

# The Almanac

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## Celebrating this Fourth of July with events throughout the Peninsula

By Grace Stetson

The state is opening back up and Californians are itching to get their Independence Day plans in order. Many of the traditional local events, like the parades, chili cook-off, junior rodeo and fireworks displays, aren't being held this year. So what about some off-the-beaten-path alternatives?

This year, there are some great lower-key events across the Peninsula, from a delightful dog contest to getting down and dirty with chalk. TheSixFifty.com (a sister publication of this news organization) has compiled some ideas for Independence Day for those who want to celebrate America in a new way this year.

### Spread pastels in downtown Redwood City

Many people found solace during the pandemic in creating

art at home. The Redwood City Parks & Arts Foundation wants to showcase all those new Picassos and Frida Kahlos out on the town.

The foundation is offering free chalk kits to area households, as professional artists and locals work to beautify downtown throughout the holiday weekend. Follow the Chalk Art Walk, from the Redwood City Main Library to Courthouse Square.

If you want to participate but are still timid among crowds, not to worry: The foundation encourages families to participate in Chalk Full of Fun @ Home. With the free chalk kit, each household will receive a 24-pack of chalk pastels and some holiday treats, and can submit photos of their finished work online to compete for prizes.

Go to [rwcparf.org/chalk-full-of-fun](http://rwcparf.org/chalk-full-of-fun).

See **JULY FOURTH**, page 10



Courtesy Khoi Huynh

The Chalk Full of Fun festival is coming back to downtown Redwood City this year, from the main library to Courthouse Square.

## MP council OKs new police Tasers, license plate reader upgrades

By Kate Bradshaw

New Tasers — and defibrillators — are headed to the Menlo Park Police Department following a June 29 City Council decision.

The council voted 4-1 on Tuesday, with Vice Mayor Betsy Nash dissenting, to accept a \$100,000 grant on behalf of the police department to purchase new Tasers and upgrade automated license plate readers, on the condition that the department also use funds from previous grants to put automatic defibrillators in all police vehicles.

At Councilwoman Cecilia Taylor's request, they also required the department to

produce monthly reports with information such as how many times the Tasers were discharged and whether each use complied with the department's use-of-force policy.

The approval authorizes the department to spend \$47,540 of the grant on new Tasers and \$59,950 on upgrades to automated license plate readers, which exceeds \$100,000, but there is enough funding to cover the excess, according to police Chief Dave Norris.

The grant program, part of California's Citizens Option for Public Safety, guarantees each city a minimum of \$100,000 to support front-line municipal police services.

In certain situations, Tasers

are an effective non-lethal force option and among the least likely to harm both officers and those they interact with compared to other options, Norris said. Other options are pepper spray, a stick or baton, or shotguns retrofitted to shoot beanbag rounds, each of which has its own drawbacks, he explained.

From 2014 to 2020, he told the council, Tasers have been actively used by the Menlo Park Police Department only a few times each year and were displayed on average less than 10 times per year. The department currently has a low inventory of Tasers and they are at the end of their usable lives, Norris said. The new model, Taser 7,

is yellow, making it easier for both officers and those they interact with to tell it apart from a firearm. Another feature of the model is that drawing it will automatically start an officer's worn body camera, Norris said.

The automated license plate reader upgrades were requested because the technology is at the end of its useful cycle and needs to be replaced, Norris said. Data collected by the readers is protected in a highly secure database, and Menlo Park's policy for that data and when it can be accessed is "among the tightest, privacy-forward policies of any city in the Bay Area," Norris told the council.

Mayor Drew Combs added that Tasers are "a staple of modern policing" as a non-lethal law enforcement tool. "I'm supportive of our department having the latest technology when it comes to this too, accepting that there, again, needs to be a larger discussion about the use of force," he said.

"I'm concerned about police officers having equipment that isn't 100% safe for them. I'm also uncomfortable about the use of force," Taylor said.

Councilwoman Jen Wolosin said that after some high-profile cases in San Mateo County involving Tasers, she was hesitant but added that "it's

See **TASERS**, page 18

INSIDE

ARTSCENE 21 | FOOD 23

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The Almanac  
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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Daniela Beltran B.

## Hail to the chief

Chief Harold Schapelhouman retired this week after 40 years with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, including 15 years in the top job. A farewell party on June 28 at Station 1 in Menlo Park featured speakers such as San Mateo County Supervisor Don Horsley (above), and celebrated Schapelhouman's long service to the communities of Atherton, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. Over the years he served in a dozen different positions with the fire district, including firefighter, dispatcher and rescue driver, and was part of the search and rescue team that responded to national incidents that include the 9/11 attacks, the Oklahoma City bombing and Hurricane Katrina. After a months-long absence due to a spinal injury in 2013 that put him in a wheelchair, he was back on the job as fire chief in January 2014.

## Burglaries on the rise in Atherton

By Angela Swartz

An elderly Lindenwood resident awoke to two strangers lurking in her bedroom with flashlights one night last month. She screamed and the two fled through the same smashed French door they used to break into her home.

She is one of the 28 burglary victims in Atherton this year, the police department said to about

80 attendees of a Tuesday night community safety meeting on Zoom. About \$115,000 worth of goods have been taken so far in 2021, according to Atherton police. Of that, approximately \$24,000 in goods has been taken since April 1, police Chief Steve McCulley said in an email.

"We're not concerned about the take, we're concerned about the rise in these burglaries," McCulley said, noting that nearly

30 burglaries is an "alarming" number for Atherton.

The town has seen an uptick in burglaries over the last three years. These latest crimes do not appear to be connected to the November 2018 to February 2019 burglary spree that police believe is tied to Chilean gang members — the same thieves who are suspected of taking \$800,000 worth of jewelry from an Atherton home in December 2020.

Police announced at the meeting that they are launching a volunteer patrol training program to help deter crime. Residents who participate will take a four-hour training that teaches how to look out for suspicious activity. Participants will not carry weapons, but police will give them a vest to wear while on patrol, McCulley said, and they must commit eight hours a month to patrolling.

The last three residential burglaries reported in Atherton took place in unoccupied detached structures overnight on June 24 on Placitas Avenue and Middlefield Road.



Screenshot by Angela Swartz

**Residents meet** over Zoom to discuss a recent rash in burglaries during a June 29 meeting hosted by the Atherton Police Department.

See **BURGLARIES**, page 14

## Menlo Park council OKs bringing back 22.5 staff positions in new city budget

Lengthy debate mulls future of holiday tree lighting event

By Kate Bradshaw

Days before a new fiscal year starts July 1, the Menlo Park City Council approved its budget and capital improvement plan to run until June 30, 2022.

On a 4-1 vote, with Councilwoman Cecilia Taylor dissenting, the council opted to move forward with a budget expected to bring in \$176 million and spend \$185 million, according to a staff report. The general fund is expected to bring in \$61.49 million and spend about \$61.49 million.

The approved budget brings back the equivalent of 22.5 full-time employees to the city's roster.

However, according to Assistant City Manager Nick Pegueros, while the laid-off employees will have the first right of refusal based on union terms, a number of staffers removed from the city's roster after last year's pandemic-related budget cuts have likely already moved on to other positions. That means that finding, hiring and training replacements to fill the positions, which will take some time, he noted.

One shift from previous budgets was for the city to plan to receive 100% of what's called ERAF, the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund. Historically, the city only budgets for half of that because the funds could be rescinded by the state to use for education purposes.

The council agreed to use \$1.46 million from its strategic pension reserve to tackle pension obligations ahead of the minimum amount due.

The budget calls for residents to continue to pay reduced utility user tax rates of 1%.

The council also plans to use between \$2 million and \$3 million of an expected \$8.5 million in federal funds designated for the city through the American Rescue Plan Act to balance the city's general fund.

During the council's discussion, members hashed out which possible budget items to

fund out of a list of unresolved possibilities. Among them were to hire four people to implement the city's updated heritage tree ordinance and work on maintaining the city's downtown area, hiring six people to restore library and community services and three people to speed up the city's turnaround time to check building plans and issue permits.

In addition, the council agreed to direct the Parks and Recreation Commission to study city-hosted celebrations and consider how to make them more inclusive to people of other faiths or cultural preferences, and to ask the Complete Streets Commission to study the city's Safe Routes to School program.

In particular, council members discussed a \$90,000 line item to fund the city's holiday tree lighting program at length. They ultimately agreed only to fund the program at the same level as last year for only the tree in Fremont Park and one in Belle Haven. Councilwoman Jen Wolosin argued that as a Jewish Menlo Park resident, she felt that the city's holiday tree lighting event is not inclusive of families from non-Christian faith traditions and favored not funding it at the full amount proposed. The city-sponsored annual tree lighting ceremony, when not canceled due to a global pandemic, includes a chance for children to visit with Santa Claus, and features other activities traditionally associated with the Christmas holiday, along with more secular seasonal offerings like free hot chocolate.

"I've never been (to the tree lighting ceremony) because it doesn't feel like it's for me," she said.

"The scale and excessiveness of this amount I have a hard time with," she added.

Vice Mayor Nash and Taylor also opposed the proposed funding amount. Mayor Drew Combs and Councilman Ray Mueller said that the tree

See **BUDGET**, page 20

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### CRIME BRIEFS

#### 15K pounds of illegal fireworks, \$1M cash seized

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office seized about 15,000 pounds of illegal fireworks and \$1 million in cash from various Bay Area locations last week.

The fireworks and cash were connected to illegal fireworks sales that took place in Millbrae by two suspects operating out of residences in San Francisco and San Jose. They also operated a large warehouse in Oakland.

The suspects are Sam San, 61, of San Francisco, and a 54-year-old San Jose woman.

According to the Sheriff's Office, detectives from its Crime Suppression Unit have been investigating the case since May.

Following the investigation, detectives executed several search warrants last week in San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda and Santa Clara counties. They found the bulk of the fireworks at the warehouse in Oakland and some in San Jose. The cash was found at the San Francisco residence.

The San Francisco Police Department, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad, San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force and the San Mateo County Air Squadron also helped the investigation.

One of the suspects, San, was booked into San Mateo County Jail on suspicion of the sale and possession of fireworks, which could result in jail time.

The second suspect has not yet been charged and is not in

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 14

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### SRI redevelopers to host community meetings

Lane Partners, which recently announced plans to redevelop the 60-acre SRI International campus in Menlo Park with hundreds of housing units, taller buildings and public space, has announced a series of three community meetings aimed at collecting input before the development application is officially submitted.

The meetings are scheduled for:

- Thursday, July 15, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, July 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 28, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

All of the meetings will be held at 333 Ravenswood Ave. in Menlo Park. People can RSVP to the open houses or learn more about the project at MenloParkline.com.

People may also schedule "office hour" appointments Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. or follow the project on social media at @MenloParkline to learn more.

—Kate Bradshaw

#### State food stipend extended to school children

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will give stipends to 4 million California school children who would have relied on free lunch programs this past school year if it wasn't for pandemic-related school closures.

Beginning August and September of this year, the state will issue about \$4.3 billion in funds via Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer cards to cover the days that eligible children did not receive a meal at school between the months of August 2020 through January 2021.

The program closely follows the USDA's recent approval to issue funds to children under the age of 6 who depend on day-care facilities for nutritious meals.

To determine eligibility, California will depend on school data and USDA simplifying assumptions. New students who weren't a part of the National School Lunch Program in the 2019-2020 school year will be able to certify their needs throughout the traditional application for school meals.

The program extends to public, charter and private schools and will make payments based off of the school's opening status for each month of the school year. For schools that do not provide adequate information on its students' school meal dependency or its opening status, the state will depend on local statistics from adjacent schools.

—Bay City News Service

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# To redraw city's district boundaries, Menlo Park council favors independent commission

By Kate Bradshaw

At a meeting with consultants to talk about how the district boundaries of Menlo Park should be redrawn based on the 2020 census, the Menlo Park City Council was split 3-2 over which of two approaches to take.

The debate centered on which approach is fairer and less likely to result in the outcome that's feared whenever political boundaries change: gerrymandering, or the manipulation

of the boundaries of a voting constituency to achieve a certain result, like protecting an incumbent. Council members Cecilia Taylor, Jen Wolosin and Vice Mayor Betsy Nash favored an independent commission, while council members Ray Mueller and Mayor Drew Combs favored a hybrid commission.

The majority of council members favored the independent commission approach, which would leave the power to decide district boundaries in the hands of a completely

separate entity from the City Council. The commissioners who would make the decision would not be elected. Those in favor of the independent commission argued that it means those commissioners would be less politically motivated and more impartial in their task of drawing up fair boundaries than elected people.

"I feel really strongly about having an independent commission," said Councilwoman Jen Wolosin. "To me it's fundamental to our democracy. I'm very encouraged that there are

some guardrails, (and) some checks and balances we can write into the resolution."

Those who opposed the independent commission approach argued that the council, as an elected body representing the wills of the voters, would relinquish too much power to an unelected body in making a decision with such important outcomes for voters. They also argued that, should problems develop within the commission — tension, disagreements, failures to achieve their objectives — then the council would

have little recourse over how to address them.

