

# The Almanac

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

JULY 23, 2021 | VOL. 56 NO. 46



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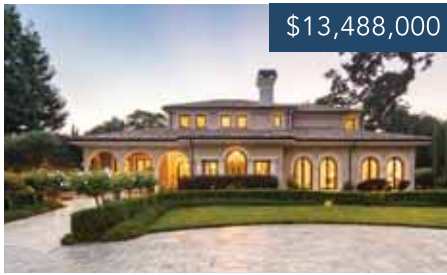
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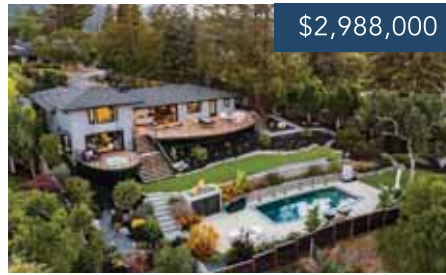
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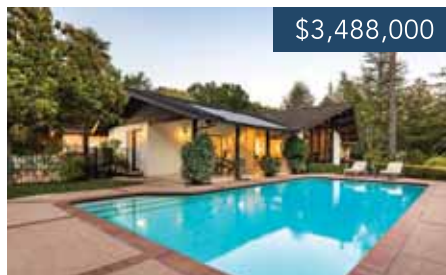
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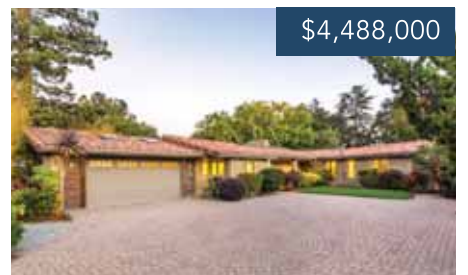
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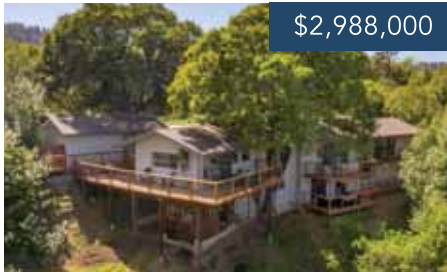
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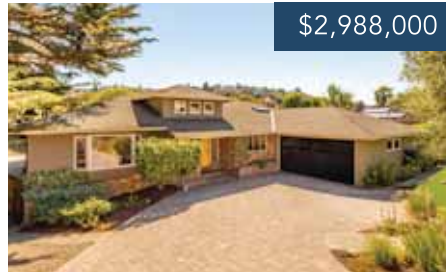
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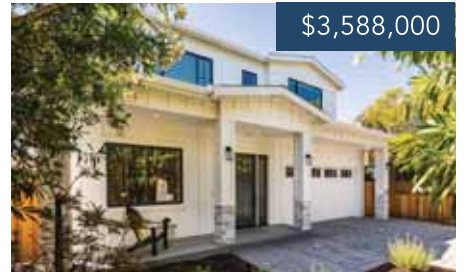
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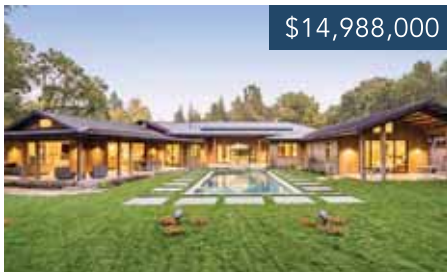
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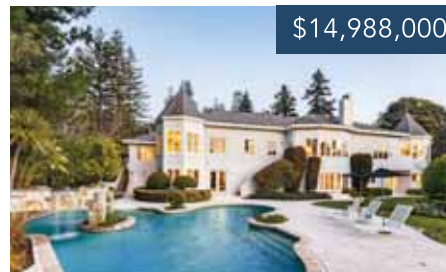
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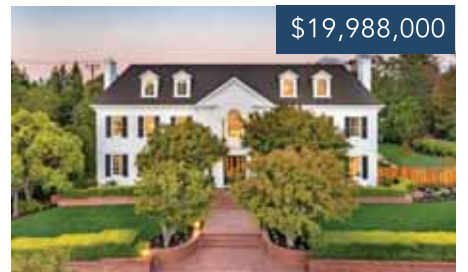
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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Magali Gauthier

Donee Davis and Laura Steuer, co-founders of Friendly Voices, chat in Davis' Menlo Park home on July 14.

## Pandemic isolation inspires phone buddy program for seniors

By Kate Bradshaw

When the pandemic triggered widespread shutdowns last year, Menlo Park resident Laura Steuer had already put herself in lockdown, as she had a preexisting condition that made her vulnerable to COVID-19.

As the isolation wore on while she was stuck in her home, she said, she couldn't shake her thoughts about how much worse seniors in

nursing homes must be feeling. Reports were emerging about seniors stuck in single rooms nearly 24/7 as caretakers tried to prevent transmission of a deadly virus that spread easily indoors. Some of the rooms didn't even have windows.

"I began to feel I had nothing to complain about," Steuer said in an interview.

So in early April 2020, she reached out to her friend Donne Davis, a fellow Menlo Park resident she'd met years

ago through Toastmasters.

They decided to combine their experiences — Steuer had previously led a phone outreach nonprofit for women healing from infidelity, while Davis runs a network for modern grandparents.

To help seniors facing isolation during the pandemic, they would pair volunteers with seniors and ask them to spend roughly 30 minutes per week connecting over the phone.

See SENIORS, page 10

## Local school districts face rising pension, COVID-19 reopening costs

By Angela Swartz

Local school districts are facing increasing pension costs and higher spending to cover the safety costs to bring students back to campuses — which state and federal funds helped cover — amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Districts in The Almanac's coverage area also pay higher salaries than nearby school districts, and most of their spending goes toward staff members' salaries and benefits, according to recently adopted budgets for the fiscal year that began July 1.

The Menlo Park City School District made cuts as it waits to see if its parcel tax passes this fall.

Students returned to the elementary school districts on a hybrid basis in the fall of 2020, which cost districts significantly. The Sequoia Union High School District didn't reopen until spring 2021, but it did have to pay for upgrades to ventilation systems, other safety improvements and distance learning technologies.

Below are more detailed updates on each school district's finances this coming school year.

### Menlo Park City School District

The Menlo Park district made cuts across the board to extend its financial runway. For fiscal year 2022, general fund revenues are

projected at about \$59.5 million and expenditures are expected to be about \$62 million in the district, according to the budget the school board approved at its June 10 meeting.

The district spent about \$2.81 million on one-time COVID-19 costs during the 2020-21 school year. The biggest portion of that money went to pay for substitutes, teachers and playground aides, since classes needed to be smaller to adapt to social distancing requirements. Virus testing, personal protective gear and additional summer school programs were also part of the one-time spending. An additional \$2.3 million will be spent during the 2021-22 school year for COVID-19 costs.

The district's reserve funds are projected to drop below the minimum amount specified in board policy — 15% of total annual spending — after this fiscal year. If that happens, the board would need to make further, more impactful cuts. Reserves are budgeted to stand at 15.3% during the 2021-22 fiscal year, and are expected to fall to 14.5% during the 2022-23 fiscal year and 8.6% the year after.

In May, the district's governing board opted to place a \$598 per parcel measure, which would provide \$4.6 million annually for 12 years, on the Nov. 2 ballot. The board discussed the possibility

See SCHOOL BUDGETS, page 30

## How resilient is the Midpeninsula's water supply?

Drought raises questions about how diversified cities' sources are — and how much they have stored

By Sue Dremann

When it comes to supplies of water, many local cities are dependent on one far-away source: the San Francisco Regional Water System, which comes from the Sierra Nevada, mainly the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Numerous Peninsula cities get 100% of their water from this supplier.

But the West's deepening drought and recent calls for Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15% have residents starting to wonder:

Just how resilient are local water systems in the event of a long-term drought or an emergency?

Data from the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) indicates that local cities have little in the way of alternative or local sources to their imported water supply. Storage is also limited.

Some communities are better diversified than others. Mountain View and Stanford have perhaps the greatest amount of diversity; East Palo Alto has no emergency source other than through tie-ins with

surrounding cities that also rely on Hetch Hetchy supplies.

Even the well-diversified supplier Valley Water, also known as Santa Clara Valley Water District, is dependent on imported sources of water from the San Francisco Bay-San Joaquin Delta and Hetch Hetchy supplies.

Groundwater, local storage and recycled supplies would not be enough to offset a loss of water from these life-sustaining sources if they run dry. Valley Water's current concerns perhaps illustrate just how vulnerable the Bay Area's water supply

can be. Anderson Reservoir, the largest in Valley Water's storage system, has been reduced to nearly a puddle since federal authorities mandated a seismic retrofit that will take a decade to complete. The water district's other major water supplies from the San Francisco Bay-San Joaquin Delta have also been vastly reduced by state and federal authorities to provide additional needed water for wildlife and natural fisheries.

California has experienced multiple, extended periods of dry weather since 1895, and one

of the most exceptional occurred between 2011 and 2017, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Integrated Drought Information System.

Ask local water providers what they'll do in a deep drought or catastrophic failure of their own system and they look to the other cities. Most have interties: pipe systems that allow them to move water from one municipality to another. But in a catastrophic drought, would

See DROUGHT, page 8

# Sports roundup

## Softball

**Alhouse** picked up right where it left off with a 12-6 win over **Dutch Goose** Saturday at Baylands Park to force a second game with the Palo Alto Babe Ruth championship on the line.

After a remarkable 12-run rally in the seventh inning July 15 of a 16-6 win over Old Pro and then the blowout win in the first game Saturday, the question arose — can anyone slow down the Alhouse locomotive, does anyone have a chance against the momentum that team has at its disposal?

Turns out **Ashton Chow** and his Dutch Goose teammates had an answer. The Goose exploded for 11 runs in the second inning and Chow appeared to be in cruise control on the mound, holding Alhouse scoreless until there were two outs in the fifth inning. And when Chow recorded the third out in the inning it was all over, with Dutch Goose winning the Palo Alto Babe Ruth championship with a 13-1 victory.

So how did Dutch Goose bounce back from that drubbing in game one?

“That was reflective of our whole season,” Dutch Goose head coach **Vasken Giuragossian** said. “We’re a team that can do both extremes. A big blow-up, giving up eight or nine runs in an inning, and the next game shut down a team with our defense.”

In the first game, five Dutch Goose pitchers combined to walk 12. Alhouse scored four in the second, three in the fourth and four more in the fifth. It was 12-3 heading to the bottom of the seventh as left-hander **Joseph Hohl** did an excellent job of inducing weak contact. He didn’t strike out a batter in his six innings, but walked only one.

Dutch Goose managed three in the bottom of the seventh off an Alhouse reliever. It seemed like a mere footnote at the time, but turned out to be a precursor of what was to come in the second game.

“After the first game we just said, ‘Let’s have some fun, let’s play loose,’” Guiragossian said. “Let’s not overthink this. At the end of the day it’s up to the kids. They were here because they love the game.”

Chow faced the minimum six batters over the first two innings and in the bottom of the second Dutch Goose erupted for 11 runs. **Wes Peterson** got it started with an RBI double. A second run scored on a single by **Shane Timmons**, a third came home on a bases-loaded walk to **Nate Donaker**. **Sean Li**’s sacrifice fly made it 4-0, and **Nolan Cook**’s two-run double necessitated an Alhouse pitching change. **Jake Papp** put the cap on the inning with a two-run single.

And that was more than enough for Dutch Goose to emerge with the city championship in a year in which no all-star competition will take place.

“(We’ve) been very good in tough situations,” said catcher and cleanup hitter **Coco Vonderhaar**, who made a couple of outstanding throws to cut down would-be base-stealers at second. “Every player on our team stepped up.”

—Glenn Reeves

## Little League

The **Alpine 8-10 Little League all-star team** rebounded from a tough loss the previous day with a strong game Monday, earning a 14-2 decision over Castro Valley in an elimination game of the Section 3 Tournament in Hillsborough.

Alpine gets another chance to take on Canyon Creek, which beat Alpine 9-8 on Sunday, with the tournament title on the line. Alpine needs to beat Canyon Creek twice to advance.

“We were in survival mode today,” Alpine manager **Ryan Sweeney** said. “We used three pitchers in an effort to keep pitch counts low.”

Alpine’s offense also helped keep the pitch count down as the game lasted four innings with the mercy rule invoked.

**Amit Garg**, one of the three pitchers, collected two hits, including a hit that drove in three runs in the first inning. **Anders Cahill**, **Brandon Sweeney**, who hit a home run Sunday, **Oli Coupe** and **Jake Scott** each had multiple hits and scored a combined eight runs.

Coupe started the game for Alpine, gave way to Garg and **Beau Cassel** finished it.

Sunday’s game was a classic, according to Ryan Sweeney.

“It was heartbreaking, but it was also a great reminder of why Little League baseball is so special,” Sweeney said. “Neither team quit, both teams made great plays on defense, both had big hits and both teams made their share of mistakes. It was a classic Little League baseball game; it had all the elements.”

Alpine and Canyon Creek were scheduled to play Tuesday evening after The Almanac’s press deadline.

## Water polo

The **Stanford Water Polo Club boys 18A team** lost a chance to defend its title at the USAWP National Junior Olympics in a shootout Monday night at the William Woollett Jr. Aquatics Center in Irvine.

Vanguard Red A outscored Stanford A 6-1 over the final 12:25 of regulation to force the shootout and then outshot the 18As, 4-2.

Third-seeded Stanford did what it needed to qualify for the national quarterfinals, beating Tustin Patriot A 11-7 and SoCal Black A 10-8 earlier in the day.

Stanford (5-2) held an 8-3 advantage over Vanguard Red A with 5:25 remaining to play in the third period and entered the fourth up 9-7.

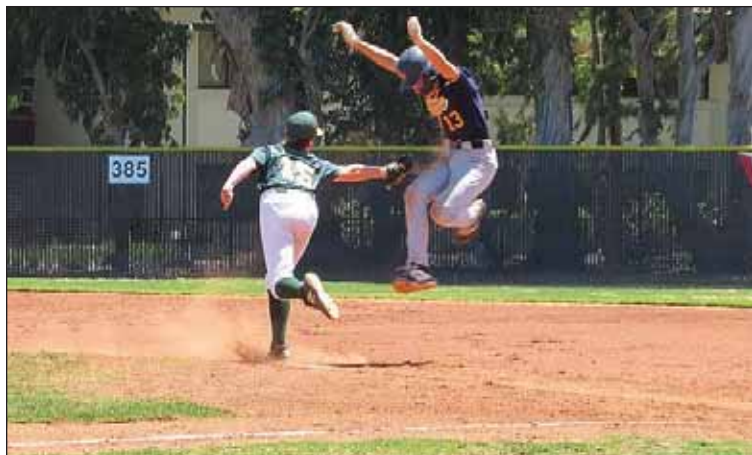
Vanguard Red A scored on a penalty shot to make it 9-8 with 1:16 left to play. Red A got another chance with 19 seconds left but **Griffen Price**, who has been brilliant throughout the tournament, made a great save.

The outlet pass, though, got away from Stanford and Vanguard took advantage, tying the score with 10 seconds left.

