

# The Almanac

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

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## Following a frantic year, Pets In Need gradually reopens to animal lovers

By Gennady Sheyner

Ever since Pets In Need took over Palo Alto's animal adoption services in late 2018, it has been operating in an atmosphere of change and uncertainty.

The nonprofit, which also operates a shelter in Redwood City, took over operations of the municipal shelter on East Bayshore Road with the understanding that the city would soon be upgrading the shelter, which has been deemed shabby by modern standards. While the city completed construction of the shelter's medical suite in September, plans to build new kennels remain in flux, with the project facing a funding gap of about \$500,000, according to city staff.

But the ability of Pets In Need to adapt to difficult circumstances was tested in an unprecedented

way last year, when shelter-in-place orders due to COVID-19 swept through California. In the first week of March 2020, the nonprofit instantly transformed itself from a full-fledged shelter to a remote operation that both tended to the hundreds of animals in its care and served the hundreds of Bay Area residents who suddenly found themselves sheltering at home and aching for companionship.

Immediately after deciding to shut down its facilities, Pets In Need sent out urgent emails informing people about the imminent closure of the animal shelters. Within 48 hours, nearly all 150 animals in the organization's Redwood City and Palo Alto shelters were placed with foster households, said Al Mollica, the organization's executive director.



Daniela Beltran B.

See **PETS IN NEED**, page 18

**A dog** sits on a blanket in his outdoor cage at the Palo Alto animal shelter on June 15.

## When hazards collide: How local food systems are adjusting to a changing world

By Kate Bradshaw

On March 6, 2020, — just 10 days before the COVID-19 pandemic triggered California's shelter-in-place order and upended the world as we knew it, the Environmental Justice and the Common Good initiative convened a workshop with about 38 groups from public health, community-based groups and local farms to discuss food justice locally.

There, where handshakes were swapped for elbow bumps and a buffet lunch became a bagged one, the event planted the seeds for connections and relationships between organizations that would flourish through a disruptive year and grow into

what's now known as the South Bay Food Justice Collaborative, according to Christopher Bacon, associate professor of environmental studies at Santa Clara University. Bacon co-founded the Environmental Justice and the Common Good Initiative at the university, which focuses on doing research that engages the community on pressing topics related to environmental justice.

The event, which included the University of California Cooperative Extension and community-based food justice groups like Fresh Approach, La Mesa Verde, Valle Verde and Veggielution, was about the "last in-person event that happened on our campus before the lockdown started," said Bacon.

Members of the collaborative have continued to meet every two weeks, and it hasn't been led by any particular group or entity, he said. Partly because of that, he reasoned, organizations let their guards down and the competition that often builds up between nonprofits, particularly those forced to battle over too little funding from too few sources, dissolved in the face of the regional hunger crisis. The regular meetings enabled the groups to network and start their own collaborations.

As communities emerge from the pandemic, local thought leaders like Bacon are asking whether this is a turning point that could trigger a revolution that changes local food systems for the better,

or whether the hazards that farms face — not just in recovering from the pandemic but from the looming impacts of climate change — pose an existential threat.

It's a salient question not just for farmers and those in the food industry but eaters, too, especially as the current drought makes headlines and dry conditions worsen the likelihood of devastating fire seasons to come.

### Innovations

Across the South Bay, there are innovations sprouting up aimed at tackling different problems in the food system, specifically around the nexus of farm foods, food waste and food aid.

On the more conceptual side of the spectrum, there are growing initiatives to both declare food as a human right statewide or treat food as medicine.

Earlier this year, state Sen. Melissa Hurtado of District 14 — an area of California that includes parts of Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare counties — proposed Senate Bill 108, which asserts: "Every human being has a right to access sufficient, healthy and affordable food."

One-third of global food production is at risk due to climate change, according to Hurtado. Given rising costs of energy, a growing population in California and shifting land usage, "We

See **FOOD SYSTEMS**, page 21

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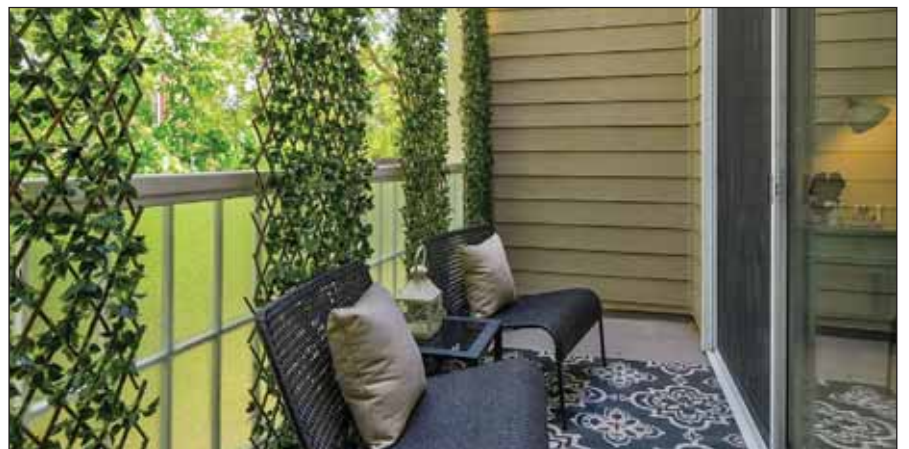


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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Daniela Beltran B.

**Dr. Robert Sinha** stands next to Ethos, a new radiation treatment device that he says is sparing patients from the side effects of fighting cancer.

## New cancer-fighting tech is leaving patients with fewer side effects

Ethos radiation device uses AI tech to avoid harming healthy tissue

By Kevin Forestieri

**B**lasting cancer patients with a beam of radiation is an imperfect science. It's a life-saving technique that's bound to damage healthy tissue along the way, leaving patients feeling sick or worse.

But a breakthrough device in the world of radiation treatment is practically eliminating those side effects, easing the pain that has long been a

necessary part of treating cancer. The device, called Ethos, has been used on dozens of patients at El Camino Hospital, and so far the results have been a game-changer.

"There is a tremendous difference," said Dr. Robert Sinha, El Camino's radiation oncology medical director. "We're just not seeing the typical side effects that we would encounter for these patients. They're sailing through it."

El Camino began using Ethos in April of this year, making it the first hospital in California and the fifth in the country to use the device. The futuristic-looking pentagonal machine, with its sleek backlit silver frame, serves as both a CT scanner and a linear accelerator that fires a photon beam at cancerous tumors.

What sets Ethos apart and

See **CANCER TECH**, page 22

## Menlo Park council OKs new police spending on traffic enforcement

By Kate Bradshaw

**A**t its June 22 meeting, the Menlo Park City Council hashed out whether to accept a grant award for the police department to resume traffic programs aimed at providing education and enforcement around impaired driving.

It might have been a simple item approved without discussion on the city's consent calendar, but council members took some time to discuss how to move forward with police spending without first hosting

the long-awaited community discussion of policing in Menlo Park.

About a year ago, those community conversations had just started when then-police Chief Dave Bertini abruptly resigned, delaying further talks until a new chief was selected. Chief Dave Norris, who became head of the Menlo Park Police Department about two months ago, has been getting to know the department and community, he said in a recent interview.

In the meantime, the police department was awarded

\$376,660 from California's Cannabis Tax Fund grant program to deter impaired driving in the city. However, it remained up to the City Council to decide whether those funds should be accepted.

Vice Mayor Betsy Nash initially said she would vote against accepting the funds because she didn't want to make decisions about police funding until a community conversation could be held to discuss policing matters citywide. While that

See **POLICE**, page 18

## Stanford dropouts aim to make buying and selling used outdoors gear easy

By Kate Bradshaw

**T**he friendship of two Stanford University undergrads — and future business co-founders — started off with a series of outdoor misadventures.

The first expedition that Alex Friedman of Menlo Park and Sasha Landauer of New York City shared as Stanford sophomores was a "terrible" surfing trip where Landauer said she almost drowned in Pacifica. Novices, they picked a challenging day to try surfing at Linda Mar and got yelled at by other surfers and roughed up by the waves.

Later, they went backpacking together, and one of them forgot a sleeping bag.

It wasn't until a couple of years ago, when both undergrads became frustrated at the limited options for selling and reselling gear, that the seeds were planted for what would become Switchbackr, a new online platform for selling used outdoors gear.

At the time, Friedman said he was looking for somewhere to sell extra camping gear and buy a bike and couldn't find any online platform where he could easily do both. And Landauer, who used to work at the rock climbing gym at Stanford, said that she observed that selling gear among undergrads was a messy process that involved blasting emails to large numbers of students asking if anyone was interested in a size 42 pair of climbing shoes, for example.

From there, Friedman started working on the online platform that would become Switchbackr, receiving guidance from the Palo Alto-based Pear VC accelerator program for student entrepreneurs.

The week the pandemic triggered shelter-in-place orders and Stanford sent students home last March was the week the company got its first investment, and the two took a leave of absence to develop Switchbackr. (Since then, Landauer has graduated from Stanford, so only Friedman can claim the illustrious Silicon Valley title of dropout startup founder, the two joked.)

Fast forward a global pandemic later, and the startup is growing. They're a lean team of five, including two gap-year students who will be Stanford freshmen and a marketing employee.

Their business so far has two elements: an online platform where people can sell high-quality used outdoor gear from anywhere, and the "GEARage Sale" program, which is being piloted locally.

Through the GEARage program, Switchbackr collects high-quality used outdoors gear from nearby garages, sells it on the platform and then ships the items on behalf of the customer. They take a 40% cut of each sale.

Friedman said he wanted to start the pilot in his hometown for several reasons.

Born at Stanford Hospital and a graduate of Laurel, Encinal and Menlo-Atherton High schools, Friedman said he decided to test out the GEARage program in Menlo Park and its nearby communities, including Palo Alto, Atherton and Portola Valley — representative of a relatively dense urban area with a big market of potential sellers, and an area where people are generally outdoorsy but not a supermajority of residents are (unlike other communities that were considered like Park City, Utah, or Big Sky, Montana). The theory is that if the GEARage model works in the Bay Area, it could work in most metro areas of the U.S., they said.

Friedman said lots of Bay Area folks are not just outdoorsy but very busy. Some likely have high-quality gear, some of which they don't use frequently. And they're probably too busy to sell it, but still want to get some money from it, so it ends up sitting in the garage.

Instead of having the hassle of putting the item up for sale on Craigslist, coordinating with people to buy it and haggling over the price, Switchbackr's GEARage program is trying to "completely eliminate that friction," Friedman said.

"Sellers get rid of stuff, and they still make a little money off of it," he said.

See **STARTUP**, page 14

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The Architectural and Site Review Board reviews and makes recommendations to the Planning Director regarding community character, site planning, building design and landscape elements on residential and commercial applications.

During COVID-19, the ASRB meets virtually on the first and third Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

Interested residents may request information and applications from the Town Clerk, Jennifer Li, by e-mailing [jli@woodsidetown.org](mailto:jli@woodsidetown.org).

#### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Friday, July 2, 2021, by 5:00 p.m.

INTERVIEW AND APPOINTMENT BY TOWN  
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**NOTICE IS GIVEN** pursuant to Sections 5473, et. seq. of the California Health and Safety Code that the District Board of West Bay Sanitary District has, by general regulation, elected to collect its charges for sewer services for FY 2021-2022 on the tax roll in the same manner as general taxes and will cause to be filed with its Secretary a written report containing a description of each parcel of real property receiving sanitary sewer service from the District and the amount of the charge for each parcel.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that on Wednesday evening, July 14, 2021 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. at the meeting room located at the District's offices, located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA or by Zoom or telephone <https://zoom.us/j/98889306440?pwd=OFVYVWJbNnAGFobyFTmQwRU1zZGZlZQT09>

Meeting ID: 988 8930 6440 Passcode: 677645 Telephone 1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 988 8930 6440 Passcode: 677645 the District Board will conduct a Public Hearing to hear and consider all protests and objections, if any, to the report.

Anyone wishing to address the District Board concerning these matters may do so in writing at or before the date of the Public Hearing or may be heard at the time of the Board's meeting.

Dated: May 26, 2021

/s/ Sergio Ramirez  
Sergio Ramirez  
District Manager

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## CRIME BRIEFS

### Man stabbed outside bar

A 23-year-old man suffered serious injuries over the weekend after being stabbed in a fight outside a bar in unincorporated Redwood City, authorities said.

The stabbing was reported shortly after 2 a.m. Saturday in front of Mazzocco's Club at 2808 Middlefield Road, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

The victim was stabbed during a fight involving several people, and three to four males were seen fleeing in a dark luxury sedan, the Sheriff's Office said.

The man was hospitalized with serious injuries that were not considered life-threatening.

Investigators believe the stabbing was targeted and based on a personal dispute.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact Detective Wang at 650-363-4055. Anonymous tips may be left at the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office anonymous tipline, 1-800-547-2700.

—Bay City News Service

### Group steals \$50K worth of handbags

The RealReal became the latest store targeted in a string of expensive handbag thefts in Palo Alto on Monday after a coordinated group of seven men raided the retailer's downtown store, police said Tuesday.

A security guard at the 379 University Ave. store called police

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 9

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Courtesy J. Ennis Kirkland Creative Design

### Woodside Priory graduates on June 5.

### Woodside Priory graduates its 61st class

Woodside Priory's Upper School held a graduation ceremony on June 5 for its seniors.

Priory class of 2005 alum Humphrey Yang spoke at the commencement for the day and boarding school, which was established in 1957.

The ceremony was also livestreamed.

In 2020, the Portola Valley school held a drive-in commencement amid the pandemic. Masked students could exit their cars to accept their diplomas on stage when their names were called.

### Woodside Elementary School graduates eighth graders

Some 46 eighth graders graduated from Woodside Elementary School on the evening of June 11 in the school's amphitheater.

Tyler Rattner spoke on "Making a Difference," Sawyer Linnell spoke on "A Class of Mythic Proportions" and Ana Guzman's speech was entitled "Till We Meet Again," according to a school press release.

The class of 2021 chose "Memories" by Maroon 5 as their class song, which they sang accompanied by Siena de Heer on guitar and Leah Triantos on piano.