"What this is a question of is whether or not we're going to have a select group of unelected people make a big decision regarding how elections take place in Menlo Park with no check at all from the body elected by voters," Mueller said. "I just reject the notion that somehow public servants have a failing and someone who's not elected by the public, and doesn't have to answer to

See **BOUNDARIES**, page 19

## Coronavirus central: Vaccination rate slow but still climbing in county

By Embarcadero Media staff

### Vaccination rate slowly climbing

San Mateo County is focused on getting as many people vaccinated as possible as its COVID-19 vaccination rate has slowed down.

During a presentation to the county's Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Louise Rogers, chief of San Mateo County Health, said that the county hasn't "hit the wall."

"We're seeing increases in the communities that have been the hardest to reach," Rogers said. "I think some of this is time and the people who have been saying they just want to wait. As the weeks go by, there are more people that become inclined to change their mind and that's very encouraging."

As of Monday, 88% of county residents 16 and older have received at least their first shot, compared to 85% three weeks ago.

Last week, the county's health department injected just over 500 people with their first dose.

Moreover, the county's efforts to do targeted vaccinations are paying off. The county has received 15 requests from community partners to host pop-up vaccine events since creating an online sign-up form in early June.

Vaccinations for children and teenagers are also on the rise. As of Monday, 61% of 12- to 15-year-olds had received at least their first vaccine dose, compared to 52% three weeks ago.

Dr. Anand Chabra, San Mateo County Health COVID-19 mass vaccination section chief, said that the county will focus on getting children vaccinated

through pediatric providers instead of having vaccinations at school sites in the fall.

"For most children, the best environment to receive their COVID-19 vaccination would be with a primary care provider," Chabra said, adding that children can also catch up on other routine immunizations they may have missed due to the pandemic.

While COVID-19 case numbers have been low in San Mateo County, public health officials expect that the delta variant is present in the county. The delta variant, which was first identified in India, appears to spread more easily than other coronavirus variants.

Rogers did not have an exact number of COVID-19 cases in the county caused by the delta variant but said they are relying on state data.

"The means of identifying the variants relies on laboratory testing that isn't conducted on all of the samples," Rogers said. "So we have to really rely on the statewide estimates and I think we expect that that variant is present locally, just as the other variants are."

In California, the delta variant

represents about 14.5% of COVID-19 specimen that were sampled and sequenced in June, according to data from the California Department of Public Health.

Rogers said that the county is not considering adding stricter restrictions in response to the delta variant.

But she said, "We have just been 100 percent focused on getting people vaccinated because

we know that's really the best strategy for addressing the variant."

People can visit [smchealth.org/coronavirus](http://smchealth.org/coronavirus) for San Mateo County's COVID-19 information page.

### 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.

### Your COVID-19 vaccine questions — answered

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

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# Atherton, Portola Valley starting to bring back in-person government services

Woodside doesn't have a date set yet, but Town Hall is open by appointment

By Angela Swartz

Atherton and Portola Valley officials are beginning to reopen in-person services 15 months after shutting down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Government meetings will remain virtual for the time being.

Atherton has fully reopened consistent with Gov. Gavin Newsom's reopening plan, said City Manager George Rodericks in a June 23 email. Facilities in Holbrook-Palmer Park may be rented, and in-person town hall services have returned. Masks are required

for people who are unvaccinated, including both staff and members of the public.

Demand is returning to normal levels for rentals in the park, Rodericks said.

Rodericks anticipates the Atherton City Council will return to meeting in person in September. The council doesn't meet in August, he noted. The town currently streams its meetings through Midpen Media Center, but is also looking into the possibility of a Zoom hybrid meeting model once construction on the Town Center is completed.

"We are waiting for that until

we move into the new buildings and can use the new Council Chambers," he said. "It's likely going to coincide with the September/October timeline."

On June 15, Portola Valley began accepting reservations at its indoor and outdoor facilities for July 12 and beyond, according to a town newsletter. Town Hall is set to reopen to the public the same day. The town will keep in place expanded online services rolled out during the pandemic, as well as expanded online services in the planning and building, parks and recreation, and administrative departments, according

to the plan the Town Council approved on May 25.

The council has yet to set a date for when it will resume in-person meetings, said Mayor Maryann Derwin in a June 23 email. The town's 2022 fiscal year budget does include a \$79,800 line item for purchasing "hybrid meeting software" to allow people to participate in council and committee meetings both virtually and in person at the Historic Schoolhouse in the future.

There will be an enrichment camp at the town library, sponsored by San Mateo County Libraries, to help students catch

up on academics after a school year of distance learning. The program is receiving \$892,000 in additional funds from the library JPA board.

Woodside Town Hall is open by appointment only, according to the town's website.

"We do not have a definitive reopening date as of yet," said Mayor Brian Dombkowski in a June 24 email. "Although logically it can't be any later than when the council comes back (in person)." ❏

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

## Bored Facebook chefs + hungry kids = innovative meal program

With Menlo Park campus closed, cooks make meals for Ravenswood families

By Kate Bradshaw

During the pandemic, Facebook's campus chefs were being paid but weren't working while the social media giant's employees worked from home. Meanwhile, kids living nearby were struggling with food insecurity.

In an effort to combine the former resource with the latter need, a partnership between the social media company and a local school district was born: Facebook's campus chefs were tasked with providing weekly meals to families in the Ravenswood City School District, which serves residents of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

According to a statement from Facebook, company chefs make meals every Thursday, which are delivered to local

schools by a Facebook-sponsored food truck on Fridays.

June Richardson, who heads the child nutrition program at the Ravenswood City School District, said in an interview that the program started April 16 and is expected to run through the summer.

The meals Facebook prepares for the district are packaged family-style, include fresh fruits and vegetables, and don't require preparation.

They also help break up the monotony of what the district can otherwise provide through its bulk school meal program, which offers families a week's worth of meals each Wednesday, Richardson said.

According to Facebook, the program provides enough food to serve up to 600 meals each week.



Photos by Magali Gauthier

**Burak Epir**, a chef who normally works at the Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, chops scallions for meals going to Ravenswood School District families at a kitchen in San Mateo on June 24.

"We never have any leftovers," Richardson said.

The meal program has been advertised on the East Palo Alto Neighbors group on Facebook and through other Facebook and Instagram sites, as well through the district's system that allows principals to text

alerts to families at each school, she said.

The nonprofit Loaves and Fishes has partnered with the program to provide access to a refrigerated van that transports the meals from Facebook to the school sites, ensuring that the food is kept at a safe

temperature, Richardson said.

Family meals so far have included menu items like tacos and chicken pitas, and have been a hit with families, she said.

"I think the other impact is it allows them to feel a sense of community with Facebook," she added. Often, families in the district think, "We have all these great Silicon Valley moguls in our town, but what are they doing for our community?" she said.

The program has shifted some attitudes about Facebook in the community toward thinking "Hey, they really do care about us," she said. "I think (that) is huge in our community." ❏

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



**Boxes are packed** with produce, eggs and granola for hungry local families at a warehouse in Redwood City on June 22.



**Ornella Tchoumie** passes a box to Lauren Shaub at the Community Mobile Market warehouse in Redwood City.

# Policing, wildfires and more staff boost local towns' budgets

Woodside expects costlier police services, Portola Valley ups staff and focuses on wildfire prevention, Atherton considers where to spend extra funds

By Angela Swartz

Local towns are in the throes of planning their budgets for the fiscal year that begins July 1. Meanwhile, federal COVID-19 relief funds are on the way to cities and towns across the country.

Atherton officials will evaluate how to allocate unused funds once its new civic center is completed this fall.

In Portola Valley, the pandemic spurred an increased need for staff as residents' service requests grew. The town is also seeing an increase in spending on wildfire prevention measures as fire threats grow in the state.

Woodside is experiencing increasing police costs, but otherwise isn't expecting many changes to the town's budget.

Below are more detailed updates on each town's finances in the year to come.

## Atherton

For fiscal year 2022, general fund revenues are projected at \$17.4 million and general fund expenditures are expected to be \$16.5 million, according to an agenda packet for a June 16 Atherton City Council meeting, where the council approved the budget. The council discussed the budget in four different meetings leading up to the vote.

About \$10.6 million of the revenue will come from property taxes, according to a June 16 report prepared by staff.

The town will spend about \$6.1 million to finish construction of its long-awaited civic center project, the report states.

Once the civic center project is completed (projected to be around October), staff recommends that the council consider uses for the unallocated funds.

A little over \$9 million will go toward the police department, an increase from last year's police budget of \$8.4 million, to account for some additional expenses, including

the purchase of a new squad car, as well as increased salary and benefits costs.

The police department opted not to purchase electric vehicles, as staff found there are "very limited all-electric vehicle options with restrictive operational vehicle size," according to the report. Research also indicated that the major car makers will have very viable, pursuit-rated, all-electric police department vehicle options within about two years.

The town's reserves should stand at \$8.4 million.

Other items in the budget: the Bayfront Canal/Atherton Channel Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Project (\$1.4 million), upgrades to Holbrook-Palmer Park with anticipated grant funding from Santa Clara County and the state Parks and Recreation Department (\$1.1 million), administrative costs (\$1 million), and road maintenance funded by a special parcel tax (\$875,000).

The proposed budget notes that potential future construction of an amphitheater in the park would cost about \$150,000.

## Portola Valley

The Portola Valley Town Council approved the 2022 fiscal year budget at its June 23, meeting. Staff project revenues of \$6.1 million, or an increase of \$438,991 (just under 8%) over last year's budget. About half of that revenue would come from property taxes, which are projected to be about \$3 million for the fiscal year, according to the budget, an increase of 5.2% over the 2021 fiscal year budget.

"This tightening of the delta between general fund revenue and expenditures is an ongoing trend, even in the light of better-than-anticipated growth in property taxes over the last three years," staff wrote in the budget report.

Staff is developing budget forecasting and monitoring



Michelle Le

**Portola Valley Town Center** on Sept. 14, 2014. The pandemic spurred an increased need for staff as residents' service requests grew. The town is also seeing an increase in spending on wildfire prevention measures as fire threats grow in the state.

tools that are expected to be used for a proposed September budget revision.

Anticipated expenses will be \$6.1 million, an increase of \$397,587, or just under 7%, from the prior year's budget. Town reserves should stand at \$5.9 million. The biggest changes include a \$291,308 bump in spending on support staff salaries and benefits. The town's contract with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office has "grown considerably" to \$997,407 this coming fiscal year from the estimated cost of \$823,006 last year, according to the report.

There is an increase from \$39,000 to \$190,000 for right-of-way vegetation management to keep the town's roads clear during a wildfire.

"The CZU (Lightning Complex) fire(s) (in 2020) was, for many residents, the first time the reality of wildfire danger revealed itself, and the council's primary priority this year is continued mitigation and resiliency efforts," the report states.

Portola Valley has increased staffing needs as officials plan for updates to the town's housing and safety elements, along with pedestrian safety study improvements, major land-use

projects, virtual emergency operations software, changes to the town's permit tracking software, a website refresh launch and expanded capabilities.

Included in this budget are funds for a full-time planner and full funding for a previously part-time financial analyst position. The council's priorities also explicitly support an emphasis on focusing town staff on the council's goals and not overpromising what can be accomplished in a fiscal year. Portola Valley has the fewest staff of any city in San Mateo County, according to town staff.

By every available metric, requests for staff time and services greatly increased in the last year, according to the proposed budget, wrote Town Manager Jeremy Dennis in the report. Examples include:

- Building permit applications increased 25%
- Code compliance complaints increased 72%
- Planning permit applications increased 70%
- Public Records Act requests increased over 1000%
- PV Connect service requests increased 157% (this includes trails, road, noise, dumping, graffiti or other similar issues)

Other items in the budget of

note: a road resurfacing project (\$302,929), enhancement and maintenance of the town's open spaces (\$128,000), a study on undergirding the town's utilities (\$100,000) and purchasing software to allow for people to participate in government meetings both virtually and in person at the Historic Schoolhouse (\$79,800).

## Woodside

Woodside includes a 10-year forecast in its 2022 budget, which the council approved on June 22.

Revenue will come in at about \$10 million, with about \$4.2 million coming from property taxes, according to the budget document. Building and permit fees will account for about \$1.3 million in revenue.

Expenditures total \$12.2 million. The biggest costs are salaries and benefits for staff (about \$2.7 million), \$2 million for the police contract, about \$881,000 for hazardous tree removal and \$2.6 million for other services and supplies.

The police budget increased this year — by a little under \$63,000 — because the town added overtime services, said Town Manager Kevin Bryant. The extra police services will help address the volume of traffic in a town that's on a route to the beach and popular destination for cyclists in the summer months, he explained.

## American Rescue Plan Act

The federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) apportioned \$65.1 billion to help support cities and towns hit by the pandemic. The U.S. Department of Treasury has only released final allocations for metropolitan cities so far.