The shootout was tied at 2-2 when Vanguard scored to go up and Stanford missed off the crossbar. Vanguard secured it with another score.

Sixth-seeded Vanguard Black A handed defending national champion Stanford its only other loss in the tournament.

**Gavin West**, of Sacred Heart



Rick Eymmer

**Wes Peterson** does his best to avoid a tag but Alhouse’s **Joseph Hohl** got the out on July 17 at Baylands Athletic Center.

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See **SPORTS**, page 9

## Health officers encourage masking indoors

By Bay City News Service

A coalition of Bay Area health officials urged residents across the region to resume wearing a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status following an uptick in COVID-19 cases.

Officials in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Sonoma counties and the city of Berkeley issued the advisory July 16 “out of an abundance of caution” but have yet to issue a new masking mandate for shared indoor spaces like grocery and retail stores.

The health officials also stressed that fully vaccinated residents remain well-protected both from contracting the virus, including the currently observed variants, and from becoming seriously ill or dying.

Employees are encouraged to continue following the masking guidelines set by the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health and their employers. They are also encouraged to wear a mask indoors when their employers has not verified the vaccination status of their co-workers.

The recommendation comes on the heels of Los Angeles

County issuing a new mask mandate for indoor spaces last week amid an increase in COVID-19 cases, almost exclusively among the unvaccinated, and the proliferation of the more-transmissible delta variant.

“The delta variant is spreading quickly, and everyone should take action to protect themselves and others against this potentially deadly virus,” Alameda County Health Officer Dr. Nicholas Moss said in a statement.

While the Bay Area is one of the most vaccinated regions in the state and country, local health officials had recognized the potential for renewed mask requirements in recent weeks as the delta variant became more of a threat, particularly for unvaccinated people.

“The Bay Area is very, very diverse and there’s hot spots, within the Bay Area, of unvaccinated populations,” Marin County Deputy Health Officer Dr. Lisa Santora said earlier this month. “So we would expect to see, especially in more rural areas (and) consistent with other rural areas across the nation, that you’ll see increased rates of cases.”

The indoor masking recommendation, the county health officials said in a joint statement,

is intended to help protect unvaccinated residents, who are orders of magnitude more likely right now to contract the virus and be hospitalized with serious illness.

Last Friday, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Dr. Rochelle Walensky went as far as to say the virus “is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated.”

In Contra Costa County, the seven-day average of new cases per 100,000 residents was 1.7 for fully vaccinated residents as of July 8 and 16.1 per 100,000 for unvaccinated residents.

“The highly infectious delta variant is now the predominant strain in Contra Costa County,” Contra Costa County Health Officer Dr. Chris Farnitano said. “While vaccines remain our best tool against COVID-19, masking in indoor and crowded outdoor settings will help us curb the spread of this latest wave of infection.”

The coalition of health officers is expected to revisit the recommendation in the coming weeks after monitoring local case and hospitalization data.

State officials have also been hesitant, for now, to reissue mask and social distancing requirements statewide, instead deferring to local health agencies to do what they feel suits their constituents.

As of July 16, California’s rate of new cases per 100,000 residents was at 5.4. ▀

### CRIME BRIEFS

#### Carjacking suspect arrested near Facebook Saturday morning

Redwood City police arrested a 38-year-old man suspected of carjacking in the early morning Saturday, July 17, not far from Facebook’s headquarters in Menlo Park.

Around midnight on Saturday, Redwood City police officers got a report of a carjacking at 1405 Marshall St., according to a July 19 statement.

A driver and passenger were parked in front of the apartment building, police said. When the driver left the car to go into the complex, the passenger was approached by a man with a gun who forced him from the vehicle. The suspect drove off, heading southbound on Marshall Street toward Chestnut Street, according to the statement.

At 2:46 a.m., Menlo Park police officers located the stolen vehicle behind 3698 Haven Ave. When they attempted to contact the driver, he fled on foot, police said. Officers from the Menlo Park and Redwood City police departments searched a homeless camp nearby and located the man hiding under a trailer.

The suspect was identified by the victim and arrested. He was booked into the San Mateo County Jail on suspicion of carjacking and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Anyone that may have additional information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact Detective Sgt. Nick Perna at 650-780-7672, or the Redwood City Police Department’s tipline at 650-780-7110.

#### Woman sideswiped by car after telling man to leave her property

A Portola Valley woman told police on Monday, July 12, that a man sideswiped her with his car after approaching her about having her driveway repaved.

Around 9:45 a.m. two men in a white Ford Escape approached a resident of the 200 block of Westridge Drive, according to a San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office press release. The driver asked the resident if she would be interested in having her driveway repaved and she asked him to leave. She tried to photograph the license plate as they left and the car brushed up against her arm. She was not injured and reported that she doesn’t believe that the driver intentionally tried to hit

her.

She was concerned that the men were attempting to scam residents in the area by misrepresenting themselves as paving contractors.

The resident described the driver as a white man with an Irish accent in his 20s or 30s.

Such scams are becoming more commonplace and residents should be alert for anyone who approaches them for such purposes, according to the Sheriff’s Office.

Residents can contact the town of Portola Valley at 650-851-1700 or the Sheriff’s Office at 650-363-4911. Anyone who has information regarding this incident may call the Sheriff’s Office anonymous tipline at 1-800-547-2700.

—Angela Swartz

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## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Sellers, There Are Advisors To Help You

Dear Monica:

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Dear Janet:

Sellers approach the job of selling a long time home with dread. The thought of clearing out

years of accumulation is daunting. And if you are still working full time at a job, it can be impossible to find the time.

There are home organizers to help you who know how to organize the piles and advise you on what has value and what doesn’t. You would do well to use their services. Your agent can direct you on where to find them.

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

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**DROUGHT***continued from page 5*

neighboring cities have extra water to spare?

Here's a look at the water capacity of local jurisdictions and alternative sources of water based on 2019-2020 data from BAWSCA's annual survey, which was published in March 2021.

**Palo Alto**

Palo Alto is among the more diversified local municipalities when it comes to water. In fiscal year 2019-2020, the city and its 67,082 residents used 10.5 million gallons of water per day. About 93% came from the San Francisco Regional Water System. Recycled water accounted for 7%.

Palo Alto uses recycled water to irrigate its golf course and a city park and to fill its duck pond. The recycled water is also used for the city's Emily Renzel Marsh enhancement project and as part of processing at the water quality control plant. Recycled water is not for drinking or swimming in.

Palo Alto has recently improved its water capacity through its Emergency Water Supply and Storage Project, which rehabilitated five existing wells, constructed three new wells and built a new 2.5-million-gallon emergency water-storage reservoir. The eight emergency wells can pump up to 15.5 million gallons per day if needed.

The city's seven storage reservoirs — Mayfield, Boronda, Corte Madera, Dahl, El Camino, Montebello and Park — have a total capacity of 13 million gallons.

The city now has adequate storage and pumping capacity to provide backup should there be an interruption of San Francisco water service. The wells may also be available to meet limited dry year requirements, according to BAWSCA.

It has interties with East Palo Alto County Water District, Mountain View, Purissima Hills Water District and Stanford University.

**Days of storage:** 1.13

**Menlo Park**

The city purchases all of its water directly from the San Francisco system and uses nearly 3 million gallons of water per day. Menlo Park Municipal Water runs the city of Menlo Park's water system and serves 18,224 people. Two reservoirs supply the Sharon Heights area.

There is emergency storage in the areas supplying north and east of El Camino Real.

California Water Service and the city's storage well are the



Magali Gauthier

**The Crystal Springs Reservoir** is fed by the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

primary emergency sources of water for Menlo Park, according to BAWSCA.

The area has emergency interties with California Water Service Bear Gulch District, Redwood City, O'Connor Tract Water Coop and East Palo Alto.

**Days of storage:** 0.65

**Stanford University**

The Stanford Sustainability & Energy Management Department supplies water to the campus area and Stanford's unincorporated lands, serving 32,075 people, which is the university's average daytime population, according to BAWSCA.

Stanford's average daily water demand is 2.5 million gallons per day.

The university has five sources of water: purchased potable water from the San Francisco system, groundwater, non-potable surface water from the local watershed, stormwater and runoff capture, and recycled water, according to BAWSCA.

Stanford gets 57% of its water from the San Francisco system. Another 43% comes from "other" sources, including Stanford's surface-water diversions such as Searsville Lake and groundwater. Alternative sources include local groundwater, surface water, stormwater, construction dewatering and recycled water. The university now tracks its other supplies for use as irrigation water. The extent of groundwater used depends on the amount of rainfall and how much surface water is available.

Four wells on Stanford property could be used in an emergency. Three of the wells are in compliance with all drinking water standards; the fourth well is on "standby" since its manganese levels exceed current standards, BAWSCA noted. Wells can supply 3.7 million gallons per day in an emergency.

Stanford also has three storage reservoirs with a total capacity of 9.5 million gallons, according to BAWSCA. A recycled water plant completed in 2008-2009

was decommissioned in 2015 but could be used in the future, the BAWSCA report stated.

It has interties with Palo Alto.

**Days of storage:** 2.5 to 4

**East Palo Alto**

The city of East Palo Alto's water utility receives all of its potable water supply from the San Francisco system. In 2019-2020, the city used 1.5 million gallons of water per day with only about 311,000 gallons of water annually coming from groundwater.

The water utility, which serves 26,181 people, is operated and managed by a private contractor. Two privately owned water companies, O'Connor Tract Water Coop and Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company, serve a small area of the city separate from the city's water supply.

The city's water system has no storage facilities or alternate potable water supply sources in the event of an earthquake. The city has 3.6 million gallons of storage identified but approval and funding have not been secured, according to BAWSCA.

East Palo Alto has one emergency well that is not currently certified for drinking water use.

It has interties with Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

**Days of storage:** No storage. East Palo Alto cannot sustain a loss of water without obtaining water through its interties in an emergency.

**California Water Service**

This sprawling water operator has multiple districts on the San Francisco Peninsula, including the Bear Gulch and Los Altos districts.

The Bear Gulch district is located in southern San Mateo County and serves Atherton, Portola Valley, Woodside, parts of Menlo Park, parts of unincorporated Redwood City and adjacent unincorporated portions of San Mateo County including West Menlo Park, Ladera, North Fair Oaks, and Menlo Oaks.

The Bear Gulch district receives 85% to 95% of its daily supply from the San Francisco system. The balance is supplied by surface water runoff from California Water Service Company's watershed.

In 2019-2020, the district used nearly 11.5 million gallons of water per day to serve 60,827 residents. Local surface water, local groundwater (in its Skyline system only) offer a limited additional supply.

The water is stored in the 215-million-gallon Bear Gulch reservoir, which is treated at a filtration plant before distribution, but the reservoir's capacity has been reduced by 6 feet to be in compliance with California Division of Safety of Dams safety requirements.

Although Bear Gulch reservoir is currently at 80% capacity, the treatment plant isn't running at this time, said Lee Blevins, production superintendent for the district. Currently, the district is using 100% of its water directly from the San Francisco system.

"Turning on the treatment plant would deplete the reservoir. The supply is seasonal," he said.

The reservoir water is used in late fall through early spring during the rainy season when it is replenished.

The district also has storage tanks ranging from 50,000 to 1 million gallons, Blevins said. The total storage capacity for the reservoir and tanks is 226 million gallons, according to the BAWSCA report. The system has interties with Redwood City and Menlo Park.

**Days of storage:** If the Bear Gulch district lost all of its sources of water supply, it would have 0.92 days of water, according to the BAWSCA report.

The Los Altos district, which does not obtain water from the Hetch Hetchy system, provides water to Los Altos Hills, Los Altos, Mountain View and Sunnyvale through groundwater and water from Valley Water and serves more than 55,000 people, according to its 2010 Urban Water Management Plan, its most recent report. Water use was projected to reach 21 million gallons per day by 2020.

Between approximately 32% of its water supply comes from groundwater and up to 68% is purchased from Valley Water, but these numbers are variable based on the water supply from Valley Water. The district can pump out more water from the ground if needed and it encourages conservation.

The Los Altos district doesn't store water seasonally. In an extended drought, it would need to install new wells to meet demand, according to the water management plan.

**Mountain View**

The city of Mountain View serves a population of 79,772. Its primary water supplier, San Francisco Regional Water System, provides 84% of the water. Valley Water supplies 10% treated water; 2% supply is from groundwater and 4% from recycled water. The city uses more than 9 million gallons per day.

California Water Service also provides water to a small part of Mountain View, according to BAWSCA.

The city has four water storage facilities, above and below ground, said Elizabeth Flegel, city water resources manager.

Mountain View has four active wells (and four are currently out of service). They are not currently operated at their maximum capacity due to various maintenance and operational issues.

Local storage in the reservoirs and the wells comprises a total of 17 million gallons, according to BAWSCA.

Flegel said the city is studying its recycled water distribution system and is updating a feasibility study for expansion. Mountain View's construction program requires contractors to do hydrant metering so that water trucks using hydrant water to keep construction dust down track how much is expended and are charged for the water, Flegel said.

The city has interties with Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Valley Water and California Water Service.

**Days of storage:** If the city lost its San Francisco water supply only, it could utilize wells, Valley Water or storage to meet an eight-hour outage.

**Purissima Hills Water District**

The Purissima Hills Water District provides service to two-thirds of the town of Los Altos Hills and unincorporated county land on the southern boundary. Its largest customer is Foothill College, according to BAWSCA. The population served is 6,150.

The district receives 100% of its water from the San Francisco system or 1.75 million gallons per day. It doesn't produce any local water and has no alternative supply sources. The district has 11 gravity-fed storage tanks with a total capacity of 9.88 million gallons. It has no wells.

The district does have interties with the California Water Service in Los Altos and Palo Alto.

**Days of storage:** The system can meet an eight-hour supply in an emergency. ■

*Email Staff Writer*

*Sue Dremann at*

*sdremann@paweekly.com.*

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Sequoias residents award student scholarships

The Sequoias celebrated its first annual Scholar Reception on July 17, awarding scholarships to children of employees of the senior retirement community.

The winners were Sam Hsaio, Daniela Hernandez, An Hoang, Liz Aguilar, Yahaira Gallegos, Sebastian Gomez, Sheyla Aguilar and Favin Mehari.

A committee of residents at The Sequoias organized the scholarship fund to assist with college or trade school expenses, according to a press release.

“Over a year ago, a group of residents organized a scholarship fund drive to benefit the children and grandchildren of the employees at The Sequoias Portola Valley,” the release states. “But then The Sequoias entered lockdown and quarantine, and

for a year there were no community events or gatherings. Word of the scholarship fund drive could only be sent by paper flyers and telephone.

“Harder still was getting word of the new scholarship program to the overworked staff as they grappled with all the new obstacles to providing food and services for 200 people shut in their apartments.”

Parents and families of the scholars and Sequoias administration, staff and dozens of Sequoias residents attended the reception in the lounge, according to the release.

“There were beaming faces and tears of pride,” the release states. “It was especially moving to realize that all of these young students are the first generation of their families to attend college.”

The scholarship committee partnered with the nonprofit 10,000 Degrees, whose staff guides students through the

college application process, vets the applicants, helps them find other scholarships, and guides and mentors them while in school.