Emma Zwaanstra and Leah also performed an original song titled "The Way."

Ethan Butler, Henry Hutchinson, de Heer and Amelia Muller presented the class gift, which is a new sofa for the teacher break room, the release states.

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 14

# Coronavirus central: State rolls out digital COVID-19 vaccination records

Fully vaccinated workers allowed to forego masks

By Embarcadero Media staff

## State launches digital COVID-19 vaccination records

Vaccinated state residents can now access their vaccine record digitally through a tool introduced last week by California's Department of Public Health and Department of Technology.

The digital record can be accessed at [myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov](http://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov) and requires residents to input their name, date of birth, phone number or email address and a four-digit PIN.

Users will then receive a link to their digital record, which has the same information as the physical Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccination record card given out when people receive their shots, as well as a QR code that can be scanned to show the same information.

Officials with the two departments stressed that the digital record would not be used as a so-called vaccine passport and is an alternative way for vaccinated residents to confirm their status when entering a business or event.

"More than 22 million Californians are now at least partially vaccinated, with nearly 20 million fully vaccinated," state epidemiologist Dr. Erica Pan said in a briefing on the tool.

"The odds are someone is going to misplace their paper CDC card and the digital COVID-19 vaccine record provides a convenient

backup," Pan said.

The state Department of Technology's Office of Enterprise Technology designed the tool in-house, according to the office's Deputy Director Rick Klau.

Klau also noted that QR code readers will only be able to see the information present on the digital vaccine card and will not be able to store that information.

"They will see as if they were looking at the CDC card but it does not permit the creation of a copy of that information for storage," Klau said.

The state also has no plans to launch its own mobile app that would verify vaccine record QR codes, Klau said, although state officials are in talks about the possibility of a trusted QR code verification system that is compliant with the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council, which oversees the security of credit and debit cards.

Vaccinated people who need to correct or update their vaccination record can do so at [cdph.ca.gov/covidvaccinerecord](http://cdph.ca.gov/covidvaccinerecord) or contact the state's COVID-19 hotline at 833-422-4255.

## New rules allow vaccinated workers to forego masks

Fully vaccinated workers will no longer be required to wear a face mask regardless of whether their co-workers are unvaccinated following new guidance June 17 from the state's workplace safety agency.

The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health's Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board voted to adopt new workplace masking and safety rules for the second time in two weeks, allowing fully vaccinated workers to forego wearing a mask if they document their vaccination status.

All employees will also not be required to wear a mask when working outdoors regardless of their vaccination status.

After the board's vote, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order to make the new rules effective at 12:01 a.m. June 18 rather than after 10 days as normally required for workplace safety changes.

"We're turning the page," Newsom said during a briefing about both Cal/OSHA's guidelines and the state's reopening in general. "No more capacity limits, no more modifications, no more issues around physical and social distancing and now we are aligning with (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines."

The new rules will require unvaccinated workers to continue wearing a mask indoors as they've been required to do throughout the pandemic.

Fully vaccinated employees will also not be required by the state to get tested for COVID-19 or quarantine if they are asymptomatic.

Employers must continue

See **CORONAVIRUS**, page 18

# Toll collection for Highway 101 express lanes to start at year's end

Drivers will need a FasTrak toll tag to use the new U.S. Highway 101 express lanes scheduled to open in San Mateo County at the end of 2021.

The board of directors of the San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority adopted a toll ordinance at their meeting last Friday. The ordinance establishes toll collection and enforcement policies for the new express lanes.

Construction of new lanes began in March 2019 as part of Caltrans' San Mateo 101 Express Lanes Project, which aims to reduce traffic and travel times and encourage carpooling.

Lanes in the first phase of the project, from the Santa Clara County line to Whipple Avenue in Redwood City, are scheduled

to open at the end of 2021.

Tolls will be charged through the FasTrak system, and customers will need a FasTrak Flex toll tag to use the express lanes. The Flex tag allows people to show how many passengers are in the vehicle.

Certain vehicles will be eligible to travel toll-free or for a discounted rate in the express lanes. For example, vehicles with three or more people are exempt from tolls.

Other vehicles — such as motorcycles, public transportation vehicles, emergency vehicles and California Highway Patrol vehicles — will also be exempt from paying tolls. These vehicles will still need a FasTrak toll tag.

Vehicles with two people can receive a 50% toll discount, along with some clean air vehicles, or

CAVs, with a valid CAV decal from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

People without a FasTrak toll tag could face fines or penalties that include the cost of the toll and an additional fee in some cases.

Toll costs will be adjusted to keep traffic flowing smoothly, depending on demand and traffic patterns.

The board plans to revisit the discount before the second phase of the express lanes opens at the end of 2022. The second phase of lanes are from Whipple Avenue to Interstate Highway 380 in South San Francisco.

More information on the San Mateo 101 Express Lanes Project is available online at [dot.ca.gov](http://dot.ca.gov).

—Bay City News Service

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### The Most Important First Step for Buyers

**Dear Monica: We plan to move to the Bay Area later this year and have been looking online at what is available. However we don't really know where and how to start this process. What would you advise? Sarah T.**

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# Santa Clara County, open space district seek to protect ridge from mining

Permanente Ridge provides a buffer from Lehigh Cement mining dust, unsightly operations, county officials and environmentalists say

By Sue Dremann

Santa Clara County and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District last week proposed to join forces to protect a portion of ridgetop in the Santa Cruz Mountains from mining.

Known as Permanente Ridge, the mountain top is a buffer from the Lehigh Southwest Cement Company's operations. Lehigh wants to amend its 2012 Reclamation Plan for Lehigh Permanente Quarry to increase mining. As part of the amendment, the proposal asks to disturb an area of the ridge that is about 100 vertical feet in height — about as high as a 10-story building — and 4,000 feet across. That's the equivalent of an area containing 15 million cubic yards of earth that would, for scale, fill about 1.8 million regular-sized cement trucks if it were removed, county Supervisor Joe Simitian said.

The proposal would effectively “chop the top off” the roughly 20-acre easement, which is protected by a nearly 50-year-old agreement.

“That easement is a matter of law. It is a protection for that hillside,” Simitian said.

On Tuesday, June 22, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to have county counsel enter into discussions with Midpen to grant it

enforcement powers associated with the Ridgeline Protection Easement to the district and to report back to the board with an agreement on Aug. 17. The motion also directs staff to clarify the enforcement and obligations and provide precise calculations regarding how much of the ridgetop would be disturbed.

Midpen's board of directors was set to take up discussion on the alliance with the county during its meeting on Wednesday, June 23, after *The Almanac's* press deadline.

The 1972 Ridgeline Protection Easement was made between Lehigh's predecessor, Kaiser Cement and Gypsum Corporation, and the county. It forbids quarrying and mining in the easement area, a roughly 3,000-foot-long section, and requires Kaiser and its successors to maintain portions of the ridgeline at specific elevations. It also allows the county to enter the property for inspections “from time to time” regarding preservation of the ridgeline easement.

Granting Midpen enforcement rights would give the county more “eyes on the site and boots on the ground,” Simitian said. It would add a second line of defense in the effort to have Lehigh honor its commitment to the grant deed, Simitian added.

Midpen has legal expertise related to land rights and

management and owns property that is adjacent to the easement: the district's Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve in Cupertino, which has more than 800,000 visitors a year, Midpen board member Yoriko Kishimoto said. Permanente Ridge provides a natural screen from the quarry, helps limit dust from mining operations from spilling into the open space and provides habitat for wildlife, she said.

In its May 2019 proposal to amend its 2012 Reclamation Plan for Lehigh Permanente Quarry, Lehigh said it wants to mine additional limestone from the area and to cut back the slope for stabilization along its north highwall section of the quarry. It also sought to modify the easement agreement to accomplish its goals.

The company wants to expand excavation of the north highwall of the North Quarry Pit; expand surface mining in the new 30-acre Rock Plant Reserve Area south of the North Quarry Pit; reactivate use of the quarry's existing rock crusher; and haul unprocessed aggregate to the adjacent Stevens Creek Quarry through an internal haul road. The expanded surface mining activities would increase its total production by approximately 600,000 tons, according to a December 2020 memo from the county Department of Planning and Development.

The county sent Lehigh a “completion” letter in August 2019 indicating the application for the 2012 Reclamation Plan Amendment could move to an environmental review, but that process has stalled, with both sides pointing blame on each other.

## A debate over ‘vested’ mining rights’

In 2011, the county made a “vested rights” determination regarding which of Lehigh's lands can be mined. Lehigh wants to expand its surface mining operations to include unprocessed greenstone aggregate, a point of contention between the company and the county. The county maintains that Lehigh needs a vested rights consistency hearing to define whether the proposed off-site sale of unprocessed aggregate and intensification in production are consistent with the company's vested rights for surface mining under the 2012 Reclamation Plan.

Lehigh has said that the 2011 determination is adequate. The county, however, said the determination focused on the “geographic extent” of Lehigh's vested right, but it did not delineate the “substantive scope” of that right, meaning which surface mining and related activities are consistent with the vested right, according to the December 2020 memo.

Lehigh claims the county is violating provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act by unilaterally modifying a private project. The company filed a lawsuit against the county in Santa Clara County Superior Court this past February.

The county claims Lehigh has been dragging its heels on moving the environmental impact report (EIR) process forward. According to the county, on Oct. 28 and Nov. 13 of 2020, Lehigh submitted letters to the Department of Planning and Development declining to provide comments on the EIR's “scope of work” or funds to initiate preparation of the report. Lehigh claimed the scope of work did not reflect the project it submitted because the EIR proposed evaluating the environmental impacts of mining activities that would be considered by the Board of Supervisors at the vested rights consistency hearing.

Lehigh wanted the planning department to limit the EIR scope only to the proposed 2019 Reclamation Plan Amendment application, not to have the EIR evaluate the results of the county's vested rights consistency determination, according to the county's December 2020 memo.

## Who's to blame?

Erika Guerra, director of environmental and land resource management for parent company Lehigh Hanson's West Region, disputed the county's claims in a written statement on June 18.

“While Lehigh has not had the opportunity to review the specifics of the County's proposal to involve the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, we value the expertise that MOSD (sic) can provide to the technical review of our reclamation plan application and hope that the process can begin in earnest.”

Despite the county's statements made to the contrary, Guerra said the company has proposed solutions to the ridgeline through its current application.

“The County is blocking the application by attempting to challenge its own final determination of our long-established vested rights, which were also upheld by the Courts. The County must stop delaying the robust environmental review and community outreach process we have initiated and move forward on our application, she said.

“Lehigh agrees with the importance of protecting our precious natural resources, including the ridgeline in our Quarry. We have demonstrated this commitment by submitting an amendment that will preserve the easement,” she said.

“To be clear, the easement will remain,” she added.

But the ridgetop would not be left undisturbed. Lehigh has “proposed solutions (that) were developed by geotechnical experts to preserve it for the long term and include enhanced revegetation and stability,” she said.

Eddie Venancio, business representative of the Teamsters Local 853, and Jim Riley, district representative of Operating Engineers Local 3, said during Thursday's press conference that Lehigh has scaled down operations and required less labor, which adds more questions as to why the company now wants to expand mining at the quarry.

The parent company, Lehigh Hanson, part of the global Heidelberg Cement Group, sold all of its western states operations to Martin Marietta Materials Inc. in late May for \$2.3 billion in cash, except for the Permanente site, the union leaders noted.

A request sent to the company for verification of whether its Cupertino quarry operations were excluded from the sale has not been returned. ▀

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

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# Stanford reopens outdoor campus spaces to the public

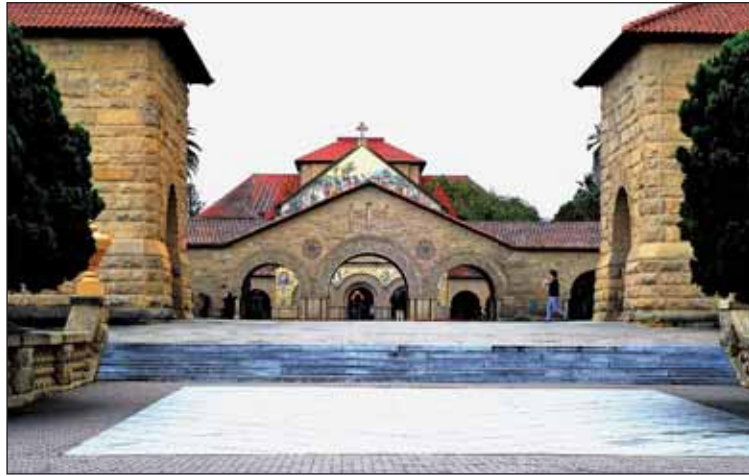
After nine and a half months of tightly controlled access to its campus, Stanford University is again allowing the general public to enjoy its outdoor spaces effective Wednesday, June 16.

The lifting of restrictions coincides with the state's reopening June 15, when social distancing and capacity rules were dropped in most situations and masking requirements are now governed by vaccination status.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Stanford last September banned visitors unaffiliated with its academic programs from entering much of its campus, a sweeping restriction that university leaders said was necessary to resume research and teaching in the fall quarter.

Entrance to the university's designated "academic zones" — which included most of the campus area between Junipero Serra Boulevard and El Camino Real, including the Quad, the Oval, Lake Lagunita and the university's playing fields — was limited to approved faculty, staff, postdocs and students.

The "arts district," which includes the Rodin Sculpture Garden, Cantor Arts Center,



Embarcadero Media file photo

**Stanford University** reopened its outdoor campus spaces to the public on Wednesday after restricting access to the Quad, shown above, and other areas for nine and half months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

the Anderson Collection, Frost Amphitheater and Bing Concert Hall, also became off-limits to the general public, as were areas just east and west of central campus that include student housing, academic and cultural facilities.

Members of the community have been allowed only on the Campus Perimeter Trail and Campus Drive, the Dish hiking trail, the Arboretum, Sand Hill Fields, the Stanford Golf Course and the Stanford Golf

Course Learning Center and Driving Range. Visitors found anywhere else on campus were asked to leave by university safety personnel.