Under the guidance, only pandemic-related expenditures can qualify for funding. Funds

See **TOWN BUDGETS**, page 15

# Community college district pledges to make tuition free

District sets aside \$6.75 million as "seed money" in 2022 fiscal budget

By Angela Swartz

The San Mateo County Community College District governing board approved \$6.75 million in free tuition for its students as part of its fiscal year 2022 budget during a June 23 meeting.

Free college education is

currently available for students who enroll in the district's Promise Scholars Program, which offers scholarships and support services to first-time, full-time students. In April, the county's Board of Supervisors pledged \$2 million to expand the program.

The district is aiming to

double the size of that program, which currently has about 2,000 full-time students enrolled.

The added funding will also expand dual enrollment at College of San Mateo and Cañada College (\$2.5 million), and go toward textbook costs (\$1.25 million), according to the June 23 board meeting packet.

"Still more work to do, but it is a huge step toward facilitating equity, access and upward mobility for our underresourced students," said trustee John Pimentel, who lives in Menlo Park.

The board also approved restarting the Cañada College shuttle that runs through East Palo Alto to help students get

to Cañada in Woodside for \$421,200.

Some 581 students in the Promise Scholars Program graduated in 2021, according to the packet. ▀

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



Veronica Weber

**The Terrible Adult Chamber Orchestra** is holding an open rehearsal on the Fourth of July in Mountain View. Enjoy the music or bring your instruments and make some music of your own.

**JULY FOURTH**  
*continued from page 1*

**Dig into some delicious grub in Palo Alto**

While the traditional Chili Cook Off is not happening this year, at Palo Alto's July 4th Summer Event, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the city will have food trucks available at Mitchell Park for people to indulge in some tasty local eats. The current lineup includes Road Dogs, Daily Grind Burgers, Cousins Maine Lobster, Chubby's Chickn, and Island Sno.

"We'll have homemade chili dogs, hot dogs, bratwurst — and probably a few special options," marketing manager and graphic designer Vinh Duong said of Road Dogs, which has been serving up dogs across the Bay for over 10 years. More popular offerings include the Space Needle Dog — topped with kraut, melted cream cheese and caramelized onions — and the Tailgate Dog, with seasoned grilled chicken, onions, tomatoes, and chipotle sauce.

The band Radio City All-Stars will also offer a live performance.

Go to [cityofpaloalto.org](http://cityofpaloalto.org).

**Listen to an egalitarian chamber orchestra in Mountain View**

Did you pick up a classical instrument during the pandemic, and are now wishing to hear some live tunes? Turns out, there's a chance to do just that, right in time for some July Fourth favorites.

On Sunday at 2 p.m., the Terrible Adult Chamber Orchestra of Silicon Valley (TACO) is holding a free open rehearsal

for musicians of all skill levels. This will be the first gathering of the full orchestral team since the beginning of the pandemic, and the plan is to play tunes, including "Fanfare for the Common Man," and "Battle Hymn of the Republic," throughout the afternoon.

Director and Conductor Cathy Humphers Smith said that the last session TACO was all together was in February 2020. Prior to that, the team had met for open sessions, which had been held monthly since TACO was created 10 years ago.

For this concert, Smith said, "I already have 65, 70 musicians who have signed up to play."

Smith said that two or three musicians have signed up for TACO every month over the course of the pandemic, with some practicing more than they ever had and some who have never played with an orchestra.

The group will meet at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts (500 Castro St.) and space will be available to lay out on the grass, enjoy some picnic foods, and delight in the music.

Go to [mountainview.gov](http://mountainview.gov).

**Dress up your doggies in Foster City**

In Foster City, dogs take center stage for the Fourth of July.

This year, the city will host its annual dog contest, both virtually and in person, with 2021's categories including "most patriotic," "best trick," and "fastest eater."

According to Building Services Coordinator Tiernan Kang, the fastest eater category has been the most popular and likely the most entertaining event for

both dogs and dog-lovers. "We just drop the food in front of them, and away they go," he said.

Some categories (like these latter two) will require in-person attendance at Leo Ryan Park; city staff is following San Mateo County's COVID-19 regulations. Pancakes and a trivia contest are also among the city's holiday offerings.

Go to [fostercity.org](http://fostercity.org).

**Celebrate local flora and fauna with a hike or bike ride**

Take advantage of access to the great outdoors across the Peninsula by grabbing those hiking boots or bicycle helmets.

Try a moderate stroll on the Oljon Trail at El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve in Redwood City, or push it to the limit with the eight available trails at Wunderlich County Park in Woodside.

If you want to breathe in the fresh air on two wheels, take your bike out for a ride on Foothill Expressway. The four-lane road is popular among cyclists on weekend mornings, but don't let that deter you if you're just beginning your two-wheel journey. Make sure to follow bicycle safety and traffic rules, and don't wear headphones as you cycle.

**Do good and have fun with the city of Mountain View**

The city of Mountain View is encouraging locals to participate in volunteer events and outdoor fun for the week leading up to America's birthday.

"Celebrate with Service" events through Saturday, July 3, include making kits for pediatric patients, being kind to a neighbor, and

planting trees at four area parks.

The city is also offering camping activity sets for purchase through July 2, featuring s'mores kits, constellation charts, crafts and more.

Chief Communications Officer Lenka Wright said that these events were planned largely because of the cancellation of the annual San Francisco Symphony concert and fireworks at Shoreline Amphitheatre.

"This is the first time that the city of Mountain View has offered engaging activities like these in recognition of Independence Day," she said, noting that the camp-out kits had nearly sold out as of June 29.

Go to [mountainview.gov](http://mountainview.gov).

**Fill up on flapjacks for the parade in Half Moon Bay**

Is there any better way to celebrate America than through breakfast food? We're sure many would agree: digging into some pancakes, sausage and coffee is a great start to your Fourth of July celebration.

This year, the Half Moon Bay Lions Club will be hosting its annual pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. until noon at the City Hall parking lot before kicking off the city's annual Fourth of July parade. Longtime member Rich Picchi noted that, prior to the pandemic, the pancake

breakfast often saw up to 500 hungry guests, which treasurer Clayton Jolley credits to making the special recipe on the industrial grill.

"We have always gotten rave reviews, even if we keep it simple," Jolley said.

Tickets for the event are \$10. Proceeds will be used to support various local youth groups.

Half Moon Bay's Ol' Fashioned 4th of July Parade & Festival runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Go to [july4th.miramarevents.com](http://july4th.miramarevents.com).

**More options**

**Kronos Quartet** at Frost Amphitheater, Stanford University

Saturday, July 3, 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$30.

Go to [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu).

**California's Great America** Fourth of July Celebration, Santa Clara

Sunday, July 4, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Go to [cagreatamerica.com](http://cagreatamerica.com).

**Independence Day Caravan**, Los Altos Hills

Sunday, July 4, 10 a.m.

Go to [losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://losaltoshills.ca.gov). 🗳️

*Email Contributing Writer Grace Stetson at [grace.stetson@gmail.com](mailto:grace.stetson@gmail.com).*



Courtesy Federica Armstrong

**Huddart Park** is one of many popular spots for hiking over the long holiday weekend.

# CinéArts, a haven for local cinephiles, permanently shuttered

By Gennady Sheyner

CinéArts at Palo Alto Square, a movie theater that for decades has been a popular destination for local film lovers, will not be reopening after the COVID-19 pandemic, the theater's parent company confirmed to this publication.

Like other entertainment venues across California, the movie theater has been closed since March 2020, when the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing public health orders forced it to shut down. Unlike most others, the Palo Alto Square institution will not be taking part in California's reopening.

"In light of the impact of COVID-19, Cinemark can confirm that it has made the business decision to permanently close its CinéArts at Palo Alto Square theater," a spokesperson for Cinemark told this publication in a statement.

While the pandemic may have contributed to the permanent closure of CinéArts, its future has been in doubt for years. The Texas-based theater company Cinemark, which purchased the Palo Alto theater from Landmark in 2001, had considered closing it in the summer of 2016, a decision that prompted an outpouring of concern from area residents and Palo Alto's elected leaders.

At that time, Cinemark had attributed its decision to close the movie theater to the changing market for movies, the theater's condition and the large amount of money that the company would need to invest to update it. The closure was narrowly averted after Cinemark inked a deal with Hudson Pacific Properties, the owner of Palo Alto Square, that extended the theater's operations until September 2018. As part of the deal, Hudson Pacific was required to make some building and landscaping upgrades.

Even at that time, however, city leaders had acknowledged that the deal represented only a temporary reprieve. Today, the website lists CinéArts at Palo Alto Square as "permanently closed" and states: "We look forward to welcoming you to another Cinemark location near you. We apologize for any inconvenience."

Cinemark owns numerous other theaters in the area, including Century Cinema 16 in Mountain View and Redwood Downtown 20 and XD in Redwood City. The Palo Alto Square theater is much smaller and, in many ways, quaint than

either of those venues. Unlike its neighbors, CinéArts at Palo Alto Square focused largely on foreign, independent and art-house films.

But while its small size and focus on independent movies may have made it harder for the Palo Alto theater to be as lucrative as the larger theaters showing blockbusters, these traits also have endeared CinéArts to local cinephiles. In 2016, more than 2,600 residents signed a petition within days of learning of Cinemark's plans to close, urging the city and Hudson Pacific to retain CinéArts as a tenant at Palo Alto Square. The theater, the petition stated, "provides a critical part of cultural and entertainment life in Palo Alto."

"As only one of two first-run theaters in town, this theater provides access to valuable opportunities not otherwise possible in our community, including several prestigious film festivals, such as the United Nations Affiliated Film Festival and San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, and the popular New York Metropolitan Opera (The MET) simulcasts," the petition stated.

This time, there was little warning to the public about the theater's closure. Cinemark did not make any public statements about the closure and the Palo Alto City Council never publicly mentioned the closure, in sharp contrast to 2016 and 1997, when council members fought to keep the theater open.

This time, the timing of the closure made public engagement nearly impossible. Cinemark's decision was made in May — at a time when most other venues were similarly closed or subject to capacity limits and the city was still in social distancing mode. This is in sharp contrast to 2016, when the theater abruptly stopped showing listings for future screenings, prompting inquiries from residents and the media.

Mayor Tom DuBois said the council learned about the closure just last week, when it received a letter from Hudson Pacific informing city staff about Cinemark's decision to close the theater. The movie-theater chain formally notified Hudson Pacific in May about the theater's closure.

"Century does not make this decision lightly, but given the unprecedented and tragic circumstances, Century has made this difficult decision," wrote Paul Ledbetter, real estate counsel to Century Theatres, one of the brands owned by Cinemark. "As you are aware, Century and

the theatre exhibition industry as a whole faced a particularly acute challenge stemming from the COVID-19 outbreak due to the various local, state and federal mandates specifically requiring the closure of public motion pictures. While such mandates were wide and prudent given the situation, it unfortunately resulted in economic hardships and unintended consequences for Century that ultimately led to this decision."

While the decision appeared

to have been finalized in May, Hudson Pacific didn't inform the city about the theater's closure until June 22, the council's final day in session before its summer recess. By that time, Cinemark had already removed its equipment from the building and returned the keys to Hudson Pacific.

Shawn McGarry, Hudson Pacific's senior vice president for Northern California, noted in his email to the city that Hudson Pacific has been offering

the theater rents that are "well below market" in order to help it remain open.

"We had ongoing discussions with CinéArts to work with them throughout the pandemic, however, they ultimately made the decision to permanently close this location," McGarry wrote.

It remains unclear whether another theater company will move into the space left behind

See CINÉARTS, page 19

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

### PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA July 7, 2021 6:00 P.M.

This meeting is compliant with the Governor's Executive Order N-25-20 issued on March 4, 2020, allowing for deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act. The purpose of this is to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The meeting will be held by teleconferencing. The public may participate via: Zoom meeting or by coming to Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, where a microphone and speaker will be available to allow for participation.

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATING BY TELECONFERENCE: BATCHELDER, BILDNER, DARE, KUTAY, LONDON, ROSEKRANS, AND VOELKE.

#### Join Zoom Meeting:

##### One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87950109950# US (San Jose)  
+12532158782,,87950109950# US (Tacoma)

##### Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 879 5010 9950

Weblink: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87950109950>

#### Remote Public Comments:

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

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

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

All of the items on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be approved, including the Findings and Conditions stated in the Staff Report for each respective item, by one roll call motion without discussion unless a request is made by the Planning Commission, staff or public, at the beginning of the meeting, to have an item withdrawn or transferred to the regular agenda. 1. Minutes of January 6, 2021

#### PUBLIC HEARING

##### 1. Tom and Maggie Bedecarre

ASRB2021-0019; X2DR2021-0001

1040 Cañada Road

Planner: Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner

Presentation and consideration of a proposal, requiring Formal Design Review, to demolish an existing main residence and detached garage; maintain and refurbish an existing barn; remove the existing driveway; construct a new main residence and detached garage; relocate the driveway; and add an additional secondary driveway, new fencing, vehicle gates, landscaping, and associated site improvements.