The students will be starting or continuing at California State University at Sacramento; Pepperdine University; San Francisco State University; San Jose State University; Stanford University; University of California at Santa Barbara; and University of San Diego.

—Angela Swartz

## Movie nights at Courthouse Square

On Thursday evenings through Sept. 2, Redwood City is hosting a series of free double feature movie nights, offering a mix of family movies, feature films and independent film shorts from the BraveMaker Film Festival, a Redwood City-based film arts organization. Film screenings will take place at Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway.

■ Thursday, July 29, at 6 p.m., “Raya and the Last Dragon” (114 min, 2021, PG), and at 8:30 p.m., “Yesterday” (116 min, 2019, PG-13).

■ Thursday, Aug. 5, at 8 p.m., a BraveMaker independent film, and at 8:30 p.m., “Spider-Man: Far from Home” (129 min, 2019, PG-13).

■ Thursday, Aug. 12, at 6 p.m., “Onward” (102 min, 2020, PG), and at 8:30 p.m., “Minari” (116 min, 2021, PG-13).

■ Thursday, Aug. 19, at 8 p.m., a BraveMaker independent film, and at 8:30 p.m., “Wonder Woman 1984” (151 min, 2021, PG-13).

■ Thursday, Aug. 26, at 6 p.m., “How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World” (104 min, 2019, PG), and at 8:30 p.m., “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood”

(107 min, 2019, PG).

■ Thursday, Sept. 2, at 8 p.m., a BraveMaker independent film and at 8:30 p.m., “Jumanji: The Next Level” (123 min, 2019, PG-13).

Tables and chairs are available for those who arrive early, and people are invited to bring their own blankets and pick up take-out food from nearby restaurants to enjoy during the screenings. The series is supported by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and Stanford University. More information is at [bravemaker.com/film-fest](http://bravemaker.com/film-fest).

## Menlo Tavern updates

Menlo Tavern, the restaurant inside the Stanford Park Hotel at 100 El Camino Real, is lining up live music performances from 6 to 9 p.m. this summer. The restaurant also has a new executive chef, Louis Salvatore, and chef de cuisine, Tim Barajas, according to the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce. They have more than seven years of experience cooking together at the Mayfield Bakery and Cafe, the chamber reports.

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 31



Courtesy J. D. Masterson

**Left to right:** Sam Hsaio, Daniela Hernandez, An Hoang, Liz Aguilar, Yahaira Gallegos, and Sebastian Gomez received scholarships at a ceremony at The Sequoias retirement community on July 17 in Portola Valley. Winners Sheyla Aguilar and Favin Mehari were unable to attend the event.

## SPORTS

continued from page 6

Prep, scored two of his three goals in the first period as Stanford scored the game's first four goals against Tustin and never trailed.

**Greg Hilderbrand and Connor MacMitchell, both of Menlo School, and SHP's Bear Weigle and Will Swart** each added a pair of goals.

Stanford A survived a physical match with SoCal Black A as Weigle and Swart each scored twice in the fourth period. Weigle put Stanford ahead to stay with 5:33 remaining to play.

The teams combined for nine goals over the first 26:25 and then combined for nine more the rest of the way. Hilderbrand and Weigle each had three goals.

In the **16 Championship Division**, Stanford A split two games, beating Vanguard Red B 8-6 and then losing to Lamorinda A 12-10.

Stanford A will play for 15th place Tuesday against an opponent to be determined at Estancia High at 2 p.m.

Stanford 16B, which started the tournament 2-1, lost twice 6-5 to San Jose WPF A and 16-4 to SoCal Gold A and will complete its round robin with an 8 a.m. game at Estancia against Chawp White A.

In the **14 Championship Division**, Stanford A split two games, beating Newport Beach B 8-5 and then losing to Pride A 11-8.

The 14As were scheduled to play Mid Valley, which won an earlier game against Stanford in a shootout, for 11th, at 9 a.m. at Portola High on Tuesday. The 14As will improve upon their 15th place finish of two years ago.

In the **12 Championship Division**, Stanford A split two games, losing to Lamorinda A 7-6 and then bounced back to beat Santa Cruz Waxem 14-9 and earn a spot in the ninth-place match against

Trojan A at Mission Viejo on Tuesday after The Almanac's press deadline.

The 12As are also guaranteed a higher finish from two years ago.

The 12Bs lost to La Jolla A 12-6 and Newport Beach B 10-8 and were slated to play Trojan B at El Segundo Aquatic Center for 17th place Tuesday.

In the **Classic Division**, Stanford 18B dropped two matches Monday 17-11 to the San Francisco Warriors and 12-10 to Northern California B.

Stanford 18B meets Sacramento at Laguna Hills High Tuesday with fifth place at stake.

Stanford 14B split two games Monday, losing to Rancho Tsunami 20-12 and then coming back to beat Gold Coast in a shootout, 4-1, after the game was tied 7-7.

The 14B's meet Marin at El Segundo Aquatic Center Tuesday for a chance to finish ninth.

—Rick Eymer

## Glena Lois Bruce Ballentine

(1925 – 2021)

Glena Lois Bruce Ballentine, a longtime community volunteer and service provider who lived on the Peninsula for more than 60 years, died of natural causes July 14 in Albuquerque, N.M. She was 95, passing away 25 years to the day of her husband Fred's death.



Mrs. Ballentine, a native of Paonia, Colo., moved in 1945 to Hollywood, worked at California Bank and did

some fashion modeling in her early years. She once said she was one of few young women moving to Hollywood in the 1940s who did not want to become a movie actress.

The Ballentines married in 1948 and moved to the Peninsula in 1953. Fred Ballentine became a star real estate salesman for the David Bohannon organization in San Mateo and later started his own firms on the Peninsula in the 1950s and '60s — Ballentine Associates and August Associates, which had offices in San Mateo, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, and Los Altos. Mrs. Ballentine had her own real estate sales license and assisted him in running the businesses. They were married for 48 years until Mr. Ballentine's death just short of his 76th birthday in 1996.

The Ballentines lived in Woodside, Menlo Park, Redwood City, and San Mateo during their long tenure in the Bay Area. Mrs. Ballentine was active in numerous civic and faith-related organizations, including the Woodside School PTA, the Christian Women's Organization, Children's Home Society, the Girl Scouts, and Valley Presbyterian Church, where she served as an elder and deacon. She and other members of her family also were active in local community theater, including the Woodside Community Theater and the Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory. She and Mr. Ballentine performed in such productions as “Call Me Madam,” “Girl Crazy,” “Bells Are Ringing” and others in Woodside.

Mrs. Ballentine is survived by three children: Rick Ballentine (Mary) of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Becky Ballentine Preimesberger (Chris) of Redwood City, Calif.; and Deborah Ballentine Haycock (Kevin), of Phoenix, Ariz. She also is survived by 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service has been scheduled for Saturday, July 24, at 10 a.m. at the Paonia United Methodist Church, 307 Onarga St., Paonia, Colo.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested to be donations to Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley, Calif. 94028, or Paonia United Methodist Church.

PAID OBITUARY

## SENIORS

continued from page 5

As the threat of the pandemic has dropped for those who are vaccinated, the acute loneliness crisis faced by seniors in lockdown may also wane, but the overall problem of loneliness isn't going anywhere, especially among older adults.

According to a report cited by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than one third of adults age 45 and older feel lonely and nearly one-fourth of adults 65 and older are considered socially isolated, or

lacking social connections.

These can have serious health impacts. The CDC reports that social isolation significantly increases a person's risk of premature death from all causes, with impacts that may be similar to smoking, obesity and physical inactivity, and is associated with about a 50% increased risk of dementia.

Davis said she was partly motivated to get involved with the project because of the experiences she'd seen her 98-year-old mother go through during the pandemic. Her mother lives in an assisted living community

and has been confined to her room for about the past year and a half.

"I felt so sorry for her and so sad," she said in an interview. "This (program) is just what she needs ... That made me want to get on board with it."

So they reached out and began recruiting volunteers. So far, many of the volunteers have come from their extended networks — friends and friends of friends. Of the volunteers, about 39 of 43 live within the extended Peninsula region, Steuer said.

The volunteers started working with a cohort of isolated

seniors in the Midwest, Steuer said, but, several months ago, Friendly Voices began a partnership with Avenidas in Palo Alto. It's an expansion of the program to work with seniors who are homebound or aging in place alongside those in assisted living facilities or nursing homes.

Volunteers are trained to document each call while maintaining privacy in accordance with federal laws, but the gist of the program comes down to engaging in a friendly conversation that's built around respect and flexibility, Steuer said.

They talk about how to respectfully navigate topics like religion and politics and help listen to and validate the experiences of their conversation partner. Group leaders help fellow volunteers talk through what to do if any red-flag issues come up.

"I love helping people become better listeners," said Davis, who runs the trainings.

Steuer said that she's found the conversations she's had with her phone buddy to be rewarding. They differ in their upbringings, political and faith backgrounds but listen to each other's stories and connect over the woes of parenting, daily life, and the books and movies they like. Not every phone buddy pair connects as easily, but "we know every senior is glad to get the call," she said. "It means they have not been forgotten."

Steuer said she suspects that the volunteers appreciate the opportunity to engage in a kind of relationship-based volunteering, providing the emotional payoff of a meaningful connection with a fairly low time commitment. Volunteers can make the phone calls whenever works best for their schedules, she said.

While there are other phone-based programs that do outreach to seniors, Steuer explained that Friendly Voices fits a unique niche, focusing more on conversations over the long term rather than welfare checks. She pointed to research that found that conversation, in and of itself, can provide value by improving memory and focus, helping to offer not just a balm for loneliness but tangible cognitive benefits.

In addition, using phone calls, as opposed to other technology-based platforms like FaceTime or Zoom, creates one less barrier for seniors to navigate in getting connected with others.

Go to [friendlyvoices.org](http://friendlyvoices.org) to learn more about volunteering. ■

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

## 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@pawekly.com](mailto:editor@pawekly.com) and we'll do our best to answer it.

## Isobel Christensen

March 21, 1931 – June 16, 2021

Isobel Jean Smith was born March 21, 1931 in Oxnard, California. Her parents, Jean (Lawrie) Smith and William Smith had emigrated from Scotland and her Scottish roots were celebrated throughout her life. Isobel had the good fortune to grow up on the Limoneira Ranch in Santa Paula. Her early years were spent playing in the fields, riding horses through the trees and enjoying rural life.



After graduation from Santa Paula High School, she traveled north to attend UC Berkeley as a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority, thus starting a love of all things "Cal", and the colors blue and gold. After college she lived in San Francisco, and became a member of The Spinners. Luckily, she was invited to play tennis with a Bachelor, Herman Christensen, Jr., and love was found on the tennis court. They married in 1960 and quickly built an amazing house in the hills of San Carlos. Their four children arrived and they soon needed more space so they built their family home in Atherton. Isobel and Herman joined the Circus Club in the early '60s and continued to play tennis, help out at swim meets and watch horse events. Isobel volunteered with Peninsula Volunteers and in the local schools. Later in life, she took up golf and they joined Menlo Country Club, where she fostered many strong relationships with other women golfers. Isobel was also a devoted volunteer at the Atherton Historical Society. She was thrilled with the arrival of each of her seven grandchildren, and by them, she was lovingly called "Scraggles". Her pampering of her steady stream of bearded collies was legendary, and everyone who knew them wanted to be reincarnated as one of her dogs. She was also famous for her dry sense of humor and her clever, witty Christmas cards.

After Herman passed away in 2013, Isobel stayed home more, but surrounded herself with an incredible team of helpers and friends. Our family will be forever grateful for the support she received from all those who came daily or weekly to care for her and provide companionship and community. Isobel is survived by her daughter Maren (Bill Welch), son Gavin (Tricia), son Andrew and daughter Amy (Drew Curby). Her grandchildren Brady, William, Brian, Caroline, Alicia, Pierce, Ford and honorary grandchildren Maverick and Ryder will deeply miss their beloved "Scraggles". She is also survived by her sister, Margo Holcomb, and her faithful bearded collie, Kat (the dog).

There will not be a public funeral; a private celebration of life will be held later in the summer.

PAID OBITUARY

## Dr. John Bordy

January 21, 1938 – June 28, 2021

Dr. John Bordy died June 28, 2021. He was born in Marosvásárhely, which is also known by its Romanian name, Târgu Mures. Dr. Bordy was a true Szekely and identified deeply with his Hungarian roots, but he embodied the American dream. He wanted to be a doctor before the age of ten and knew his chances of achieving that dream were slim as an ethnic Hungarian living in Romania. Dr. Bordy left home at the age of 18 to play on the Romanian national water polo team in the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, Australia. Although he didn't win the gold, he did win an opportunity to defect with other Hungarian athletes. They toured the United States on a trip called the Freedom Fighters' Tour, which was sponsored by Sport's Illustrated. He enrolled at UC Berkeley, barely speaking English, where he played water polo all four years and was known as "short, broad-shouldered Bordy." During that time, he was also a member of the San Francisco Olympic Club and won the American National Championships in '57 and '59. In 2010, he was inducted into the Olympic Club Hall of Fame. He graduated Stanford medical school with highest honors. After his internship, he enlisted in the Navy and spent two years with his family on Mare Island. He returned to Stanford for his residency in orthopedic surgery, then worked for Kaiser Permanente in Redwood City for 30 years, eventually heading the department. For many years, he and one other doctor were the entire orthopedic department, which is why most locals know someone who has had a bone set or hip replaced by Dr. Bordy.



He leaves behind his wife of 62 years, Ellen Bordy, nee Silva, his son Michael (Linda), daughters Eileen Skidmore (Earl) and Carolyn Dubbel (David), grandchildren Jeanette Boroumand (Behzad), John and Megan Bordy, Jolie Sheldon (Steve), Quinton and Liam Isaacs, Natalie and Eric Dubbel, and great granddaughters Cammie Sheldon and Eve Boroumand.

Dr. Bordy was an original, an amazing man, determined and stubborn, committed and loyal, fun-loving and a little crazy. Nobody could tell him he couldn't do something, like attend college without knowing the language. He was a dubious carpenter and dug his family's first swimming pool with a shovel. If you were called a gomer by him, he probably liked you. He loved his family and many friends; his Samoyed dog, Simba; the mountain he lived on in La Honda; water polo and soccer; building things; riding his tractor; and the hummingbird he watched out of his dining room window.

A public celebration of his life will be held August 7th. Please contact a family member for more details.

