Valley School District classrooms this fall, according to the district. The district does not expect to receive funds from the federal relief package based on its low-income student population, said Superintendent Roberta Zarea in an email.

The Woodside Elementary School District, which has about 372 students, is set to receive \$309,498. Superintendent Steve Frank said the Woodside district is evaluating how the funds should be used. This past October, it took on half a million dollars in costs for new COVID-related safety precautions, which include the administrative costs of testing staff members weekly, HEPA air filter installations, building outdoor classrooms and hiring additional substitute teachers to oversee more fragmented student groups.

"With much uncertainty surrounding the 2021-22 school year, we anticipate that the money will be spent to help support summer school and extended learning opportunities for specific students and increased transportation costs due to COVID, among other things," Frank said in an email. "We are fortunate to have been open full time for the

majority of the school year and are operating with the mindset to strategically use the additional funding once we have more clarity as to how we need to operate in 2021-22 with COVID."

The district is expecting \$271,136 from the federal government, according to a March 9 board presentation.

About \$1.05 million will go to the Las Lomitas Elementary School District. The district, which has 1,111 students, received \$519,612 in state and federal learning loss mitigation funds, said Superintendent Beth Polito in an email. The money was used to provide internet connectivity and devices for students during virtual learning, additional instructional materials for students to have at home, an additional three days of professional development for staff, and personal protective equipment, Polito said.

An example of the increased costs: Material and supplies costs rose from about \$680,000 last school year to about \$1.4 million this school year, according to the district's interim 2020-21 budget.

The district is beginning to determine the details of its learning recovery program, which will be the focus of the one-time monies from both the state and federal government, Polito said.

"It is likely we will be looking at bolstering our counseling and academic support structures for next year and will need to invest some of these funds in the training necessary to implement those

programs effectively," she noted.

The K-8 Ravenswood City School District, which only recently approved a plan to reopen schools districtwide starting April 12, is set to receive \$2.4 million from the state for expanding learning opportunities and is eligible for \$750,000 for in-person learning. The district is looking at investing in summer school, extending the school day or year, and additional interventions like tutoring and mental health counseling for students, said Chief Business Official William Eger, but is continuing to solicit feedback from the school community. Ravenswood is also expecting about \$7.5 million to come in from the new federal stimulus package.

The district is looking at the injection of one-time funds with a longer-term view. Eger pointed to a new Education Resource Strategies study on COVID-19's financial impact on K-12 schools that estimates districts should plan on spending \$12,000 per student over a five-year period post-pandemic. In Ravenswood, that would cost about \$18 million, according to Eger.

"We're a relatively high-need district," he said. "The amount of stimulus money we've received plus money from REF (the Ravenswood Education Foundation) gets us into that ballpark but we're not thinking about this as spending that we need to do just to bring students back safely. We're thinking about this as a five-year learning acceleration initiative." ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).

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## TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

### NOTICE OF TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

#### REVIEW PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE MUNICIPAL FEE SCHEDULE TO INCLUDE ALIGNMENT WITH CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INCREASES, ADMINISTRATION, BUILDING, PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING, AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed changes to the fee schedule. The Public Hearing will be held on **Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**, via a Zoom teleconference meeting. To join the Zoom meeting, access the link provided on the April 28, 2021 Town Council agenda.

Data associated with the proposed changes will be available to the public by emailing the Town Clerk at [shanlon@portolavalley.net](mailto:shanlon@portolavalley.net), beginning 10 days prior to the meeting date above.

Public Hearings provide the general public and interested parties an opportunity to provide testimony on these items. If you challenge a proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at a Public Hearing(s) described above, or in written correspondence sent to [jdennis@portolavalley.net](mailto:jdennis@portolavalley.net) prior to the Town Council meeting date.

All interested persons are invited to appear before the Town Council to be heard at the time and place mentioned above.

Sharon Hanlon, Town Clerk  
Published April 16, 2021

# Menlo Park council takes steps toward 2030 climate goals

By Kate Bradshaw

Last July, the Menlo Park City Council approved an ambitious new goal — for the city to go carbon neutral by 2030.

On April 6, it launched discussions about how to start working toward that goal this year. The details, in short, are complex.

To attain carbon neutrality, the city aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 90% from 2005 levels and focus on carbon removal efforts for the remaining 10%.

So far, the council has adopted six initiatives to help the city reach that goal.

■ Explore policy and program options to convert 95% of existing buildings to all-electric by 2030.

■ Set a citywide goal to increase electric vehicle sales and decrease gasoline sales.

■ Expand access to electric vehicle charging for multifamily and commercial properties.

■ Reduce vehicle miles traveled by 25% or an amount recommended by the Complete Streets Commission.

■ Eliminate the use of fossil fuels from municipal operations.

■ Develop a climate adaptation plan to protect the community



Magali Gauthier

**The Menlo Park City Council** is starting to work on its ambitious climate action plan, including how to protect the city's Bayside from the hazards of sea level rise.

from sea level rise and flooding.

For the first goal, an enormous proposal to convert the vast majority of the city's buildings to all-electric power by 2030, the council was split 3-2 over what to do next. By May, staff hope to complete an analysis of the cost effectiveness and potential policies to facilitate the switch to electric power.

Then over the summer, the Environmental Quality Commission would weigh in on potential

policy options and the City Council would review its recommendations. After that, the city would launch a public engagement campaign to educate people about the policies or ordinances and identify any needed exemptions, with the goal of adopting ordinances sometime in 2022.

Council members Jen Wolosin, Cecilia Taylor and Vice Mayor Betsy Nash favored doing so by June 2022, and developing additional information about

the building permitting process for electric systems, while Mayor Drew Combs and Ray Mueller were opposed.

Mueller said he favored having the council more clearly lay out what options it is considering for moving forward from the outset, including creating ordinances following public engagement and the recommendations from the city's Environmental Quality Commission, putting measures on the ballot related to the city's electric building conversion goal, or creating incentive programs to encourage converting buildings to all-electric power systems.

"I believe tonight we should recognize that some of the measures contemplated to achieve the goals contained in Climate Action Plan, frankly exceed the expectation (of) power we would use, when our constituents voted us into office," Mueller said, adding that he wanted to see "the most intrusive CAP actions be presented to the public as a measure or series of measures, for public vote."

Nash declined Mueller's suggestion, noting that she neither wanted to preclude nor specify which options the council would consider in the future. "Let's

move this ahead and see what happens," she said. "We know we need to get to a point where we're all-electric. ... This really is a big issue, especially for Menlo Park."

Combs added that he favored the use of incentives rather than regulatory measures, wanted to see caution in making sure there is community support for such policies, and raised some concerns about how potential policies to convert the power systems to electricity citywide could impact people.

Council members were more aligned on the next four goals of the action plan, and approved the following next steps unanimously.

For the goal of increasing electric vehicle sales, the council approved plans for the city to work with the Beyond Gas Initiative, run through Joint Venture Silicon Valley. It is a collaboration between Joint Venture Silicon Valley and the nonprofit Coltura, working to speed the transition from gasoline to cleaner alternatives, including halving gasoline consumption in Silicon Valley by 2030, according to its website.

For the goal of expanding

See **CLIMATE GOALS**, page 16

## Healthy Hearing, Healthy Brain



Michelle Inserra, MD is an otologist with the Earlens Hearing Center. She holds a medical degree from Stanford University and completed a fellowship in Neurotology at the California Ear Institute.

### Upcoming webinar:

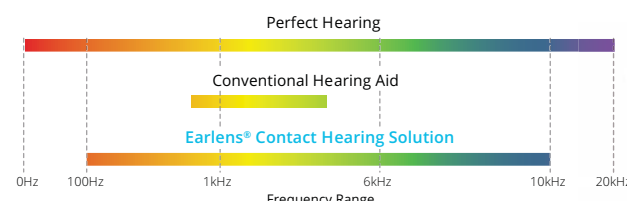
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April 21, 10:00 a.m. PST

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# High school district finds a new superintendent

Darnise R. Williams, who has worked on race and equity issues, set to lead Sequoia Union

By Angela Swartz

The Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees has selected Darnise R. Williams to serve as the district's new superintendent, the district announced Tuesday.