Formal Design Review (ASRB2021-0019) and Secondary Driveway Exception (X2DR2021-0001) will be considered by the Planning Commission.

##### 2. Sten and Carole Mawson

PCDR2021-0001; VARI2021-0004

163 Romero Road

Planner: Sage Schaan, Principal Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal, requiring Planning Commission Formal Design Review (PCDR2021-0001), to construct an addition including a new two car garage, expanded basement and attached ADU; remodel of the kitchen and living areas and install an elevator, gray water system, gazebo and other site improvements. The project requires consideration of a Variance to Setbacks (VARI2021-0004) for the proposed addition and a detached gazebo.

#### APPEALS

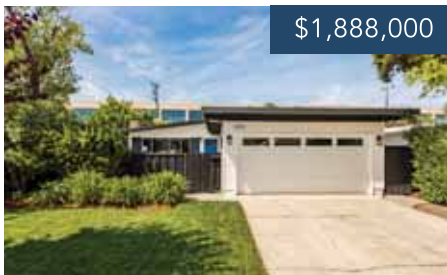
The applicant or any other interested person may appeal a decision to the Town Council by filing an application with the Town Clerk. Appeals with the accompanying fee must be received at Town Hall within 10 calendar days of a decision. For more information on Appeals, please refer to Section 153.970 of the Woodside Municipal Code.

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING SAGE SCHAAN AT [SSCHAAN@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG](mailto:sschaan@woodsidetown.org) OR SARAH FILIPE AT [SFILIPE@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG](mailto:sfilipe@woodsidetown.org)



# COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY

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



\$1,888,000

2523 Betlo Avenue, Mountain View  
4 Bd | 2 Bth  
[www.2523Betlo.com](http://www.2523Betlo.com)



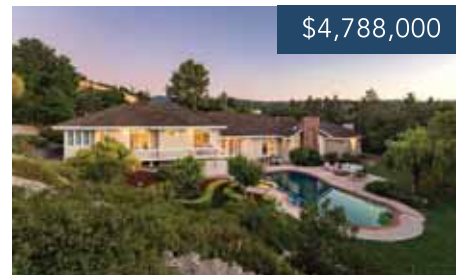
\$1,488,000

166 Cowper Street, Palo Alto  
2 Bd | 1 Bth  
[www.166Cowper.com](http://www.166Cowper.com)



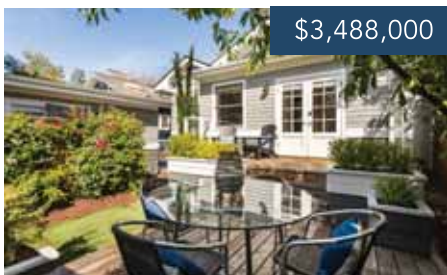
\$3,188,000

3732 Laguna Avenue, Palo Alto  
4 Bd | 3 Bth  
[www.3732Laguna.com](http://www.3732Laguna.com)



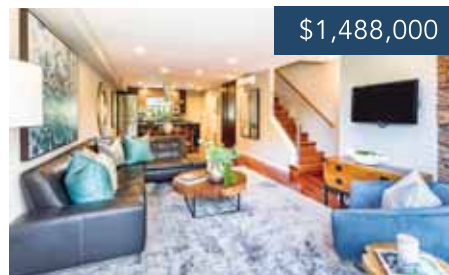
\$4,788,000

14100 Berry Hill Lane, Los Altos Hills  
4 Bd | 5 Bth (3 Full, 2 Half)  
[www.14100BerryHill.com](http://www.14100BerryHill.com)



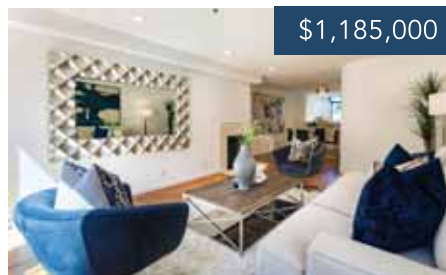
\$3,488,000

170 Hawthorne Avenue, Palo Alto  
4 Bd | 5.5 Bth  
[www.170HawthorneAve.com](http://www.170HawthorneAve.com)



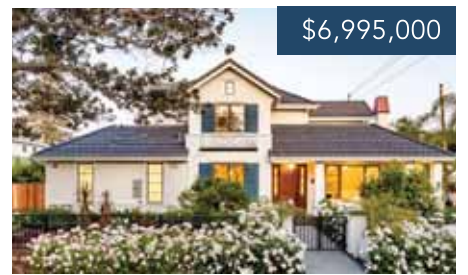
\$1,488,000

714 Ramona Street, Palo Alto  
2 Bd | 2.5 Bth  
[www.714Ramona.com](http://www.714Ramona.com)



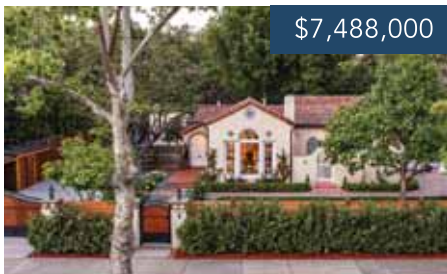
\$1,185,000

155 S. California Ave #G204, Palo Alto  
2 Bd | 1.5 Bth  
[www.155SCalifornia G204.com](http://www.155SCalifornia G204.com)



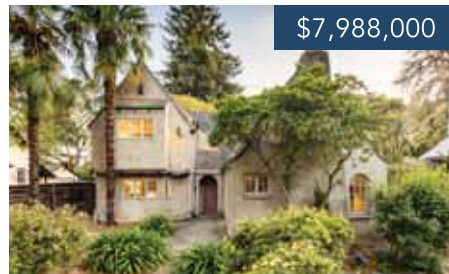
\$6,995,000

900 N California Avenue, Palo Alto  
5 Bd | 4.5 Bth  
[www.900NCalifornia.com](http://www.900NCalifornia.com)



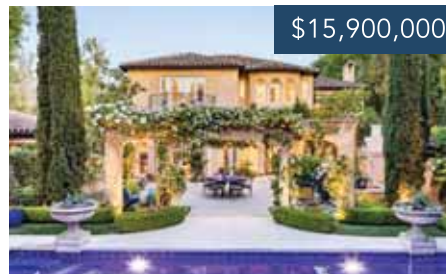
\$7,488,000

1535 Cowper Street, Palo Alto  
6 Bd | 4 Bth  
[www.1535Cowper.com](http://www.1535Cowper.com)



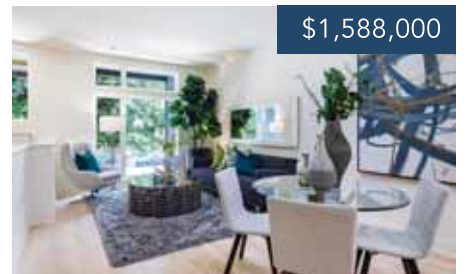
\$7,988,000

1550 Cowper Street, Palo Alto  
9 Bd | 7 Bth  
[www.1550Cowper.com](http://www.1550Cowper.com)



\$15,900,000

51 Crescent Drive, Palo Alto  
5 Bd | 8 Bth (5 Full, 3 Half)  
[www.51Crescent.com](http://www.51Crescent.com)



\$1,588,000

3719 Heron Way, Palo Alto  
3 Bd | 3 Bth  
[www.3719Heron.com](http://www.3719Heron.com)

## SEMINAR

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

WITH **MICHAEL REPKA**

Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club



Scan the QR code to register

# JULY 15

6:00 PM | PDT



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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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Michael Repka, Managing Broker, DRE # 01854880 | [www.deleonrealty.com](http://www.deleonrealty.com) | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

## Sports roundup

### Little League

The **Alpine 9-10 all-star baseball team** turned a pair of double plays in its 10-0 victory over San Mateo American on Tuesday.

Maybe it's because they practice turning two in between innings, or maybe they just worked on it so much in practice that it comes naturally.

Alpine has an impressive defense, ending one inning with a finely-tuned 6-4-3 double play and getting the first two outs of another inning with a 4-6-3. That's shortstop Oli Coupe, second baseman Brandan Sweeney and first baseman Jake Scott.

Opponents have scored a combined two runs in the first three games of the District 52 9-10 Little League All-Star Tournament at Ford Field in Portola Valley.

That's a winning formula even before considering an offense that has produced 36 runs over that

same three-game span. Alpine has played a total of 14 innings, twice using the mercy rule to end games early.

"We've got some players," Alpine coach Ryan Sweeney said. "They can hit. But all that can change in a heartbeat. We'll enjoy it while it happens."

Brandan Sweeney had an outstanding day, collecting a triple and two doubles in the game. Winning pitcher Anders Cahill helped himself, collecting three hits while pitching all four innings.

Owen Coupe and Dylan Courson each added two hits. Eight of the nine starters scored at least one run, with Courson and leadoff hitter Wyatt Weiss each crossing home plate twice.

Twins Owen and Oli have an older brother, Max Coupe, who just finished an outstanding baseball career at Menlo-Atherton



Photo by Rick Eymer

**Luca Auer** reacts to his hit in the fifth inning.

High School, which won 20 games and the Peninsula Athletic League Ocean Division title this spring.

A few others also have older brothers playing in District 52 tournaments. It seems baseball runs deep in the Alpine Little League program.

Alpine will play either San Carlos or Pacifica American in the

final game of the winner's bracket at 5 p.m. Friday, also at Ford Field. That winner will have the advantage in the double-elimination tournament.

**Menlo-Atherton 11-12 all-star team:** Luca Auer was a tad nervous. He realized he'd be batting with the chance to drive in the go-ahead runs.

As he strode to the plate, Auer

started thinking about his teammates, the guys who worked so hard in helping the Menlo-Atherton 11-12 all-star baseball team get to this point.

"I was definitely nervous," Auer said. "No one was saying anything but I knew I had to put the team on my back."

The 2-1 delivery was a little high and outside but Auer put a good swing on it and drove the ball into the right-center field gap. It seemed to stay up and the San Mateo National center fielder had a chance to make a great catch.

"I felt like I barreled it up," Auer said. "But I also thought it was going to get caught."

Auer's drive just eluded the outfielder and it bounced up against the fence as two runs scored and Auer slid into second base, giving Menlo-Atherton an improbable 7-6 victory Sunday in the District 52 11-12 All-Star Tournament at Middlefield Park in Palo Alto.

"I was so hyped up," Auer said. "I could feel my heart pounding

See **SPORTS**, page 16

## Tom Dodd

August 5, 1937 – June 4, 2021

Edwin Rupert Dodd, known to all as Tom Dodd, 83, passed away on Friday June 4th, 2021. Tom was born on August 5th, 1937 in Cootamundra, N.S.W., Australia to Rupert and Edith Dodd.

He attended Sydney University graduating in 1959 with a B.E. in Mechanical Engineering and a B.A. in 1965. In 1976, he received a M.A. from Union College, Schenectady, NY.

While attending Sydney University, he met and fell in love with Barbara Page. They were married June 2, 1961, and were happily married for 60 years.

Tom is survived by his wife Barbara; Children, Cathy Hynson (Ken Hynson) and Chris Dodd (Wanda Webb); Grandchildren, Zerbie Hynson and Willow Dodd; Brother, Peter Dodd and many close friends and family members.

Tom was an Engineer who traveled the world. First to Montreal, Canada in 1968, with his wife and young family. Then, in 1969, to Nova Scotia and Schenectady, N.Y., building gas turbine engines, for General Electric. While working for GE he traveled to Nigeria and then Norway, where he moved with his family in 1978. Tom returned to Cincinnati to take a job with General Tool, where he worked until retiring.

Tom enjoyed all sports, He played Cricket at the University of Sydney. He was a referee for Rugby in both New York & Cincinnati. Upon retiring in 2008, Tom and Barbara moved to Menlo Park, where he joined the Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club and SIRS Branch 16 golfing club.

Tom always boasted he had visited every state except North Dakota. In recent years he enjoyed trips to Syracuse, Canada, Alaska and Yosemite. Tom loved traveling, and taking in the sights on a road less traveled. He never had a harsh word for any and always had time to share a story and a laugh.

He will be remembered for his kind heart, sharp wit and caring nature. Tom was a loving husband, generous father, doting grandfather and a true prince among men. His family will mourn his passing deeply but rejoice and celebrate a life well lived.

In lieu of flowers, Tom would have liked those that want to do donate to Pathways Hospice, who were very supportive of Tom, in his final days.

<https://donate.givedirect.org/cid=12196&n=466424>

PAID OBITUARY



### CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

custody. Detectives are working with the District Attorney's Office to execute additional search warrants.

Illegal fireworks have long been a problem in San Mateo County. Given the increased risk of wildfires this year, the Sheriff's Office along with the county's Board of Supervisors have prioritized cracking down on illegal fireworks.