PAID OBITUARY



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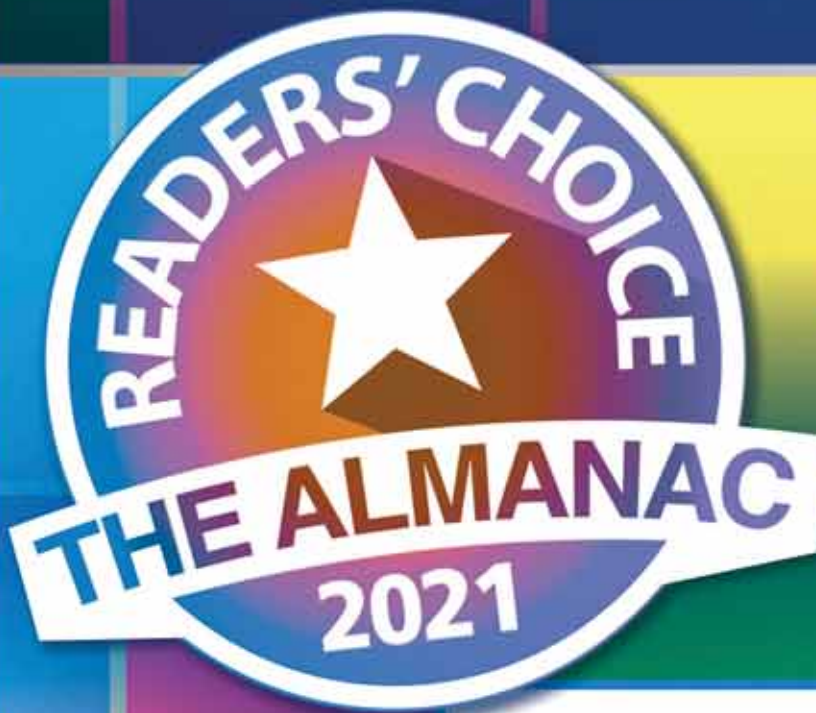


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# 2021

## ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

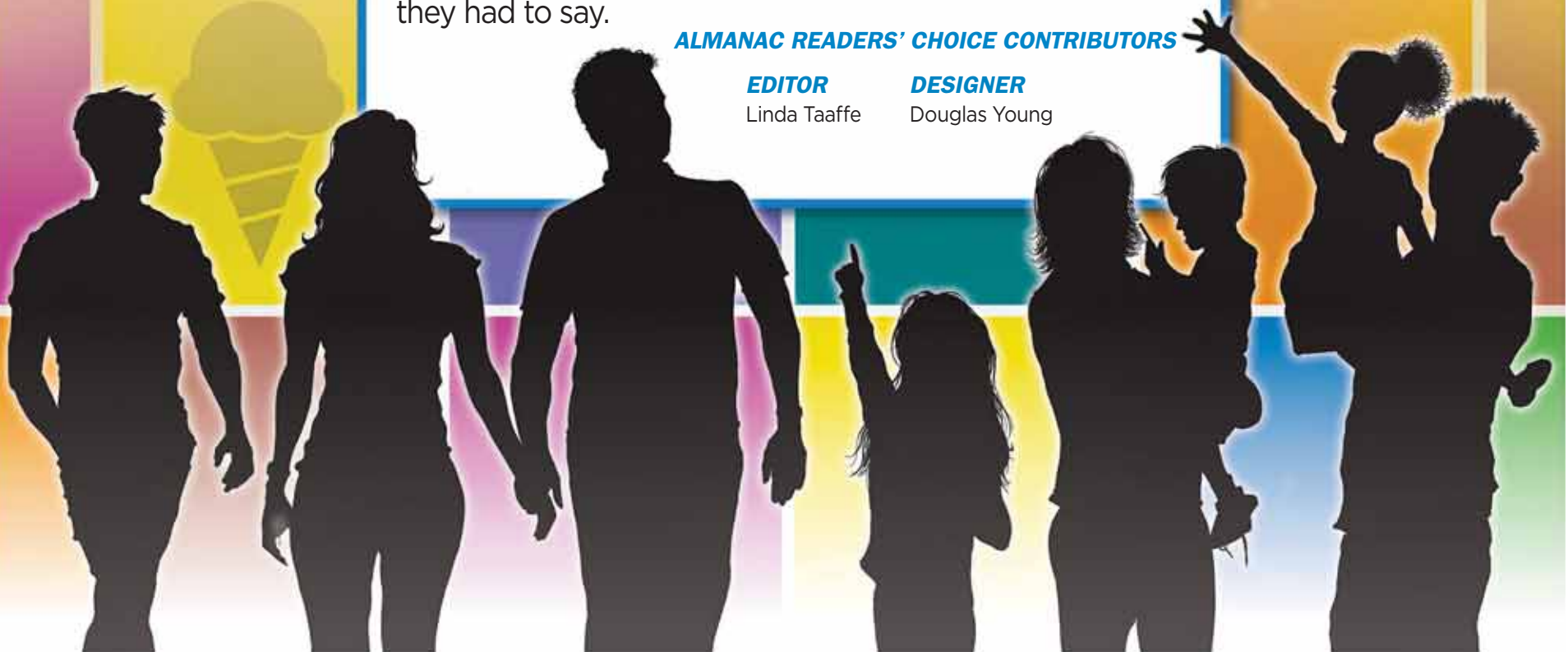
**F**ollowing a year of uncertainty, hope is finally on the horizon as businesses reopen and slowly inch closer to pre-pandemic normalcy. To show appreciation for the local business community, readers once again cast votes for their favorite places to eat, shop, work out or spend time with family and friends for The Almanac's annual Readers' Choice edition after a hiatus in 2020.

The Almanac recently surveyed this year's Readers' Choice winners to see how they are doing in 2021 since California officially reopened on June 15, signaling a small but significant shift toward recovery. Read on to see what they had to say.

#### ALMANAC READERS' CHOICE CONTRIBUTORS

**EDITOR**  
Linda Taaffe

**DESIGNER**  
Douglas Young



# READERS' CHOICE WINNERS 2021



## Arts & Entertainment

### LIVE MUSIC

Pioneer Saloon

### PLACE FOR A DATE

Flea Street Cafe

### PLACE TO MEET PEOPLE

Cafe Borrone

## Food & Drink

### BAKERY

Woodside Bakery

### BREAKFAST

Stacks

### DESSERT

Draeger's Market

### HAMBURGERS

Dutch Goose

### HAPPY HOUR

Dutch Goose

### ICE CREAM/FROZEN YOGURT

Cold Stone Creamery

### INDEPENDENT COFFEE AND TEA HOUSE

Cafe Borrone

### PIZZA

Amici's

### PLACE TO BUY MEAT, SANDWICHES

Bianchini's Market

## Restaurants

### TAKEOUT

Chef Kwan's

### AMERICAN RESTAURANT

Rossotti's Alpine Inn

### ASIAN RESTAURANT

Chef Chu's

### CASUAL DINING

Parkside Grille

### DINING WITH KIDS

SAJJ Mediterranean

### FRENCH RESTAURANT

Bistro Vida

### ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Ristorante Carpaccio

### JAPANESE RESTAURANT

Koma Sushi Restaurant

### MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Amigos Grill

### NEW RESTAURANT

Farmhouse Kitchen

### OUTDOOR DINING

Cafe Borrone

### ROMANTIC RESTAURANT

Flea Street Cafe

## Retail

### BEST BOOKSTORE

Kepler's Books & Magazines

### BICYCLE SHOP

Menlo Velo Bikes

### BOUTIQUE

Shady Lane

### FLOOR COVERINGS

Abbey Carpet & Floor

### FRAME STORE/ART GALLERY

Peabody Fine Art Gallery

### GIFT SHOP

Shady Lane

### GROCERY

Bianchini's Market

### HARDWARE STORE

Menlo Hardware

### HOME DECOR AND FURNISHINGS

Harvest

### NURSERY

Ladera Garden & Gifts

### PET STORE

Bow Wow Meow

### PLACE TO BUY JEWELRY

Shady Lane

### PLACE TO BUY SHOES

Fleet Feet

### PRODUCE

Bianchini's Market

### SPECIALTY

Cheeky Monkey Toys

## Services

### AUTO REPAIR

Portola Valley Garage

### BARBER

Menlo Park Barber Shop

### DAY SPA

LaBelle Day Spas & Salons

### DRY CLEANER

Ladera Cleaners

### FITNESS CLASSES

Studio K-Fit

### FLORIST

Ladera Garden & Gifts

### GYM

Studio K-Fit

### HAIR SALON

Olive Hill Salon

### HOTEL

Stanford Park Hotel

### MANICURE/PEDICURE

A Touch of Elegance Nail Care

### PLASTIC SURGEON

Jane Weston, MD

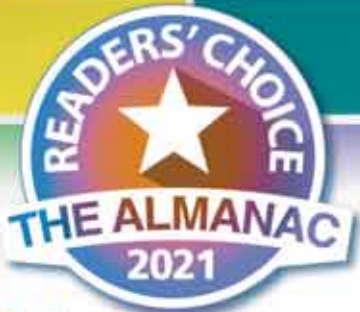
### PLUMBER

Guy Plumbing & Heating

### YOGA

YogaSource





# READERS' CHOICE WINNERS 2021

## Arts & Entertainment

### LIVE MUSIC

#### PIONEER SALOON

The history of Pioneer Saloon is as lustrous as its wooden decor and nostalgic "Wild West" ambiance. In operation since 1880, the landmark saloon has become a local destination for its Live Music Sundays. Even when live music was canceled during the shutdown, patrons organized monthly socially distanced gatherings to support the saloon until it could reopen. The saloon is open for indoor and outdoor service. Check its website for the latest information on Live Music Sundays. **2925 Woodside Road, Woodside, 650-851-8487; pioneersaloon.com**

### PLACE FOR A DATE

#### FLEA STREET CAFE

Jesse Cool's Flea Street Cafe

is well known for its sustainable farm-to-table menu that includes fresh, in-season, organic and local ingredients, as well as for its commitment to giving back to the local community. During the pandemic, the Menlo Park restaurant provided about 1,000 weekly meals for dozens of front-line workers through its Meals of Gratitude program. The restaurant now offers its high-end dishes to go and is open for outdoor dining on its covered, heated deck.

**3607 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, 650-854-1226; cooleatz.com**

### PLACE TO MEET PEOPLE

#### CAFE BORRONE

For decades, Cafe Borrone has been a beloved neighborhood destination, so when it was forced to close its doors due to hardships created by the pandemic in 2020, more than 700 patrons rallied together to raise \$110,000 to reopen the downtown landmark. The cafe, known for its prepared-from-scratch food,



Courtesy Pioneer Saloon

**The Pioneer Saloon** won Readers' Choice for Best Live Music.

## Food & Drink

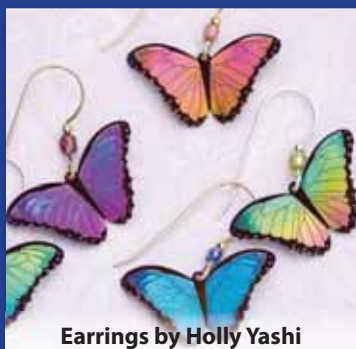
### BAKERY

#### WOODSIDE BAKERY

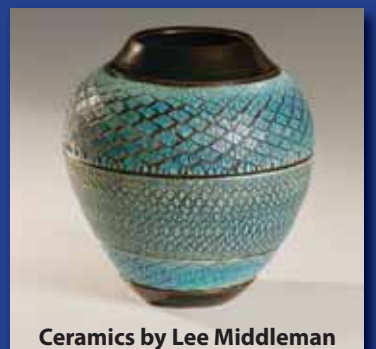
is now open and serving food and drinks indoors and in its outdoor plaza next to the fountain. The cafe now offers online ordering for pickup. **1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650-327-0830; cafeborrone.com**

Woodside Bakery offers pastries, cakes, cookies and other

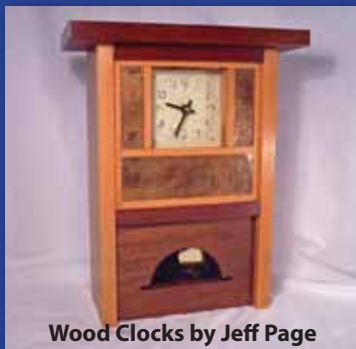
baked goods that have kept customers coming back for more than 35 years. The family-owned European bakery makes its baked goods from scratch every day — from delightfully buttery croissants



Earrings by Holly Yashi



Ceramics by Lee Middleman



Wood Clocks by Jeff Page

# Shady Lane

Thursday through Saturday ~ 11 am to 5 pm

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We're happy to open our store to you on other days.

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650-321-1099 • Facebook/ShadyLaneGallery • shadylanegallery.com



Gift Cards Available



Courtesy Amici's

**Amici's** was voted Best Pizza.

and fresh fruit tarts to mile-high old-fashioned apple pies. **325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park, 650-854-6207; woodsidebakery.com**

**BREAKFAST STACKS**

Nothing beats the homemade pancakes at Stacks. Known for serving classic American comfort food, Stacks uses farm-fresh eggs, real butter, heavy cream and other high-quality ingredients. Its large selection of dishes, generous portions and family-friendly atmosphere have made Stacks a local favorite. Stacks is open for dine in, takeout and delivery. **600 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-838-0066; stacksrestaurant.com**

**DESSERT DRAEGER'S**

The bakery at Draeger's Market has been a part of the Menlo Park community for

64 years, offering a variety of breads and sweets baked from scratch, from favorites like German chocolate cake, vanilla coconut cake and s'mores cheesecake to wedding cakes. The bakery is open for service with new health practices. Groceries also can be picked up on-site or purchased through third-party delivery services. **1010 University Drive, Menlo Park, 650-324-7700; draegers.com**

**HAMBURGERS, HAPPY HOUR DUTCH GOOSE**

Since opening in 1966, Dutch Goose has been the go-to place for Certified Angus Beef burgers, brews and pizza in a family-friendly atmosphere, where the staff "call you by name and not a number or a text." Dutch Goose is open for delivery, takeout and outdoor seating. **3567 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, 650-854-3245; dutchgoose.net**

**ICE CREAM/FROZEN YOGURT COLD STONE CREAMERY**

For more than 30 years, Menlo Park's Cold Stone Creamery has served handcrafted ice cream made with the finest ingredients and mixed with a variety of sweet toppings. Along with the shop's signature method of preparing ice cream on a frozen granite stone, it also prepares cakes, smoothies, frappes and shakes for customers looking for a cold, sweet treat. Cold Stone offers delivery and takeout services. **611 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-325-4500; coldstonecreamery.com/stores/21026**

**INDEPENDENT COFFEE & TEA HOUSE CAFE BORRONE**

See Place to Meet People, under Arts & Entertainment  
See **READERS' CHOICE**, page 17



Courtesy Dutch Goose

**The Dutch Goose** won Best Hamburgers and Happy Hour.



**Thank you for voting us #1 again! Grateful for such a special community**



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3708 Florence Street



**Thank You for Voting us #1 Best Live Music**



**- And -  
for all your support over the past year!**



**PIONEER SALOON**  
2925 Woodside Road, Woodside  
[www.pioneersaloonmusic.com](http://www.pioneersaloonmusic.com)  
650-851-8487

**HAS THE PANDEMIC SPARKED ANY KIND OF INNOVATION  
AT YOUR BUSINESS THAT WILL REMAIN IN THE FUTURE?**

“As a result of the pandemic, we had the opportunity to build a beautiful outdoor dining room that we may not have invested in previously. The outdoor dining has sparked a bit of a revival in downtown Menlo Park that our customers are really enjoying. The addition of live music several nights a week and a beer garden wasn’t our original vision, but it’s wonderful to be able to think outside the box. The community has been very receptive to all of our new additions, and we hope to do even more in the future.”