"We deeply appreciate how the Stanford community and our neighbors adjusted to the campus zones program so we could safely and gradually bring back more in-person teaching and research activities during the COVID-19 pandemic," Stanford President Marc Tessier-Lavigne said in a statement last week.

"It is encouraging that public health conditions have improved sufficiently that we can now welcome more people back to our campuses," Tessier-Lavigne said.

The restoration of access to open spaces is the latest stage of the campus' reopening. Restrictions to the university's arts district and the athletics zone were lifted in April.

Access to many indoor facilities will remain limited after June 16, however, in order to maintain appropriate health and safety precautions, the university's announcement stated.

Parking at the main campus is returning to weekday enforcement for commuter and visitor parking. Most visitor spaces will be enforced from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays or according to posted signage. Most commuter spaces will be enforced between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Hourly visitor parking permits will be available for purchase through the ParkMobile app or website, according to the announcement.

Stanford Transportation will provide details about returning to weekday commuter and visitor parking enforcement,

including links to purchase parking spots.

While the public continued to use the Dish hiking trail since last fall, the one-way traffic flow that was instituted to ensure physical distancing ended June 16. Hikers will not be required to wear masks unless they cannot maintain 6 feet of distance between themselves and those from different households. People should continue staying to the right of the path unless passing, the university advised.

Because the drinking fountain at the Dish is turned off, visitors are encouraged to bring their own water. Hikers should also avoid gathering in groups and use the gate entrances according to ground markings.

In terms of campus COVID-19 protocols, the university is continuing to evaluate evolving guidance from Cal/OSHA (the state Division of Occupational Safety and Health), which could result in changes to requirements for face coverings, physical distancing and density for the campus community. Current university guidance is available at [healthalerts.stanford.edu/covid-19/](https://stanford.edu/covid-19/).

— Palo Alto Weekly staff

## CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

on June 21 shortly before 6 p.m. to report the theft, which took place while the luxury consignment store near Waverley Street was open. Officers responded immediately but the men had already fled, Palo Alto police said in a press release.

Five men entered the store and began ripping handbags from security cables, according to police. The store's on-duty security officer, who is in his 30s, attempted to block their exit, but the group pushed him out of the way.

The security officer followed them out of the store, where he was confronted by two other men who had stayed outside during the theft. One man demanded the other to "pull the gun" and the second man allegedly told the security officer, "Don't make me pull the gun." The security officer didn't see a weapon, police said.

The seven men ran east on University Avenue. The security officer reported hearing tires screeching from vehicles on Waverley Street, but didn't see them.

Employees estimated the group stole about 20 handbags with a total value of more than \$50,000, police said.

The security officer and

another employee, a woman in her 20s, described the group as Black men in their early 20s. All were wearing face coverings and clothing with the hoods up. Police will not be releasing any surveillance images of the incident; the footage would not aid in the identification of the men, they said.

Palo Alto officers are working with regional law enforcement agencies to find out if the same group of individuals might be connected to any similar shoplifting incidents in other cities, police said.

Investigators are exploring whether Monday's theft is associated with two other recent, similar cases that occurred at Stanford Shopping Center in Palo Alto at Neiman Marcus on May 19, when a coordinated group stole \$150,000 worth of handbags, and on June 7 at Louis Vuitton, which lost \$100,000 in a similar heist.

Anyone with information about Monday's shoplifting incident is asked to call the department's 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413. Anonymous tips can be emailed to [paloalto@tipnow.org](mailto:paloalto@tipnow.org) or sent by text message or voicemail to 650-383-8984. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through the police's free mobile app at [bit.ly/PAPD-App-Store](https://bit.ly/PAPD-App-Store) or [bit.ly/PAPD-GooglePlay](https://bit.ly/PAPD-GooglePlay).

—Sue Dremann

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# Man facing 10 felonies for allegedly profiting off sex trafficking over 100 women

By Sue Dremann

David Davies led a quiet life in his Palo Alto home for more than 20 years, but an investigative report by the Milpitas Police Department and the Department of State Diplomatic Security Service alleges he and his current wife trafficked more than 100 women in Santa Clara County over six years as part of a nationwide operation.

Davies, 57, and his wife, Larong Hu, 38, have been charged with 10 felony counts that include conspiracy, pimping and pandering to procure another for prostitution. They were arrested last week at their Milpitas home after a two-year investigation.

Davies, whose LinkedIn page shows that he has been employed for 16 years as a principal engineer at San Jose-based software company Broadcom, owns a home in Palo Alto near Eleanor Pardee Park, according to county records.

Broadcom said in an emailed statement: "We are taking this matter very seriously and hold our employees to the highest

standards of integrity and accountability. We are thoroughly reviewing these allegations and will take appropriate action upon the completion of that review."

Neighbors said they were surprised by the arrest. He had lived in the home since 2002 with a five-year gap when he and his former wife were separating, neighbor Carli Scott recalled.

The wife and their children continued to live in the home until about 2018, when Davies returned and became the sole occupant for about 18 months to two years, she said. Despite his long presence in the neighborhood, little was known about him, she added.

"He was not close to anyone in the neighborhood," said Scott, who added that she never noticed anything unusual such as a brothel at the one-story, four-bedroom house.

"I'm sure I would've noticed if people were coming and going," she said. "It's been a shock to everyone in the neighborhood. There are just six homes on this street. He kept pretty much to himself."

This summer he began renovating the house, and it was clear it was empty, she added.

## Details of the investigation

The investigation into Davies and Hu was launched more than two years ago by a complaint regarding a brothel they allegedly ran at a Milpitas apartment building. Milpitas police sought to infiltrate the brothel but were unsuccessful because only people with "referrals" were allowed in, according to the report, which was filed in Santa Clara County Superior Court. The brothels also moved from apartment to apartment, making it difficult to bust the inhabitants.

Police learned through a trail of social media posts on sex websites, advertising in a regional newspaper and texts and emails that the couple's alleged sex-trafficking operation actually began in 2015. Women were largely procured from the People's Republic of China but also from South Korea and eastern Europe. Once they arrived, the women were placed on a scheduled circuit of travel from brothel to brothel in different cities across the U.S. The workers stayed at the locations for one week, were not allowed to leave the location and performed sex acts for money with as many as 10 to 15 customers each day, according to the investigation.

The report doesn't say how the couple linked to the other prostitution operations throughout the country and shared the women on the circuit. A spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Security Service, which is involved in the investigation with the Milpitas Police Department, said they can't comment because the investigation is ongoing.

The investigation narrative does offer a glimpse into how

the operation worked, however. Over six years, Davies and Hu allegedly set up five known brothels in apartments in Milpitas and San Jose. The first was in 2015 when they rented an apartment at 501 Murphy Ranch Road in Milpitas. The couple often used a "straw renter" who leased the apartment on behalf of the brothel organization, the report states. The straw renter is a person who doesn't live in the apartment but receives some financial incentive or other benefit.

## Women were largely procured from the People's Republic of China but also from South Korea and eastern Europe.

The couple allegedly advertised the women on sites such as WeChat, a Chinese-based social networking platform, and a dedicated website owned by Hu and Davies. The website advertised prices for sex acts and lengths of the "dates" and showed images of scantily clad women.

Davies and Hu also placed ads promoting "new girls every week" between the ages of 19 and 24 in the Sing Tao Daily, an Asian-oriented newspaper largely circulated in the South Bay Asian community, according to the report. Police were able to track brothel apartment locations through those ads.

The brothels accepted payments through Venmo and PayPal accounts that were linked to Hu and her Gmail account.

Investigators linked Davies to the website through an Internet Protocol (IP) address, which was registered to him. They also found multiple text messages between the couple regarding managing and displaying the images of the young women on various known sex websites, according to the report. Police also tracked Davies to a San Jose brothel through GPS data, according to the report.

The yearslong operation was cracked open after the FBI in 2018 seized the website backpage.com in a sex-trafficking investigation by the Justice Department. Through data collected in that investigation, the Diplomatic Security Service investigators found a "lengthy conspiracy" between

Davies and Hu in advertising and operating sex brothels in Santa Clara County from 2015 to the present.

Milpitas police conducted video surveillance of some of the locations and collected evidence such as condoms, in quantities consistent with the number of men seen going in and out of the apartments, from trash dumped by the brothel manager.

Davies and Hu would sometimes close down one brothel and move it to another apartment in the same building, the report states. At one point, they switched apartments with another man; police think both apartments were being used as brothels.

They also allegedly tried to undermine at least one rival brothel operator in Milpitas. In an unrelated investigation, detectives had discovered a brothel at 501 Murphy Ranch Road in another apartment. Video captured Davies and Hu walking through the apartment building and putting notes on apartment doors. After the couple left, police found the typewritten notes, which alerted tenants that a sex brothel was being run out of the rival's apartment and told them to notify San Jose police.

"After reviewing this material, it was clear that David Davies and Larong Hu were attempting to eliminate brothel competition by getting the brothel, located at Unit #125, closed," the investigative report noted.

## Worker was paying for her mother's medical bills

The couple also allegedly ran brothels at apartments in San Jose at 25 Rio Robles East and 320 Crescent Village Circle. One of the sex workers who was arrested in April at the Crescent Village location told investigators from the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office and the federal Diplomatic Security Service how the women were procured and coerced to work.

The woman had come to the U.S. to work and pay for her mother's extensive medical bills, she told investigators. She had traveled to the U.S. with a tour group and paid for her own transportation. While in China, she had found group message boards and chats about massage work prior to arriving in the U.S.

She eventually found a job at a legitimate massage business, but she was lured into the sex work by the group messages on WeChat. The group chats have

See **SEX TRAFFICKING**, page 22

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## OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Stanley W. Sexton**, 98, a longtime Menlo Park resident and former head of the city's parks and recreation department, on May 28; and **Peter Quarré**, 90, a former Menlo Park resident, on June 9.

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

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# High school sports roundup

## Girls lacrosse

Senior Maddie Levey plays defense for the **Sacred Heart Prep** girls lacrosse team and marvels at how her offensive teammates move the ball around.

In the Gators 13-1 victory over visiting Mitty on June 17, Levey and her defensive teammates had plenty to watch.

Thanks in large part to senior Genna Gibbons' ability to win faceoffs, SHP relentlessly attacked the Monarchs.

Sacred Heart Prep (13-3) played such an efficient game, the outcome was never in doubt, and yet the Gators never got ahead of themselves. They continued celebrating every goal and rushed the field when time ran down. The school started celebrating its second Central Coast Section lacrosse title in four days.

And there's only been two such tournaments. The SHP boys won June 14 in San Francisco. The girls got to win on their own field.

"I'm so proud of how we bonded," Levey said. "As a freshman I could never imagine this. We had so few seniors last year that this has been basically the same team for two years and we've grown so much."

That SHP only scored 13 goals is a credit to Mitty, which clogged up the front of the net as best it could. The Gators patiently tossed the ball around looking for openings, always managing to create a small crease or two; not bothering to rush things.

"They always pass to the person who has the best shot," Levey said.

When Levey, Laura Barnds and the rest of the defenders did get a chance, well, allowing one goal (it was 10-0 at halftime) speaks for itself.

Levey, Gibbons, Lauren Hagerly and Kalista Hurel are the only seniors this year. SHP coach Wendy Kridel thinks all four of them could play in college.

Gibbons will be playing competitively for Tufts. Levey said she'll play for the club team at Wisconsin-Madison.

"She's one of the best players to come through this school," Kridel said of Gibbons. "Maybe one of the best on the West Coast. A player of her caliber, who had to make up for starting late, worked so hard at it, not just in practice or club but taking extra reps on her own."

Sacred Heart Prep winning a section title is satisfying for Kridel, but she sees it as only the beginning.

Kridel took over the Sacred Heart Prep program six years ago, after a highly successful coaching career in Maryland, where she won state titles with both private and public schools. The level of interest in lacrosse on the East Coast ranks up there with the

level of interest in Texas football.

"It was an opportunity to help grow the game," Kridel said. "It was the time of life where I had an opportunity to move west and try something different."

"Lacrosse is growing here," Kridel said. "It's an attractive game for females. They get to run around and there's physical play. I want to create an environment where you want to play. These seniors gave up things to continue playing lacrosse together. Now they get to feel what it's like to win something and not just play a league schedule."

The CCS tournament was added motivation this season. It could be NorCals next year.

"You only have one chance to be the first," Kridel said.

"It's very exciting," Levey said. "I knew we could do it because we have such a talented team overall. It was something we talked about at the beginning of the season."

Kridel is also seeing more grads going on to play in college, especially with more opportunities opening up every year.

"It helps that schools want to add the program," she said. "West Coast players are more willing to go to the East Coast than East Coast players are willing to come out west."

Junior Ellie Noto will be headed to Notre Dame, maybe not quite the East Coast but it is the Eastern time zone. Already a co-captain, with Gibbons, she clearly possesses leadership skills that will lead to big things.

It seems the best is yet to come.

## Boys lacrosse

St. Ignatius had just scored four straight goals to open a three-goal lead against **Sacred Heart Prep** in the second quarter of the Central Coast Section first-ever boys lacrosse championship match June 14.

At that point it seemed as though the top-seeded Wildcats, considered the best in the west, were about to hand SHP yet another loss in this, their fifth meeting of the season.

The second-seeded Gators had other plans. Max Sloat scored to snap SI's scoring spree and after the Wildcats tacked on another goal, Kai Lockton stepped up to score twice within a minute. Sloat added another goal 90 seconds before halftime to give SHP a lead it never relinquished.

Eric Bollar took things from there, scoring five of his game-high six goals to lead Sacred Heart Prep past St. Ignatius 17-8 and earning some payback along with bragging rights.

"It's all about communication," SHP co-captain Ben Ramsey said after the Gators beat Los Gatos

in the semifinal. "We hang out together in school, away from school, everywhere. You can't ask for better teammates."

The Gators (17-4) and SI (18-1) beat each other, otherwise both teams have been untouchable this season. Some of them are teammates in club lacrosse.