It is illegal to have or sell all fireworks in unincorporated areas of San Mateo County and in Sheriff's Office contract cities and towns, which include Half Moon Bay, Woodside, Portola Valley, Millbrae and San Carlos.

Individual cities and jurisdictions may have their own fireworks laws.

Earlier in June, the Menlo Park City Council enacted an urgency ordinance that makes anyone caught detonating fireworks subject to fines of up to \$1,000 and up to six months in jail.

### BURGLARIES

continued from page 5

A bicycle (valued at \$10,000) was taken from a detached unlocked garage in the first block of Middlefield Road. Between 5:45 p.m. and 5:55 a.m., someone ransacked an unoccupied pool house on the first block of Placitas Avenue. Someone broke into a locked garage at another house on Placitas, but nothing was taken.

Someone reportedly took items from unlocked cars

To report illegal fireworks, people can call the Sheriff's Office's non-emergency line at (650) 363-4911.

### Sheriff's Office seizes 15 pounds of explosives

Authorities seized about 15 pounds of illegal explosives and materials used to make firecrackers following a search of two San Mateo County locations last week.

Last month, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office identified two suspects involved in making and distributing explosive devices. The suspects are 43-year-old Burlingame resident Raymond Chan and 47-year-old Daly City resident Jeffrey Bernaldez.

Detectives found the explosives and materials at two homes, located in Millbrae and unincorporated Burlingame. The materials, seized on June 25, were intended to make firecrackers, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Chan and Bernaldez were arrested on suspicion of offenses

during the weekend of June 19 on Lloyd Drive.

Before that, there were two residential burglaries reported on June 11 — one on Melanie Lane and the other on Greenoaks Drive. Two others occurred between June 7 and 8 on Stockbridge Avenue and on Selby Lane.

Atherton police advise that one of the best strategies to prevent a burglary is to make your house look occupied even when you are away from home. Most of the break-ins are happening between 5 and 8 p.m.,

related to the possession of explosives and possession of methamphetamine, which detectives found during the arrests.

Chan and Bernaldez were booked into San Mateo County Jail. The Sheriff's Office Bomb Unit is investigating the possibility of pursuing additional criminal charges related to manufacturing explosives, which would be added to the possession charges.

The charges are different from charges related to possessing illegal fireworks. However, the Sheriff's Office is working to prevent the use and sale of illegal fireworks ahead of the July Fourth holiday.

It is illegal to have or sell all fireworks in unincorporated areas of San Mateo County and in Sheriff's Office-contract cities and towns, which include Half Moon Bay, Woodside, Portola Valley, Millbrae and San Carlos.

Individual cities and jurisdictions may have their own laws concerning fireworks.

—Bay City News Service

Sgt. Anthony Kockler told residents at the Tuesday meeting, Burglaries are not necessarily happening in areas of town where there is more construction taking place, police told one resident who asked about a link between the two.

Police will move into their new offices in the town's new \$31.6 million civic center in the next six to eight weeks, McCully said. ■

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

# Saratoga elementary school principal selected to lead Woodside High School

Karen van Putten comes to the district with 27 years of education experience

By Angela Swartz

**K**aren van Putten, an elementary school principal in Saratoga, will become Woodside High School's newest principal.

Sequoia Union High School District's governing board appointed van Putten at its June 23 meeting to lead the school starting in the coming 2021-22 school year, according to a district press release. Van Putten comes to the district with 27 years of experience in K-12 education as a teacher, mentor and principal in schools across the Bay Area and in Michigan.

Van Putten will fill the shoes of Diane Burbank, who retired at the end of June after nine years with the school. Van Putten's contract began July 1.

"I look forward to connecting with and hearing the stories of our Woodside High School students, families and staff members," van Putten said in a statement. "As we come out of the pandemic and take thoughtful steps to continue to bring



Karen van Putten

even more voices, heart and humanity to our school's narrative, I am honored to be part of the creative possibilities that will take Woodside to the next level in student learning and innovation. Until then, I hope everyone takes some time to rest and rejuvenate this summer."

Van Putten was a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts educator scholarship for her research in African literature, according to the district. She also researched East Asian history and educational policy in China through Stanford's program on international and cross-cultural education.

Van Putten's dedication to equity, social justice and her creative instructional leadership "brings new and exciting opportunities" to Woodside High, the district release notes.

"Karen van Putten's passion for community building, cultural responsibility, and academic achievement will be a critical support to our district's mission of preparing students for excellence," said then-Interim Superintendent Crystal Leach in a statement. "We look forward to the leadership and success Karen will bring to Woodside High School as principal."

Van Putten most recently

served as a principal at Argonaut Elementary School in Saratoga, according to the school's website. Before that, she served for four years as San Lorenzo Valley High School's principal, according to her LinkedIn profile. She taught English at Saratoga High School and in Holland, Michigan, before becoming an administrator, her profile states.

Van Putten holds a master's degree in educational administration and supervision from San Jose State University. She also earned a bachelor's degree in English and sociology and her secondary teaching credential from Hope College in Michigan, according to the district.

Her salary information was not yet available. ■

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

## TOWN BUDGETS

continued from page 9

can be used:

- To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel,

and hospitality

- To provide premium pay to eligible essential workers during the pandemic

- For the reductions in revenue due to the health emergency
- For investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure

Bryant did not include Woodside's estimated ARP funds in

the town's budget, noting that it is in the "fortunate position" to not need the funds to balance its books.

"I suggested once we get more clarity, we will include it (ARP) in one of our quarterly reports," he explained. The town will receive the funds in July.

Atherton expects to receive \$1.3 million in American

Rescue Plan funds.

Portola Valley is anticipating just under \$860,000. Over the summer, the Town Council will begin reviewing potential expenditures for the funds from the relief fund. Staff believe the following qualifies for relief:

- Lost revenue from classes, rentals of facilities and land-use projects suspended during the

early stages of the pandemic, as well as for revenue lost for COVID-19 physical improvements and access to service

- Funds for businesses and individuals impacted by COVID-19 ■

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

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## SPORTS

continued from page 14

and I heard all the noise.”

The fifth-inning double put M-A ahead, but a dangerous SM National lineup still had two more at-bats and they already showed they could score runs in bunches.

That's where Jack Leeper and Max Brubacher came in. When Leeper took the ball with one out in the second inning, San Mateo already led, 5-0. A couple of mistakes allowed San Mateo to add a run before Leeper retired 10 of the next 12 batters he faced, five on strikeouts.

Brubacher took the mound for the final inning and pounded the strike zone, getting two strikeouts and an infield grounder to end the game and allowing M-A players to celebrate at the mound.

Merrick Lee, who hit a home run in Saturday's win over Palo Alto, sparked the four-run winning rally with a leadoff single. Brubacher also singled, and pinch hitter Will Clark beat out an infield hit to load the bases.

Elijah Vu drove in one run on a fielder's choice and another run scored on an error. Two outs later, pinch hitter Luke Brodeur singled on an 0-2 pitch to give Auer his chance.

“We were all down,” said Auer, who will be an eighth grader at Hillview in the fall. “The first and second innings were horrible. We still kept up a lot of energy and for the rest of the game we were perfect.”

Menlo-Atherton plays either San Carlos or Foster City at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the winner's bracket.

## Baseball

**Stanford** was one out away from advancing in the College World Series. No one was on base and its ace Brandon Beck stood on the mound. The Cardinal could not seal it.

A walk, on a full count, a single, an error and a wild pitch

ended the game and season for Stanford, which fell to Vanderbilt 6-5 on June 23 in Omaha.

“Our hearts are hurting for these kids because they wanted to continue to play with each other,” Stanford coach Dave Esquer said. “There's some tears out there just because they care so much.”

The Cardinal (39-17) seemed headed to the bracket finale against North Carolina State. Beck, who took over in the bottom of the seventh, struck out five of the first batters he faced and then got the first two outs of the bottom of the ninth.

Beck got ahead of the next batter, but then missed with three straight pitches to put the tying run on base. The next batter beat out an infield single and both runners advanced on a throwing error.

A sharp single tied the game and sent the winning run to third. Beck lost his grip on a 2-0 pitch and the ball skipped past catcher Kody Huff.

It was a cruel ending to an otherwise successful season. Stanford was tabbed to finish ninth in the Pac-12 and wound up in third place.

The Cardinal was awarded the ninth overall seed and hosted a regional, which it won. Stanford beat host Texas Tech in two games to qualify for the College World Series.

Stanford was the last Pac-12 team standing after it eliminated Arizona last week.

Brock Jones collected three hits, including a home run, and drove in three runs for Stanford. Eddie Park also drove in a run, and Tim Tawa and Nick Brueser each had two hits.

“Obviously it hurts,” Jones said. “This is not where we wanted it to end. We were so close but I'm so proud of this team. Each and every one of them, we all worked for this. We deserved to be here. It's been a heck of a year for us.”

Stanford caught a break, scoring an unearned run in the top of the first inning. Jones lined out to the Vanderbilt second baseman, who then threw the ball



Courtesy FIVB/Volleyball World

**Team USA** raises the championship trophy following a victory over Brazil in the championship match of the Volleyball Nations League Final Round.

away trying to double up Park, who came around to score after reaching base on an infield error leading off the game.

Jones homered with one out in the third, his 18th home run of the season. Stanford added two more runs in the fourth, both unearned, when Park walked with the bases loaded and Jones beat out an infield single.

“It's every baseball kid's dream to come here,” Jones said. “I'm proud of some of the things I did and I'm proud of some of the things the team did. But you can always do more. Next year, we're going to go further.”

Quinn Mathews went 5 1/3 innings, allowing four runs on five hits. He walked one and struck out five. Two of the runs scored after Mathews left the game, with one out and two runners on in the sixth.

Vanderbilt scored a pair on a two-run homer in the bottom of the fourth. After Jones doubled home a run in the sixth, the Commodores added another pair to make it 5-4.

Stanford loaded the bases with two outs in the eighth but could not take advantage as Vanderbilt used three pitchers in the frame.

## Volleyball

Michelle Bartsch-Hackley recorded 18 kills, one of four Americans in double figures, and the **United States women's national volleyball team** earned a gold medal with a 26-28, 25-23, 25-23, 25-21 victory over Brazil in the championship match of the Volleyball Nations League Final Round in Rimini, Italy, last week.

Stanford grad Foluke Akinradewo added seven kills and two blocks for the Americans (16-1, 2-0), who captured their third straight VNL title.

Bartsch-Hackley also had three blocks for a total of 21 points. Jordan Thompson, who played her final collegiate match at Stanford, and Andrea Drews each had 12 kills, and Jordan Larson added 10. Drews scored 10 of her points in the fourth set.

“It was a long five weeks in the bubble. Everything has been long and we also had a roster selection in this time for the Olympics,” Bartsch-Hackley said. “I'm just really proud of the whole team, not just the 12 who are here, but 23 we have back home and I'm just really happy for us.”

Brazil won the first set, taking a 19-15 edge before the U.S. rallied to tie it at 21 and send it to extras before falling.

The Americans also recovered from an early two-point deficit in the second set to tie the match.

Brazil was ahead 22-21 in the third set when the U.S. scored three straight.

In the fourth set Brazil again took a four-point lead before Team USA charged back.

“We were focused on ourselves, trying to clean up our game,” Bartsch-Hackley said. “I think we have been a little bit sloppy, but also we have been playing with different lineups. Every medal is different. Brazil is a super-strong team and we were just excited to come out and win.”

—Rick Eymers

## Football

Former **Menlo-Atherton** defensive back Skyler Thomas announced Monday that he has committed to playing college football at Oregon State.

“It was great up there,” Thomas said of his visit to Corvallis. “I liked the whole atmosphere, a quiet college town.”

While Thomas will be leaving

home to join the Beavers, he will see some familiar faces on the team and more specifically in his position group.

Alton Julian and Rejzohn Wright, like Thomas from East Palo Alto, are already on the roster at Oregon State. Nahshon Wright, Rejzohn's older brother, started at cornerback for the Beavers last season and was chosen by the Dallas Cowboys in the third round of the NFL Draft.

With high school football postponed in California in the fall of 2020, Thomas played fall football in Georgia.

“It gave me a new perspective on how football is played in different places,” Thomas said. “They moved me from corner to safety. It helped me a lot to become a better tackler.”

The Beavers plan on moving Thomas back to cornerback.

“(Secondary) coach Blue Adams loves long, rangy corners,” the 6-foot-2 Thomas said. “I fit in their scheme.”

Because of playing out of state in the fall Thomas was not eligible for M-A's spring football season. He also declined to take part in the truncated basketball season, instead focusing on preparation to play college football. While still attending class at M-A he enrolled at College of San Mateo and engaged in spring practice there.

“I had to sign a lot of papers to do that,” Thomas said. “It gave me a great view of what college football is like.”

—Glenn Reeves

## Read more online

Get the latest on local prep sports delivered to your inbox Monday through Friday by signing up for The Almanac's Express newsletter at [almanacnews.com/express](http://almanacnews.com/express).