— **BISTRO VIDA,**  
*Best French Restaurant*

“We fixed a very dysfunctional and unequal pay disparity of the restaurant business: We now share evenly among every hourly employee the “gratitude”

(aka, service charge) added in lieu of tipping to each meal. Prior to COVID-19, the kitchen and service staff were not rewarded with tips left by guests. Now they are. We call the new program Heart of House. It has created fairness, justice and mutual respect among the team.”

— **FLEA STREET CAFE,**  
*Best Place for a Date,  
Romantic Restaurant*

“We are now offering home pickup and delivery, bundle drop-offs during off hours and are making continuous upgrades to our website (laderacleaners.net).”

— **LADERA CLEANERS,**  
*Best Dry Cleaners*

“Before the pandemic, less than 5% of our sales were online. During the lockdown, we added products to our website and promoted same-day

local deliveries. Even though our store is now fully open, our web sales to local customers have become a larger part of our business.”

— **CHEEKY MONKEY TOYS,**  
*Best Specialty Store*

“We developed group workouts specific to higher-risk clients (60+) where they worked out with people who were in their ‘bubble.’ We also developed a cleaning routine where all members participate in helping maintain equipment and studio extra clean. That is something we will carry with us going forward.”

— **STUDIO K-FIT,**  
*Best Gym, Fitness Classes*

“Although our retail doors were closed during the lockdown, our interior design staff continued to work remotely with clients as much as possible. Our

interior design business has continued to grow exponentially, and we see it becoming a larger part of our business model moving forward.”

— **HARVEST FURNITURE,**  
*Best Home Decor and  
Furnishings*

“We offered consultations and shoe fittings over Zoom and we will continue to offer this for customers who for whatever reason can’t come into the store during business hours. We also started delivering locally with our Fleet Feet camper van, and that will continue, too.”

— **FLEET FEET,**  
*Best Place to Buy Shoes*

“We’re now offering curbside service, delivery and touchless payment.”

— **BOW WOW MEOW,**  
*Best Pet Store*

“Our team’s work during the pandemic sparked many innovations that have already been tested and supported by our community, and we hope to keep many of them going. These include: an open-air bookstore in our outdoor plaza (subject to ongoing landlord approval); investing in our website, web sales and marketing; high-quality virtual events; Community Reads program; membership program; partnership with Menlo Park Library; and decision-making processes that prioritize staff inclusion and participation. Our team has learned many new skills and developed new competencies, and we hope to continue leveraging these in the future.”

— **KEPLER’S BOOKS  
& MAGAZINES,**  
*Best Bookstore* ■

*Responses compiled from Readers’ Choice winners survey and Almanac business stories. Responses have been edited for length and clarity.*

# THANK YOU

**FOR VOTING FLEA STREET  
BEST PLACE FOR A DATE  
AND BEST ROMANTIC RESTAURANT**

**Flea Street - Celebrating 40 years!  
Tuesday - Saturday  
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# READERS' CHOICE WINNERS 2021

## READERS' CHOICE

continued from page 15

### PIZZA

#### AMICI'S

Amici's has been serving up pizza — along with pasta, soup and salad — to Menlo Park patrons for the past decade. The thin-crust New York style pies are cooked in traditional brick ovens next to an open flame. Diners can now eat indoors, outdoors or order food for pickup or delivery. **880 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-329-8888; amicis.com**

### PLACE TO BUY MEAT, SANDWICHES

#### BIANCHINI'S MARKET

Since 1998, shoppers have counted on Bianchini's Market for fresh local produce, gourmet cheeses and groceries from small producers whose items aren't found at chain stores. Readers praise the

family-owned market for its meat counter and deli sandwiches, which can be ordered via text and are ready for pickup on arrival. The market also offers delivery in as little as one hour.

**3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, 650-851-4391; bianchinismarket.com**

### TAKEOUT

#### CHEF KWAN'S

Located in the former Su Hong to-go space, Chef Kwan's offers a full menu of traditional dishes and lunch plates made to order. The restaurant is open for takeout seven days a week. **630 Menlo Ave., Menlo Park, 650-322-4631; chefkwans.com**

## Restaurants

### AMERICAN

#### ROSSOTTI'S ALPINE INN

With its beer garden, wood-fired pizza, ribs and garlic fries and a history that stretches back to 1852, it's no wonder why Rossotti's Alpine Inn is a go-to

destination. Rossotti's is the second oldest continually operating tavern in the state. The historic property most recently changed hands and names in 2019 when three Portola Valley families decided to refurbish and restore the old beloved Alpine Inn tavern. Rossotti's is open for indoor and outdoor dining and takeout.

**3915 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, 650-854-4004; alpineinnpv.com.**

### ASIAN

#### CHEF CHU'S

Since opening in 1970, Chef Chu's specialty dishes, including its homemade potstickers and Beijing duck cooked in a cast-iron Chinese oven, have attracted a who's-who list of diners from near and far, including Serena Williams, Steve Young, Justin Bieber and JFK Jr. Chef Chu's offers takeout and delivery.

**1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos, 650-948-2696; chefchu.com**



Courtesy Flea Street

**Flea Street** was voted Best Place for a Date and Best Romantic Restaurant.

See **READERS' CHOICE**, page 21



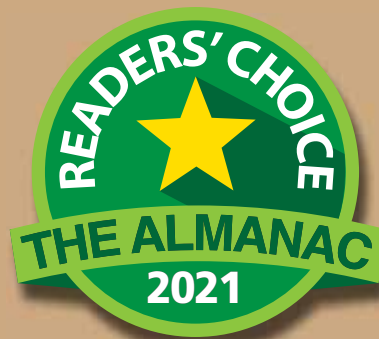
# Ladera Garden and Gifts

3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley  
650.854.3850

2029 Ralston Avenue, Belmont  
650.232.7154

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# 147 CRESCENT AVENUE PORTOLA VALLEY



## FIVE-STAR GROUNDS WITH SPECTACULAR VIEWS

Resort-like grounds with breathtaking 180-degree views highlight this contemporary jewel set on almost .45 acres in peaceful Portola Valley. Once you step inside, you will be struck by a wall of folding La Cantina glass doors that open completely from the living room to the expansive deck overlooking the grounds, with a panoramic backdrop of Portola Valley Ranch, Mt. Hamilton, and on clear days, the San Francisco Bay. Nearly 2,800 square feet of living space is filled with stylish appointments and designer touches, with a modern, open floorplan featuring two fireplaces, the eat-in kitchen with a Viking range, and the downstairs entertainment room with a soapstone bar, custom wine storage, and an additional set of La Cantina doors opening to an outdoor hot tub. The home's 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms include the privately situated primary suite that enjoys a spa-like bathroom and wide windows that take full advantage of the lush surroundings. Plus, the primary suite opens to the five-star grounds that feature ample patio space, synthetic grass, shade trees, and a shimmering pool. This incredible home offers the ultimate sanctuary from the nonstop pace of Silicon Valley, yet it is still just moments from the famed Roberts Market, offers easy access to Interstate 280 for Bay Area commuting, and is served by acclaimed schools Ormondale Elementary and Corte Madera Middle (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

**[www.147Crescent.com](http://www.147Crescent.com)**

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

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

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

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

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

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



96 HEATHER DRIVE  
ATHERTON



## MAGNIFICENT LINDENWOOD ESTATE ON NEARLY AN ACRE

Private, gated grounds of nearly an acre envelop this majestic Lindenwood estate overflowing with impeccable details and opulent comforts. Evoking the feel of a five-star Tuscan resort, this grandiose residence enjoys several high-end appointments that wrap you in luxury from the moment you step inside, with elegant, grand-scale spaces offering ideal venues for either entertaining or extraordinary everyday living. Nearly 14,700 square feet of space includes a gourmet kitchen, a theater with 8 luxury recliner seats, and a fitness center with an adjacent recovery room featuring a sunken spa and sauna, plus a 2,000+ bottle wine cellar, pool house, and an oversized 6-car garage perfect for auto enthusiasts. Sanctuary awaits in the 8 extravagant bedrooms highlighted by the primary suite with a custom-built, Roman-style tub/shower as well as two massive walk-in closets. Plus, nearly all of the bedrooms offer a full en suite bathroom, and one bedroom easily converts into stylish office space. Incredible grounds offer seemingly endless options for outdoor enjoyment with a vast lawn, a saltwater pool with separate spa, a vineyard terrace, and an outdoor kitchen. And this incredible location is just moments to downtown Menlo Park, downtown Palo Alto, Stanford University, and top private institutions including Sacred Heart and Menlo School.

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

[www.96HeatherDR.com](http://www.96HeatherDR.com)

Offered at \$13,488,000

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

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

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

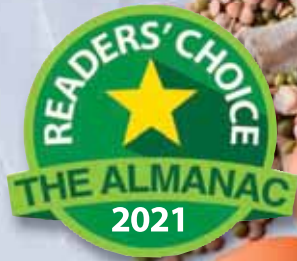
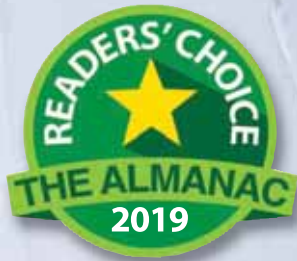
Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

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

BIANCHINI'S MARKET

LOVE ♥ LOCAL

Born in the Bay Area



It's a Three-Peat...

THANK YOU!

We are honored to be The Almanac Readers' Choice 2018, 2019, and 2021 winners for Best Grocery, Best Produce, Best Place to Buy Meat and Best Sandwiches!

I've lived in the Bay Area my whole life. I love how Bianchini's has been able to partner with dozens of local food purveyors. I've traveled many places and there is no place with the diversity, quality and local love like the San Francisco Bay area. We proudly represent the best bakers, dairy farmers, growers, ranchers, fishermen, vintners and food innovators. We love local. We talk the talk and walk the walk of local foodies. We believe that there is a definitive correlation to quality food with a taste of place or terroir - a collection of environmental conditions that form a food or wine's unique flavor characteristics and quality.

For over 50 years, the Bianchini family has been part of our local community. My dad, Big Al Bianchini, raised us to focus on and appreciate our local producers. If we partner with them, we'll be able to provide our customers with an incomparable selection that will keep them well fed, happy and loyal. It's a cornerstone of Bianchini's, and we are grateful you are part of it. So here's to you, our local friends and neighbors. Thank you for your support over the years. We promise to continue to love local and live local. From our family of employees to you, thank you for keeping it local and voting us The Almanac Readers' Choice Winner for Best Grocery, Best Produce, Best Place to Buy Meat and Best Sandwiches once again in 2021!

*Kevin Bianchini*

PRESIDENT

Chris, Kevin and Joyce  
Bianchini Serving the Bay Area  
for over 50 years



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BIANCHINISMARTET.COM



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

## WHAT SHOULD GUESTS AND THE BROADER COMMUNITY KEEP IN MIND AS THEY'RE VISITING LOCAL BUSINESSES MORE AND MORE?

**READERS' CHOICE**  
continued from page 17

### CASUAL DINING PARKSIDE GRILLE

It would be difficult to match the ambiance of Parkside Grille. The long-time cafe, which sits amid towering redwood trees in the hills of Portola Valley, serves up California comfort food made with fresh and local ingredients: signature Greek marinated grass-fed lamb chops, seasonal Belgian endive salad and homemade pizza cooked in an almond-wood oven. The restaurant offers takeout and indoor and outdoor dining.

884 Portola Road, Portola Valley, 650-529-9007; parksidegrille.com

### DINING WITH KIDS SAJJ MEDITERRANEAN

SAJJ Mediterranean serves fast and healthy food that is locally sourced and hormone-free. The restaurant's cafeteria-style ordering makes it easy for picky eaters to choose their own ingredients and customize their meals. There's even a kids menu that includes a chicken rice bowl, cheese quesadillas, and mac and cheese. SAJJ Mediterranean is open for delivery, outdoor seating, and indoor dining.

883 Hamilton Ave., Menlo Park, 650-322-7255; www.sajjstreeteats.com

### FRENCH

#### BISTRO VIDA

Inspired by the Parisian bistro culture, Bistro Vida serves up French-influenced dishes with a slight Mediterranean twist. Owner Ali El Safy, a native of Cairo, Egypt, who lived in Paris before moving to the Bay Area, said his mission is to bring the

"Be patient. Even though we all want things to be normal and we can start acting like they are, it's a new normal and there are still supply chain issues. It'll take awhile for local businesses to recover everything that the public doesn't see."

— **PEABODY GALLERY AND CUSTOM FRAMING,**  
Frame Store/Art Gallery

"Supporting local businesses is vital to their survival. Some may have weathered the pandemic, but the financial losses are still affecting so many, and they need the

community's support to survive. Kindness and respect for the people who are tirelessly working to run small businesses is also something everyone should be conscious of."

— **BISTRO VIDA,**  
Best French Restaurant

"Transition is tricky. We are all adjusting."

— **FLEET FEET,**  
Best Place to Buy Shoes

"Just because businesses have reopened, it doesn't necessarily mean they have picked up exactly where they left off. We continue to face chal-

lenges and appreciate your patience and support as many of us are in the process of rebuilding our businesses."

— **OLIVE HILL SALON,**  
Best Hair Salon

"The people in service to care for you are trying very hard. Most worked while others sheltered. Acknowledge them."

— **FLEA STREET,**  
Best Place for a Date,  
Romantic Restaurant

"Behind every small business, there is a family that is going above and beyond, often working

seven days a week in order to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all its patrons."

— **STUDIO K-FIT,**  
Best Gym, Fitness Classes

"Be patient with the restaurant industry, we're still not firing on all cylinders. Even though our doors are open, we still face a myriad of challenges from food cost increases, labor shortages, paying down credit lines, training new staff and more."

— **DUTCH GOOSE,**  
Best Hamburgers, Happy Hour ■

Responses compiled from Readers' Choice winners survey and Almanac business stories. Responses have been edited for length and clarity.

enjoyment of life, comfort and community found in Paris to Menlo Park. Bistro Vida is open for delivery, outdoor seating, and indoor dining.

641 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-462-1686; bistro-vida.com

### ITALIAN CARPACCIO

Ever since Ristorante Carpaccio opened in downtown Menlo Park in 1988, it has consistently won Readers' Choice for best Italian restaurant. Carpaccio features weekly lunch and dinner special menus, while also offering a full range of appetizers, soups, salads, pastas and meat and fish dinners. The restaurant offers outdoor bistro dining, indoor dining and curbside to-go service.

1120 Crane St., Menlo Park, 650-322-1211; carpaccios.com

### JAPANESE KOMA SUSHI

Family-owned Koma Sushi Restaurant is where Japanese food cravings will be answered with customer

favorites like flounder, sashimi, grilled squid, ahi sashimi and a nigiri combination plate. The restaurant is open for dining in and takeout orders.

211 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650-321 5662; komasushi.net

### MEXICAN AMIGOS GRILL

Amigos Grill may be off the beaten path, but its handmade tortilla chips, fresh ceviche and giant burritos have made it a destination dining spot for locals craving authentic Mexican food and giant margaritas. The outdoor patio seating is popular for its friendly atmosphere, according to Yelp reviews. Amigos Grill is open for indoor and outdoor dining.