A vote to approve her three-year contract was set for a school board meeting Wednesday, April 14, after The Almanac's press deadline.

Effective July 1, Williams would replace Crystal Leach, who has been filling in as interim superintendent after former Superintendent Mary Streshly resigned in the fall amid widespread calls for her dismissal from teachers and administrators.

If the contract is approved, Williams' base salary will be \$265,000 annually. The agreement states that she would be paid \$1,150 per day for up to a maximum of five eight-hour days to meet with Leach prior to July 1. The district would also reimburse Williams up to

\$17,500 in relocation expenses, according to the contract.

Williams previously led the Race and Equity Leadership Academy, a partnership between Los Angeles Unified School District and the University of Southern California, according to a district press release. The academy focuses on providing school principals and principal supervisors the tools to lead on racial equity effectively.

"In Dr. Williams, we have selected a superintendent that shares the district's values of ensuring that every single one of our students leaves our district ready to succeed in college, career and adult life," said board President Alan Sarver in a statement. "Her combination of experience in curriculum and instruction, as well as her equity-focused leadership, make her the ideal leader for



Darnise Williams

the future of the Sequoia Union High School District."

Williams' 25-year career in public education began as a high school English teacher in south Los Angeles. She has "always focused on supporting all students in achieving college and career readiness," according to the press release.

"I look forward to building a strong relationship with the Sequoia District community so that we may collaboratively work towards our shared goal of preparing our students for long-term success," said Williams in a statement. "Ours will be a district that will continue building on the idea that equity, diversity, and inclusion are central to creating an environment where everyone thrives."

The district hired Leadership Associates to find and vet superintendent candidates in December 2020. The board had a discussion and potential appointment of a candidate in closed session on its April 9 agenda.

## 'Historic' hire

Amid calls to diversify administrators in the district, East Palo Alto City Councilman Antonio Lopez praised the school board's selection.

"I cannot overstate how historic this hire is: To have people that look like you be in key positions of leadership not only creates role models for our youth; it also sends a clear message as to the district's commitment to racial equity," he said in an email. "It is an affirmation to the concerned families of my community that the past will not characterize the present, that the district is turning a page in its history in hiring its first-ever Black woman as superintendent. I am so excited for Dr. Williams' leadership and am confident that she is exactly the kind of person our kids need."

Williams will be the second person of color to head the district. Harry Reynolds, a Black man, served as superintendent in the early 1980s, according to district spokeswoman Ana

Maria Pulido.

Lopez acknowledged that Williams is but one individual, and in her first year as superintendent, she will need the support of community leaders.

"Speaking both as a member of the ad hoc committee to diversify Sequoia, as well as a councilman for the city of East Palo Alto, I would be honored to help our new superintendent in any way she prefers," he said. "Superintendent Williams, we are the wings of your leadership, ready to provide whatever assistance you need as you take the helm of serving our minority-majority district."

Williams' past roles include serving as a literacy coordinator, assistant principal, principal, principal supervisor, administrator of instruction and senior-level administrator.

Williams earned a doctorate in educational leadership from USC and a master's degree in educational administration from California State University at Dominguez Hills. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).

## SPECIAL ED STUDENTS

continued from page 1

she said.

The California Department of Public Health released guidance on Aug. 25, 2020, permitting in-person targeted, specialized support and services in stable cohorts — a group of no more than 14 children or youth and two supervising adults that stays together for all activities, and avoids contact with people outside of their group.

For several weeks before the April 5 reopening, Tessa was able to come on campus for a few hours a day under the supervision of a nurse, but this didn't offer a solution for families of other students who didn't have the bandwidth to fight for more assistance, Nye said.

Sequoia District Teachers Association President Edith Salvatore said that special education teachers and aides offered enrichment cohorts in the fall, on Wednesdays when lessons were asynchronous or after 3 p.m. on weekdays. Teachers were able to work with students on campus on a voluntary basis. Because of that, the number of students back in classrooms during the fall was not uniform across the district, she said.

When asked for comment, Interim Superintendent Crystal Leach said in an email that the special education teachers are a part of a bargaining unit that negotiates its working conditions.

"They are bound by their contract and can only work under agreed terms and conditions.

Once SUHSD signed an agreement with SDTA, it allowed for a portion of our in-person services and instruction to resume, which includes special education programming," Leach said.

## 'Piecemeal' solutions

Jennifer Kaufman said her son Joe, 21, has lost his ability to communicate and other functional skills over the last year. He has Down syndrome, and has delays in speech, adaptive, vocational, intelligence, motor and general independent skills, she said. He is part of the TRACE program at Sequoia High School, which serves young adults with special needs who are transitioning into jobs or community service.

Kaufman didn't appreciate that the district seemed to lump special education students in with the general population in this month's return campus, she told the district's administrators in a March letter. The general population students are on campus two days a week, then off for 10 days of school. She said that she was considering litigation against the district for denying her son's needs and not fulfilling his IEP goals.

Joe became disengaged, and doesn't understand that the faces on his screen aren't just people on TV, Kaufman said. It was hard for him to stay engaged and he could get very loud and disruptive, impacting her husband, who was trying to work

from home and support Joe at the same time. She said Joe really needed an aide to facilitate online learning.

"We have done our best at being partners at home, but it's been a year; they've had a year to figure out how to get this," said Kaufman, who is a special education teacher in the Menlo Park City School District. "The Sequoia district has said, 'They don't have permission.' They're 'working on it.' They're 'getting close.'"

Everyone commiserates, but they're still not in school, she said before students returned on April 5.

TRACE is located on a separate campus within Sequoia High's campus, which makes it easy to isolate the 14 students in the program from others, she said.

"If (the district) really wanted to do it they would have," Kaufman said.

The district placed a financial burden on families to hire their own in-home aides and helpers that was "immense" and "unaffordable" for many, according to Nye.

Families like Andi Dehne's ended up spending their own money to hire help for their special education students. Her son Riley, 19, has Down syndrome and is in the Independent Living Skills program at Woodside High School, so she hired someone to help during the day with schoolwork, because she had to return to her job

teaching kindergarten at Oak Knoll School in Menlo Park. She describes a "piecemeal" solution with her ex-husband and daughter pitching in to assist Riley during the school day.

There was a period when, every night at bedtime, he'd ask, "Coronavirus be over! Back to Woodside?" Dehne said. At times he'd get emotional and curl up on his bed because he missed being on campus so much, she said.

"Teachers did the best they could do with what they had (virtual school)," she said.

Riley returned to in-person learning last week. The district has offered him four days a week on campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"It was extra hard on him as far as losing his community; it took him two years acclimating to being at Woodside. ... I think so many of us, we were just waiting and waiting and waiting and waiting. Thinking: 'Do something for these kids!'"

Riley took part in a cohort that started in March, but it was only after school on four Mondays, outdoors with about four or five students, she said.

"I'm thrilled that he is back in person now," she said. "The big question is, God forbid we go through something like this again, how can we redesign our response to meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners?" ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).



Magali Gauthier

Kim Nye and her children (from left) Maggie, Tessa, Colton and Lily get some exercise outside their home. Nye has been actively lobbying the high school district for access to in-person learning for Tessa.

## COASTSIDE

continued from page 1

something together.

And while a number of the posts they've written share their experiences hiking around the world, including in Chile, many others — especially over the past year during the COVID-19 pandemic — have highlighted trails closer to home.

"When COVID struck, we weren't supposed to go more than 5 miles from the house. Our challenge was to go out and find those places where we could ... get away from the stress and enjoy nature," Dawn said.

During the pandemic, the duo developed a habit of going out for weekly hikes, enjoying their proximity to the rugged beauty of the coast and its abundant open spaces.

As retired locals, they added, they enjoy the full benefits of the coastside's trails on weekdays. On weekends, they tend to leave the trails for the tourists and out-of-towners — also, the traffic makes it hard to get around. But they're OK with the trade-off.

"It's a favorite thing, to complain about traffic on the weekends," Dawn said. "Every beach town complains about this."

"We feel lucky we can go out during the week, when people are at work or school," Dan said.