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the preliminary budget of Woodside Fire Protection District, for the FY 2021-2022 has been adopted by the Directors of said District, and is available at the Woodside Fire Admin Bldg. in Portola Valley, for inspection during the week commencing Monday, June 28, 2021. That on Monday, August 30, 2021 at 7 o'clock p.m. of said day at the, Woodside Fire Admin Bldg. in Portola Valley, the Board of Directors will meet for the purpose of finalizing the final budget, and any person may appear and be heard regarding the increase, decrease, or omission of any item of the budget, or for the inclusion of any addition items.

Woodside Fire Protection District  
by Fire Chief Robert A. Lindner

EDUCATION BRIEFS

**Menlo Park district community survey**

The Menlo Park City School District is collecting community feedback in its annual survey until July 31.

The survey helps district officials understand community members' priorities and expectations.

Take the survey online at [tinyurl.com/MPCSDsurvey2021](https://tinyurl.com/MPCSDsurvey2021).

**Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation raises \$3.5M**

The Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation (MPAEF) presented its annual grant to the Menlo Park City School District at the June 10 school board meeting. This year, the foundation raised \$3.5 million.

"Despite the pandemic's uncertainty, our community came together and supported the One Community Campaign in fall 2020 to raise much needed funds for our schools' parent teacher organizations and the MPAEF," according to the June 23 district newsletter. "Our schools would not be the same without this campaign that supports libraries, science, music, art, mental health and wellness support, lower class sizes and so much more. And during the 2020-21 school year, the campaign also supported the Virtual Academy and other pandemic-related needs."

**New M-A principal's salary released**

Karl Losekoot, Menlo-Atherton's newest principal, will earn an annual salary of \$195,196, according to district spokesperson Ana Maria Pulido.

The Sequoia Union High School District governing board approved hiring Losekoot on May 26.

He started in the role on July 1 and previously served as vice principal at the Atherton high school. As vice principal, he earned \$172,847 in 2019, according to Transparent California.

—Angela Swartz



LET'S DISCUSS:

Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues on Town Square at [AlmanacNews.com](https://www.almanacnews.com)



RESOLUTION NO. 2243 - (2021)

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

Lands of Mitic

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

A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.

B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.

C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:

- [X] All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or
- Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.

D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

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

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

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

- Date: July 14, 2021
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices  
500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025 & via Zoom
- Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98889306440?pwd=OFVYWjBnaGFobytFTmQwRU1zZGIZQT09>
- Meeting ID: 988 8930 6440 Passcode: 677645

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

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

**Exhibit A**

**EXHIBIT "A"**

Date: March 10, 2021  
Annexed to: West Bay Sanitary District  
Name of Annexation: West Bay Sanitary District

**Geographic Description**

All that certain real property, situate in Rancho El Corte Madera, Town of Portola Valley, County of San Mateo, State of California, being all of Lot 17 and a portion of the right of way of Grove Drive (50.00 feet wide), as shown on that certain map entitled "Tract No. 608 Stonegate, Subdivision of a Portion of Corte Madera Rancho, San Mateo County, California", filed in the Office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County on September 29, 1948 in Volume 29 of Maps at Pages 31, 32 & 33, more particularly described as follows:

**Commencing** at the Southwest corner of West Bay Sanitary District Resolution No. 1137, said point also being on the Northeastern right of way of said drive;

**From said Point of Commencement:**

**Course 1.)** Along said right of way, North 39°57'00" West, 179.88 feet, thence,  
**Course 2.)** Continuing along said right of way, along a curve to the right with a radius of 150.00 feet, through a central angle of 19°54'16", an arc length of 52.11 feet to the **Point of Beginning**, thence,  
**Course 3.)** Leaving said right of way and along the prolongation of Southeast line of said lot South 69°57'00" West, 223.39 feet to the South corner of said lot, thence,  
**Course 4.)** Along the Southwest line of said lot, North 75°50'00" West, 168.67 feet to Southwest corner of said lot, thence,  
**Course 5.)** Along the West line of said lot, North 11°05'00" West, 179.80 feet to the Northwest corner of said lot, thence,  
**Course 6.)** Along the prolongation of North line of said lot, South 80°43'00" East, 406.15 feet to said northeastern right of way, being a point on a non-tangent curve to the left to which a radial bears North 80°43'00" West, thence  
**Course 7.)** Along said right of way and said curve with a radius of 150.00 feet, through a central angle of 29°20'00", an arc length of 76.79 feet to the **Point of Beginning** containing 1.35 acres, more or less.

*For assessment purposes only. The description is no a legal property description as defined in the Subdivision Map Act and may not be used as the basis for an offer for sale of the land described.*

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

EXHIBIT A PAGE 1 OF 2

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**Exhibit B**

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT  
EXHIBIT "B"  
SITE LOCATION  
155 GROVE DRIVE  
PORTOLA VALLEY, CA  
GRINDER SYSTEM

(1) Grinder Pump System  
200 Gallons Per Day (GPD)  
APN: 079-011-080  
Lands of Mitic  
155 Grove Drive  
Portola Valley, CA  
Location of System: Front of property

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# RESOLUTION NO. 2242 - (2021)

## RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

Lands of Donofrio

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

A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.

B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.

C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:

[X] All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or

Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.

D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.

2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

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

Date: July 14, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

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

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98889306440?pwd=OFVYWjBnaGFobyFTmQwRU1zZGIZQT09>

Meeting ID: 988 8930 6440 Passcode: 677645

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

3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i.).

4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.

5. District Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

### Exhibit A

**EXHIBIT "A"**

Date: December 17, 2020  
Annexed to: West Bay Sanitary District  
Name of Annexation: West Bay Sanitary

**Geographic Description**

All that certain real property, situate in Rancho El Corte Madera, Town of Portola Valley, County of San Mateo, State of California, described as follows:


Being all of Lot 6, Block 1, "Tract No. 774 Arrowhead Meadows Unit No. 4, being a portion of the Rancho El Corte Madera, San Mateo County, California", filed in the office of the Recorder of the County of San Mateo, State of California on March 17, 1959 in Book 50 of Maps at Pages 45 to 48, more particularly described as follows:

**Commencing** at the most Northerly corner of Resolution No. 1234; being also a point on the northerly right of way of Sioux Way (50 feet wide); thence along said resolution northerly line and said right of way, from which a radial line bears North 24°31'14" East, along non-tangent curve to the right with a radius of 575.00 feet, through a central angle of 2°26'27", an arc length of 24.50 feet to the **Point of Beginning**.

From the **Point of Beginning**; thence:

**Course 1.)** North 61°00'00" East, 222.97 feet; thence  
**Course 2.)** North 84°56'17" East, 144.93 feet; thence  
**Course 3.)** South 03°25'00" West, 134.89 feet; thence  
**Course 4.)** South 49°53'19" West, 199.12 feet to said resolution northerly line and said right of way; thence  
**Course 5.)** Northwesterly along said resolution northerly line and said right of way, from which a radial line bears North 49°53'19" East, along non-tangent curve to the left with a radius of 575.00 feet, through a central angle of 22°55'38", an arc length of 230.09 feet to the **Point of Beginning** containing 1.14 acres, more or less.

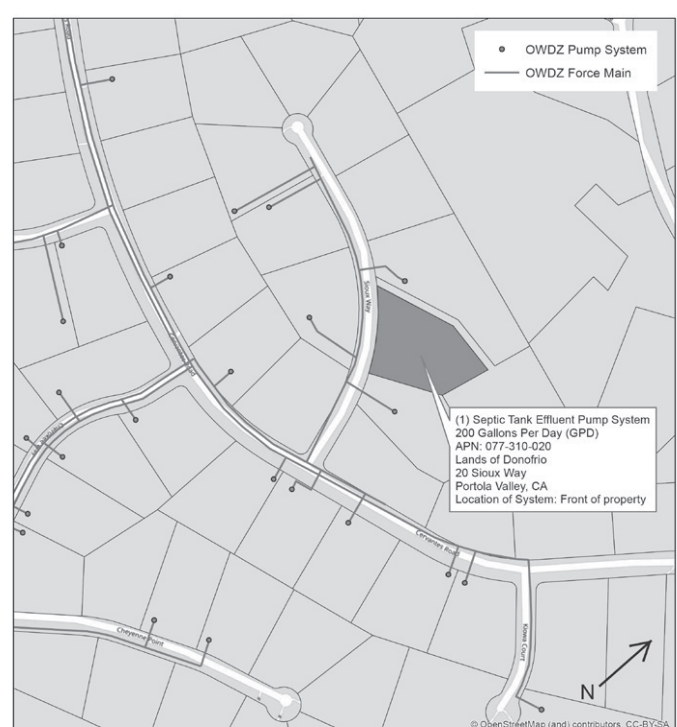
*For assessment purposes only. The description is not a legal property description as defined in the Subdivision Map Act and may not be used as the basis for an offer for sale of the land described.*



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### Exhibit B

**WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT  
EXHIBIT "B"  
SITE LOCATION  
20 SIOUX WAY  
PORTOLA VALLEY, CA  
STEP SYSTEM**



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### TASERS

continued from page 1

concerning the equipment (the officers) have is so old."

In 2018, three people in San Mateo County died after Tasers were used on them: Chinedu Okobi in Millbrae, Ramzi Saad in Redwood City and Warren Ragudo in Daly City. Taser stuns can cause heart problems that can lead to death, according to research on Tasers.

Wolosin said she was more comfortable with getting the new Tasers if vehicles were also equipped with defibrillators to help combat those potential effects on the heart.

Norris said he welcomed the opportunity to equip police vehicles with defibrillators, calling it a "first responder safety responsibility that officers would welcome." He added that he expected it to cost around \$42,500.

Nash said she was OK with approving funding for the license plate readers but not approving the new Tasers.

During the council's discussion, Norris said that sometimes the department responds to requests from the East Palo Alto Police Department, which does not have Tasers, to have officers with them available on-scene. Before Menlo Park purchased Tasers for its department in 2014, it used to do the same thing, Norris said. The devices, he said, are "able to take some very chaotic situations down to a point of safety with a minimum amount of injurious action on anyone involved. Other agencies recognize that as well."

Nash, who voted against the decision, said, "It really frightens me when I'm hearing we're using our Tasers in other communities." ❏

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

## Visit Lasting Memories

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Go to: [AlmanacNews.com/obituaries](http://AlmanacNews.com/obituaries)

**CINÉARTS**

*continued from page 11*

by CinéArts. The city approved the six-building development known as Palo Alto Square in 1969 through the “planned community” zoning, which allows exemptions from development standards such as height and density limits in exchange for public benefits. The zoning ordinance has since been revised twice, most recently in 2000.

While the ordinance lists theaters as a permitted use at the campus — along with banks, insurance firms, professional offices, restaurants and a 300-room hotel — it does not explicitly mandate a theater. However, city leaders and planning staff have argued in recent years that because the map associated with the 1969 PC ordinance showed a theater, the council’s approval of the map effectively makes the theater a required use.

City staff did not immediately respond to questions about the site’s zoning and whether or not a theater is required. DuBois said that he hopes the city and Hudson Pacific can work together to find another theater chain that can fill that space. He cited as an example Alamo Drafthouse, a small



Zachary Hoffman

**The CinéArts at Palo Alto Square**, renowned for showing foreign and art house movies, is permanently closed, its owner confirmed.

theater in San Francisco’s Mission District that is famous for serving food and beer to its movie patrons.

“There’s quite a number of chains that specialize in a smaller footprint,” DuBois said. “They’re not necessarily looking for 20 screens, but maybe food and drinks and movies.”

DuBois said the city has received some correspondence over the past week from residents who had just learned about the theater’s closure.

“It served a unique need for independent film,” he said. “I think a lot of people really liked it.”

Hudson Pacific Properties, which purchased Palo Alto Square at 3000 El Camino Real from EQ Office in 2014, has so far not made any decisions about what will happen to the theater, according to the company.

“We are just beginning internal discussions about the space and unfortunately do not have any further details to share at this time,” Meryl Vissel, a Hudson Pacific spokesperson, said in a statement June 28. ■

*Email Staff Writer  
Gennady Sheyner at  
gsheyner@pawekly.com.*

**BOUNDARIES**

*continued from page 7*

the public, and will never be called on to the carpet by the public is somehow immune to ... making mistakes.”

The second “hybrid” approach includes responsibilities for both the council and an independent commission, and would be similar to an independent commission, but commissioners would be required to submit two or more maps of new boundaries to the City Council, and the City Council would then have to select one. The council would not be allowed to alter the selected map, unless needed to comply with federal or state law.

Consultant Alex Sainz from the firm GEOinovo Solutions, Inc. explained that the process of developing the new maps will also include steps to engage the community using the website [districtr.org](http://districtr.org), a digital mapping interface. It lets people design their own district boundaries based on some of the considerations mandated by law: population balance, shape, natural and official boundaries and other considerations, like whether the boundaries block minority groups from electing the candidates they prefer or keep

groups with significant shared interests within the same boundaries.