3130 Alpine Road #290, Portola Valley, 877-585-1085

### NEW RESTAURANT FARMHOUSE KITCHEN

Using seasonal and local ingredients, the glitzy Farmhouse Kitchen serves contemporary dishes inspired by northern and southern Thailand cuisine, including specialties like pineapple fried rice, lobster pad Thai, 24-hour beef noodle soup and slow-braised short rib served with panang curry. Owner Kasem "Pop" Saengsawang said his menu is "all about the spice." Farmhouse Kitchen offers delivery,

outdoor seating, and indoor dining.

1165 Merrill St., Menlo Park, 650-665-7935; farmhousekitchen.com

### OUTDOOR DINING CAFE BORRONE

See *Place to meet People, under Arts & Entertainment*

See **READERS' CHOICE**, page 22



# READERS' CHOICE WINNERS 2021



Courtesy Kepler's Books & Magazines

**Kepler's Books & Magazines** was voted Best Bookstore.



Courtesy Bistro Vida

**Bistro Vida** was named Best French Restaurant.

**READERS' CHOICE**  
continued from page 21

**ROMANTIC RESTAURANT**  
**FLEA STREET CAFE**

See Place for a Date, under  
Arts & Entertainment

## Retail

**BICYCLE SHOP**  
**MENLO VELO BIKES**

Menlo Velo Bicycles is committed to making cycling the best it can be for riders of all levels and types. The shop

sells a wide variety of bikes — from road and comfort to electric — and provides maintenance services, too. Owner Rainer Zaechlein said business has been through the roof over the past year as the pandemic has fueled a surge



## THAIPHOON RESTAURANT

# YOU VOTED, WE WON!

**Thank you for Voting us  
#1 Best Thai Restaurant again!  
– And –  
for all your support over the past year!**

**Now Open for Lunch!**  
Lunch hours: Mon-Fri 11am to 2:30 pm  
Dinner hours: Sun-Thu 5pm-9pm Fri & Sat 5pm-9:30pm



543 Emerson Street  
Palo Alto  
650.323.7700  
www.thaiphontogo.com  
Outdoor & Indoor Dining  
Togo | Catering

Give the Perfect Gift - Get an E-Gift Card for yourself or gift one to a friend



Courtesy Peabody Fine Arts Gallery

Almanac readers voted **Peabody Fine Art Gallery & Framing** Best Frame Store/Art Gallery.

in ridership. The shop offers curbside drop-off and pickup. It has indefinitely postponed its bike rental program due to health precautions.

**433 El Camino Real,  
Menlo Park, 650-327-5137;  
menlovelobicycles.com**

#### BOOKSTORE

#### KEPLER'S BOOKS & MAGAZINES

With its broad collection of books, magazines and

literary events, Kepler's Books & Magazines has been a beloved cornerstone in the community since it opened in the 1960s. In response to the pandemic, the independent bookstore's nonprofit arm, the Kepler's Literary Foundation, created Refresh the Page, a series of online conversations, classes and seminars for adults and youth that has become part of its offerings.

**1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park,  
650-324-4321; keplers.com**

#### BOUTIQUE, PLACE TO BUY JEWELRY, GIFT SHOP

#### SHADY LANE

For more than four decades, Shady Lane has been offering one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces, intricately woven scarves, artisan glass sculptures, wood carvings, handcrafted soaps and an array of other items handcrafted by local and international artists and designers. The boutique is open for in-store shopping as well as online shopping and curbside pickup. The store also offers gift wrapping.

**325 Sharon Park Drive,  
Menlo Park, 650-321-1099;  
shadylanegallery.com**

#### FLOOR COVERINGS

#### ABBAY CARPET & FLOOR

Abbey Carpet & Floor provides one-on-one expert advice on the newest flooring trends, styles and technologies. The locally owned shop has everything from tile and stone to

vinyl, laminates and carpet. For those who can't come into the showroom, Abbey Carpet & Floor makes house calls. Its visualizer app also enables customers to see how various flooring options might look in their own home prior to visiting the store.

**626 Santa Cruz Ave.,  
Menlo Park, 650-462-0800;  
menloparkabbeycarpet.com**

#### FRAME STORE/ART GALLERY

#### PEABODY FINE ART GALLERY & FRAMING

Since 1989, the skilled designers at Peabody Fine Art Gallery & Framing have been working one-on-one with customers to help create one-of-a-kind framed designs for any project. Since the pandemic, the shop has launched a new service to enable customers to design and purchase frames online.

**603 Santa Cruz Ave.,  
Menlo Park, 650-322-2200;  
peabodygallery.com**

See **READERS' CHOICE**, page 24

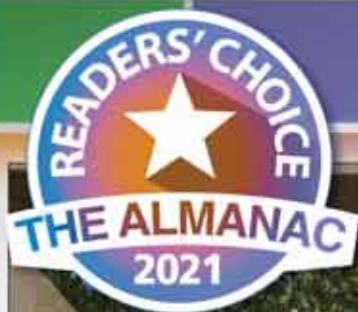
**MENLO PARK**  
880 Santa Cruz Ave. 650-329-8888

**MOUNTAIN VIEW**  
790 Castro St. 650-961-6666

**REDWOOD SHORES**  
226 Redwood Shores Pkwy. 650-654-3333

**ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP AND DELIVERY AT AMICIS.COM**

# READERS' CHOICE WINNERS 2021



Courtesy Harvest

**Harvest** was named Best Home Decor and Furnishings.

## READERS' CHOICE

*continued from page 23*

### GROCERY, PRODUCE

#### BIANCHINI'S MARKET

See Sandwiches, under Food & Drink

### HARDWARE STORE

#### MENLO HARDWARE

Menlo Park Ace Hardware has been the go-to hardware store for home, garden and building supplies since it opened in 2005. In addition to offering housewares and tools, the independently owned shop offers services, including key cutting, custom glass and acrylic sheet cutting, blade sharpening, window screen repair, propane exchange and product assembly and delivery.

700 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-325-2515; [menlohardware.com](http://menlohardware.com)

### HOME DECOR & FURNISHINGS

#### HARVEST FURNITURE

Harvest Furniture is a complete home furnishing store

that offers decor for every room, from customized upholstery lines to interior design services with designers who will ensure that furniture selections flow together.

639 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-325-7733; [shopharvest.com](http://shopharvest.com)

### NURSERY, FLORIST

#### LADERA GARDEN & GIFTS

Ladera Garden & Gifts is a one-stop shop for garden supplies, gifts and flower arrangements. Juan and Mercedes Navarro, who have operated the full-service nursery for nearly 40 years, provide custom floral arrangements as well as home goods and nursery items.

3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, 650-854-3850; [laderagardenandgifts.com](http://laderagardenandgifts.com)

### PET STORE

#### BOW WOW MEOW

Bow Wow Meow is all about offering the most beneficial products and services to caring pet guardians. The pet store carries some of the most advanced products in the pet

industry and offers grooming, training and other services to ensure that all pets are healthy and happy.

654 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-323-2845; [bowwowmeow.net](http://bowwowmeow.net)

### PLACE TO BUY SHOES

#### FLEET FEET

Fleet Feet in Menlo Park is committed to enhancing local running and walking communities and helping customers find products that improve their fitness experience. They assess foot type and gait cycle and have 3D scanners to measure feet, making their footwear recommendations uniquely tailored to each customer. For those who prefer to shop online, the shop is offering virtual shoe fittings via Zoom.

859 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-325-9432; [fleetfeet.com](http://fleetfeet.com)

### SPECIALTY STORE

#### CHEEKY MONKEY TOYS

Cheeky Monkey Toys is a family-owned shop that specializes

See **READERS' CHOICE**, page 26



Everything you crave about home • Everything you love about Europe

Cafe Borrone is dedicated to creating a memorable dining experience, featuring local artists, live music, and a handcrafted menu from sunrise to sunset.

Prepared with locally sourced organic sustainable practices, complimented with specialty imports.

Enjoy the energy inside the cafe by dining indoors or bask in the sun on our outdoor piazza by the fountain.

**Thank you for all your support over this past year!**

Current Re-Opening Hours for Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Wednesday thru Friday — 8AM - 9PM

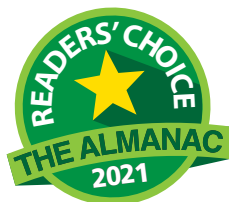
Saturday & Sunday — 8AM - 4PM

[www.cafeborrone.com](http://www.cafeborrone.com)

650-327-0830

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Follow us on Instagram: @CafeBorrone



**Thank You For Voting Us Readers' Choice Again!**

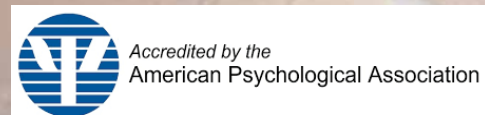
Best Outdoor Dining  
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Coffee/Tea House  
Best Place to Meet People

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Psychology & Counseling





# READERS' CHOICE WINNERS 2021



Courtesy Studio K-Fit

Almanac readers voted **Studio K-Fit** Best Fitness Classes and Gym.



Courtesy Ladera Cleaners

**Ladera Cleaners** was voted Best Dry Cleaner.

## DAY SPA

### LABELLE DAY SPAS & SALONS

For decades, LaBelle Day Spa and Salon has helped Silicon Valley clients look and feel their best from head to toe. Moisturizers, serums and oils; treatments for problematic skin conditions such as rosacea; scrubs, toners and eye care — everything for the face and body is available here with a one-on-one approach.

**Two locations: 36 Stanford**

**Shopping Center, Palo Alto, 650-326-8522; 95 Town and Country Village, Palo Alto, 650-327-6964; [labelledayspas.com](http://labelledayspas.com)**

## DRY CLEANER

### LADERA CLEANERS

For more than 30 years, Ladera Cleaners has helped customers properly care for their clothes, coats, comforters and other delicate handmade items. The shop, which has been a Readers' Choice winner

## READERS' CHOICE

*continued from page 24*

in finding “just the right toy” for each customer. Since opening its doors in Menlo Park in 1999, the shop has provided interactive toys designed to stimulate children’s minds to generations of local families. When all nonessential businesses were ordered to close in March 2020, Cheeky Monkey Toys quickly pivoted to a direct delivery-only service, dropping off toys within a 10-mile radius of the store. Cheeky Monkey has reopened for in-store shopping and also offers on-site pickup and delivery.

**640 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-328-7975; [cheekymonkeytoys.com](http://cheekymonkeytoys.com)**

## Services

### AUTO REPAIR

#### PORTOLA VALLEY GARAGE

Portola Valley Garage’s skilled technicians have been providing minor tuneups and major overhauls since 1948. In addition to repair services, the garage offers 24-hour vehicle drop-off, online appointments and loaner cars.

**4170 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, 650-851-7442; [pvgarage.com](http://pvgarage.com)**

### BARBER

#### MENLO PARK BARBER SHOP

The barbers at Menlo Park Barber Shop pride themselves on developing close relationships

with clients, giving excellent cuts and “blending craft and tradition with a strong dose of humor.” The shop has reopened for in-person indoor

visits, and barbers also are making house calls.

**2100 Avy Ave., Menlo Park, 650-391-9008; [menloparkbarbershop.com](http://menloparkbarbershop.com)**

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

## ARE THERE MOMENTS THIS YEAR THAT INSPIRED YOU THROUGHOUT THIS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TIME?

“The respect, hard work and deep care of our staff who showed up to work every day and masked and double masked for eight-hour shifts over hot stoves to prepare food for others ... was deeply moving.”

— **FLEA STREET CAFE,**

*Best Place for a Date, Romantic Restaurant*

“Knowing that by providing non-contact delivery of our food, we were helping to protect vulnerable people in our community.”

— **AMICI'S EAST COAST PIZZERIA,**

*Best Pizza*

“What inspired us most was the outpouring of support we received from our clients. The kind words and donations really lifted our spirits and gave us hope during periods of uncertainty.”

— **OLIVE HILL SALON,**

*Best Hair Salon*

“Watching the restaurant industry innovate to ensure the safety of employees and patrons was fascinating. We saw things like outdoor seating, new point-of-service systems to accommodate touchless payment, curbside pickup and delivery orders, digital gift cards, plastic barriers, evolving masks and other innovations.”

— **DUTCH GOOSE,**

*Best Hamburgers, Happy Hour*

“Our trainers were absolutely incredible in pivoting with us during the entire year. We couldn’t have survived without their positive spirit and work ethic. We are also eternally grateful to the landlords of Marsh Manor Plaza who were accommodating to our outdoor setup all while extending rent reduction during the most difficult months. When fire season hit, we were left many

times having to cancel our outdoor workouts due to the poor air quality. During the toughest of days, we were fueled by the fact that many of our members and staff believed in us.”

— **STUDIO K-FIT,**

*Best Gym, Fitness Classes*

“Clients who kept wishing us well, reassured us that they are waiting for our return to business and reminded us of the importance of our service and the community we have created.”

— **LABELLE DAY SPAS & SALONS,**

*Best Day Spa*

“Our community rallied around us. We are so grateful. Some customers bought shoes for the next three years. The owner’s childhood friend purchased shoes as Christmas gifts for his entire staff. Our employees

rolled with changing regulations. We feared we were going to have to close and we were lifted up by so many — we can’t say enough in gratitude.”

— **FLEET FEET,**

*Best Place to Buy Shoes*

“We had a family approach us about planting a succulent garden in front of our store. Since people could only look through our front window, this family thought the plant bed could use some sprucing up. They asked for donated cuttings and some extra hands from their neighbors and came one morning and completely transformed the plant bed into a beautiful garden. We were incredibly touched by their thoughtfulness and generosity.”

— **CHEEKY MONKEY TOYS,**

*Best Specialty Store* ■

*Responses compiled from Readers' Choice winners survey and Almanac business stories. Responses have been edited for length and clarity.*

year after year since 2015, offers one-day dry cleaning, mending and reweaving services, as well as alterations for wedding dresses and other items.

3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, 650-854-2291; laderacleaners.net

**FITNESS CLASSES, GYM**

**STUDIO K-FIT**

Studio K-Fit offers high-intensity but low-impact workouts focused on strength, mobility and cardio through high-intensity interval training (HIIT). Class sizes are small so that instructors can focus on each individual. The studio also offers lifestyle coaching, personalized nutrition guidance and Zoom and Facebook Live workouts.

3708 Florence St., Redwood City, studiokfit@gmail.com; studiokfit.com

**HAIR SALON**

**OLIVE HILL SALON**

Its charming setting and commitment to its clients are just a few of the reasons why readers consistently vote



Courtesy LaBelle Day Spas & Salons

LaBelle Day Spas & Salons was voted Best Day Spa by Almanac readers.

See **READERS' CHOICE**, page 28

**THANK YOU FOR VOTING US BEST BARBER AGAIN!**



~OUR SERVICES~

- Men's and Boys' haircuts
- Shampoo, blow dry, and style
- Shaves on limited availability



Make an appointment today  
**(650)391-9008**  
Walk-ins by availability

**MENLO PARK BARBER SHOP**

2100 Avy Ave., Menlo Park (next to Starbucks)  
[www.menloparkbarbershop.com](http://www.menloparkbarbershop.com)

Open 7 days a week early to late by appointment.  
Walk ins available based on availability.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

**HOW HAS 2021 BEEN SO FAR COMPARED TO 2020?**

"The bicycle industry saw a worldwide spike in demand in 2020 that has been sustained into 2021, creating huge supply chain issues. Demand is still high and supply is still low, and it is forecasted to stay this way until the end of 2022. The challenge today is getting bikes and parts. The other challenge is to reopen the shop in such a way that we all stay healthy."