They said that they find most of the trails they eventually write about on the trail app

AllTrails, and have figured out that their sweet spot is between 5 and 8 miles at a medium to hard difficulty. And while they enjoy connecting with and inspiring others to hit the trails too, their blog is not trying to become another AllTrails, they said.

They're more interested in sharing their experiences, specifically positive ones. If they have a bad experience on a trail, they'd rather not write about it than pan it. But they'll make an exception for funny-bad anecdotes that add to the stories they tell, Dawn said.

Writing about hiking trails, they're always looking for funny or interesting angles for their posts. While there is a lot of biodiversity in the region, there's still a finite number of tree species and microclimates to identify, Dan said. They use nicknames — Dan is "Montara Man Dan" and Dawn is "The Geek" — and include running jokes to make the posts more personal.

They also describe some of the local history of the places they visit.

For instance, in researching the history of the Cowell-Purissima Trail south of Half Moon Bay, Dan said he learned that in the second half of the 1800s, there was a town called Purissima that was at one point bigger than Half Moon Bay.

Situated south of Half Moon Bay along Purissima Creek, it was once home to the 17-room mansion of San Francisco waffle

tycoon Henry Dobbel. Dobbel built many of the buildings in Purissima, but became overextended when logging declined and crops failed, Dan wrote. Dobbel sold the estate to Henry Cowell, an industrialist, in 1890. And that's likely how the Cowell-Purissima Coastal Trail wasn't named after Dobbel instead, he said.

Some of their favorite recent trails and areas are the Farmer's Daughter Trail in Moss Beach, and trails in Big Basin, which they explored before the CZU August Lightning Fire shut down the beloved state park for the foreseeable future.

They said they are sympathetic to concerns of some of the folks in town who might rather they keep their discoveries to themselves to keep the tourists at bay, and haven't written about all of their local favorite spots.

At the same time, they noted, there are also some underutilized public parks on the coastside that they have chosen to feature. Burleigh H. Murray Ranch is a state park with an easy walking trail featuring a large barn, and Purissima Creek Redwoods offers plenty of redwoods without the crowds of a more popular destination like Muir Woods, they said.

Dan noted that the community has changed a lot in the past 30 years, and that "it's important to respect the people who have been here a long time."

Even so, he added, the Pages



Courtesy Dan and Dawn Page

**Dan and Dawn Page** on a hiking trip at the Nebraska National Forest in Halsey, Nebraska, in October 2019. They are the author and photographer behind the local blog Coastside Slacking.

have come to love their retirement hometown. "It's been everything we hoped it would be."

Access the Coastside Slacking

blog at [coastsideslacking.com](https://coastsideslacking.com). ▀

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

## CORONAVIRUS

continued from page 7

to those at greatest risk and ensure broad coverage for our entire community."

The county received the first shipments of additional vaccines from the U.S. government on Tuesday morning and additional supplies are expected to arrive next week. The significant supply increase will allow the county health system to fully use its administration capabilities at each of its vaccine clinics, county officials said. The county is also working with other vaccine providers so they will have enough supply and is expanding its outreach efforts to reduce barriers to vaccination, they said.

Dr. Jennifer Tong, assistant chief medical officer for the Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center, said they expect heavy traffic on the county's vaccine sign-up website in the next few days. People should expect delays but should continue to return to the site to book an appointment as more will keep opening up.

Community members are encouraged to schedule

## Your COVID-19 vaccine questions — answered

We've compiled a list of who can currently get vaccinated in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, plus answers to common questions and links to resources. Access the page at [tinyurl.com/COVIDvaccinequestions](https://tinyurl.com/COVIDvaccinequestions). Have a question? Send it to [editor@pawebly.com](mailto:editor@pawebly.com) and we'll do our best to answer it.

vaccination appointments through the county's website [sccfreevax.org](https://sccfreevax.org). Anyone without access to the internet can also call to book a vaccine appointment by calling the county at 211 or 408-970-2000.

### State lifts capacity caps for places of worship, cultural ceremonies

California public health officials updated the state's guidance for places of worship and cultural ceremonies Monday, removing capacity limits for both indoor and outdoor gatherings.

Since unveiling the tiered COVID-19 reopening system late last August, the state has faced pushback from religious groups and advocates over limits on indoor capacity at places

of worship.

The state revised its guidelines on places of worship in February after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the state could not prevent indoor worship services, which it had done by prohibiting indoor worship gatherings for counties in the purple tier.

At that time, the high court allowed the state to limit indoor attendance to, at minimum, 25% of a building's capacity.

However, a ruling from the court on April 9 spurred the state to allow full capacity worship services in all four tiers, provided that participants follow distancing and masking requirements.

The updated guidance also strongly discourages full capacity for worship services, suggesting caps of 25% indoor capacity

in the purple and red tiers and 50% in the orange and yellow tiers.

Paul Jonna, an attorney with the conservative nonprofit law firm the Thomas More Society, lauded the court decisions that moved the state to loosen its guidelines.

"This is a huge win that God has provided for all people of faith," Jonna said in a statement.

The full updated guidance for places of worship, cultural ceremonies, weddings and funerals can be found at [covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance](https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance).

### 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](https://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](https://tinyurl.com/c19-Almanac). ▀

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

## CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

A third incident took place at an unknown location on March 27 at 11:15 a.m. The female Stanford student, aged 24, reported the incident on March 28. The man is a non-student who is 26 years old. This case is also under investigation, police said.

In 2019, a Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct of undergraduate and graduate students found that 40% of Stanford undergraduate women who have been at the university for four years experienced some form of nonconsensual sexual contact.

At the time, Provost Persis Drell called the report "a chronic public health issue."

In November 2020, Stanford released its annual Title IX report on campus sexual violence and harassment, which found the campus was headed toward its previous levels of sexual assault and harassment reports prior to the campus' pandemic-related closure in March 2020.

—Sue Dremann



## 140 TENNYSON AVENUE, PALO ALTO



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

Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, in Palo Alto, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

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

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | [michael@deleonrealty.com](mailto:michael@deleonrealty.com)

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



## 220 Todo El Mundo, Woodside



### Silicon Valley Hideaway on 2.54 Acres

Quintessential Woodside grounds surround this exquisite contemporary jewel nestled on over 2.5 acres. As you drive past the peaceful creek that borders this property, you will get a sense of the incredible privacy this home affords. Once inside, fresh, modern interiors feature soaring ceilings, radiant heated floors of polished concrete, and walls of glass that bring the outside in. Expansive gathering areas are scaled for entertaining, and the superb kitchen is sure to inspire your inner Top Chef with appliances from Bosch, Sub-Zero, and JennAir. Enjoy a true California indoor/outdoor lifestyle with multiple rooms opening to the grounds, where you will find ample space to relax and unwind. The spectacular master suite offers a luxurious, spa-like bathroom as well as flexible-use space to meet a variety of needs. And for those who work from home, the detached office offers plenty of room to do so in comfort and privacy. Just moments to downtown Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Stanford University, and Sand Hill Road, yet still evoking the feeling of being a million miles away from the hustle and bustle of Silicon Valley – this is truly a special place to call home.

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit:

**[www.220TodoElMundo.com](http://www.220TodoElMundo.com)**

Offered at \$4,988,000

**Easy and safe access for potential buyers and Realtors®**

**Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in San Mateo County**

Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, in San Mateo County, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

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# Dexter Bailey Dawes

July 10, 1936 – March 21, 2021

Dexter Dawes, a respected leader to local community institutions, successful investment and finance professional, and above all else, a man dedicated to his family, died peacefully on March 21 at age 84 from esophageal cancer in his Palo Alto home.

A traditional and deeply ethical man, Dexter lived with authenticity, integrity and kindness. He was affable, unsentimental, inquisitive, a risk taker, an optimist, and a skeptic. He was equally self-confident and self-effacing, and combined a sharp analytical mind with artistic creativity.

A strong believer in self reliance and responsibility, entrepreneurship came naturally to Dexter, leading to a successful career in finance. He pioneered the implementation of Employee Stock Ownership Plans in the early '70's with the firm Bangert and Company, and became intent on providing employees "a piece of the action." As a founding member of a small investment banking firm, Bangert, Dawes, Reade, Davis, and Thom, Dexter grew a successful business. Later, he headed an equity fund, John Hancock Capital Growth Management, from which he retired in 1996. His experiences with a wide range of businesses across the country gave Dexter a knowledge both deep and broad: paper products, beer distribution, photo processing, and a myriad of others.