The second half was a display of defensive dominance. The Wildcats scored first in the second half when a shot hit the inside of a post and bounced free. The officials ruled it crossed the line and there wasn't much argument.

St. Ignatius was held scoreless for the next 12 minutes, 26 seconds, as Ramsey, Paul Barton, Cav Williams, John Carter and others held tight in their defensive zone. That core group also led a stingy Sacred Heart Prep football defense in season one.

"That's the great thing about lacrosse," said Ramsey, who will bring his toughness to Notre Dame in the fall. "There's elements of a lot of different sports: football, basketball, even hockey."

SHP coach Chris Rotelli, who grew up in Rhode Island and was an All-American player at Virginia, has helped grow the sport on the West Coast.

"Tom Barnds, Billy's father, has also been instrumental in developing such a great interest in lacrosse," Ramsey said.

The elder Barnds was a pretty good player in his own right, competing at Princeton, where sons Tommy and Billy carry on the legacy.

Rotelli runs a lacrosse academy and got in touch with him about tryouts. That led to Rotelli being hired at Sacred Heart Prep. Several Wildcats are also under Rotelli's tutelage during the summer, and several of them are also headed to the East Coast to play college lacrosse.

Will Van Dyke was, yet again, a big factor in the Gators' ability to hold onto the ball. He was sharp on faceoffs all day.

Bollar scored minutes into the third quarter to give SHP an 8-7 advantage. Sloat quickly followed



Courtesy Malcolm Slaney

**SHP's Luci Lambert** (right) holds off Castilleja's Samira Kennedy to win the CCS 800-meter title.

with a nice run down the middle, unleashing a shot that the SI goalie could not see, let alone react. That's when SHP grabbed the momentum and sped away. The Gators scored seven unanswered goals. Ian Dykes scored the run, as did Barnds. Ramsey and Blake Hetherington also added goals.

Lockton, Sloat and Barnds also accounted for 10 of the team's 14 assists.

## Track and field

You could say Palo Alto High School has a tradition in the high jump. You have to go back a ways to find it, but after all, how many schools have a world-record holder as an alum?

Paly graduate Les Steers set a world record at 6-11 while competing for the University of Oregon on June 17, 1941, 80 years and two days before Aaron Kim won the Central Coast Section high jump championship Saturday at Soquel High with a jump of 7-0.

Kim became only the sixth 7-foot high jumper in CCS history and broke the school record of 6-8 he previously shared with Timi Wusu. Steers, a three-time state meet champion, had a best of 6-6 in those three state-meet appearances. He reportedly cleared 7-feet in an exhibition while at Oregon, but the 7-foot barrier was not officially broken until Charles Dumas did so at the 1956 Olympic Trials.

Kim, who will compete at Boston University, had the competition won early. The best any other high jump entrant cleared was 6-4. He established a new personal-best when he cleared 6-10 and then joined the exclusive 7-foot club on his third attempt.

"It was just a matter of getting his timing down," Palo Alto coach Michael Davidson said. "This is only his third year high jumping. He's an untapped talent, just starting to figure this whole thing out. There's more in him. He hasn't hit his prime."

**Sacred Heart Prep's** Luci Lambert also turned in a remarkable performance. She ran away with the 1,600 in a personal-best time of 4:54.36, then came back to win

the 800 in 2:11.35.

She took over the lead from Harker's Anna Weirich on the second lap of the 1,600 and just kept increasing the gap between her and the rest of the field. Weirich took second in 5:03.63 — more than nine seconds behind Lambert, a huge margin.

In the 800 Lambert made another early move to open a sizable lead. But this time the distance between her and the other competitors decreased on the home stretch as Castilleja sophomore Samira Kennedy, running the fastest race of her young career, made a charge to finish right behind Lambert in 2:11.51. Palo Alto's Hillary Studdert was third in a personal-best 2:12.84. Paly's Katherine Cheng was fifth in 2:17.16.

"What really makes Luci so good is how much she loves to run," Sacred Heart Prep coach Ken Wilner said.

Lambert, who will compete collegiately at the University of Virginia, holds the SHP school record in every race from the 400 on up. So what would her eventual best distance be?

"If I were to predict I'd say the 5K," Wilner said. "But it really depends on what she wants to go after."

Pinewood's Maia Garcia placed second in the girls high jump at 5-4. Paly freshman Lili Wakenshaw took fifth at 5-2.

**Woodside's** Katherine Sheldon took third in the 300 hurdles in 46.25 and fifth in the triple jump (35-0).

**Menlo School** sophomore William Floyd was a third-place finisher in the pole vault at 13-0.

Palo Alto's Jeremy Huang placed fourth in both hurdles, running 15.46 in the 110 highs and 39.62 in the 300 intermediates.

The Palo Alto 4x400 relay team of Charlotte Hallenbeck, Madeline Lohse, Cheng and Studdert placed fourth with a time of 4:04.23.

**Woodside's** Luke Buddie came in fifth in the high jump at 6-2.

Gunn's Sharon Schwab was a sixth-place finisher in the 100 hurdles (16.35) and eighth in the 300 hurdles.

**Menlo's** Calvin Katz was clocked in 4:13.15 to take sixth place in the 1,600.

Paly's Rishi Tella placed seventh in the boys triple jump at 40-11.5.

**Woodside's** Elle Marsyla came in seventh in the 3,200 (11:22.21). **M-A's** Kendall Olesen was eighth in the 800 (2:20.05).

**Menlo's** Justin Pretre was eighth (1:57.66) and Palo Alto's John Bard ninth (1:59.59) in the 800.

In a normal year, the top three finishers would qualify for the CIF state championships. This season, there's an invitational at Arcadia High on Friday, June 25, and Saturday, June 26.

—Glenn Reeves

# JUST LISTED

## 385 McKendry Drive, Menlo Park

3 BD | 1 BA | Separate Studio | \$2,050,000



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## Kay Davis

February 24, 1946 – May 16, 2021

Kay Louise Davis died peacefully at home on May 16, 2021 in Gordonville, PA at the age of 75, after a short illness.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nola and Francis Clifford Davis of Fairfield, CA., who had previously lived in Menlo Park, CA for many years. Kay is survived by her brother, Cliff Davis, sister-in-law, Eva of Fairfield, CA and nephews, Daniel Sroaf of Placerville, CA, David Sroaf of Mendocino CA and Eddie Davis of San Mateo, CA. Also, grandnieces Taylor Davis of San Mateo and Allison Sroaf of Placerville, CA.

In December 2016 Kay moved from California to the Amish country after falling in love with the people and their way of life through her passion for travel. She was also a pet lover leaving behind her adopted dog, "Annie" and cat "Toby".

Kay was a generous, thoughtful and wise person in many ways. Her friendship will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved her.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to: Australian Shepherds Furever, 2910 South Archibald Ave., Suite A607, Ontario, CA 91761 or please visit: <https://www.australianshepherdsfurever.org>.

For any questions, please contact, Phil Furman, Furman Home for Funerals, 717-656-6833.



PAID OBITUARY

## Hertha Harrington

October 3, 1931 – May 17, 2021

Hertha Elizabeth Harrington, nee Gauck, passed away May 17, 2021 in Burlingame, CA. She was born in Richmond, CA to F. Otto Gauck and Louisa W. Gauck (nee Taenzer), both immigrants from Penzlin, Mecklenburg, Germany. Raised in Richmond and Berkeley, she was a graduate of Berkeley High School and the University of California, Berkeley. She had a Master of Criminology from UC Berkeley and attended classes at Stanford.



Married to the love of her life, Judge Walter H. Harrington, Jr. from 1974 until he passed away in 2012. They lived for many years in Woodside, CA. She was also predeceased by her sister, Margaret (Peggy) Harrison as well as her parents. She leaves behind step-daughters Stacey Harrington (Craig) and Sara Harrington, niece Cathy Durfee (Les), nephew Grant Harrison (Diane), great nieces Erin Durfee and Lauren Durfee, sister-in-law Judith Watkins, god daughter Cynthia Van Kleeck, as well as many friends who were like family to her.

Hertha served as a Probation Officer for the County of San Mateo, Juvenile Division from April 12, 1963 to March 28, 1989. She most recently lived in San Mateo at the Peninsula Regent.

Hertha was dedicated to preserving nature, serving as a board member for many years on the Committee for Green Foothills. She contributed to many causes supporting animals, and supporting women in the developing world.

A celebration of Hertha's life will be held June 26, 2021 at Huddart Park, Woodside, Redwood Pavilion (ADA accessible) from 2 to 4 pm. Mention you are joining our memorial and the \$6 entrance fee will be covered.

PAID OBITUARY

## STARTUP

continued from page 5

As a result, he said, the program is helping people clear out their garages, keeping unwanted items out of landfills, lowering the price of outdoor goods and extending the lifespans of the gear.

So far, the local pilot for the GEARage program mostly has involved Friedman driving around the Midpeninsula in his Subaru picking up used gear from all kinds of households, including a Palo Alto grandmother who wanted to consign sleeping bags she'd gotten for her grandchildren, and the parents of one of his classmates from Menlo-Atherton High School who wanted to offload some windsurfing fabric.

"It's been incredibly validating," he said, adding that they're looking to expand to more places in the Bay Area eventually.

### Expanding access

Part of their mission also involves lowering the cost barriers to enjoying outdoor experiences, Friedman and Landauer said.

"What we're trying to do is make the outdoors accessible," Friedman said. Landauer added that the Switchbackr blog and communications are focused on discussing issues of diversity and inclusivity and reaching



Magali Gauthier

**Alex Friedman**, Switchbackr co-founder, stands in front of skis that the outdoor gear startup is reselling in Menlo Park on June 10.

communities that aren't traditionally represented in the outdoor industry.

They also strive to strike a balance between low-cost goods and high quality items. Sales are currently restricted to items in very good condition that are well-maintained and no more than eight years old. Items sold through the website also come with what's called an "Iron Lotus" guarantee that covers items if they don't arrive as described or are damaged. And much of the gear for sale comes from outdoor consignment shops across the U.S. that have an interest in offering good customer service, Friedman said.

Looking ahead, the duo is

hoping to build out a platform that promotes recommerce — a term describing the industry of rehabilitating and reselling used items — and builds community, Friedman said. They're looking to become a platform where people can resell or rent gear, but also share trail reviews and outdoors experiences.

"We really want Switchbackr to be the go-to place for the outdoors, period," he said.

More information about Switchbackr is at [switchbackr.com](http://switchbackr.com) and the GEARage program at [is.gd/gearage1](http://is.gd/gearage1). ▣

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

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

### Atherton Police Department takes part in Special Olympics Torch Run

Despite the heat wave, eight Atherton Police Department officers, 10 staff members and two dispatchers ran in the annual Special Olympics Torch Run through San Mateo County alongside other county police agencies on June 18, according to police Chief Steve McCulley.

McCulley said the official route was 2 miles long, but his team ran an additional mile, to Woodside Road, with the Redwood City Police Department and Sheriff's Office teams.



Courtesy Steve McCulley

**Atherton Police Department** staff, officers and dispatchers took part in an annual fundraising run for Special Olympics Northern California on June 18.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is a fundraiser to support the Special Olympics Northern California. Annually, almost 110,000 law enforcement members carry the "Flame of Hope," symbolizing courage and celebration of diversity.

Law enforcement agencies will continue to hand off the Flame of Hope torch until a state Capitol ceremony on June 25, according to Atherton police.

### Portola Valley equity and housing committee members selected

The Portola Valley Town Council appointed nine members to the newly created Equity Committee during its June 9 meeting.

Ali Aalaei, Kim Acker, Patt Baenen, Johnathan Clark, Judy Murphy, Lucy Neely, Andrew Pierce, Gwendolyn Stritter and Karen Vahtra all join the committee, which will meet monthly at a date and time to be determined.

The committee will address systemic barriers to inclusion that may exist within the town's policies, regulations and practices, according to the town website.

The council also chose Aimee Armsby, Sue Crane, Sarah Dorahy, Erik Doyle, William Kelly, Jocelyn Swisher, Bob Turcott, Janey Ward and Helen Wolter to serve on another new committee, the Housing Element Committee. The committee will begin meeting in July and serve through December 2022, according to the website.

Members are expected to:

- Provide recommendations to the council on an updated housing element that provides means to accommodate additional housing units.

- Explore options to minimize the impacts of additional housing units on the town's character, safety concerns and traffic.

- Maximize public participation by encouraging residents, business owners and the town's workforce to attend meetings and share ideas.

- Communicate information on the committee's progress and recommendations.

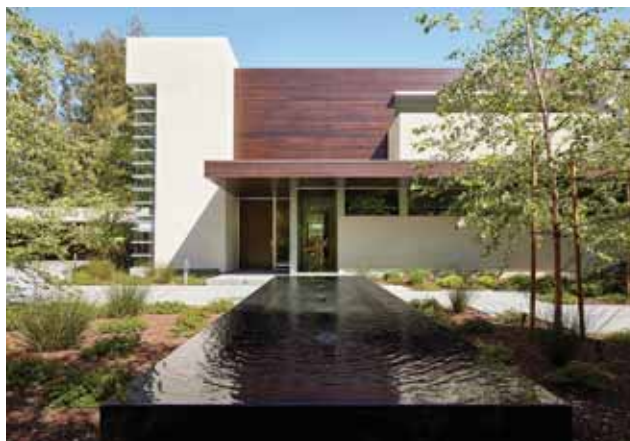
—Angela Swartz

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Journal*, JUNE 2020.