— **MENLO VELO BIKES,**  
*Best Bicycle Shop*

"Business is improving, albeit it is slow."

— **LADERA CLEANERS,**  
*Best Dry Cleaners*

"In 2021, we're no longer gripped by fear. We're starting to figure out how to live with this, and it's encouraging to see the world starting up again."

— **PEABODY GALLERY AND CUSTOM FRAMING,**  
*Best Frame Store/Art Gallery*

"Full of silver linings. We kept 14 of our 26 staff employed. We ended 2020 having sent 29,000 meals through Meals of Gratitude to health care workers and fire evacuees. Our new Heart of House program has created a truly wonderful work environment that will continue forever. We have learned how to pivot, be inventive and feel humbling gratitude for each other and our community who saved us and helped us survive."

— **FLEA STREET,**  
*Best Place for a Date, Romantic Restaurant*

"This year feels like an exhale of breath, whereas 2020 felt like we were holding our breath. Hope has replaced fear, and the future looks bright. It feels great to see members who

hadn't been to the studio in over a year."

— **STUDIO K-FIT,**  
*Best Gym, Fitness Classes*

"Better but still full of challenges and stress."

— **BOW WOW MEOW,**  
*Best Pet Store*

"Sales are up 100% this year. ... We were closed for roughly nine months in 2020."

— **DUTCH GOOSE,**  
*Best Hamburgers, Happy Hour*

"This year has been much better as more services are allowed and more clients feel confident at coming out after being vaccinated. Both employees and clients are feeling hopeful again, planning fun activities and starting to care about looking their best again."

— **LABELLE DAY SPAS & SALONS,**  
*Best Day Spa* ■

Responses compiled from Readers' Choice winners survey and Almanac business stories. Responses have been edited for length and clarity.

**cheeky monkey TOYS** **READERS' CHOICE THE ALMANAC 2021**

Gracias  
Cảm ơn bạn  
Thank You  
धन्यवाद 谢谢  
Salamat

**for voting us Best Specialty Store!**

**640 Santa Cruz Avenue  
Downtown Menlo Park  
650.328.7975  
[www.cheekymonkeytoys.com](http://www.cheekymonkeytoys.com)**

# LADERA CLEANERS



Thank you for once again voting us "Best Dry Cleaner"



"Dry Clean Only" doesn't mean you shouldn't enjoy your clothes as often as you like.

**We specialize in alterations.**

Call or stop by today to speak with Clara for any of your alterations needs!

3130 ALPINE RD. STE. 260, PORTOLA VALLEY  
(650) 854-2291  
www.laderacleaners.net

## BEST AUTO REPAIR

Winner of the 2021 Almanac Readers Choice Award 11 years in a row!



**The Bay Area's #1 Dealer Alternative**

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Portola Valley Garage

4170 Alpine Road, Portola Valley 650-851-7442



pvgarage.com



Courtesy Cheeky Monkey

Almanac readers voted **Cheeky Monkey Toys** Best Specialty Store.

### READERS' CHOICE

*continued from page 27*

Olive Hill Salon the best hair salon. Olive Hill specializes in haircuts, coloring and styling. The salon has reopened with enhanced sanitation measures, contactless payment options and a streamlined check-in process.  
2920 Woodside Road, Woodside, 650-851-1150; olivehillsalon.com

### HOTEL

#### STANFORD PARK HOTEL

Stanford Park Hotel describes itself as an "oasis" that offers its guests "genuine tranquility." This luxury hotel features a library, pool and spa, complimentary in-room snacks and fireside spots for reading. Menlo Tavern, the property's on-site restaurant, is now open for live music on the patio during the summer.  
100 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650-322-1234; stanfordparkhotel.com

### MANICURE/PEDICURE

#### A TOUCH OF ELEGANCE NAIL CARE

Customers can expect quality service, a friendly staff

and reasonable pricing at A Touch of Elegance Nail Care, a longtime favorite of Almanac readers. In addition to manicures and pedicures, A Touch of Elegance also offers facials and other services. The salon is now open for in-person services.

1150 Crane St., Menlo Park, 650-321-0679

### PLASTIC SURGEON

#### JANE WESTON, MD

Dr. Jane Weston has been bringing expertise in plastic surgery to Bay Area patients since 1985. A graduate of Stanford Medical School, Weston offers plastic surgery for the face, breasts and body, as well as a range of medspa services, including Botox, fillers, laser, threads and body contouring. Weston now offers virtual consultations for those who want to limit face-to-face contact.

1047 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650-457-6291; janewestonmd.com

### PLUMBER

#### GUY PLUMBING & HEATING

Guy Plumbing & Heating is a fourth-generation

family-owned business that provides a wide range of services and operates a full-service showroom specializing in the sales and installation of Toto washlet bidet seats, as well as parts for Hansgrohe, Kohler and Grohe.

1265 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650-323-8415; guyplumbing.com

### YOGA

#### YOGASOURCE

YogaSource was built on the belief that "the practice of yoga should be both demanding and gratifying." They boast a wide curriculum of yoga classes, including vinyasa, power, yin, restorative, hot 26, pilates, and much more. YogaSource offers in-studio and virtual classes.

158 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto, 650-328-9642; yogasource.com

Almanac readers chose the businesses above as Readers' Choice winners in 2021 by casting 8,897 votes in 53 categories. All information was obtained from business owners, company websites and past Almanac coverage.



# READERS' CHOICE WINNERS 2021

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

### WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU FACED DURING THE PANDEMIC?

"Our biggest challenge was maintaining staffing during extended periods of closure. Unlike other businesses that could operate on a limited basis, we had to completely shut down, which was very hard on our staff."

— **OLIVE HILL SALON,**  
*Best Hair Salon*

"Having to reinvent ourselves and pivot our business model to takeout-only was a huge challenge. Our goal was to retain every employee who wanted to stay with us employed throughout the pandemic, so we shifted their roles and tried to keep everyone afloat. Even with economic assistance

from PPP loans and grants, our sales suffered tremendously, and we would have faced even greater challenges without assistance from our landlord and the generous support of our customers and community who made countless donations."

— **BISTRO VIDA,**  
*Best French Restaurant*

"Not knowing when we could get back to serving our clients again. In addition, opening and then being required to close again multiple times due to ever-changing COVID-19 regulations."

— **LABELLE DAY SPAS & SALONS,**  
*Best Day Spa*

"Lack of business."

— **LADERA CLEANERS,**  
*Best Dry Cleaners*

"Balancing the emotions of watching a business that you have grown for almost two decades evaporate while remaining level-headed enough to pivot your business model was a huge challenge. Our main goal was to keep our full-time employees so they could continue to have both a paycheck and their health insurance."

— **CHEEKY MONKEY TOYS,**  
*Best Specialty Store*

"Keeping our employees working."

— **PIONEER SALOON,**  
*Best Live Music*

"There were so many: saving staff, putting our food into packaging that traveled well, figuring out how to show appreciation from afar and how to keep us all safe as we were front-line workers in many ways. ... But mostly, the daily unknown"

— **FLEA STREET CAFE,**  
*Best Place for a Date, Romantic Restaurant*

"When Harvest closed during the lockdown, we really missed our community! There is nothing that can replace the daily face-to-face interaction with customers and co-workers."

— **HARVEST FURNITURE,**  
*Best Home Decor and Furnishings*

"Because people were staying home looking

at their walls, there was an increase in demand for our business at the same time that our supply chain was severely impacted by COVID-19, which pushed us to be more resourceful than we had been before."

— **PEABODY GALLERY AND CUSTOM FRAMING,**  
*Best Frame Store/Art Gallery*

"Because of the pandemic, you don't know who your clientele is anymore. You don't know who's coming back. We've also received a lot of new customers who were looking for a new barber. ... It's like this huge reshuffling of clientele that's occurred."

— **MENLO PARK BARBERSHOP,**  
*Best Barber* ■

Responses compiled from Readers' Choice winners survey and Almanac business stories. Responses have been edited for length and clarity.



"Gourmet California Comfort Food"

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**Best Casual Dining**

And for all your support over the past year!



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www.parksidegrille.com | 650.529.9007



**65 Bay Area locations.**  
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**Peninsula Pediatric Medical Group**



[genpeds.stanfordchildrens.org](http://genpeds.stanfordchildrens.org)

## SCHOOL BUDGETS

continued from page 5

of delaying the measure if Gov. Gavin Newsom's recall election was on the same ballot. Since the recall election is now set for September, the parcel tax will remain on the November ballot, said board President Sherwin Chen in an email.

The proposed tax would replace the district's Measure X, which passed in 2017 with an initial annual rate of \$360 per parcel for \$2.83 million annually. It expires in July 2022.

"The board does not expect

funds from state, local, or other sources to be sufficient to protect reasonable class sizes, high quality teachers, and comprehensive educational programs currently provided by Measure X," according to the ballot measure. "The state's current approach to school funding requires communities like Menlo Park and Atherton to shoulder an ever-larger share of funding for their local schools, and this condition will not change in the foreseeable future."

Measure X's financial runway — the time before which the district would once again begin deficit spending — was only four

years, the district has said.

One of the driving forces of the district's budget is the mandated increase in state pension costs to CalSTRS (the California State Teachers' Retirement System) and CalPERS (the state's public employee retirement system).

The employer contribution for CalSTRS had previously been held steady at 8.25% of certificated salaries. With Assembly Bill 1469, the employer contribution is raised from 8.25% to 19.1% over the course of seven years, beginning in fiscal year 2015. Due to COVID-19, Newsom provided relief to the schools by bringing

down the unfunded liability. As a result, the CalSTRS employer rate for 2022 is almost 16%, 18% in 2023 and 18.4% in 2024. CalPERS employer rates are projected to increase by 23% in 2022, 26.3% in 2023 and 27.3% in 2024.

assignment; and continue to employ two all-year contracted teaching substitute teachers.

Its reserves should stand at 23% of total annual spending, up about 6% from the last fiscal year.

## Las Lomitas Elementary School District

The Las Lomitas Elementary School District expects \$29.1 million in revenues and \$22.7 million in expenditures for the budget.

CalPERS costs went up a little over 6%, while CalSTRS costs actually decreased by about 1%, according to the district's budget report.

Salaries are expected to increase by \$200,000 overall.

Property tax revenue, which includes secured taxes, unsecured taxes, homeowners' exemptions and any prior year adjustments, accounts for over 70% of the 2021-22 general fund revenue. Revenue from local property taxes is projected to increase 9% in the 2021-22 school year.

The state's May budget revise proposed many new one-time funds. Once finalized, they will be added to the district's budget, according to the report.

The district is expected to take in an additional \$57,970 in rental income, per lease agreements with the La Loma and Ladera school sites during the 2021-22 school year. Also included in rental income are lease payments from the Children's Creative Learning Center (a preschool on the Las Lomitas Elementary School site), field rental fees and facility rental fees.

Staff note in the report that enrollment for 2021-22 is estimated to be 1,075, which is a decrease from the 2020-21 headcount. District enrollment is anticipated to continue to decline slightly overall, staff said.

## Woodside Elementary School District

The Woodside Elementary School District expects to see \$12.6 million in revenue and budgeted for expenditures to come in at about the same number, according to its 2021-22 budget.

Some 82% of the budget will go toward salaries and benefits for about 39 teachers, 15 classified staff members and five managers during the 2021-22 school year. Teacher pension rates will stay stable at about 16%, while classified staff pension rates are expected to rise from about 23% in the 2022 budget to 27% in the 2024 budget.

The Woodside School Foundation is set to contribute \$2 million to the budget. ■

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

## Public Notices

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

ANDREW LOGAN PSYCHOTHERAPY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 288064  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Andrew Logan Psychotherapy, located at 2995 Woodside Road, Ste. 260, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
ANDREW LOGAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
2995 Woodside Road, Suite 260  
Woodside, CA 94062  
California  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/4/2009.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 22, 2021.  
(ALM July 16, 23, 30, Aug. 6, 2021)

WANDERLOSTSAM  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 288007  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
WanderlostSam, located at 1501 El Camino Real, Suite B, Belmont, CA 94002, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
SAMIRA BAKHTIARY  
888 Foster City Blvd. Q6  
Foster City, CA 94404  
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 June 16, 2021.  
(ALM July 16, 23, 30; Aug. 6, 2021)

## 997 All Other Legals

SUMMONS  
(Citation 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)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
MARY KIM HOM  
Case No.: 21-PRO-00820  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of MARY KIM HOM.  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: THOMAS G. COOPER in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.  
The Petition for Probate requests that: THOMAS G. COOPER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on September 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 11, Room: 2D of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.  
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner:  
Sharon K. Hom  
4096 Piedmont Ave. #178  
Oakland, CA 94611  
(510) 654-7978  
(ALM July 16, 23, 30, 2021)

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

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

*continued from page 9*

Go to [is.gd/menlotav3](https://is.gd/menlotav3) to access the performance schedule or to reserve a table.

**Walkathon for foster youth**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of San Mateo County is organizing a two-week virtual walkathon to support foster youth countywide in August.

CASA of San Mateo County is a local nonprofit that pairs children in the foster

care and juvenile justice systems with community volunteers who mentor, support and advocate on their behalf. It's part of a national network of more than 76,000 volunteers, according to the organization's website.

The virtual walkathon fundraiser, called "Forward, Together," will run from Aug. 14 to 28. As of July 19, it had raised nearly \$171,000 toward a goal of \$300,000.

Go to [is.gd/walkcasasmc](https://is.gd/walkcasasmc) to register or learn more.

—Kate Bradshaw

**THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES**

**ATHERTON**

**96 Heather Drive \$13,488,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 8BD/8.75BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**BELMONT**

**1700 Mills Avenue \$1,850,000**  
Sun 1:00-4:00 3BD/2.5BA  
COMPASS 415-999-0727

**MENLO PARK**

**1420 Franks Lane \$2,188,888**  
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 2BD/1BA  
Coldwell Banker 650-400-2918

**PALO ALTO**

**480 Melville Avenue \$3,988,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2.5BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-459-3888

**147 Crescent Avenue \$2,988,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3.5BA  
DELEON REALTY 650-900-7000

**1014 Windermere Avenue \$2,250,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/2.5BA  
JLee Realty 650-857-1000

**3527 Alma Village Circle (T) \$2,288,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3.5BA  
DELEON REALTY 650-459-3888

**4139 Orchard Court \$4,934,650**  
Sun 2:00-4:00 5BD/7BA  
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 650-485-3476

**738 Channing Avenue \$8,850,000**  
Sun 1:30-4:30 7BD/6.5BA  
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 650-485-3476

Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T).  
Agents: submit open homes at  
[AlmanacNews.com/real\\_estate](https://AlmanacNews.com/real_estate)

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Open House:  
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PRICE: \$2,188,888

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# Employment

## STANFORD R&DE

PLEASE JOIN STANFORD R&DE FOR OPEN INTERVIEWS. Open Interviews on Friday, July 23, 2021 from 11am – 3pm and Saturday, July 24, 2021 from 11am – 2pm. Location: 693 Pampas Lane, Stanford, CA 94305. To learn more about the positions available or to speak with a recruiter, email [rdehrrecruiter@stanford.edu](mailto:rdehrrecruiter@stanford.edu) or call 650.724-5716.