In retirement Dexter seemed only to increase his activity, dedicating countless hours as an angel investor and as a member serving on numerous corporate and non-profit community boards. As an active investor he mentored entrepreneurs in the wide ranging fields of software, construction, and even a local bakery. Among others, corporate board assignments included Embarcadero Media Publications and Puffin Designs. Often challenging authority and assumptions, his work on the boards of Palo Alto Utilities Advisory Commission, Channing House, Foothill-DeAnza Finance and Audit and Bond Oversight Committees, Avenidas, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, and HeartFit for Life helped steer these organizations to sounder financial footings. In 2017, Dexter was honored with the Avenidas Lifetime Achievement Award.

In addition to his business and community engagements, Dexter also had a deep love for the arts. Starting with his high school paper, he developed a lifelong interest in photography. His practical nature and artistic creativity naturally drew him to woodworking, resulting in nearly every room of his home displaying his finely crafted furniture. At an early age, he developed a love for Baroque music. His greatest artistic accomplishment fused his dual passions when he built a harpsichord and then learned to play a Bach fugue.

A graduate of Dwight-Morrow High School, Dexter was raised in Englewood, New Jersey, but considered his family cabin in New Hampshire as the wellspring of his identity. Dexter attended Harvard College as a recipient of the prestigious Holloway Program Naval Scholarship, graduating with a BS degree in 1958. He was a member of the Hasty Pudding and DU Clubs. Dexter valued his time in the Navy and was proud to serve his country for 3 years. His tours in Asia, Europe, and South America gave him a taste for travel,

and served as the basis for some of his most enduring friendships. Family legend has it that as the ship's navigator he ran into the Bay Bridge, a radio antenna just clipping the lower deck at high tide.

Back in Cambridge after his service in 1961, Dexter married Jean Rau of Manhattan, New York. Graduating in 1963 with a Harvard MBA, Dexter, Jean and young son John headed out west to Palo Alto, where he first worked at Philco-Ford Aerospace. After sons James and Adam were born in 1966 and 1969, Dexter spent the next several years working in finance for several Bay Area firms. The family moved to their home in Palo Alto in 1973.

Dexter was always home for dinner and put family ahead of any professional ambitions. He loved to take his sons skiing and backpacking in the Sierra, where he earned his nickname "Dexter Odometer", and was a referee for many years in AYSO. With the family he enjoyed adventure travels in Asia and Africa, and at home biking and walking in the Santa Cruz mountains. In later years, despite a battle with mobility, he continued to hike in the hills of the Peninsula, which he loved. He was always happy to have company, but equally comfortable by himself on the trail.

Partnering with his son James, he built a family retreat in the Santa Cruz Mountains, a tribute to his special bond with the New Hampshire cabin where he spent summers in his youth. While the sweeping vistas of the hills and the fog laden Pacific Ocean were ready made for relaxation, he would more likely be found mowing the meadow, cutting brush or clearing the drainage swale.

Every year saw multiple trips to experience distant lands and cultures with Jean and a cadre of close family friends, and, of course, his camera. He had a special love of the Himalayas, making multiple treks to Nepal, Tibet and Bhutan. He could recall the names of remote peaks and passes of the Dolpo and Mustang regions of Nepal long after age had deprived him of more immediate memories. He and Jean returned every year in his retirement to New Hampshire to hike Mt. Monadnock and enjoy the fall colors, and to be with extended family.

He loved reading biographies, yet thought writing his obituary was "none of his business". He believed profits and losses were different, and did not believe in trophies for trying. He loved cars, drove fast and switched lanes often. His favorite beverage was water, and was never shy to seize upon double dessert.

His was a life well lived and savored by all who knew him. He will be missed greatly and lovingly remembered. He is survived by Jean, his wife of 59 years; sons - John, James, Adam and their spouses; 5 grandchildren - Cutter, Kalyn, William, Jae Di, Xan Di; brother Harry of Peterborough, New Hampshire and sister Augusta of San Francisco.

A memorial service will be held when large gatherings are permitted in Palo Alto.

Should you wish to make a donation in Dexter's memory, please consider Avenidas, HeartFit for Life or a charity of your choice.

Links: [www.Avenidas.org](http://www.Avenidas.org), [www.heartfitforlife.org](http://www.heartfitforlife.org)



## VACCINE TRIAL

continued from page 5

After a pit stop at In-N-Out, they were home by 1 a.m.

"The benefit of being in the teen trial outweighs the detriments of a long drive," said Adin, a junior at Woodside High. "All of that was worth it because you get to be part of something larger than yourself."

The ongoing Moderna teen study, dubbed "Teen Cove Study," includes 3,000 participants ages 12 to 17 and began in December 2020, according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine. Participants have to have never tested positive for COVID-19. Some 67% of those in the trial received the study vaccine and the remaining 33% were given a placebo, according to the pharmaceutical company.

Moderna wants to generate data sometime this spring, so adolescents can be vaccinated before the 2021-22 school year begins this fall, according to a press release. Once the vaccine is approved by the FDA for youth, the Helfand siblings will be able to receive the vaccine, if they haven't already.

The experiment is double-blinded, meaning neither the participants nor those administering the vaccinations know who is receiving a particular treatment, so the three still don't know which of them received the placebo, a saline shot, or the study vaccine. Morgan said she thinks she may have gotten the vaccine because she had cold symptoms (a headache, fatigue and slight fever) as well as some redness at the injection site after receiving her second shot in March. Her siblings did not have any symptoms after their second shots.

Using an app called Patient Cloud, they would record how they were feeling, how their injection sites looked and their temperatures. Once a week, the researchers would call them to check if they had any symptoms.

The three, whose mother is a doctor, said they wouldn't hesitate to take part in another study down the line.

"I learned that being a part of the future of science is really cool," Morgan said. "It opened my eyes to have doctors who were able to create vaccines to be able to combat something like this. It's a way to be able to fix the pandemic; the least I can do is take part (in the study)."

Adin said taking part in the trial felt almost like a service to the medical community.

"You are in essence putting yourself at risk," she said. "We knew we were not going to be taking crazy sorts of risks (since the vaccine had already been tested on adults for nearly a year). But it opened my eyes to the whole process of getting drugs and medicine approved. They (researchers) really just want to make sure everyone still stays healthy and the product is helpful and viable."

The teens hope the vaccines, once approved for all age groups, can bring society back to normal. Based on evidence from clinical trials, the Moderna vaccine was 94.1% effective at preventing COVID-19 in people ages 18 to 95 years old who received two doses and likely hadn't previously been infected with the virus.

"You should just do it (get the vaccine), after that you'll be way safer for COVID," Ben, a seventh grader at Woodside Elementary School, said. "You're not the lab rat."

Nearly 30,000 people took part in Moderna's adult COVID-19 vaccine trial in the U.S.

Morgan said she urges anyone presented with the chance to be vaccinated to take it to help reach herd immunity and protect others from contracting the virus. Morgan's reaction from the shot she received lasted less than 24 hours and she said she has no lasting side effects.

Adin can't wait to get back to normal teen activities such as prom and even in-person Advanced Placement tests.

"We come from a very privileged background and some kids don't have access to the resources we do; they were hit harder (by the pandemic)," she said. "Another bonus, if we can get the vaccine available to children, we can return back to schooling and access to equitable learning."

Pfizer has been studying the use of its vaccine in youth ages 12 to 15 years old. The drug company said April 7 that it had 100% efficacy against severe cases of the disease in this age group. Last week, Pfizer gave the first doses of its COVID-19 vaccine to children 5 to 11 years old.

For more information on the Moderna vaccine (approved for those 18 years old and older) and the Pfizer vaccine (approved for those 16 years old and older), go to [tinyurl.com/covidvaccinesinfo](http://tinyurl.com/covidvaccinesinfo).

Every Californian over 16 is now eligible for a COVID vaccine as of Thursday, April 15. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).

PAID OBITUARY

**MENLO COUNCIL**  
continued from page 5

director of library services for the San Mateo County Libraries system.