165 PATRICIA DRIVE  
ATHERTON



## SPECTACULAR GARDEN ESTATE ON OVER 1 ACRE

Serene, gated grounds of over an acre brimming with beautiful trees and colorful plantings set the stage for this magnificent West Atherton estate. Over 6,400 square feet of total interior space wraps you in elegance and luxury from the moment you step inside, with high-end appointments including rich inlaid hardwood floors, marble finishes, detailed millwork, and arched casement windows creating a stylish ambiance. Expansive formal rooms scaled for entertaining include the living room and dining room, both of which are centered by a stately fireplace, while the incredible gourmet kitchen features high-end appliances plus a secondary prep kitchen for hosting fantastic dinner parties with ease. The inviting family room features great space for a relaxing evening at home, and the nearby sitting room offers tremendous possibilities as a media center or office. With 5 bedrooms and 7.5 bathrooms, including the pool house, friends and family alike are sure to find inviting accommodations highlighted by two lavish master suites that each evoke the feel of a fashionable retreat. Experience true indoor/outdoor living as numerous points throughout the estate open to the lush grounds with peaceful gardens, an elevated terrace, outdoor kitchen, and a sparkling pool with a Herringbone paver patio. Just moments to downtown Menlo Park, downtown Palo Alto, and the Menlo Circus Club, this estate is also close to top private institutions including Sacred Heart and Menlo School (buyer to verify eligibility).

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit:

[www.165Patricia.com](http://www.165Patricia.com)

Offered at \$10,500,000

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Atherton

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

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

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303 ATHERTON AVENUE  
ATHERTON



## RENOVATED COLONIAL MASTERPIECE IN SOUGHT-AFTER ATHERTON

From the moment you step into the foyer of this American Colonial masterpiece, you will get a sense of the grandeur that is yet to come. Flawless interiors brimming with high-end appointments have been expertly renovated to provide for a modern Silicon Valley lifestyle, with 7 bedrooms, 8.5 bathrooms, and over 11,650 square feet of living space offering perfect venues for both entertaining and everyday living. Rich hardwood floors, impeccable marble finishes, detailed millwork, and soaring ceilings craft a luxurious ambiance throughout all 4 levels of the estate, with multiple rooms opening to the 1.14-acre grounds for true indoor/outdoor living. Highlights include 4 fireplaces, expansive and light-filled formal rooms, the gourmet kitchen with new top-end appliances, and the handsome office that can also double as a guest suite. Enjoy movie nights in the incredible theater with its own projection room, unwind in the fitness center with a relaxing sauna, and enjoy your favorite vintage from the wine cellar with space for over 1,300 bottles. Retire at the end of the day to the magnificent master suite with 2 spacious bathrooms, while multiple additional bedroom suites provide comfortable accommodations for friends and family. The newly landscaped grounds include a new pool, outdoor kitchen, and inviting fire pit, and for added convenience this estate offers a 5-car garage, plus a gated motor court with ample parking. Find yourself just moments to both downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, as well as Stanford University, the Menlo Circus Club, and Venture Capital centers along Sand Hill Road. Plus, acclaimed public and private schools are minutes away.

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit:

[www.303AthertonAve.com](http://www.303AthertonAve.com)

Offered at \$19,988,000

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Atherton

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**PETS IN NEED***continued from page 1*

The sudden shift was followed by months of other adjustments to the shelter's operations, with Pets In Need shifting to a system that relies on Zoom meetings to demonstrate animal behavior and email networks to link potential adopters to their pets-to-be. Its plan for the pandemic was to have only three people per shift to provide medical services, oversee kennel and perform administrative functions, Mollica said.

Like other facilities throughout the city, Pets In Need is now on the path to business as usual. It already allows visitors to stop by, albeit only by appointment. Its volunteers are back. And with California officially hitting its full reopening phase June 15, the organization plans to increase the number of appointments and make face-to-face meetings more routine (with face masks, at least for now). In the coming weeks, the nonprofit expects to allow residents to pop in and look at animals like in the old days — a sure sign of things returning back to normal.

"It's something we haven't



Daniela Beltran B.

**A group of cats** fostered by Pets In Need, which manages the Palo Alto animal shelter, on June 15.

done in a year," Mollica told this news organization.

For Mollica and the nonprofit's staff, the pandemic was a time of creativity and improvisation. Fully operational on March 6, 2020, the shelter became a "ghost town" a week later, with only a handful of staff members present to provide veterinarian services and oversee the kennels, Mollica said.

Pets In Need, which prides itself on being a no-kill shelter, also had to immediately halt performing rescue runs to other shelters to pick up at-risk

animals. It also shifted its focus on the most vulnerable animals, which tended to be the larger dogs on euthanasia lists.

"All our partner shelters were getting backed up with animals. The pandemic didn't stop cats from having kittens and people from turning in their dogs and such. That was a struggle for us," Mollica said. "It's what we do. Our business was to save as many animals as possible."

Through creativity and connections, the organization cautiously resumed its rescue runs. Occasionally it would send a team to a shelter in the Central

Valley to pick up at-risk animals in a parking lot — an exchange that was conducted with virtually no human contact. At other times, staff from two shelters would rendezvous in the parking lot of a third shelter to transfer and process the animals, Mollica said.

When the vaccines arrived, Pets In Need staff got their shots and staff became more "ambitious" with its rescue runs, Mollica said. Adoptions went up — reaching a total of 1,635 over the course of the organization's last fiscal year, which ran from May 1, 2020, to April 30, 2021, Mollica said. While this is a drop from its all-time high of about 2,100 adoptions, which the organization reached in the year prior to the pandemic, Mollica is proud of the organization's ability to forge so many connections during a time of social distancing.

Now, the organization is on a path toward normalcy. About a month ago, it began allowing volunteers to come in for the first time since the onset of the pandemic, Mollica said. Volunteers are now assisting with both caring for the dogs at the shelter and in finding new homes for the roughly 205

animals currently in the organization's care (of those, about 175 are in foster care, while the remainder are in Pets In Need shelters, Mollica said).

"The silver lining over the past year is the fact that all of us now understand — on a visceral level — what it's like to deal with adversity," Mollica said. "Trying to carry out the mission for an organization like Pets In Need when you can't do rescue runs or meet with people is difficult."

There is another positive sign, Mollica said. Even with the influx of adopters during the pandemic, the shelters have not seen too many owners return their pets. That, he said, is a sign that the agency's adoption staff and volunteers are "very discerning and very careful" when linking pets with owners.

"We still follow the same protocols and procedures we always followed," Mollica said. "Not everyone will pass muster. You turn some people down, but the bottom line is, weeks and weeks and months and months later, you don't have the owner surrender and return rate." ▀

*Email Staff Writer  
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gsheyner@pawweek.com.*

**POLICE***continued from page 5*

meeting was initially scheduled for July 13, it has since been postponed due to council member scheduling conflicts.

Nash said she was concerned that the program could increase racial profiling of people of color by the police department.

"My concern is that there will be more traffic (and a) greater possibility of additional racial profiling in those stops," she said.

The funds would be used to deploy a dedicated traffic unit to discourage unsafe driving behavior, including impaired driving, according to a staff report.

"I'm concerned it's not just free money," Nash said.

Norris said that the grant is aimed at bringing back traffic enforcement and wouldn't change current police practices when it comes to traffic stops. Instead, it would aim to strengthen an education and enforcement

around traffic safety, a realm that generates more community complaints than other activities citywide, as is the case with most cities.

Some of the funds might be used to conduct checkpoints to deter drunk driving or driving under the influence of cannabis or other substances, he said.

Accepting the funds, he argued, would boost morale in the department and provide "some glimmer of encouragement from our local government that says that they have some degree of confidence in our officers and police department to provide public safety."

It would basically reinstate a traffic program that had been done professionally before it was cut, he added.

Mayor Drew Combs and Councilman Ray Mueller said they favored accepting the grant money.

Combs described how last year, when police funds were cut from

the city's budget, he pushed back when some suggested the position was taken as a measure to defund the police. He said he felt the cuts were made primarily because of pandemic-related revenue shortfalls. With the city's funding situation looking brighter again, he said, "I don't see how we can say that we're not going to then restart those programs without saying it is a defund police posture."

After apologizing in part for the delays for the policing discussion — he said he wanted to approve the city's budget first before diving into it — Combs added that he didn't see a future in which the city would not bring back traffic enforcement and community resource officers, for instance. "I do think we need to start making those decisions to bring those services and units back."

"At some point I have to believe we are going to bring back traffic officers ... I don't know why we wouldn't accept a grant that

would pay for that," Mueller said, adding that \$376,000 "is not a small amount of money to say we're not going to accept."

He argued for accepting the funds on the grounds that the city has been heavily involved in encouraging people to bike and walk around town and not drive. Since those activities make people more vulnerable to injury by vehicles, having a program aimed at deterring people from driving under the influence of substances is a safety issue.

Councilwoman Jen Wolosin said that following the council's discussion, she felt comfortable accepting the grant money, but added that, "We need to have this conversation about policing and we need to have it soon. It continues to bubble up."

Ultimately, the council voted to accept the funds 4-0, with Councilwoman Cecilia Taylor absent, with the provision that the funds be used for education more than enforcement,

upon Nash's request.

**Other council news**

The City Council opted to delay voting on the budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year in advance of the June 30 deadline because Taylor was absent due to illness. A meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 28, to consider the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, as well as to consider the possibility of taking action to extend the eviction moratorium that is currently set to expire in California on June 30.

At its June 22 meeting, the council also voted 4-0 with Taylor absent to increase the rates in the voter-approved landscape assessment district by 3% each to maintain both trees and sidewalks in front of homes where they exist in the city. ▀

*Email Staff Writer Kate  
Bradshaw at kbradshaw@  
almanacnews.com.*

**CORONAVIRUS***continued from page 7*

documenting their virus prevention standards, provide unvaccinated workers with N95 respirators upon request and evaluate their business' ventilation system to maximize proper air flow.

Until two weeks ago, workers had been required to wear a mask or other face covering regardless

of their vaccination status or whether they worked indoors or outside.

At the Cal/OSHA board's June 3 meeting, the agency considered an updated set of rules that would have allowed fully vaccinated workers to remove their masks only in rooms in which all workers were also fully vaccinated.

Those rules — which the

board unanimously voted to rescind one week ago after backlash from some business groups and consultation with state health officials — would have gone into effect weeks after the state lifted its mask mandate in most situations for fully vaccinated people.

According to state vaccination data, more than 70% of adults across the state have received at

least one vaccine dose.

More information on the state's new workplace safety rules for vaccinated people can be found at [dir.ca.gov](http://dir.ca.gov).

**Comprehensive COVID-19 coverage**

View interactive charts tracking the spread of the coronavirus in San Mateo and Santa Clara

counties online at [paloaltoonline.atavist.com/tracking-the-coronavirus](http://paloaltoonline.atavist.com/tracking-the-coronavirus). Find a comprehensive collection of coverage on the Midpeninsula's response to the new coronavirus by The Almanac and its sister publications, Palo Alto Online, and the Mountain View Voice, at [tinyurl.com/c19-Almanac](http://tinyurl.com/c19-Almanac). ▀ *CalMatters and Bay City News Service contributed to this report.*

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For more information please contact your agent or Listing Realtor Steve Lessard.

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SEMINAR

JULY 15

🕒 6:00  
PM | PDT

# HOW COVID AND PROPOSED TAX CHANGES COULD IMPACT THE SILICON VALLEY REAL ESTATE MARKET

WITH **MICHAEL REPKA**

Join DeLeon Realty CEO and tax attorney Michael Repka for his first live, in-person seminar in over a year! As we emerge from the COVID era, we are going to see many changes in the real estate industry, and tax proposals on the horizon are going to have a dramatic impact on how people buy and sell properties. Michael will discuss these changes and how they might impact you, your finances, and the Silicon Valley real estate market.



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## FOOD SYSTEMS

continued from page 1

must make sure the people in our state are fed now and in the future,” she explained in remarks about the bill.

In a local initiative, Stanford University is home to the Food for Health Equity Lab, which is focused on generating evidence about how healthy foods impact chronic disease that can inform community health centers, according to the program’s website.

## Food aid

An innovative program that has developed during the pandemic is a partnership between the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition and Veggielution, an urban farm in San Jose.

Funded through a grant from the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, cyclist volunteers from the bicycle coalition deliver produce boxes from Veggielution to families in East San Jose who aren’t able to pick up the food boxes themselves.

Veggielution was initially part of the federal Farmers to Families food box program described in part two of this series, but when that federal contract ended, funding through the city of San Jose allowed it to continue serving local families. The program started with just 40 families getting farm boxes, but expanded to 250, according to Emily Schwing, public affairs director at Veggielution. With the additional boxes, the program partnered with a number of other local farms, including Spade & Plow, an organic farm in the Santa Clara Valley, to supply the larger volumes of produce needed.

Situated inside the Emma Prusch Farm Park in San Jose’s Mayfair neighborhood, the Veggielution farm sits in the shadows of an overpass, a colorful and friendly oasis with picnic tables, peacocks, roosters and flowers.

The expansion by the bicycle coalition into a community it’s not as familiar with triggered coalition leaders to reach out to leaders focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion, said the coalition’s executive director, Shiloh Ballard, in a blog post. Without being sensitive to the dynamics, it might look like a “white savior” situation, with mostly white cyclists bringing food to residents in a neighborhood where about 70% of people are Latino and about 22% are Asian or Pacific Islander.

One way they are working to build more egalitarian relationships within the community was to invite nonprofit leaders from East San Jose to join the



Courtesy Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

**Volunteers** with the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition load boxes of food onto their bicycles for delivery to households in San Jose on May 1. The program is a partnership with urban farm Veggielution and other local farms.

cyclists and encourage mutual exchanges of information, Ballard said.

And while the program isn’t particularly efficient — the three, one-hour volunteer sessions involved about 19 volunteers to deliver 41 food boxes on bike trailers within a roughly 10-mile radius — it is a creative partnership that gets people to help out, exercise and learn about a new neighborhood from those who know it best. According to Violeta Palatto, engagement and development officer at the bicycle coalition, the volunteer sessions are popular and fill quickly.

Volunteer Jon Williamson was already back at the second event in May after attending the first in April, this time with his wife, Miki Chang, to deliver four boxes. He said he enjoyed the experience because he got to explore unfamiliar parts of San Jose and help neighbors.

## Reducing waste

Looking at how to improve local food systems also involves taking on efforts to reduce food waste.

When food waste goes in landfills, it breaks down to produce methane, a greenhouse gas that accounts for about 20% of global emissions. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that between 30% and 40% of the food supply becomes waste.