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July 22, 2021  
2nd Quarter 2021

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

Este aviso contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable, por favor lea el aviso en español si va aquí incluido. Si el aviso en español no va incluido aquí, contacte al sistema de agua para pedir una copia.

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

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

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Average results for water samples for the last four quarters have manganese levels of 60 ppb in well #1 and 138 ppb in well #2 (ppb=parts per billion). This is above the secondary drinking water standard, or secondary maximum contaminant level of 50 ppb.

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

### What should I do?

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

### What happened? What is being done?

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

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

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

For further information contact:  
Secretary-Treasurer Telephone 650-321-2723  
Email: [oconnorwater@gmail.com](mailto:oconnorwater@gmail.com)  
O'Connor Tract Co-Operative Water Co., System 4110019  
P.O. Box 1375, Palo Alto, California 94302-1375

# Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

## California has reopened, and it's time to return to health

By Josh Becker and Dan Woods

### GUEST OPINION

Since the pandemic began more than one year ago, we have all been touched in one way or another by COVID-19. It has had an impact on every aspect of life as we know it. Routine activities were either postponed or eliminated due to fear of contracting the virus. Thankfully, through a combination of simple precautions such as masking, social distancing and a vaccine we can now access, fears of contracting COVID-19 have been reduced.

While all of us need to remain vigilant regarding the virus, especially as new variants enter our communities, we also need to be vigilant when it comes to taking care of our health.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, by June 30, 2020, due to concerns of COVID-19, an estimated 41% of U.S. adults delayed or avoided medical care. One in 10 chose not to seek urgent or emergency care, and 3 in 10 delayed routine care. Both of these troubling figures mean sicker patients are now seeking delayed care with devastating results.

Delaying care for those who have suffered a stroke, for example, can mean the difference between a full recovery with few side effects or a lifetime of permanent disability or even death. Delayed routine care for underlying chronic conditions is not only devastating for those who suffer from one of these conditions, such as diabetes, but it causes a multiplier effect for our health system, causing the cost of care to rise as a result.

When the pandemic began, much of life was put on hold. Unfortunately, our health continues to progress or decline no matter the external circumstances. It is important that

this trend of postponing care changes so that, as our society heals from the economic damage caused by the pandemic, our community members emerge healthy as well.

### The importance of prevention

We know much more now than we did a year ago about the prevention of COVID-19 and have effective treatments for it. Most importantly, we have vaccines that are nearly 100% effective in protecting you against severe illness causing hospitalization or death.

Sadly, many hospitalizations now are of those who are younger and unvaccinated. While largely preventable with a vaccine, hospitalization from COVID-19 can have significant personal and financial costs as a result of the complicated care and lengthy recovery associated with treating severe illness. It is more important now than ever before, given the rise in more contiguous and deadly variants, to get vaccinated.

We are at a critical tipping point in our society with vaccines. There is real urgency associated with convincing all who are able to get a vaccine and minimizing the opportunities for the coronavirus to mutate and create more deadly variants. If you have not been vaccinated, get one, and if you cannot do it for yourself, be a hero and get a vaccine to protect those around you who may be more vulnerable than you.

There is also no better time than now to return to your health care provider either for needed routine care, an annual physical or continued treatment of a chronic condition. And, on

a positive note, the pandemic has made it even easier to access care, either through a video or audio visit.

There is also an opportunity to refocus on the therapeutic approaches that we know are important to positive well-being. According to a recent study, physical activity dropped in some cases during the pandemic by as much as 50%, and many reported increased stress due to a lack of sleep.

Fortunately, we have the ability to turn these troubling trends around by refocusing on increased physical activity, restorative sleep, stress management and positive social connections, which together can prevent, treat and even reverse chronic disease. Your local health care provider may have resources to help you return to health in these important areas.

All of us are in a position to make our lives better by returning to health. Part of our journey back to normal after this lengthy disruption in our lives is to take care of ourselves by scheduling preventive screenings, going to the emergency department for red-flag symptoms such as crushing chest pain or trouble breathing, and keeping follow-up appointments with your health care provider to manage chronic disease.

As more and more of us get vaccinated, we can speed the progress toward a post-pandemic world. Your local health care provider was there for you before the pandemic and is awaiting your return now.

*Josh Becker represents the 13th Senate District in the California Legislature. He can be reached at [senator.becker@senate.ca.gov](mailto:senator.becker@senate.ca.gov).*

*Dan Woods is the chief executive officer of El Camino Health.*

*His email address is [ceo@elcaminohealth.org](mailto:ceo@elcaminohealth.org).*

## LETTER

Our readers write

### COVID-19 risks

With progress in controlling COVID-19, mask and social distancing regulations have largely been eliminated.

However, while diminished, the risk of infection and death

persists in the absence of vaccination. In patronizing businesses that provide goods or services indoors, smart customers will, therefore, prefer those who can truthfully advertise "employees 100% vaccinated."

Businesses should still require that unvaccinated employees and customers wear masks.

Sensible customers will

in turn will continue to be masked unless all employees and other customers of the businesses they patronize are either masked or vaccinated.

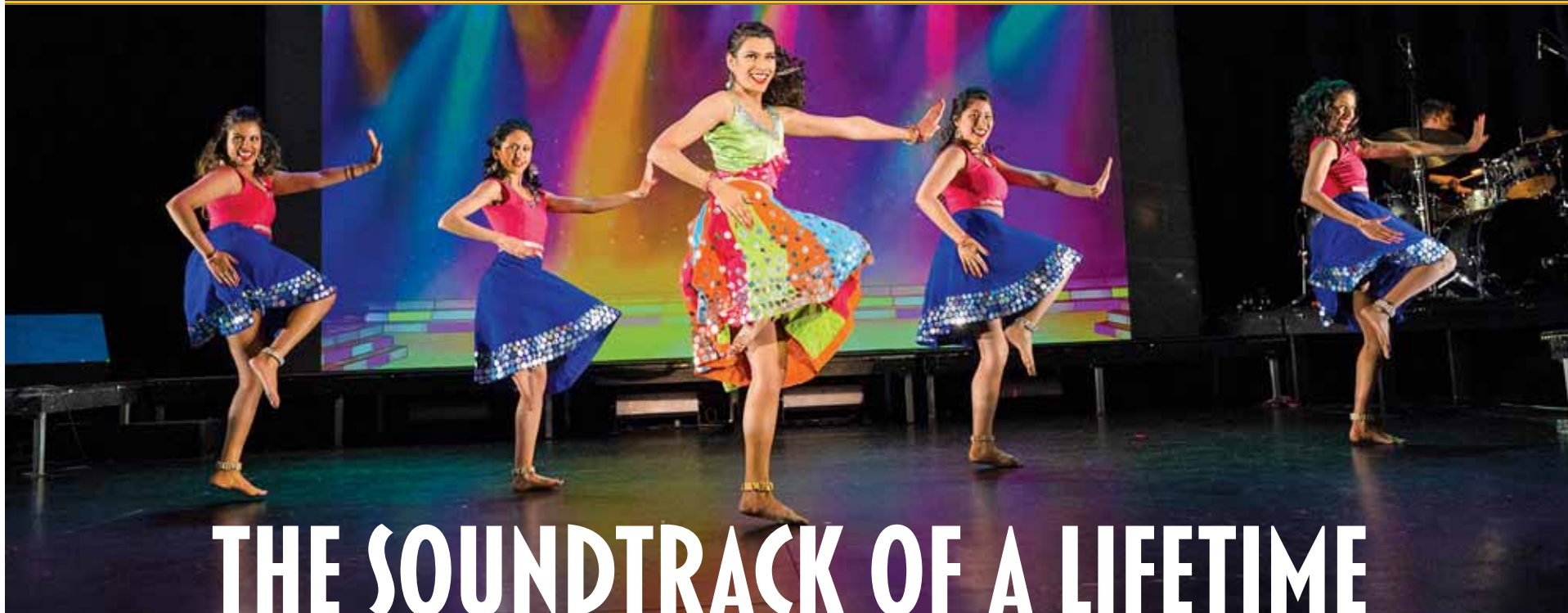
*James R. Madison  
Holly Avenue, Menlo Park*

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# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



## THE SOUNDTRACK OF A LIFETIME

'My Bollywood Jukebox' celebrates music, culture and connections

Courtesy Richard Termine

**"My Bollywood Jukebox"** will offer Bollywood highlights through music and dance, as well as insights into how Bollywood forges community connections.

By Karla Kane

**B**ollywood: It's the name for the wildly successful Mumbai-based, Hindi-language film industry, probably best known for its dazzling musical numbers, romantic melodramas and flamboyant costumes. But, said "My Bollywood Jukebox" creator and producer Heena Patel, to millions of fans, Bollywood means a lot more than entertainment.

"These films have influenced the dreams, the passions, even the decor and fashion sensibilities of those who've watched them," she said. "People know about the sequins and it being fun, but I wanted to show how it's really more than that."

Patel's new production (with MELA Arts Connect), which premieres at Stanford University's Frost Amphitheater on July 25, will take audiences on a music-and-dance-filled journey through Bollywood history, showcasing many time periods, genres and styles from early classics to modern blockbusters. At the same time, the show also ties the songs of Bollywood to the memories and experiences of South Asian immigrants and their children, examining "how Bollywood music and culture has shaped the lives of those in the diaspora," she said. "If there's an underlying theme of this show, it's really about the connecting that has been facilitated through this medium of film."

Patel's previous production,

"Bollywood Boulevard," compressed nearly a century of Bollywood history into a 90-minute song-and-dance spectacular. She noticed how audiences at that show were relating with the material — some because they had grown up with the culture and some who were experiencing it for the first time.

"That show had become a conduit for people to step into the lives of their neighbors," she said.

When she began discussions with Stanford Live about bringing a new production there, it seemed a natural evolution to explore Bollywood from both more personal and wider perspectives, especially as many people are hungrier than ever for connections after more than a year of pandemic isolation. What developed — "My Bollywood Jukebox" — is a community memoir of sorts.

"I would say that the show is literally my soundtrack," Patel said. "And I incorporated not just my stories, but also a lot of conversations with friends, my parents and their friends to find the common themes and experiences we had. It's my story but it's also not my story. It's the story of these generations."

Raised in Toronto, Patel grew up singing and dancing along to Bollywood songs. She named the song "Chaudhvin Ka Chand" (from the 1960 film of the same name) as one of her earliest Bollywood memories, having heard her father sing it frequently

around the house, inspired by his favorite singer, Mohammed Rafi. In the 1990s, Patel idolized the actress Madhuri Dixit.

"My dreams of being a Bollywood star and dancer are all connected to Madhuri Dixit," she said. "I grew up watching her movies on the VCR, rewinding to copy her, to do these dances at our community shows."

The Stanford Live production of "My Bollywood Jukebox" will include nine musicians and a group of eight or nine dancers. The primarily Northern California-based cast includes the Bay Area band Raga & Blues, and choreography for the show is by Anisha Babbar and Rohit Gijare. Patel herself will serve as narrator.

"What people are going to really get to see and hear is that Bollywood is not just one type of music or one type of dance. Bollywood is everything and nothing," Patel said. "It's not a particular movement vocabulary or sound aesthetic. There are jazz, classical, folk, pop and disco influences — so many musical influences — and a lot of different styles of dance in it as well."

Patel and company started working on the show in late May. "It's a rapidly evolving process," she said with a laugh. And she expects the show to continue to evolve and grow in future incarnations. While tickets to the family-friendly Stanford show are being sold in pods to allow for social distancing, Patel

said she still hopes for plenty of audience participation from people of all ages.

"There's an invitation for the audience to really become a part of it and dance with us," she said. "So much of Bollywood is a celebration. It's about joy and it's about connection. I can't think of anything more powerful than celebrating with joy and music and stories."

"My Bollywood Jukebox" will premiere Sunday, July 25, at 6 p.m. at Frost Amphitheater, 351 Lasuen St., Stanford. Tickets are \$30. More information is at [live.stanford.edu/calendar/july-2021/my-bollywood-jukebox](http://live.stanford.edu/calendar/july-2021/my-bollywood-jukebox). ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane at [kkane@paweekly.com](mailto:kkane@paweekly.com).



Courtesy Simerjit Dhaliwal

**Bay Area band Raga & Blues** will perform in "My Bollywood Jukebox" at Stanford's Frost Amphitheater on July 25.

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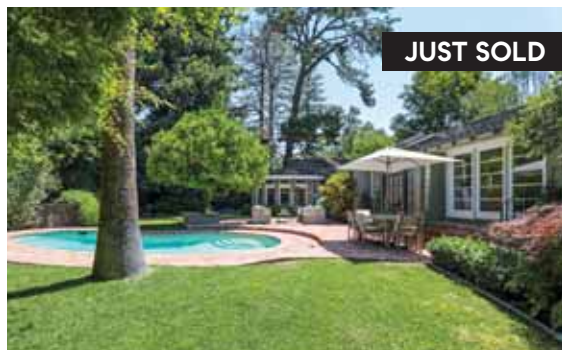


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**1300 N. Lemon Avenue, Menlo Park**  
\$3,595,000 | 3 beds, 2 baths, guest house



**Tom LeMieux, MBA**  
650.465.7459  
tom@lemieuxRE.com  
License #01066910



**Jennifer Bitter, MBA**  
650.308.4401  
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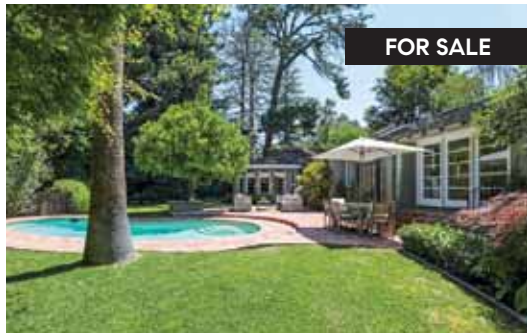
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- Approximately 1 acre with pool, barbecue center, vast lawn
- Attached 3-car garage wired for EV charging

**\$18,995,000 | 289Almendral.com**



**740 Creek Drive, Menlo Park**  
\$4,295,000 | 5 beds, 3 baths | 740Creek.com



**1300 N. Lemon Avenue, Menlo Park**  
\$3,595,000 | 3 beds, 2 baths, guest house



**735 Woodside Drive, Woodside**  
\$5,498,000 | 5 beds, 3.5 baths



**1640 Escobita Avenue, Palo Alto**  
\$3,498,000 | 3 beds, 2 baths



**50 Barry Lane, Atherton**  
\$11,500,000 | 5 beds, 4.5 baths

**COMING SOON**

- Premier Atherton location
- 5 bedrooms, 6.5 baths
- 1-bedroom, 1-bath guest house
- Pool, spa
- Almost one acre

*Call for details*

List prices shown

**\$142 MILLION Sold**  
in 2021 Year-to-Date

**#59 Small Team in the U.S., 2021\***

by RealTrends and published in *The Wall Street Journal*.

\* based on 2020 sales volume



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