Research indicates that fines also don't incentivize people to return their borrowed materials on time, Despain reported.

**Expanding recreation scholarships**

The council also voted unanimously in favor of a pilot program to offer need-based scholarships to recreation programs throughout the city. The idea is to offer a 75% fee reduction for up to one class or activity per season to residents who can show proof that they receive some other form of public assistance, with set individual and family limits per year — the details will be ironed out in budget deliberations for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

The city already offers some scholarship programs.

At the Onetta Harris Community Center, Menlo Park Senior Center, Belle Haven after school program, and the Belle Haven Child Development Center, the Belle Haven Community Development Fund, an independent nonprofit, administers a scholarship program at the Onetta Harris Community Center to waive the \$25 class fee for youth recreation classes. It also subsidizes up to eight spots in a service summer camp. Income verification is not required to benefit from the scholarship, and about 58 scholarships are awarded per year.

At the Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center, people who are qualified based on their income may get a discounted hourly rate of \$5 per hour compared to \$16 per hour. It serves about 15 people per year and requires applicants to submit recent pay stubs and W-2 forms.

At the Burgess and Belle Haven pools, the Beyond Barriers Athletic Foundation provides free swim lessons and scholarships for summer camp and life-guard certification programs. In 2019, it provided free swim lessons to 271 youth participants.

Staff members also presented two other pilot program alternatives for how to make recreation services more equitable in the city: to cut user fees for recreation programs for children up to 5 years old, or to offer a "Recreation Rx" program to provide a set number of "recreation prescriptions" or free class passes to people at risk of heart disease, or experiencing diabetes or obesity. **A**

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



**RESOLUTION NO. 2238 (2021)**  
**RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY**  
**SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE**

**Lands of Murphy**

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

- A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.
- B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.
- C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:
  - X. All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; orOther conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.
- D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

**IT IS RESOLVED** by the District Board as follows:

1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.
2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: April 28, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices, 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025 & via Zoom

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i.).
4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.
5. The District Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

**Exhibit A**

**Wade Hammond**  
Civil Engineering and Land Surveying  
36660 Newark Blvd., Suite C  
Newark, CA 94560 Tel: 510-579-6112  
[wade@whlandsurveyor.com](mailto:wade@whlandsurveyor.com) [www.wadehammondpls.com](http://www.wadehammondpls.com)

**EXHIBIT A**

11-25-2020

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE CITY OF PORTOLA VALLEY, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

ALL OF LOT 12, IN BLOCK 2, AS SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED TRACT NUMBER 814 ARROWHEAD MEADOWS UNIT NUMBER 6 BEING A PORTION OF THE RANCHO EL CORTE MADERA, FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAN MATEO COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ON NOVEMBER 29, 1963 IN BOOK 59 OF MAPS AT PAGE(S) 18 AND 19, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 12, SAID CORNER LYING ON THE RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF CHEYENNE POINT AS SHOWN ON SAID MAP; THENCE ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 12

(1) SOUTH 37°55'00"EAST A DISTANCE OF 233.27 FEET;

TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 12; THENCE ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 12

(2) SOUTH 57°21'36"WEST A DISTANCE OF 181.19 FEET;

TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 12; THENCE ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 12

(3) NORTH 45°26'28"WEST A DISTANCE OF 215.23 FEET;

TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 12, SAID CORNER LYING ON THE RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF CHEYENNE POINT AS SHOWN ON SAID MAP; THENCE ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 12

(4) IN A NORTHEASTERLY DIRECTION WITH A NON-TANGENT CURVE TURNING TO THE RIGHT WITH A RADIUS OF 375.00 FEET, HAVING A CHORD BEARING OF NORTH 48°19'16"EAST AND A CHORD DISTANCE OF 49.21 FEET, HAVING A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 07°31'28" AND AN ARC LENGTH OF 49.25 FEET; THENCE (5) NORTH 52°05'00"EAST A DISTANCE OF 159.50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

CONTAINING 43629 SQUARE FEET OR 1.002 ACRES MORE OR LESS.  
END OF DESCRIPTION

AS SHOWN ON EXHIBIT "B", ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF.

**APPROVED**  
SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY  
FORMATION COMMISSION  
455 COUNTY CENTER  
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

EXHIBIT 1 PAGE 1 OF 2

*Tom Mack Hammond*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
LICENSED LAND SURVEYOR  
LOUIS W. HAMMOND  
P.S. 6153

PAGE 1 OF 2

**Exhibit B**

**WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT**  
**EXHIBIT "B"**  
**SITE LOCATION**  
30 CHEYENNE POINT  
PORTOLA VALLEY, CA  
GRINDER SYSTEM

(1) Grinder Pump System  
200 Gallons Per Day (GPD)  
APN: 077-242-190  
Lands of Murphy  
30 Cheyenne Point  
Portola Valley, CA  
Location of System: Front of property

# Public Notices

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

WHAT THE BIKE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 286966  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
What The Bike, located at 1271 Bellair Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
SHERIF TADROS  
1271 Bellair Way  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2021.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 16, 2021.  
(ALM Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2021)

LANDA CLEANING SERVICE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 287097  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Landa Cleaning Service, located at 671 Stanford Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
ANA L. LANDA VERA  
671 Standord Ave.  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 25, 2021.  
(ALM Apr. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021)

GABRIEL V. GARCIA GARDENING SERVICES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 287154  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Gabriel V. Garcia Gardening Services, located at P.O. Box 51187, Palo Alto, California, 94303, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 1657 Purdue Ave., East Palo Alto, California 94303.  
Registered owner(s):  
GABRIEL GARCIA VAZQUEZ  
1657 Purdue Ave.  
East Palo Alto, California 94303  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 29, 2021.  
(ALM Apr. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021)

NUCLEATION CAPITAL MANAGEMENT  
CLIMATE COALITION  
U.S. CLIMATE COALITION  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 287183  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Nucleation Capital Management,  
2.) Climate Coalition, 3.) U.S. Climate Coalition, located at 750 Menlo Avenue, Suite 300, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County; Mailing address: P.O. Box 15, Menlo Park, CA 94026.  
Registered owner(s):  
KIT VENTURES LLC  
18 McCormick Lane  
Atherton, CA 94027  
California  
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 31, 2021.  
(ALM Apr. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021)

**The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.**

**Public Hearing Notices • Resolutions • Bid Notices • Lien Sale  
Notices of Petition to Administer Estate • Trustee's Sale•**

**Deadline is Monday at noon.**

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

NELSON CAPITAL  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 286974  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Nelson Capital, located at 545 Middlefield Road, #200, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 545 Middlefield Road, #200, Menlo Park, CA 94025.  
Registered owner(s):  
NELSON CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC  
545 Middlefield Road, #200  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
CALIFORNIA  
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on Not Applicable.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on Mar. 16, 2021.  
(ALM Apr. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021)

MINT CHIROPRACTIC CARE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 287217  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Mint Chiropractic Care, located at 600 Mclellan Drive, So. San Francisco, CA 94080, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
KRISTY CARRANZA  
600 Mclellan Drive  
So. San Francisco, CA 94080  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 2, 2021.  
(ALM Apr. 16, 23, 30; May 7, 2021)

BUCIO TRUCKING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 287212  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Bucio Trucking, located at 909 Tinsley St. #E110, E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
N&N TRANSPORTATION LLC  
909 Tinsley St. #E110  
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303  
California  
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/14/2019.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 1, 2021.  
(ALM Apr. 16, 23, 30; May 7, 2021)

## 997 All Other Legals

\*\*\* NOTICE OF LIEN SALE \*\*\*  
NOTICE OF LIEN SALE is hereby given pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the California Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of the UCC, and Section 535 of the Penal Code. The undersigned, Menlo-Atherton Storage ("MAS") in Menlo Park, CA, will sell via online public sale by competitive bidding the personal property of Henke, Janice C. Property to be sold: Many wood furniture items, sofa, many cardboard boxes (contents not known), bicycle, game table, suitcases, general household goods. The auction will be held online at [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com). The sale will begin May 1, 2021 at 9am and end on May 5, 2021 at 9am. Goods must be paid for in CASH at MAS and removed at completion of the sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between MAS and obligated party. Menlo-Atherton Storage, 3757 Haven Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025 650.366.3757. Please refer to [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) for all other terms and conditions governing the bidding and auction process.  
(ALM Apr 16, 23, 2021)

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

*continued from page 6*

### Street safety in Atherton

With a “huge influx” of walkers and runners on Atherton streets since the pandemic hit, Atherton police are putting out guidance for staying safe while on roadways.