Senate Bill 1383, passed in 2016 in California, is aimed at curbing emissions from reducing the amount of food waste and sets clear targets to, by 2025, reduce organic waste disposal by 75% from 2014 levels and rescue at least one-fifth of the currently disposed edible food.

Starting on Jan. 1, 2022, regulations that CalRecycle has established to meet those goals take effect, and jurisdictions are expected to have programs in place to work toward those goals. Among the mandated programs are a requirement

for jurisdictions to offer compost pickup to all residents and businesses and to establish an edible food recovery program for certain types of businesses that generate edible food that may be wasted.

Compliance for “tier one” food generators, including supermarkets and large grocery stores, starts in 2022; for “tier two” food generators, like large restaurants, hotels or health facilities with cafeterias or on-site food service, it starts in 2024.

However, figuring out what those generators are in Santa Clara County was its own project. Bacon mentored a team of students through a project to identify the tier one generators countywide, and found that it took more than 45 hours of analysis to narrow down a list received from the Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies into one the county can use moving forward, he said.

## Conclusions

While the hardships facing the food system are not likely to abate any time soon, Bacon said there are some positive shifts he’s seen recently.

For instance, the pandemic has prompted a resurgence of interest in CSA, or community-supported agriculture farm boxes, and it has brought continued recognition that access to fresh fruits and vegetables is important from a public health perspective. On his campus, he said, he’s seeing students reducing their meat consumption for health and environmental reasons.

The next time the collaborative gets to meet in person, Bacon said, the plan is to organize a field trip and workshop to learn about local indigenous agricultural knowledge and practices from the Amah Mutsun tribe.

However, whether the initiatives develop into anything bigger remains to be seen.

Santa Clara County

policy makers appear to be starting to work toward a more comprehensive approach to support local food systems.

At the county Board of Supervisors’ May 4 meeting, the board received a report from staff that laid out 12 recommendations for strengthening the resiliency of the local food system.

The steps focus around the larger goals of creating an internal working group of county agencies, to be called the “Kitchen Cabinet,” that aims to improve coordination between departments; establishing a new countywide Food Systems Leadership Collaborative to connect the Kitchen Cabinet to cities and existing food system programs; and forming a new advisory council made up of residents from vulnerable neighborhoods to guide policymaking around food equity.

Other recommendations included creating program manager and management analyst positions to help lead those efforts, taking steps to permit farming on suitable public land, creating a plan to prepare for and respond to crises that disrupt food security, and working to boost enrollment in CalFresh, California’s federal supplemental food assistance program.

Following requests from Supervisor Cindy Chavez, the board acted unanimously to receive the report, start recruiting for the program manager and management analyst positions, and ensure that the program focuses on producing equitable outcomes.

Equity is one topic that interests and concerns Bacon as well. “Not only do we have an increasingly widely recognized need for racial justice, but we also have the climate crisis bearing on us headfirst,” he said. “I think there is a new opening for building back more equity into these systems.”

That could mean expanding urban agriculture, which can reduce air pollution and lower the temperature in urban areas that retain heat due to limited

greenery and dense infrastructure. Or, to boost farms’ resilience during droughts, shifts toward dry farming and finding more ecologically efficient farming practices could also help, he said.

But making those changes, he argued, is going to take political engagement from the broader citizenry, alongside research like his own. “Is there a critical political and economic interest that’s going to see it through? I do have some concerns,” he said.

Bacon said he draws inspiration from a woman named Maria Catalan, who was one of the first local Latina farmworkers to own her own farm, which became organic-certified in the mid-2000s.

She lost her farm when a 2014 drought dried up the well, he said. She’s been renting land and continuing to produce organic vegetables, and was able to participate in the Pie Ranch and Veggielution farm box programs (described in part two of this series). He said he asked her how she got the strength to respond to the adversity she’d faced, and she said that it came down to her love of people, land and the work she was doing.

Whatever plan to transform the food system comes next, he argued, it will need to have an equitable path forward for workers, especially those who have had to work in parts of the industry that are more extractive and polluting.

“That’s a gap that needs to be both researched and invested in on multiple levels,” he said.

“We didn’t revolutionize the food system yet, but we may have taken a few steps in that direction.” ■

*This article was produced as a project for the USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism’s 2020 Data Fellowship. It is the third and final article in a series exploring the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local food systems and policies. Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.*



Courtesy Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

**Farm boxes** get loaded onto volunteers’ bicycles at Veggielution urban farm in San Jose. During the pandemic, the program delivered food to 40 families by partnering with Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition and has grown to serve 250.

**CANCER TECH**

*continued from page 5*

makes such a huge difference, Sinha said, is how precisely the radiation treatment can be tailored. Rather than rely on an inflexible treatment plan over the course of several weeks, Ethos uses artificial intelligence for so-called “adaptive” radiation therapy, reflecting real-time anatomical changes for quick adjustments.

The upshot is that healthy tissue can be spared with a higher degree of accuracy than ever before, particularly for cancers where the tumor and surrounding tissue are rapidly changing.

“It’s the first system that can actually look inside the body, see what’s going on with internal anatomy and then adjust on the fly to adjust the radiation dose,” Sinha said.

Radiation therapy has come a long way in recent decades, but modern methods are still flawed. A medical team takes imaging of the tumor and typically spends three to four days of intense computer planning and optimization in order to develop a treatment plan, which is essentially set in stone for the next five to six weeks of radiation therapy. Meanwhile, the body of the patient is changing and the tumor is shrinking size,

making that treatment plan less precise with each passing day and harming healthy tissue.

While less than ideal, it’s better than what was done in the 1990s. Sinha said he used to hand-draw blocks around the targeted tissue and have those drawings crafted into thick molds that would be mounted directly on the linear accelerator, creating an imprecise square beam of radiation.

“It still worked,” Sinha said. “The problem was we were hitting a lot of normal tissue.”

In the lead-up to El Camino’s purchase, Sinha said he had his eye on the new technology coming out of med-tech company Varian, based next door in Palo Alto, and made a request to the hospital’s board of directors to purchase Ethos. The hospital has since agreed to purchase a suite of the company’s radiology products, replacing old equipment to the tune of \$10.3 million.

Instead of waiting days to draft a new treatment plan, the new tech allows the medical team to do the same thing — with a greater degree of accuracy — in just a few minutes. The radiation itself is carried out through an advanced linear accelerator that can surgically adjust the beam with a “multi-leaf collimator,” changing the

aperture of the beam similar to a camera shutter that can change angle and location.

While the machine isn’t necessary for things like brain cancer, where there isn’t a lot of movement or sudden changes in tumor size, it’s a big deal for any cancers located in or near the abdomen. The bowels and bladder are constantly changing size, making it a significant problem when traditional treatment plans lag behind or lack precision.

One of the patients treated by the machine has gone through 28 sessions for cancer that extends from her abdomen to her pelvis. In normal circumstances, Sinha said it would be one of the most difficult things the patient has ever experienced over an excruciating five and a half weeks of nausea, diarrhea and other side effects. Instead, she’s had almost no problems and is finishing treatment this week.

“I have been amazed at how well she’s done,” he said. “She did phenomenal in terms of not having side effects.”

There is still some uncharted territory with the new tech. If radiation therapy can be so carefully tailored to hit cancer cells and leave healthy tissue unharmed, it’s possible that oncologists could use the opportunity to get more aggressive than ever and up the dosage.

Sinha said he’s taking a cautious approach for now. He said he knows intuitively that Ethos does open the door for



Daniela Beltran B.

**Ethos**, a new radiation treatment device being used at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, where patients are reporting fewer troublesome side effects.

greater doses with fewer side effects, but he said he’s holding off until there’s more data and more experience working with leading-edge technology that’s only been in practice for a few months.

“I’m using the tried-and-true doses that we know are going to work and are safe, but I think as time goes on we’re going to find that this is going to allow us to up the doses,” he said. “We’re going to be way less limited by healthy tissue damage.”

El Camino Hospital has invested heavily in radiation therapy in recent years, seeking to attract a larger share of the regional market with state-of-the-art technology. The new Ethos machine stands in stark contrast to older equipment, which was reportedly breaking

down frequently — sometimes while the patient was in the waiting room or on the treatment table.

A report found in 2017 that 11.4% of Santa Clara County residents come to El Camino for radiation therapy, well below Kaiser (31%) and Stanford (25.4%). Hospital officials say the Ethos machine, along with a new linear accelerator and a brachytherapy device, should make the hospital more competitive against larger health systems in the area. All of the new equipment marks the “latest and greatest,” Sinha said, but Ethos remains the crown jewel. ■

*Email Staff Writer  
Kevin Forestieri at  
kforestieri@mv-voice.com.*

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(ALM June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 2021)

**SEX TRAFFICKING**

*continued from page 10*

“bosses,” who would indicate the specific amount of money to be paid for work, would provide good working conditions and would send money back to China for the women.

The worker said that once employed, she couldn’t leave the brothels since the “bosses” would not pay the workers until the completion of the scheduled “dates” with the customers. They also took her passport and identification with the explanation that the documents were kept safe from theft in the brothels. Each time she arrived at a new brothel, she had to turn over her documents for the duration of her time there, she said.

The worker had to pay for her own food and medicine. Although she never experienced violence, the bosses would become angry and would speak harshly if she didn’t complete her work, she said. They threatened to blacklist her so that she couldn’t get another job in any other brothels or earn any money, she said. The worker described

**The worker said she typically made \$120 per client, out of which the boss would keep \$40, and the “house” would deduct additional money for her food, housing and as a house tip.**

Hu as the boss of the San Jose brothel, but since the worker had only just arrived the day before being arrested, she said she had no experience with Hu.

The worker said she typically made \$120 per client, of which the boss would keep \$40, and the “house” would deduct additional

money for her food, housing and as a house tip.

The brothel owners sent the workers’ earnings back home for them through an unknown method. The owners took a cut of 10% to 15% of the amount being transferred, she said.

Police rescued six people from the brothels. The investigation is ongoing and is also looking into more than \$2 million in proceeds from the brothel operations that the couple allegedly laundered.

Davies is scheduled to return to Santa Clara County Superior Court on June 26. ■

*Email Staff Writer  
Sue Dremann at  
sdremann@paweekly.com.*

Anyone who is or knows a victim of human trafficking is asked to call 911 or the 24-Hour National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888. Callers can also reach the hotline by texting 233733 for online chats. Human trafficking victims, whether U.S. citizens or not, are eligible for services including immigration assistance. Additional services are also available through community and county-based programs, such as Community Solutions at [communitysolutions.org](http://communitysolutions.org) and South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking at [southbayendtrafficking.org](http://southbayendtrafficking.org). More resources can be found at [countysheriff.sccgov.org](http://countysheriff.sccgov.org).

# Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

## Fully reopened, but not fully recovered from the pandemic

Last week, the state of California fully “reopened,” as social distancing and mask requirements were relaxed in most indoor and outdoor settings, and the color-coded tiers — which signify a county’s level of coronavirus restrictions based on the case and vaccination rates — disappeared. It’s a milestone months in the making, met largely with jubilation and relief, but also some confusion and apprehension. Here are some things to keep in mind:

■ **Don’t ditch your mask:** While mask guidelines were loosened June 15, there are still many places and situations where they’re required, such as on public transportation as well as in child care and health care settings, schools and nursing homes. Individual businesses

may still require them, as well as local health departments or event organizers. Moreover, people under 12 cannot be vaccinated yet, and more than 1 in 5 seniors have not been vaccinated, according to a June 15 CalMatters article. And even in settings where you feel comfortable and are permitted to go maskless, there are those who will continue to wear masks as an extra precaution, such as immunocompromised individuals who are unsure if the vaccines are fully working for them.

■ **Keep it local (and polite):** The renewed emphasis on shopping and eating locally brought on by the economic downturn should not be abandoned just because of the reopening — local businesses still need your support and haven’t necessarily

### EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

“made it through” the pandemic just because they’re still standing now. So keep the local first mantra in mind, and remember that just because restaurants and businesses can increase their capacity, it doesn’t mean their bandwidth is 100%. Practice patience and kindness when out and about.

■ **There’s no rush:** Some have felt that the reopening came suddenly for them, while others closely tracked the state’s decisions and eagerly awaited June 15. But the reopening isn’t an internal light switch that suddenly makes everyone comfortable with going back to pre-pandemic life.

People are going to approach the reopened world at different paces, and we shouldn’t needlessly pressure each other or ourselves. Many are still recovering from the pandemic physically, mentally and/or financially, and that reality shouldn’t be lost in the celebratory atmosphere.

■ **Spread the word:** Almost two-thirds of eligible California residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine, with 70% to 85% of the total population at full vaccination as the benchmark for large-scale protection against the coronavirus, according to CalMatters. In San Mateo County, 86.5% of the population

has been fully vaccinated as of June 22. While the top six counties with the highest percentage of people vaccinated statewide are in the Bay Area, county by county more than 1 in 10 remain unvaccinated, with vaccination rates straggling in places like East Palo Alto (with an estimated 67.4% of the population fully vaccinated as of June 21) and North Fair Oaks (70%). By comparison, Woodside is at 93%, Menlo Park at 92.6% and Portola Valley at 90.2%. Local health departments should continue to promote information and provide resources to get as much of the population vaccinated as possible. ■

### LETTERS

Our readers write

#### State Senate bills 9 and 10

Senate Bill 9 and Senate Bill 10, currently working their way through the California Legislature for passage this year, could end the way more than 66% of California homeowners live and threaten the investment they have made in their homes and communities. The single-family home zoning will be eliminated. These bills take away local control of housing zoning and give it to developers who have no idea what our local communities want or need. A single-family home property can be turned into six to 10 residences without local input.

The sponsors of the bills argue they are needed to get around local community “exclusionary” zoning, yet such zoning has not existed for over 50 years in California. Sponsors also claim the bills will create more affordable housing, but there is no mandate in either bill to create low-cost housing. The fact is local communities have been boosting low-cost housing production for some time and are increasing low-cost housing by more than 200% over the next eight years.