The consultants also plan to evaluate the proposed map to make sure it complies with the relevant laws, especially the federal Voting Rights Act, according to a presentation to the City Council.

According to City Attorney Nira Doherty, the council may also commit to specific parameters and expectations for the commission, or direct public outreach. “What the council may not do is approve the (new district) map once an independent commission is established,” she said.

Menlo Park went through its first districting process in 2018, which was led by an advisory committee over an eight-week period. The city is expected to receive redistricting data from the U.S. Census Bureau and California State-wide Database in October and is required to complete the redistricting process by April 17, 2022, according to a staff report. The matter is expected to come back to the City Council to establish the commission. ■

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

# Employment

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# Public Notices

**995 Fictitious Name Statement**

A & A PAINTING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 287759  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
A & A Painting, located at 1327 Henderson Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
ALEJANDRO ARGUELLO  
1327 Henderson Ave.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 21, 2021.  
(ALM June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2021)

24 HR. LEGAL HELP  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 287734  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
24 Hr. Legal Help, located at 2811 Illinois St., East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County; Mailing address: PO Box 51356, Palo Alto, CA 94303.  
Registered owner(s):  
TYRONE DAVIS  
2811 Illinois St.  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 19, 2021.  
(ALM June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2021)

THE LITTLE STORE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 287743  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: The Little Store, located at 3340 Woodside Road, Woodside, California 94062, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
RICHARD GEORGE  
180 Fox Hollow Road  
Woodside, California 94062  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on November 1, 2018.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 20, 2021.  
(ALM June 18, 25; July 2, 9, 2021)

BARRE3  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 287956  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Barre3, located at 989 El Camino Real Suites 1 and 2, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
M&M STUDIOS, LLC  
1080 College Ave.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
California  
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 10, 2021.  
(ALM June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 2021)

**997 All Other Legals**

SUMMONS  
(Citacion Judicial)  
Case Number: 20-CIV-05258  
(Numero del Caso)  
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:  
(Aviso al Demandado):  
VANESSA BELLAND, An Individual  
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:  
(Lo esta Demandando el Demandante):  
ROSIE MENDOZA, An Individual  
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.  
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff.

A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.  
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The courts lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.  
Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.  
CASE NUMBER: 20-CIV-05258  
(Numero del Caso)  
The name and address of the court is:  
(El nombre y direccion de la corte es):  
Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo  
Civil  
400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063  
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff’s attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:  
(El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado es):  
Mario Fausto, (Bar # 205258)  
Fausto Law, P.C.  
1001 Laurel Street, Suite C,  
San Carlos, CA 94070  
Fax No.: (650) 947-0770  
Phone No.: (650) 948-6114  
Date: 11/24/2020  
(Fecha):  
Neal I. Taniguchi, Clerk, by (Secretario) /s/ Anthony Berini, Deputy (Adjunto)  
(ALM July 2, 9, 16, 23, 2021)

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

# County supervisors approve over \$6M to boost food assistance programs

By Astrid Casimire/Bay City News Service

San Mateo County supervisors on Tuesday allocated over \$6 million of federal funds to address food insecurity for county residents in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As federal funding for the Great Plates Delivered program comes to an end in July, county supervisors approved \$3.9 million to continue a similar program.

The supervisors also contributed \$2.55 million to the Second Harvest of Silicon Valley food

bank to continue providing food assistance to vulnerable communities and to create a grocery delivery program. Second Harvest served about 500,000 people per month since last February, as demand for their services doubled during the pandemic.

Board President David Canepa said that the Great Plates program has been a rescue program for older adults and for small businesses.

“We’ve heard it time and time again, how desperately needed the program is, from the clients whose support networks were cut off by the pandemic and

from the clients who were physically unable to cook,” Canepa said.

He said one client had only been eating ice cream for their meals when they enrolled in the program, as that was all they had at the time.

Since its launch last April, the Great Plates program has provided 2.6 million free meals to over 4,500 older adults and high-risk individuals in the county.

While the program was a success, funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency or FEMA comes to an end July 9. Yet, about 1,200 adults

enrolled in the Great Plates program will still need grocery deliveries or prepared meals, according to a staff report.

The \$3.9 million county contribution will fund a contract with the current Older Americans Act program to keep delivering a meal a day to 500 clients, five days a week, for a cost of about \$1.95 million per year.

The \$2.55 million contribution for the Second Harvest food bank will fund continued food assistance for vulnerable populations and a grocery delivery program for older adults.

Funding for both initiatives

comes from the American Rescue Plan Act.

County staff or Second Harvest staff will contact current Great Plates participants with information on how they can continue receiving food support.

Older adults in need of food assistance who are not enrolled in the Great Plates program can call the county’s Aging and Adult Services helpline at 800-675-8437 for more information on available services.

Details and staff reports from the Tuesday, June 28, meeting are available online at [sanmateo-county.legistar.com](http://sanmateo-county.legistar.com). ▀

## SamTrans calls on VTA, city of San Francisco to repay \$82M debt

By Astrid Casimire/Bay City News Service

The SamTrans Board of Directors is seeking reimbursement from the Valley Transportation Authority and the city of San Francisco for an \$82 million debt incurred when the agencies originally purchased the Caltrain Corridor.

SamTrans’ board made the announcement June 22 via a news release, after adopting a resolution outlining its plan to seek reimbursement.

SamTrans, VTA and the city

of San Francisco oversee Caltrain. The agencies are part of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board or JPB, which is made up of representatives from San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Francisco counties.

After the JPB was initially formed in the late 1980s to take control of Caltrain, SamTrans paid \$82 million to help purchase the Caltrain Corridor from its previous owner. At the time, VTA and San Francisco had no available funding, according to details provided in the resolution.

The JPB and its agencies then entered a contract outlining how SamTrans would be reimbursed and making SamTrans the JPB’s managing agency until reimbursement.

However, to date, VTA and the city of San Francisco have made no payments toward the debt, according to the resolution.

Charles Stone, chairman of the SamTrans Board of Directors and mayor of the city of Belmont, said in a statement that the time is “past due” for the bills to be addressed.

To recover the debt, the

SamTrans board authorized its Acting General Manager/CEO Carter Mau to seek a written response from the city of San Francisco, VTA and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission about how they will be reimbursed.

While SamTrans remains the managing agency responsible for running Caltrain’s day-to-day operations, in the past year, officials from the other JPB agencies have pushed to change how Caltrain is governed.

Caltrain’s JPB governance structure is under review.

However, SamTrans wants to retain its leadership and collect its debts.

Stone said that SamTrans is open to improvements to governance that will benefit riders or improve Caltrain’s efficiency but said that has not been the case.

“What we have witnessed so far is two of the three member agencies seeking to take over control through a new governance structure while leaving large outstanding debts incurred for the current one,” Stone said. ▀

## \$1M in county funds to help renters who don’t qualify for state program

By Astrid Casimire/Bay City News Service

San Mateo County is stepping in to help renters who do not qualify for rental assistance from the state’s rent relief program.

The county’s Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved \$1 million of county funds to go toward rent relief for renters impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supervisor Warren Slocum, who co-sponsored the item with Supervisor Don Horsley, said that before the pandemic, many households were already rent-burdened, meaning they spent

30% or more of their income on rent.

“Those same households, as we all know, have been those that have been most adversely affected by the pandemic, both in the health arena and the financial arena. And the rent burden for those folks continues to grow,” Slocum said.

Slocum said the county’s fund will help households that borrowed money to cover rent, or those that paid rent at the expense of other necessities, like food or medicine.

The county’s fund is also aimed to help households with subleases, described in a staff report as those who “may be

renting a room from a primary tenant or be one of multiple households sharing a home to reduce living costs.”

The \$1 million comes from the county’s general fund and will go toward the county’s Emergency Financial Assistance Program, which has existed since 2012 to help county residents in need.

Horsley said that the county’s core agencies have a much better system for assisting people, as they have been administering county assistance for years.

Applicants will have to meet certain criteria to qualify for the county’s rental assistance.

For example, applicants must

be able to show why they were ineligible for state funding.

Households must also earn 60% or less of the area median income or AMI to be eligible.

And they must be able to show how the pandemic has had a negative economic impact on them. This could be shown through evidence of credit card debt or evidence of reduced savings as a result of trying to cover rent.

Samaritan House, a local non-profit and one of the county’s core agencies, will administer the fund for an administrative fee of \$150,000, which will be paid in addition to the \$1 million contribution.

The agreement with Samaritan House ends Dec. 31 or three months after the state’s emergency rental assistance program ends, which is also when any unused funds will be returned to the county.

On Monday night, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 832, which extends the statewide eviction moratorium to Sept. 30. The bill also allows qualifying tenants and landlords to apply to get 100% of past-due or future rent payments covered by the state’s rent relief program.

Information on California’s Rent Relief Program is available at [housing.ca.gov/covid\\_rr/index.html](http://housing.ca.gov/covid_rr/index.html). ▀

### BUDGET

continued from page 5

lighting ceremony is appreciated by people of various faith traditions and it helps attract visitors to downtown businesses. Also, Mueller noted, many cities pay more for Fourth of July fireworks celebrations, for instance, than Menlo Park would for tree

lights. The Parks and Recreation Commission will be tasked with evaluating the city’s celebrations and coming up with ideas to make them more inclusive.

The council also agreed to not move forward with a number of staff-recommended hires, asking staff to instead come forward later with staffing proposals for additional needed library,

community services, finance and sustainability-focused employees.

One other matter that the council directed the city attorney to start looking into was what environmental analyses will be needed to retain the city’s downtown street closures after the statewide emergency declaration ends. After that

declaration lifts, Mueller said, the standard environmental clearances generally required for projects like street closures will be mandated once again, so if the city wants to make the closures permanent, then it should start looking into how to do so sooner rather than later. “I think it’s ... a high-priority project to a lot of

residents,” he said.

For now, just the preliminary steps will be studied. The council planned to determine whether and how much funding to allocate to the initiative at a later date. ▀

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

# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Everyday life becomes history in new mural celebrating Los Altos

By Heather Zimmerman

A portal to many different eras in local history has appeared in downtown Los Altos — one that looks almost as if anyone can step right through its door and begin exploring. And in a way you can: The longer you look, the more glimpses you'll get of various residents' lives in Los Altos over roughly the past century and a half.

Last month, Arts Los Altos unveiled "200 Main Street [an inventory of time and place]," a mural by Palo Alto-based artist Martha Sakellariou, which explores many decades of Los Altos history and features photos and images of objects contributed by local residents. The piece is the third commission by new local arts nonprofit Arts Los Altos and was funded by a grant from the Los Altos Rotary Club.

The mural brings together historical photographs with images of memorabilia and other objects in a 30-foot-long, black-and-white composite image. The new art is installed on an exterior side wall of Satura Cakes, near the corner of Third and Main streets in downtown Los Altos (200 Main St. is the

bakery's street address).

In both subject matter and composition, the mural echoes the idea of a family photo wall — but in this case, for an entire town and spanning a timeline of more than 150 years.

The homey feel of the mural is by design. Sakellariou frequently explores the theme of home in her works.

"I approach collective, historical, or personal stories from that sort of perspective: how you create a home around you, how you build a sense of belonging," Sakellariou said.

The artist, who was born in Greece and later lived in London, moved to the Bay Area in 2013. Life in this more spread out, suburban region proved a big adjustment, but one of the ways Sakellariou has been becoming more at home here has been making connections and getting to know the community through projects that involve community members — and are sometimes even shown on or in their homes.

In fact, community outreach is often a key component of Sakellariou's works.

"I'm very curious about what's happening around me, about people's stories, how they end up in one place or another.



Daniela Beltran B.

**From left,** Gastón Arias, Agustín Arias and Nicolas Casso install Martha Sakellariou's mural "200 Main Street [an inventory of time and place]" in downtown Los Altos.

Exploring, exchanging ideas, connecting. It's about that chemistry of getting closer to people. And I seek that engagement and collaboration with people in most of my projects," she said.

For the "200 Main Street" mural, Sakellariou spent several months extensively researching Los Altos history, an undertaking which included poring over archives at the Los Altos History Museum and consulting with museum staff, and seeking contributions of personal stories, photos and objects from Los Altos residents.

The artist's emphasis on working with the community captured the attention of the Arts

Los Altos board, which chose Sakellariou's proposal from among eight different artists' pitches.

"Martha was selected because of her presentation, and her concept to do outreach so that the community gets involved with creating the mural itself," said Maddy McBirney, Arts Los Altos' director of development and outreach.

The mural project, McBirney said, stemmed from a concept by Arts Los Altos Media and Creative Specialist Mehruss Jon Ahi that called for reinterpreting the original 1976 logo for Apple Inc., back when it was called Apple Computer: a detailed sketch depicting Isaac

Newton sitting beneath an apple tree.

Much like the company that inspired the original brief, Sakellariou's piece has grown well beyond its origins. The mural looks at local history, but not in the expected linear way, instead offering a personal take, exploring how different people over time have experienced living in Los Altos.