They are advising residents to keep 6 feet apart when they encounter other walkers and runners. Although not required to wear a face mask while walking, running or biking, residents are strongly encouraged to carry one in case they encounter a close distance situation, police said.

Police encourage residents to run and walk on the left side of the road facing oncoming traffic. Police will soon place caution and warning signs around the town’s main walking and running routes as a reminder.

Police recommend residents be aware of stopped cars waiting to make turns, and wear bright colored clothing, carry a

flashlight and invest in a reflective vest and LED warning lights.

### Menlo Park district officials, programs receive awards

Local and state organizations have recognized Menlo Park City School District programs and staff members recently, according to a district press release.

The Association of California School Administrators named Superintendent Erik Burmeister the superintendent of the year for Region 5, which comprises the 25 districts in San Francisco and San Mateo counties, with over 300 schools serving 158,000 students. The association previously awarded Burmeister the Region 8 principal of the year award, as well as state principal of the year. Burmeister will receive his latest award at an event on April 27.

The San Mateo County School Boards Association

awarded Ashley Guilliot of Laurel School the Emily Garfield Award for outstanding school counselor. Named for Dr. Emily Garfield, a mentor and friend in support of positive youth development and community wellness, the award recognizes an outstanding individual who supports high-risk students and helps them with social/emotional development, the press release states. During the pandemic, the job of school counselor has taken on even more significance, according to the district. Guilliot will receive her award, which comes with a \$1,000 stipend, at a May 7 Kent Awards ceremony.

The district’s Early Learning Center (ELC) won a Kent Award for outstanding program, also by the San Mateo County association. The 3-year-old program now serves students at two campuses, Laurel and Oak Knoll schools. Director Jessica Mihaly will receive the award on the ELC’s behalf.

—Angela Swartz

## JOHNSON & JOHNSON

*continued from page 5*

and federal guidance,” he said.

Community clinics that planned to use the J&J vaccine will be switched to Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, which are two doses given about three to four weeks apart, compared to the “one and done” J&J vaccine. Other vaccine programs that utilize J&J, including for the vaccination of homebound residents, patients discharged from hospitals and new bookings at correctional facilities, will be reevaluated, he said.

“The county does have some targeted events planned with J&J this week, but we have been able to supply those events with available Pfizer and Moderna doses so that those events can still take place at the same number of doses as planned,” he said.

## CLIMATE GOALS

*continued from page 9*

access to electric vehicle charging at multifamily and commercial properties, the council agreed to support outreach to owners of multifamily properties and connect them with incentive programs offered by Peninsula Clean Energy and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The goal to curb the number of miles that drivers travel is already a part of one of the projects that the city’s Complete Streets Commission is working on, aimed at studying how projects in the city’s recently adopted Transportation Master Plan should be prioritized to reduce greenhouse

### Santa Clara County

Santa Clara County health officials said the county should be able to cover all scheduled appointments with the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines. County officials have also advised their vaccinating partners to pause administration of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine until further direction from the CDC, FDA and California Department of Public Health.

Dr. Marty Fenstersheib, the county’s COVID-19 testing and vaccine officer, said on Tuesday afternoon that 62,000 people have received the J&J vaccine in Santa Clara County. He urged people to understand that the complications are “extremely, extremely rare” and typically appear six to 13 days after receiving the vaccine. They include a severe headache, abdominal or leg pain or shortness of breath.

gas emissions. The council voted unanimously to support work already underway and next year provide additional professional guidance to help the commission set a goal for how much to reduce vehicle miles.

The goal to halt using fossil fuels in municipal operations is expected to move forward next year when the city develops new master plans for maintaining facilities and its corporation yard. Future bids should include plans to replace gas-powered equipment, the council agreed.

The last goal, to develop a climate adaptation plan, will wait to see if Menlo Park gets a grant it has applied for from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Anyone who has these symptoms should contact their health care provider or seek medical help, he said.

One of the six people who suffered a blood clot after getting the one-shot vaccine died, but no cases of complications from the J&J vaccine have been found in California, he said.

People who received the J&J vaccine more than a month ago have a very low risk of developing the symptoms, he added.

Dr. Jennifer Tong, assistant chief medical officer of the Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center, said the symptoms currently associated with the J&J vaccine can also be found in cases not associated with COVID-19 vaccination, so it is not yet known if there is a bona fide connection. ▀

*Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at [sdremann@pawekly.com](mailto:sdremann@pawekly.com).*

to build 3.7 miles of flood control and sea level rise barriers along the Bay shoreline to protect nearby residents and businesses and continue to participate with OneShoreline, the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District, on projects to protect the county’s shoreline from flooding and sea level rise. They also agreed to have a discussion, likely in the summer or fall, about creating a hazard mitigation plan to address climate change impacts the city could face, such as sea level rise, flooding and wildfires. ▀

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

## A parcel tax cut that we can get behind

Vote yes on Portola Valley School District's Measure S

By William R. Urban

### GUEST OPINION

The May 4 election offers the renewal of a lower parcel tax Measure S, to support Portola Valley School District's schools. A ballot measure last year to extend the now expiring \$581 tax per parcel fell two percentage points short of the 66.67% approval to pass. Voters are accustomed to zombie ballot measures rejected in one election recycling unchanged to the next election. That's not happening here. The district engaged its citizens to find alternatives to the resulting loss of \$1.24 million for direct teaching. This is not the first time the district has sought out advice from the wider community.

In May 2016, I criticized the district's administration of the parcel tax senior exemption in an opinion piece published in *The Almanac*. The district responded by making some changes, then invited me to join the Citizen's Parcel

Tax Oversight Committee. The district worked collaboratively with the committee to introduce an enhanced expenditure testing template, allowing better verification of annual and multiyear parcel tax spending compliance. We also confirmed that the district actually reduced both the general fund nominal dollar and percentage of all spending in non-teaching categories between 2013 and 2018.

This fall, following the \$581 parcel tax renewal's defeat, the district invited me and others to join a special advisory panel of individuals representing different constituent groups in the community to consult with the district on how to address the looming budget shortfall. Working with our advisory panel, the district reworked and cut its budget projections for the coming years, including canceling and deferring some

hiring through teacher attrition, and eliminating two permanent positions. Additionally, I and others on our panel voiced strong recommendations that any new parcel tax measure must reflect a reduced dollar ask from the \$581 expiring amount, to reflect both the economic realities and preferences implied in the voters' rejection of the March 2020 measure.

On these tax issues, the district's welcoming of feedback and sensitivity to community views over these last four years has been a model of what meaningful community engagement and responsiveness to voters should look like.

The new proposed, reduced tax of \$471 per parcel is 18.9% lower than the expiring \$581 tax that voters approved eight years ago. Additionally, the California Department of Finance reports that the CPI-U inflation index in the San Francisco metro area is up a cumulative 25.3% over these

last eight fiscal years, so the proposed \$471 tax is in fact 35.3% less in real inflation-adjusted dollars than the existing tax. Put another way, the expiring tax would have to reset to \$728 this year to be equivalent to the 2013 tax. Also, the \$471 is fixed for eight years, as the annual inflation adjustment is dropped from last year's failed measure.

Passing this \$471 parcel tax helps protect the hard-won AA+ bond rating upgrade from Standard & Poor's that the district recently earned. The parcel tax, representing 8% of the district's total funding, was a critical part of the total fiscal responsibility story. Districts with diversified and reliable tax sources, and overall financial sustainability, are rewarded with higher ratings, translating into lower interest costs for taxpayers. Potentially millions of dollars in interest costs can be saved over the lifetime of bond measures supporting school facilities.

An annual \$471 parcel tax is a warranted investment in our students and enhances their learning experience in a way even more vital now given the disruptive impacts of COVID-19, which imposed \$950,000 of additional costs this last year. Not passing Measure S can only mean deep and immediate teaching cuts.