As a Woodside resident, I am very concerned about the extreme fire danger Woodside, Portola Valley, Half Moon Bay and other local communities face every year, and how close we came to a disaster last year in the CZU Lightning Complex fire. A change in wind direction is all

that would have been needed for the fire to reach our town centers. Our towns work hard to create zoning that protects residents from fire disasters, yet SB9 and SB10 allow developers to ignore local zoning and build without local controls. This is a catastrophe waiting to happen.

I urge all readers to contact their California assemblyman and senator right away and urge them to vote no on these dangerous and unnecessary bills. (Editor’s note: Dick Brown is Woodside’s mayor pro tem. He is writing as a citizen and not on the council’s behalf.)

Dick Brown  
Northgate Drive, Woodside

#### Hold politicians accountable for water shortages

We need an “all of the above” plan to increase our water

supply with ground water storage, solar-powered desalination, recycling water and primarily more reservoirs for water storage. In the big rain year of 2017 California dumped water from reservoirs that could have supplied water to tens of millions of California homes for a year but for insufficient capacity.

The voters passed Prop 1 in 2017 to raise the Shasta Dam and undertake other water projects, but almost nothing has been done. It’s time to hold politicians in Sacramento accountable for our increasing water crisis. Far better we spend money to increase our water supply than spend \$20 billion for a one-track railroad from Merced to Bakersfield.

Ed Kahl  
Whiskey Hill Road, Woodside

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# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## The Pear returns to live theater with an intellectual, romantic puzzle

Christopher Chen's 'The Late Wedding' is playing indoors, outdoors and via livestream

By John Orr

It can be tough to be married. It can be tough to be a playwright. And, it can be tough to figure out just what the heck is going on in "The Late Wedding" by Christopher Chen, as staged by The Pear Theatre.

Here's a tip to make it — maybe — a little easier to understand: The seven-person cast of multiple characters and its various interconnected vignettes are all tied to the same painful breakup, creating what Chen calls "a fractured portrait of a fractured marriage," according to the show's program notes.

Chen, inspired by the work of writer Italo Calvino, goes wild: playing with time, space, gender, point of view and connections, with actors portraying mostly failing relationships — men with women, men with men, women with women. The couples have different memories, different understandings, different goals. It is the stuff of which separations are made.

And, sometimes, in the middle of a dialogue, the playwright will make notes to himself, such as breaking off from an argument to say "Insert pro-Wall-Street monologue."

The stated locations change from a living room with a Scrabble board to a spaceship to a rudimentary boat with no oars,

food or destination in mind, as the couple inside it struggle to understand each other.

In a way, it is fascinating, even admirable, although I did not find it entertaining. It is indeed fractured, and more an intellectual puzzle than a play.

The Pear is delivering "The Late Wedding" in three ways, in order to accommodate patrons' various comfort and access levels: On Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, it is performed inside the theater. A livestream of the Friday night show is available to people who want to watch from home (not available on demand). For Saturday and Sunday matinees, it is performed outdoors, on a stage tucked away in the side parking lot of the Mountain View theater space.

I saw the opening-night livestream which offered some cleverness — no doubt thanks to Director Sinohui Hinojosa — and some technical sloppiness.

The sound mix was tragically bad, ranging from deafening loudness to weak levels that made dialogue very difficult to hear. The camera framing was mostly good, helped by effective lighting, but often the top of the frame stopped just under actors' noses. Those weaknesses may be cleaned up by the next shows.

The good cast does well in delivering the cerebral maze of

the script. Tyler Jeffreys, Carissa Ratanaphanyarat and John S. Boles were the most solid in their various roles.

Annamarie MacLeod, as narrator, gets a few good jokes, and comes out early to welcome the audience by thanking everybody for getting vaccinated and wearing their masks, saying she is "proud to be part of the first live, in-person play at The Pear after the pandemic shutdown."

Well, welcome back.

"The Late Wedding" runs Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. through July 18 at 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View, and streams online Friday evenings. Tickets are \$30-\$40. More information is available at [thepear.org](http://thepear.org).

Email Contributing Writer  
John Orr at [johnorr@regardingarts.com](mailto:johnorr@regardingarts.com).



Courtesy Sandra de la Torre photography

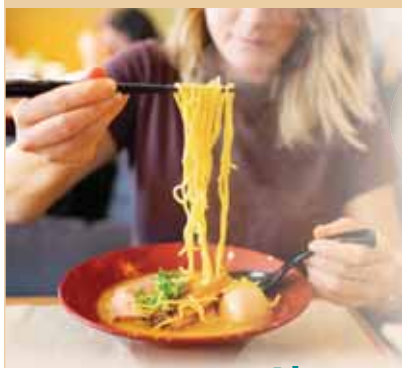
Annamarie MacLeod as the narrator in "The Late Wedding," by Christopher Chen, at the Pear Theatre through July 18.



Courtesy Sandra de la Torre photography

John S. Boles (left) and Tyler Jeffreys perform in "The Late Wedding," by Christopher Chen, at the Pear Theatre.

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# Food & Drink

## Meal prep miracle

Los Gatos-based **Locale** reimagines food delivery



By Heather Zimmerman

South Bay-based Locale offers weekly deliveries of fresh produce and groceries as well as meal kits and prepared items from Bay Area restaurants, merchants and farms. The delivery service was founded early in the pandemic, as stay-at-home orders ushered in a new era of eating at home.

When Locale launched in May

2020, the delivery service initially focused on businesses in Los Gatos, where co-founders Jonathan Friedland and Chris Clark live. Relying on word of mouth, the service grew quickly and now boasts nearly 50 partnerships with eateries and businesses from around the Bay Area, including in San Francisco and Santa Cruz — with the one stipulation that businesses should be locally based, at least within the greater Bay Area.

Its customer delivery area covers the Peninsula as far north as San Bruno, along with the South Bay and Santa Cruz, and charges a flat \$5 delivery fee.

According to Friedland, Locale got started with the aim of giving customers the chance to order from multiple businesses while allowing restaurants the flexibility to sell small-ticket items, such as individual pastries, that wouldn't necessarily be as easy to offer through large delivery companies like DoorDash or UberEats, due to the extra cost to the customer of delivery fees and tip.

"We wanted to create a way that customers could order from more than one business at a time and still keep that delivery fee really low," Friedland said in an interview.

Rather than charge its partner businesses a delivery fee, Locale buys items from its vendors at wholesale (negotiating the wholesale price with the vendor depending on their margins), and charges a markup to customers, according to Friedland. For instance, the retail price for a carrot cake muffin from Manresa Bread is \$5 purchased directly from the bakery and \$6 purchased from Locale.

In giving customers the ability to purchase items from multiple businesses in one order, Locale looks to fill a different niche from the big players in food delivery, as its offerings and delivery schedule demonstrate. With its selection of ingredients and meal kits sourced from local businesses, Locale is more akin to an upscale online grocery store or farmers market. Shoppers can place orders throughout the week, but all deliveries are made on Saturdays.

Friedland also noted that curation is key to Locale's offerings. "What we're trying to do is create a sense of trust with our customers so that if we list a sourdough bread or pasta sauce, our customers can trust that we've vetted this product and it's the best and most high quality for a reasonable price in the area," he said.

The fact that Locale's offerings are curated also seems likely to help ensure the service's staying power as more restaurants reopen and customers are less restricted to their homes.

Locale launched last spring offering just a few grocery items: avocados and berries, as well as sourdough bread from Manresa Bread, which is the bakery spinoff of the triple-Michelin-starred Los Gatos restaurant. Far beyond those initial loaves, Locale now offers an array of local produce, dairy and meats, baked goods and specialty grocery items, in addition to meal kits and some prepared items from restaurants.

A small sampling of current offerings include: meal kits from Palo Alto Georgian restaurant Bevri, dumplings from Cupertino-based Temujin Foods, margherita pizza kits from Pizzeria Delfina, cheeses from Cowgirl Creamery and organic cold-pressed juices from Juice Co. LG in Los Gatos. To brighten up the ambiance of dining at home, there are also flowers from Los Gatos florist Bunches.

Meal kits are a major component of the delivery service's offerings, many of which are items exclusive to Locale that were developed with partner businesses. One of Locale's most recent additions are meal kits

from Oren's Hummus. The service previously carried Oren's packaged hummus and dips, but expanded to meals, working with one of the restaurant's founders to create Locale-only meal kits, according to Friedland. Likewise, though Manresa Bread has been a partner from the start, Friedland said that Locale recently revamped its menu to include the bakery's entire selection.

"Any type of pastry that you can find in the store, we carry that on Locale," Friedland said.

Locale's once-a-week deliveries won't satisfy an immediate craving but do give customers a way to help plan meals — and a little something to look forward to. The Saturday delivery schedule was designed to allow restaurants adequate time to plan and prep meal kits during lulls in business, according to Friedland. Deliveries are made within a five-hour window each Saturday, although customers wanting more predictability can pay an extra \$3 to narrow that window to two hours.

Locale aims to continue expanding in the Bay Area with new partners. The service also refreshes its current offerings periodically.

"Our service is more about trying new things, so we always try to switch things up at least once every two months or so just to keep things new," Friedland said.

For more information on Locale and how to order, visit [shoplocale.us](http://shoplocale.us). ■

Email Assistant Editor Heather Zimmerman at [hzimmerman@almanacnews.com](mailto:hzimmerman@almanacnews.com).



**Top:** Locale offers a variety of local produce and grocery items, as well as prepared meals from Bay Area businesses. **Above:** Shoppers can place orders throughout the week on the Locale website, and all deliveries are made on Saturdays.



Photos courtesy Locale

**Locale** co-founders Jonathan Friedland (left) and Chris Clark started the delivery service as a way to allow customers to get food — including groceries and prepared meals — from multiple local businesses in one order.

LEHUA GREENMAN



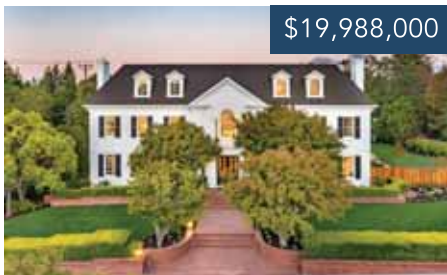
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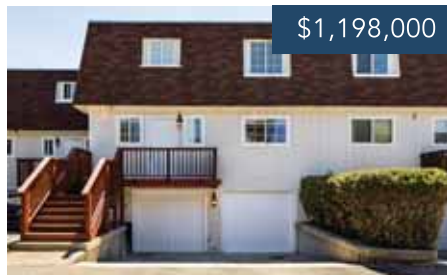
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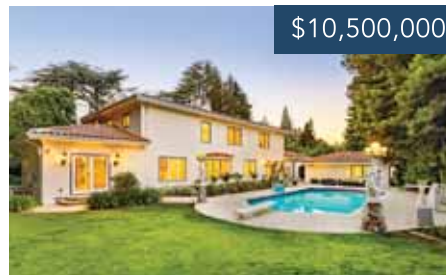
\$19,988,000

303 Atherton Avenue, Atherton  
7 Bd | 8.5 Bth  
[www.303AthertonAve.com](http://www.303AthertonAve.com)



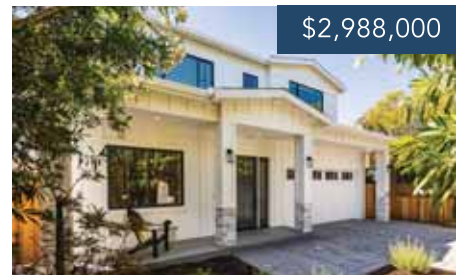
\$1,198,000

135 E O'keefe St #3, Menlo Park  
3 Bd | 2.5 Bth  
[www.135EOKeefe3.com](http://www.135EOKeefe3.com)



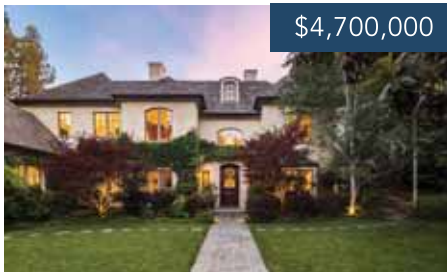
\$10,500,000

165 Patricia Drive, Atherton  
5 Bd | 7.5 Bth  
[www.165Patricia.com](http://www.165Patricia.com)



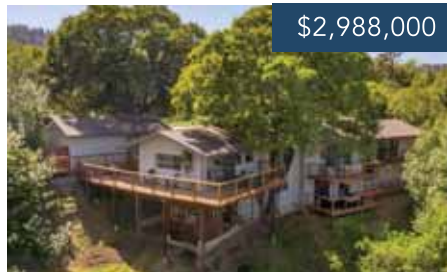
\$2,988,000

2072 Ashton Avenue, Menlo Park  
5 Bd | 4.5 Bth  
[www.2072AshtonAve.com](http://www.2072AshtonAve.com)



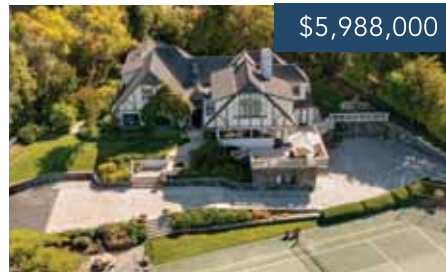
\$4,700,000

120 Escanyo Way, Portola Valley  
5 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
[www.120EscanyoWay.com](http://www.120EscanyoWay.com)



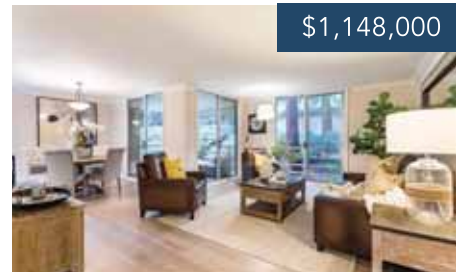
\$2,988,000

255 Old Spanish Trail, Portola Valley  
4 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
[www.255OldSpanishTrail.com](http://www.255OldSpanishTrail.com)