"I wanted this composition to be both symbolic and informative, so the symbolism is about how living in a city, living in a house, living on this planet is about sharing space and coexisting, cohabiting spaces — living

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Daniela Beltran B.

**Martha Sakellariou** in front of her mural "200 Main Street [an inventory of time and place]" in downtown Los Altos.



Courtesy Mehruss Jon Ahi/Arts Los Altos

**Local nonprofit Arts Los Altos** unveiled the new mural on the exterior side wall of Satura Patisserie in downtown Los Altos. The photographic montage features items contributed by local residents as well as objects from the Los Altos History Museum.

# Dragon Theatre to vacate downtown Redwood City space

By Karla Kane

**D**ragon Productions Theatre Company will vacate its downtown Redwood City space by the end of summer, the organization announced June 25.

“The pandemic and social justice movements of this last year have forced many of us to step back and reevaluate what we hold dear in this world,” according to a statement sent via mailing list and posted on social media.

“For us at the Dragon, it is our people that matter above all: our artists, our audiences, our students, and our staff. The Dragon is irrelevant without its community, and it is because of the commitment we’ve made to this community that we are exploring new working models, and we have decided to leave our space at 2120 Broadway by the end of the summer.”

The 21-year-old company had its first Peninsula home in Palo Alto, then moved to the Redwood City address, launching there in 2013.

Under the leadership of co-artistic directors Bora “Max” Koknar and Alika U. Spencer-Koknar, the organization has expanded beyond traditional theater offerings, branching out with an educational wing; performances in music, comedy, circus arts, podcasting and more; partnerships with like-minded organizations; and experimentations with new technology and platforms. A new mission statement puts an emphasis on inclusivity and innovation.

While thanking their “extremely supportive and exceptionally generous landlords,” the Dragon team acknowledged that “the monthly burden of



Karla Kane

**Alika U. Spencer-Koknar** and Bora “Max” Koknar stand in front of the Dragon Theatre at 2120 Broadway in Redwood City.

continuing to rent space in downtown will greatly impact our ability to survive and thrive into the future.”

The venue has been closed to performances and rentals since the onset of the pandemic. Dragon has recently focused on a diverse lineup of virtual offerings, and an in-person drive-in series at the Port of Redwood City.

The company will announce its plans for the autumn and beyond soon.

“As we head into the future, we will be able to find the venue best suited for each project, rather than find projects that fit within a venue,” the statement says.

More information will be available at [dragonproductions.net](http://dragonproductions.net). ■

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Courtesy David Madison

“**Team Pursuit, 1988 Olympics**” is part of a photo exhibition on the Olympic Games at Art Ventures Gallery.

## Menlo Park gallery celebrates the art of the Olympics

In celebration of the upcoming Olympic Games in Tokyo, Art Ventures Gallery in Menlo Park is featuring the sports photography of David Burnett (perhaps best known for his photographs of former President Barack Obama and other U.S. presidents), John Todd and David Madison, drawing from the photographers’ experience photographing 22 Olympic Games and numerous qualifying events and training sessions.

“Each photographer uses their own distinct photographic techniques, vantage points and the show highlights the aesthetics and power of

sport through images both symbolic and inspirational,” according to a press release from Art Ventures.

“My intention was to select only the images that depict the pain, struggle, and aesthetics of each athlete without showing crowds, medals or Olympic rings,” Art Ventures Gallery Director Katharina Powers said in the release.

The exhibition, “The Torch is Burning,” runs through July 31 at the 888 Santa Cruz Ave. gallery. Contact Art Ventures for most up-to-date hours.

More information is available at [artventuresgallery.com](http://artventuresgallery.com). ■

— Karla Kane

### MURAL

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through various layers of history, and becoming part of that history as it happens,” Sakellariou said.

Though she sought out some more “traditional” historic images, such as a photo of Los Altos’ first mayor, the mural emphasizes a variety of items that relate to the idea of domestic life and home — everything from books to sporting equipment and a variety of family photos. Many items might still be found in homes today, but also take on the added context of being part of the community’s story. Visitors can learn more about what’s pictured by scanning a QR code that accompanies the mural.

Even when approaching the Los Altos History Museum’s resources, Sakellariou was drawn to the more personal elements, such as the furnishings and fixtures in the museum’s Gilbert Smith House.

“The photographs and most

items are contributed by Los Altos residents or found in the museum archives. The door and window were photographed at the Gilbert Smith House; the outdoor image of the Juana Briones house is a historical 1903 picture from the Palo Alto Historical Association archives. I didn’t make up anything. I only created a space for all of these things to coexist. And it was really important for me to compose this space with original items from the community and the local museum,” she said.

Longtime Los Altos resident Claudia Meyer contributed a handful of items that appear in “200 Main Street,” among them a photo of children standing in front of a house after a rare snowfall and a pair of riding boots and helmet.

“In 1962, it snowed in Los Altos and I’m in that picture with my little sister and a neighbor boy. We had just built a snowman,” she said of the photo’s snowy scene.

Meyer’s family came to the area in 1953 and the following

year moved into a newly constructed house that would end up being the family home for just over 60 years.

She has memories of a childhood in a more rural community of orchards and pastures that offered plenty of space for horseback riding. Meyer cut apricots as a summer job and recalled times when she and her friends would race their horses along the dirt roads carved out for Highway 280 before it was paved. Along with the riding boots and helmet, which she said were her daughter’s, she also contributed a photo of the place on Springer Road where she used to board her pony.

“There used to be a barn, a little farm there, and that’s where I kept my pony. And (Sakellariou) really enjoyed this picture of me with my pony,” she said.

The artist not only photographed residents’ contributions for inclusion in the mural, but also developed a relationship with locals, Meyer said.

“I just was fascinated by the process, and how she combined

the old with the new. There’s many of us that grew up here and just to watch the progress of what evolved was really special. Getting to know her made the mural even more meaningful to me,” Meyer said.

The mural itself is an amalgam of old and new. While many of the objects pictured are historical, the photographs were assembled digitally and the mural, rather than being painted onto the wall, was printed on vinyl wrap, which was then affixed to the wall with a heat gun. The material is durable, offering permanence, but can also easily be removed, McBirney said — perhaps fitting for a piece that explores the passage of time.

The black-and-white palette is another departure, as murals often feature bold colors to brighten utilitarian spaces.

“There are some beautiful murals with strong colors and shapes that really grab your attention. I didn’t design it to be that — I want it to be more contemplative. So I hope people take the time to look at things,

explore the stories and think about their homes and their city, and how they are part of the history and the layers of it. They belong to this,” Sakellariou said.

Meyer said she’s been encouraging friends and family to go visit the mural. She pointed out that one of the photos featured in the mural, seen through a window, is of an apricot orchard. Given the significant role of agriculture in the town’s development — even today Los Altos City Hall is located in an apricot orchard — Meyer said it meant a lot to her to see such images included.

Though she joked that the mural makes her “feel old,” she said “it also makes me so thankful that I grew up here.”

“200 Main Street [an inventory of time and place]” can be seen at the corner of Third and Main streets in downtown Los Altos. For more information, visit [artslosaltos.org](http://artslosaltos.org). ■

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# Food & Drink

## Kombucha with a bite

PALY GRAD'S STARTUP JIANT TAPS INTO KOMBUCHA CRAZE WITH ALCOHOLIC BREWS

By Heather Zimmerman

**T**True to his Palo Alto roots, Aaron Telch says that Jiant, the beverage company he co-founded, has “a garage story, except it happened to be in the kitchen.” Telch, a Palo Alto High School grad, began developing Jiant’s signature product — alcoholic, or “hard,” kombucha — four years ago in the Santa Monica apartment he shared with his girlfriend.

As with many startups, the company spent a couple of years finding its footing amid trial and error — though a bit more unusual was Telch mailing samples of the evolving brew cross-country to convince a potential business partner.

Jiant, which launched in 2019, now offers four regular flavors of hard kombucha, as well as two rotating seasonal flavors. This summer it’s launching a line of three hard teas.

Though the company came to the market the year before COVID-19 hit, the pandemic hasn’t brought many speed bumps for Jiant because so much of its business is focused on selling in stores, rather than in restaurants, Telch said.

These days, Jiant is no longer brewed in a California kitchen, but produced at a craft brewery in Colorado. And in a roundabout way, a bit of Jiant’s foundations can be traced to Telch’s time at Palo Alto High School. Telch played on Paly’s golf team and then played for Brown University, where he met Jiant’s future co-founder Larry Haertel Jr., who was also on the golf team.

“We became great friends through college, and then in New York City after college we were roommates and had always wanted to start a business together. But it took a while to find the right idea and passion to go with,” Telch said.

Telch, who grew up in Palo Alto, moved to Los Angeles in 2014 after graduating from the Wharton business school at the University of Pennsylvania. In L.A., he aimed to get experience both in entrepreneurship and



Courtesy Jiant Hard Kombucha

**Aaron Telch**, a Palo Alto High School grad, co-founded Jiant Hard Kombucha with friend Larry Haertel Jr.

the commercial food and drink world, working with a consumer incubator focused on developing food and beverage products.

The steadily expanding popularity of non-alcoholic kombucha about six or seven years ago caught Telch’s attention, as did the increasing consumer emphasis on health and wellness. And he noted that there wasn’t much available for consumers who were focused on healthier alternatives in food and drink but still wanted to enjoy the occasional adult beverage.

Around 2017, Telch began home-brewing hard kombucha and mailing samples to Haertel in New York.

“I started to brew, and I had never brewed anything before in my life. But as soon as the samples were tasting OK, I started to send them across the country to Larry, who was still living in Brooklyn, and tried to convince him to move out to L.A.,” Telch recalled.

Those samples eventually proved persuasive, as Haertel and his wife moved to Los Angeles to help found Jiant.

Kombucha, which is made by fermenting tea and sugar, usually contains a small amount of alcohol already, according to Telch, who said that Jiant brews its kombucha “in a very traditional setting, which is open air with a SCOBY (symbiotic colony of bacteria and yeast) on top.”

To make hard kombucha, the beverage goes through a

second fermentation, in which champagne yeast is added, and as it ferments, it raises the alcohol content. Jiant’s kombucha comes in at about 5% alcohol, as does the company’s hard tea. Jiant’s hard tea goes through only one fermentation, without the SCOBY. But like kombucha, since the tea is fermented, it is slightly effervescent.

The name “Jiant” is in part a tongue-in-cheek reference to the company’s small, independent status. With a beverage market dominated by big commercial Goliaths, Telch likened Jiant to a David, but with an idea that has the potential to become pretty big on its own.

The unique spelling with a “J” is a nod to Jun, the type of base the company uses in brewing its kombucha. Rather than fermenting black tea and sugar, a common base for kombucha, Jiant’s hard kombuchas all use Jun, a mix of green tea and honey, as their base. While home-brewing and testing, Telch said, he noticed the difference the type of base can make.

“It was probably one of the most pivotal things that I discovered is using a Jun kombucha made for a really light, refreshing, crisp and clean hard kombucha,” Telch said.

Jiant makes four regular flavors: The Original, with passion fruit and elderflower; Gingerly, a blend of ginger and lemongrass flavors; Hicamaya, with grapefruit and hibiscus; and Guavamente, a guava and mint flavor. In addition, Jiant has two rotating seasonal flavors: Taco Tuesday, with pineapple and jalapeño for warm weather sipping, and for winter, there’s Cool Beans, which blends the flavors of coffee and blueberry.

Jiant is departing a bit from the green tea base used in its kombuchas as it branches out into hard teas, with flavors that instead use oolong, keemun (a variety of black tea) and pu’erh (fermented tea) as their bases. Jiant is selling the teas in a variety pack of three flavors: Mango Lime with oolong; Raspberry Mint with keemun and Blood Orange Grapefruit with pu’erh.

The hard seltzer trend of the



Courtesy Jiant Hard Kombucha

**Jiant makes four flavors** of hard kombucha: The Original, with passion fruit and elderflower; Gingerly, a blend of ginger and lemongrass flavors; Hicamaya, with grapefruit and hibiscus; and Guavamente, a guava and mint flavor.

past several years inspired Telch and Haertel to think about offering hard tea as an alternative. Telch’s theory is that consumers may be drawn to hard seltzers as a tippie that’s often lower in calories than other alcoholic drinks and gluten-free, but as he put it, “Everybody’s drinking it, but nobody seems to really like it.

“One thing that we think we do really well and different than some of our competition is how we use botanicals to really add complexity and flavor into our products without adding sugar, so it felt very natural for us to continue to lean on tea and botanicals to create gluten-free beverages that are low in sugar,” he said.

The teas, which have already launched on the East Coast and in Southern California, were highlighted recently in a New York Times article about summer beverages.

In general, Jiant has been more

widely stocked in San Francisco stores, but on the Peninsula, shoppers now can find Jiant’s hard kombucha at most Trader Joe’s or Whole Foods markets. The company aims to start bringing its hard teas to Northern California stores in August.

More information is at [jiantkombucha.com](http://jiantkombucha.com). ■

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