This significantly reworked and cost-reduced parcel tax deserves our yes vote.

*William R. Urban, CFA, CFP, is a retired investment adviser, and resident and parent in Portola Valley for 30 years. He serves on the district's Citizens Parcel Tax Oversight Committee and served for 22 years on the Portola Valley Finance Committee.*

*The Almanac is seeking arguments opposing Measure S. Send letters and op-ed submissions to [letters@almanacnews.com](mailto:letters@almanacnews.com).*

## Want to help the environment? Take a look at your stocks.

By Donna Davies

### GUEST OPINION

Until recently, I thought divesting fossil fuel stocks and mutual funds was the enterprise of the "big boys" — well-endowed universities, philanthropic foundations, and faith-based organizations. After all, those muscle clubs have been seriously divesting for at least a decade. Me? I dropped out of Girl Scouts before I finished my insider trading badge. But my millennial son shamed me into action. So, I plunged into research and quickly found out it is easier than ever to assess the damage done and discover what funds to buy to remedy this oily situation.

In October 2019, FossilFreeFunds.org initiated an online sustainability report card that grades 1,500 of the most-held mutual funds according to their investments, not just on fossil fuel exposure but on several other social and environmental issues. So I began with my IRAs, sitting in a brokerage account, and drilled down into my vanilla

plain 500 Index fund, formerly considered a "good buy" due to the tiny expense of owning an index fund, right? Well, it was graded D in fossil fuel exposure. And that wasn't all. It received an F in deforestation, an F in military weapons, and an F in tobacco. A managed fund I thought had been such a smart buy was even worse! It was graded with four Fs, all in the same categories. My sense of urgency rose with my blood pressure. Clearly it was time to do something fast.

Once I identified the funds I needed to divest, I studied the top graded funds on the Fossil Free Funds site. I looked into the companies in which they invested and considered how diverse was their staff who managed the funds. I compared the fund performance over the years and was pleasantly surprised. Then I found another site to confirm my decisions. [naturalinvestments.com](http://naturalinvestments.com) has provided a socially responsible

heart-rating system for a long time but is now partnering with Green America to assess environmental sustainability, too.

This is the process I took; yes, this is Introduction to Investing 101. Starting with one IRA from my brokerage account in a large investment firm, I sold the entire fund online, transferring the money to a settlement fund. Once that was completed in a day or so, I bought the new fund simply by typing in the ticker number. Even though it wasn't a fund through my investment firm, I maintained all record keeping within it so I didn't have to open a new account, nor did I incur any fees or tax withholding as transferring money within an IRA isn't a taxable event. You can see this takes a very short time. Divesting from fossil fuels in non-IRA funds is a taxable event, so I will spread that process over the next few years to ease the tax burden.

Your mission, should you decide to accept it, will be to join the tens of thousands of

individuals and institutions divesting now. The latest estimate of divestment is over \$14 trillion involving 58,000 individuals and 1,183 institutions. Has it made a difference? Well, Peabody, the largest coal company in the world, filed for bankruptcy in 2016 claiming the divestment movement made it difficult to raise

capital. As the fortune and reputation of oil and gas takes a nosedive, just know that the companies most responsible for the destruction of our global climate will dive more steeply — if we all divest.

*Donna Davies is a Mountain View resident.*

### What's on your mind?

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

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

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

You can also submit a longer piece of 450 to 600 words for consideration to publish as a guest opinion column.

Questions? Email [editor@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:editor@AlmanacNews.com), or call 650-223-6537.

*The* Almanac

# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## THEATREWORKS LAUNCHING FIRST ONLINE NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

Two musicals, three plays, artist talks offered on pay-what-you-can basis

By John Orr

**P**re-pandemic, Giovanna Sardelli's life was one of almost constant travel, flying from city to city to direct plays — especially world premieres.

During the COVID-19 crisis, her work has continued, pretty much nonstop, but from her sisters' homes in Las Vegas. Via Zoom.

To do a recent interview, however, she refused to do a Zoom meeting.

"I was Zooming all day," she explained during a regular, old-fashioned phone call. "I can't look at a computer screen anymore. My eyes are spinning."

In addition to being one of this nation's most in-demand theatrical directors, Sardelli is also the director of TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's esteemed New Works Festival, which gives audiences a glimpse into promising shows under development.

This year, it is called The New Works Festival Online, and will stream April 23-May 15, offering two musicals, three plays, a kick-off celebration and some artist talks. Festival passes are offered on a "pay what you can" basis, starting at \$10, and each show or event will stream "live" (not on demand).



Bronwen Houck Photography

**Selections from Justin Huerta's musical "Lizard Boy"** will be streamed as part of TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's New Works Festival Online. "Lizard Boy" is scheduled to open TheatreWorks's 51st season Oct. 6-31.

"Like always, I want to tell good stories in the festival," said Sardelli, "and support vibrant artists, artists who are saying something with their work. There are so many different styles in the festival, explorations of the ways we tell stories."

The festival includes a sneak peek at the indie folk-rock musical "Lizard Boy" and a digital theater/rap piece inspired by the themes from "The Merchant of Venice," by Bay Area Theatre Cypher. Two plays examine the impact and ramifications of the Muslim travel ban — one a comedy, and one a drama. Another highlight is a semi-autobiographical dance-theater piece about memory, grief, forgiveness and freedom.

Lisa Ramirez is an all-around theater genius who has been acting for 30 years and writing plays for 15. She was born in Palo Alto and grew up around the Bay Area, mostly in Berkeley.

"I've always loved writers," she said, during a recent Zoom interview. "If an actor casualizes a line, I would get upset. My mother was a poet. The written word was valued in my house."

She continues to write. "I keep saying this is my last play, but now I'm on play number eight. I keep getting commissions."

Her dance play, "pas de deux (lost my shoe)," is very personal, about her brother, Sean.

"My brother died 19 years ago, on April 11," Ramirez said. "I had just gotten one year sober."

Sean had not gotten sober, however, and alcoholism killed him, ending his promising career as a dancer at the Oakland Ballet.

"I thought it would be interesting to explore my grief about my brother, and interesting to do the thing I hate most, which is take ballet."

According to a press release, "to confront and honor his death, she enrolled in a ballet class, attempting to learn the dances he had performed. Retracing his steps led her through the complicated terrain of their childhood, as she grappled with why she survived, and he didn't."

"I don't think I have survivors' guilt anymore," Ramirez said. "I'm always drawn to difficult

work, to the impossible. It's a way of honoring him. Someone pointed out to me there is an element of dance in all my works."

She said she is enjoying working with TheatreWorks, where Jeffrey Lo is directing her play. "TheatreWorks bought me a new tutu," she said.

A video of her performance is to stream at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 15, followed by an artist talk.

Dan Wolf is an actor, rapper, writer, editor, and video producer who is a co-founder of Bay Area Theatre Cypher, "a collective of performers who live on the crossfader of hip-hop, theatre, activism, and community."

Wolf said during a recent interview that he is "culturally Jewish. I grew up in America, chose a life where I am a Passover Jew, a Hanukkah Jew."

Wolf conceived of a theater piece called "Currency," which breaks down the themes of Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" and rebuilds them in different perspectives in a series of music videos.

"There always has to be a buyer, always has to be a seller," Wolf said. "Our mini-films explore, through text and song, a transaction between each merchant and a prospective customer."

The works explore the "transactional relationship of the merchant in a bunch of different societies," Wolf said. "Anchored in the one we know (from 'Merchant'), in Venice, but also a corner in Oakland, one in Hong Kong, in downtown LA. ... We look at the role and function that Shylock plays in the world of 'Merchant,' at the oppressed but important part of capitalism in society."

"The Merchant of Venice," as Wolf pointed out, was "created by an English person when there were no Jews living in England. ... My own life has been in the shadow of the Holocaust experience."

Wolf has been writing rap plays for years (since well before "Hamilton").

"Hip-hop speaks to an oppressed culture," Wolf said. "The main plot of the play can't exist without him being, in effect, a venture capitalist. That's the root of the play."