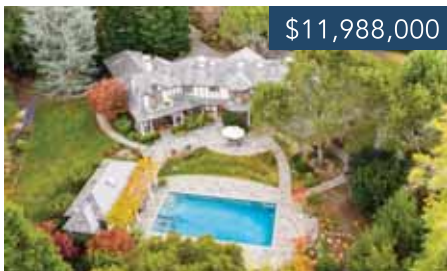
\$5,988,000

23475 Camino Hermoso Dr, Los Altos Hills  
5 Bd | 6 Bth (4 Full, 2 Half)  
[www.23475CaminoHermoso.com](http://www.23475CaminoHermoso.com)



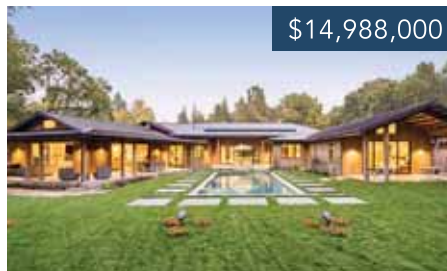
\$1,148,000

1100 Sharon Park Dr #9, Menlo Park  
2 Bd | 2 Bth  
[www.1100SharonParkDr.com](http://www.1100SharonParkDr.com)



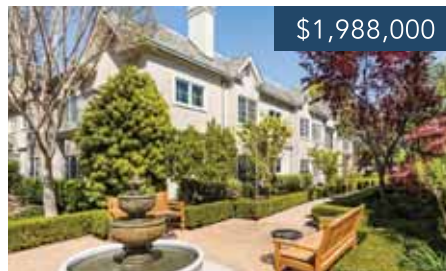
\$11,988,000

3787 Woodside Rd, Woodside  
6 Bd | 5.5 Bth  
[www.3787Woodside.com](http://www.3787Woodside.com)



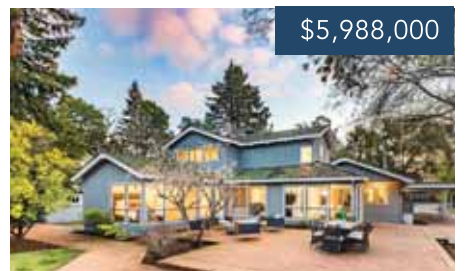
\$14,988,000

199 Mapache Dr, Portola Valley  
5 Bd | 6.5 Bth  
[www.199Mapache.com](http://www.199Mapache.com)



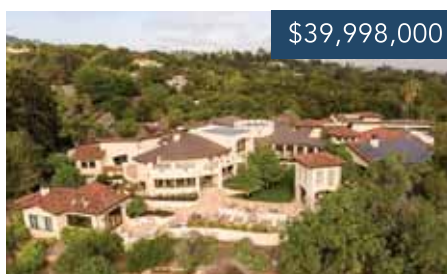
\$1,988,000

1 W. Edith Ave. #C116, Los Altos  
3 Bd | 2 Bth ( for residents aged 55+)  
[www.1WEdithC116.com](http://www.1WEdithC116.com)



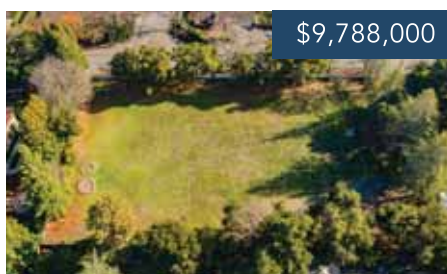
\$5,988,000

1170 May Brown Ave., Menlo Park  
3 Bd | 3 Bth  
[www.1170MayBrown.com](http://www.1170MayBrown.com)



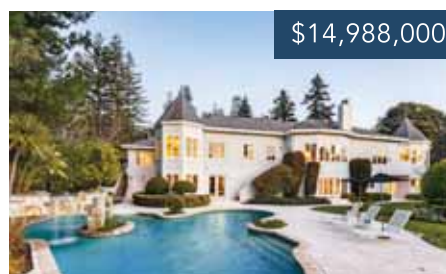
\$39,998,000

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



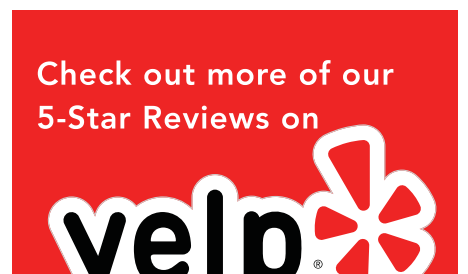
\$9,788,000

97 Santiago Avenue, Atherton  
1.43 Acre Lot  
[www.97Santiago.com](http://www.97Santiago.com)



\$14,988,000

97 Ridge View Drive, Atherton  
6 Bd | 7.5 Bth  
[www.97RidgeViewDr.com](http://www.97RidgeViewDr.com)



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# 3719 HERON WAY PALO ALTO



## ECO-FRIENDLY URBAN TOWNHOME-STYLE LIVING

Stylish, sustainable living awaits in this contemporary, eco-friendly townhome that puts you close to everything Silicon Valley has to offer. High ceilings give the home a sense of openness, and tremendous natural light highlights beautifully refinished maple floors that extend throughout the gathering areas as well as the guest bedroom. Over 1,200 square feet of modern living space includes the sizable living room and dining room, plus a granite-appointed kitchen with stainless-steel appliances from Bosch and LG. The master suite with a private balcony highlights the home's 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, while the 2nd bedroom features an en suite bathroom for added comfort and convenience for friends and family alike. Adding to the appeal, this home features a laundry closet, and a 2-car garage with ample built-in storage. This green-point rated, award-winning complex is sure to appeal to eco-friendly sensibilities with energy efficient features including roof-mounted solar panels and a top-of-the-line Rinnai tankless water heater. Plus, this incredible location puts you close to major tech firms including Facebook and Google, convenient to beautiful parks such as Ramos and Mitchell, and a short drive to major commute routes including US 101 and Highway 85, with access to top-ranked Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

**OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

[www.3719Heron.com](http://www.3719Heron.com)

Offered at \$1,588,000

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

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# 2072 ASHTON AVENUE MENLO PARK



## NEWLY COMPLETED LUXURY IN WEST MENLO

Modern, luxurious living awaits in this newly completed West Menlo jewel, which offers an enticing blend of stylish finishes and modern amenities. Beautiful European oak floors extend throughout nearly 2,800 square feet of open living space, with high ceilings and excellent use of glass crafting a bright, airy ambiance. At the heart of the home lies the spectacular great room that begins with the expansive family room featuring a linear fireplace and built-in Bose surround system. From there, the dining room with wet bar opens to the gourmet kitchen with quartz countertops, custom cabinets, and a suite of Thermador appliances. Plus, folding La Cantina doors open completely to the backyard lpe wood deck for true indoor/outdoor living and entertaining. The home's 5 bedrooms and 4.5 bathrooms include the palatial master suite with a private balcony and spa-like bathroom, as well as 2 bedroom suites ideal for guest accommodations or work-from-home space. And the gorgeously landscaped backyard provides a peaceful retreat with tall trees, lawn, and planter boxes. This convenient location is just moments to downtown Menlo Park, downtown Palo Alto, and Stanford University, with easy access to Interstate 280 for Bay Area commuting, and provides access to the top-ranked Las Lomas school district (buyer to verify eligibility).

**OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

**[www.2072AshtonAve.com](http://www.2072AshtonAve.com)**

**Offered at \$2,988,000**

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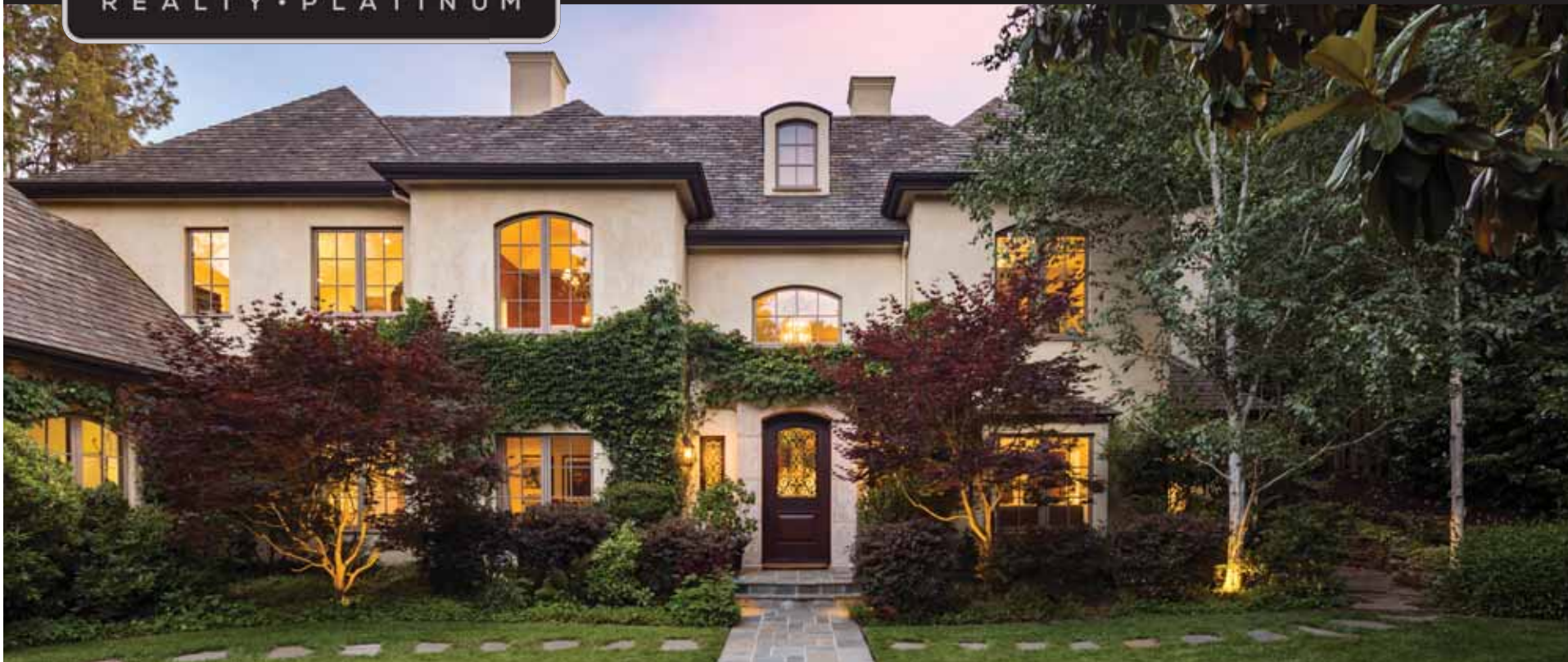
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120 ESCANYO WAY  
PORTOLA VALLEY



## STYLISH LIVING WITH AN INCREDIBLE LOCATION

Nestled on over one-half acre amidst the rolling hills of Portola Valley rests this luxurious, light-filled French Chateau designed by renowned architect Roger Kohler. Stylish appointments greet you at every turn, from walnut floors that extend throughout most of the home's almost 4,400 square feet of interior space, to intricate ironwork and millwork, to chic divided light windows, and to detailed ceilings that crown expansive spaces scaled for entertaining. Highlights include the eye-catching fireplace that centers the living room, the media room with a ceiling-mounted projector, the gourmet kitchen with appliances from Wolf and Miele, and the handsome office with excellent work-from-home space. Accommodations for friends and family include 5 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms, the crown jewel of which is the incredible master suite with a marble-appointed bathroom. And for outdoor enjoyment, the truly spectacular, multi-level backyard offers a retreat-like setting, with a lush lawn, fire pit, built-in grill, and sports court. Located on a peaceful, flat cul-de-sac in the close-knit Ladera community, this home takes full advantage of its setting and is just moments from the Ladera Recreation District where kids and adults can enjoy activities including swimming, tennis, yoga, and more. Plus, you will be just a short drive from downtown Palo Alto and Stanford University, and have access to the acclaimed Las Lomas school district (buyer to verify eligibility).

**OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

[www.120EscanyoWay.com](http://www.120EscanyoWay.com)

Offered at \$4,700,000

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

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**REDWOOD SHORES | \$1,995,000**

Beautiful light-filled 3br/2.5ba home in the "Sunrise" community of Redwood Shores. Conveniently located to nearby walking & bike trails, restaurants, and public transportation.

**Sandy Rostad**  
650.888.1078  
srostad@cbnorcal.com  
CalRE #01272932



**PENNGROVE | \$1,325,000**

Beautiful oak-studded ranch home offers a formal dining room, living room, 3br/2.5ba, potential 2nd master, deck, patio & 3 car garage, 1.5acres.

**Michael Williams** 650.867.3876  
CalRE #01862062  
**Julian Solano** 707.799.4533  
CalRE #01892549



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**MENLO PARK | \$2,395,000**

This totally remodeled 3br/2ba contemporary-style home features a great room with spacious kitchen, stainless steel appliances; separate sitting areas for entertaining and television viewing and a large dining area. French doors open to a redwood deck and a lush backyard with gas fire pit and pergola covered patio. The large master suite includes a walk-in closet with organizers and a luxurious bath.

**Elaine White**

650.465.4663  
 ewhite@cbnorcal.com  
 CalRE #01182467



**SAN JOSE | \$1,049,000**

Beautiful 3br/3ba townhome in the Copperwood Community. This home features tons of natural light & vaulted ceiling in the living room & master bedroom. Enjoy cooking in the clean kitchen complete w/ample cabinets & granite tile countertops. You will love the master suite that displays views of surrounding mountains. The good size, private backyard is great for entertaining & has mature orange & lemon trees.

**Saruul Barrios**

415.828.8304  
 saruul.barrios@cbnorcal.com  
 CalRE #01925631



**REDWOOD CITY | \$2,195,000**

2 Homes: Main Home 3br/2ba and Charming Cottage 1br/1ba.

**Helen Aragoni**

650.270.1600  
 helen.aragoni@cbnorcal.com  
 CalRE #01306091



**MENLO PARK | \$2,098,000**

Creek setting, charming 3br/1ba corner lot rancher on a cul-de-sac. Great Menlo Park schools.

**Liliana Perazich**

415.297.0125  
 liliana.perazich@cbnorcal.com  
 CalRE #02015538