Courtesy Dan Wolf

**Dan Wolf is a co-founder** of Bay Area Theatre Cypher, whose work "Currency" will be streamed as part of TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's New Works Festival Online, running April 23-May 15.

"All my Jewish friends ask, 'How are you portraying Shylock?' I tell them, 'I'm portraying him like me.'"

"Currency" streams at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 24.

Justin Huertas remains very protective of his musical, "Lizard Boy," which began as a one-man show, then evolved into a three-hander in 2016. It has quite a following, but Huertas is keeping it to himself and his friends, not allowing it to be produced by others. Yet.

"We're keeping it to us for just a little bit, because we're not done," said the playwright/composer/lyricist/performer. "I still have work I want to do, specifically on the book of the musical. I really want it to be the ultimate 'Lizard Boy.' I want him to come into his power before we let other people have it."

As Huertas continues to tinker with the script, he and his cast mates Kirsten "Kiki" deLoehr Helland and William A. Williams will perform selections from the show as part of the New Works Online Festival. Then, in the fall, it will be the first show in TheatreWorks' 51st season.

"Lizard Boy" is the tale of Trevor, who experiences a mysterious change that launches him and his green skin into a lifelong search for identity and acceptance.

When comic book fan and concert-level musician Huertas

started writing "Lizard Boy," he said, "I was not understanding what I was writing about. What I was doing. My experience was as a person of color, growing up in white space."

As it has turned out, the show has proven meaningful to people of color.

"The audiences, the people of color, tell me it means a lot to have a superhero person of color on stage. ... I've never before seen a Filipino hero on stage."

Huertas especially loves Marvel comics, which is why his Martin guitar is named Wanda, for Scarlet Witch. (His cello is named Clementine, for Clementine Kruczynski in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.")

As a writer, Huertas said, "I'm not trying to be famous. As an artist, I want to create. I just want to make hero stories, about people who generally don't get a chance to be the hero."

Selections from "Lizard Boy" will be presented at 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 24. It will be followed by a conversation with the show's creative team.

Tickets and more information on TheatreWorks' New Works Online Festival are available at [theatreworks.org/new-works-initiative/nwfo/](https://theatreworks.org/new-works-initiative/nwfo/).

*Contributing Writer John Orr can be emailed at [johnorr@regardingarts.com](mailto:johnorr@regardingarts.com).*



David Green

**Lisa Ramirez's "pas de deux (lost my shoe)"** will be digitally presented in TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's New Works Festival Online.

# Food & Drink

## HOW A PANDEMIC PASSION PROJECT IS HELPING A 'NEIGHBORHOOD PIZZA GUY' CONNECT WITH HIS COMMUNITY

By Kate Bradshaw

What started out as a pandemic passion project for Atherton resident Matt Burr has quickly grown into what could be something more.

Burr, formerly the creative director of a small apparel startup, said he started dabbling with baking pizzas last year during the pandemic partly to save money.

"It was hard for me to find a pizza that I enjoyed and wanted to spend \$30 on," he said in an interview. "I figured I could make them at home for a lot less."

Each Sunday night, he said, he would bake two pizzas. And each week, he'd come up with a few ideas of things he'd like to change. He'd often only make it until Tuesday before he'd feel compelled to try again.

At a certain point, he said, he began making more pizza than he could eat. Then, when he was laid off in February, he began to dedicate more time to the craft.

After about nine months of experimentation, he said, he reached out to the community via the neighborhood-based social media app Nextdoor, figuring he might get a couple of people interested in trying out his pizzas.

Eight days later, he said, he's been floored by the response. "I've had countless people contact me," he said. "I'm now completely booked for April."

"I have been happier doing this over the past week than I had been at my job previously," he said. "I would like to see what I can do to build this up into a business."

Though he worked at a tennis club for a few years in college pouring beers and helping out at the snack shack, most of Burr's food experience is self-taught as a recreational chef and baker, he said.

"I've watched nothing but the Food Network for the last year," he added.

The pizzas are made one at a time, and the project is still very much a cottage operation out of a small studio in Atherton. The dough takes 24 hours to rise so that's started the day before, and each morning he sanitizes and prepares his small kitchen to spend the rest of the day making pizzas, he said.

"I make each pizza the way I



Magali Gauthier

**Matt Burr**, an Atherton resident who taught himself to make pizza during the pandemic, says he's been overwhelmed by positive responses after offering tastings to the community.

would want it, and I think that resonates with people," he said.

After the dough has risen, he opens them into "skins" — a term for the unbaked pizza base.

He adds the toppings, and as they're going into the oven, he sings each pizza a little song.

The song changes based on his mood, he said, but it's generally a lullaby-type tune with words that go something like "Okay little pizza, you're going to get baked. You're going to have a good time. You're gonna be tasty," he said.

"It keeps me bouncing around, it keeps my energy up a little bit, and maybe the pizzas like it," he said.

As a one-man operation, he's unable to deliver the pizzas, but people are invited to pick them up from him. His next priority, he said, is to find a larger kitchen to bake more pizzas.

He was drawn to the simplicity of pizza — the dough is just salt, water, yeast and flour, yet is complicated to get just right, he said. And while his pizzas so far have been New York style, he's

eager to explore Chicago-style deep dish, thin crust and gluten-free iterations.

Burr moved to the area from Eugene, Oregon, about three years ago and has struggled to find a sense of community, or even a neighborhood spot to have a beer and chitchat with regulars, he said.

In Atherton, people are friendly one-on-one, he said, but there's not always a lot of smiling and waving while he's out walking down the street. Getting the opportunity to meet residents face to face "has been pretty great," he said.

"In the last week, I've had more interaction with my neighbors and the community at large than I have in my previous three years of living here in the Bay," he said.

Since reaching out to the community looking for pizza testers, a wide range of people have offered their aid and support: A man who works in the bakery supply business gave him a 50 pound bag of flour, a woman who does recipe testing offered

advice, and a few others have told him that if he wants to "take this to the next level" they want to help.

"It's that kind of response, that people are willing to give me a shot ... it's been humbling and it gives me a sense of pride where I live now."

People can reach Burr at neighborhoodpizzaguy@gmail.com. ☐

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



Magali Gauthier

**A bacon**, roasted garlic, spinach and onion pizza by "Neighborhood Pizza Guy" Matt Burr.

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**MORGAN HILL | \$1,150,000**

In the exclusive community of Holiday Lake Estates lies this gorgeous 3br/2ba home on a private, half acre lot. This updated & move-in ready home is an entertainer's dream. Relax on one of the 3 decks that offer some of the most incredible views in all of Morgan Hill, including a rooftop deck that boasts unobstructed views into San Jose. With room for RV and boat parking, this home is a must see!

**Denean Richards**  
408.779.5000  
denean.richards@cbnorcal.com  
CalRE #01995846



**PALO ALTO | \$4,980,000**

Newly constructed 5BR/3BA home w/10 ft ceilings, hardwood floors, expansive windows. Kitchen w/Thermador appliances, Krion counters & huge island.

**Jinny Ahn**  
650.833.9439  
jinny.ahn@cbnorcal.com  
CalRE #01158424



**NEVADA CITY | \$1,100,000**

Single level home in peaceful & private setting features gorgeous landscaping, 3 fireplaces, granite counters, 2 master suites, office & 4 car garage.

**Alicia Higgins-Lewis**  
916.802.8336  
alicia.higgins-lewis@camoves.com  
CalRE #00886702



**UKIAH | \$550,000**

Exceptional 3br/2ba home on large lot w/9 ft. ceilings. Minutes to Lake Mendocino & Chekaka Recreation area!

**Sheila Lawrence**  
707.478.7240  
sheila.lawrence@cbnorcal.com  
CalRE #01301026



**PEBBLE BEACH | \$2,699,000**

4br/4ba home close to the beach w/an open plan, vaulted ceilings & views with plenty of windows & skylights.

**Debora Sanders**  
831.626.2222  
debora.sanders@cbnorcal.com  
CalRE #01966114



**SAN JOSE | \$849,950**

Welcome to this wonderful 2 Bed/1Bath starter home with a backyard boasting a deck, fruit trees and a garden.

**Rick Weiss**  
408.355.1500  
rick.weiss@cbnorcal.com  
CalRE #00924227