

The Almanac

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

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WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM



Patti Irish returns to her seat after speaking at Sarah Johnson's celebration of life ceremony at the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto on July 17.

Signs of life

Midpeninsula residents cautiously gather again but still feel the effects of the pandemic

Photographs by Magali Gauthier. Story by Lloyd Lee.

As First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto prepared for a memorial service on July 17, its first indoor gathering since the campus closed 16 months ago, organizers recognized that after more than a year of avoiding large crowds, some people might not know exactly how to greet each other.

So to make things simpler, color-coded stickers and bracelets were handed out to the 85 masked attendees: green for hugs and high fives, yellow for elbow bumps and red for greet from 6 feet — an efficient way to avoid the awkward millisecond

in which one person goes in for the handshake while the other goes for the elbow.

The celebration of life ceremony was dedicated to the late Sarah Johnson, a former Palo Alto resident and longtime member of the church who was described as a “gracious Southern lady” with a strong passion for political activism. She died of COVID-19 complications on April 18, 2020. Her family, who flew in from different states, had postponed services until things felt safe.

That Saturday afternoon,

See **SIGNS OF LIFE**, page 8



Bartender Angeles Valdez pours a beer for a customer at the Pioneer Saloon in Woodside on July 22.

INSIDE

VIEWPOINT 19 | FOOD 22

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ATHERTON



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Tucked away in complete privacy on gated grounds of over an acre, this spectacular estate offers luxurious living and a quintessential Atherton lifestyle. A stone pathway through a vibrant garden entrance leads to the front porch, and inside, high-end rustic charm evokes the feel of a mountainside retreat, with appointments that include gorgeous hardwood floors, fine millwork, and soaring beamed ceilings. Offering 5 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, and over 8,500 square feet of space, including the guest home, this estate provides expansive spaces perfect for both entertaining and everyday living. Highlights include the living room centered by a stone fireplace, the gourmet kitchen with appliances from Viking, Thermador, and Bosch, the handsomely appointed office, and the family room with a delightful wood-burning stove. The expansive primary suite offers a spa-like bathroom, while additional bedrooms including a guest suite provide comfort and convenience for friends and family alike. Plus, the guest house features a full kitchen, bedroom suite, and an attached exercise/yoga room. And for true indoor/outdoor living, multiple points throughout the estate open to the immaculate grounds with a sprawling lawn, pool, outdoor kitchen, and fire pit, all shaded by towering trees along the perimeter.

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

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Sammy Dallal

Katherine Tincher shops at Bianchini's Market in Portola Valley on March 20, 2020. A new federal guideline this week recommends everyone, vaccinated or not, wear masks in public indoor spaces in regions where COVID-19 is surging, reversing a previous recommendation in May.

New CDC advice: Most vaccinated Californians should wear masks indoors

By **Barbara Feder Ostrov/CalMatters**

Nearly all vaccinated Californians should return to wearing masks indoors under new federal guidelines issued Tuesday for areas where COVID-19 is surging.

The new guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention apply to regions with "high or substantial" transmission rates, which

includes 45 of California's 58 counties and about 96% of its nearly 40 million people.

The guidelines would cover all of California's most populous counties, including San Mateo County. The counties with lower COVID-19 rates that are not included are: Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Glenn, Tehama, Lassen, Modoc, Sierra, Alpine, Mono, Inyo and Tulare. About 1.7 million people live in those counties.

The announcement reverses an earlier CDC recommendation, issued in mid-May, that it was safe for vaccinated people to remove their masks in most settings.

All unvaccinated people, including children not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccines, should continue to wear masks in all public indoor places under state and federal recommendations.

See **MASKS**, page 16

Portola Valley, Woodside opt not to appeal new housing allocations

By **Angela Swartz**

With just 16 days left before a July 9 deadline to appeal significant increases in the number of housing units the town is required to designate for development, several Portola Valley residents urged the Town Council to protest.

Resident Bob Turcott has called the numbers "inappropriately high" and argued that adding the 253 units allocated in the town's 2023-31 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) would pose a threat to public safety. More housing could increase construction in high fire hazard zones and put further strain on the town's already "tenuous" evacuation capacity, he said. Resident Kristi Corley noted that infrastructure upgrades to services such as water systems, sewer systems, libraries, parking, roads, and parks are all needed with added housing. Both have attended meetings for months opposing the bump in Portola Valley's RHNA numbers from just 64 last cycle.

The town's susceptibility to wildfires, the inability to construct new roads to provide evacuation routes and the need to hire more town staff to manage development projects were all concerns the Town Council cited about the numbers in a November 2020 letter to the

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), which has been assigned 441,000 housing units by the California Department of Housing and Community Development this cycle. It is of note that towns are not actually required to build the housing, just to plan for it.

But any attempts to push back against the figures would be futile, staff members and the town's five council members agreed, citing many failed past appeals by cities and towns across the state. The Portola Valley council opted not to file an appeal at the June 23 meeting.

The option to appeal also appeared on the Woodside Town Council agenda in the last month — Woodside's RHNA target is jumping from 62 to 328 units. Woodside officials made the decision not to appeal for similar reasons.

Portola Valley Councilman John Richards said the town would face ridicule for appealing.

"Nobody is happy about 253 new houses in eight years, but this (RHNA guidelines) is a tool," said Portola Valley Mayor Maryann Derwin at a June 23 council meeting. "I can tell you right now if we appeal, we will lose. They will say build in an area that is not in fire danger." She noted that she believes there will be new laws that limit building in

See **HOUSING**, page 18

Longtime Woodside Postal Service worker hangs up her hat

By **Angela Swartz**

A miniature brown horse walks into a post office. No, this isn't the start of a bad joke; this was a typical day in Woodside six years ago.

Debra Mattmann, the owner of Twister, the tiny horse in question, pointed out that there were "no dogs allowed" signs in the Woodside Road post office, but none that said "no horses allowed." This is just one fond memory Lydia Vasquez, 57, had as lead clerk

of Woodside's post office.

"It's a horsey town," said Vasquez, who worked for the Postal Service for nearly 37 years, 16 of them in Woodside. Her final day was June 30.

Vasquez started out as a distribution clerk with the U.S. Postal Service in Redwood City at 1100 Broadway when she was 20. Her mom felt her job at Advanced Micro Devices at the time "wasn't good enough" and urged her to apply to the USPS, especially since the organization was

recruiting Latino people at the time.

Growing bored with her Postal Service job in Redwood City, an opening popped up in Woodside and she applied. She recalled the warm welcome she received from residents her first week in there.

"I was so nervous — I knew it was an influential area," said Vasquez, who was born in Dayton, Ohio, and now lives in Los Altos. "A customer

See **POSTAL WORKER**, page 17



Courtesy Lydia Vasquez

Left to right: Amalia Popell, Lydia Vasquez, Randi Du Bois, Russ Isaccson, Tasha Cobbins and Danny Barela gather for Vasquez's retirement party from the Woodside Road post office on June 30.



Notice of California Water Service's Request to Increase Rates in 2022 for the Bear Gulch District

Cost of Capital Application (A.21-05-002)

Para más información sobre este aviso, póngase en contacto con su centro local de atención al cliente a (650) 561-9709, o visite nuestro sitio de web: <https://es.calwater.com>

Why am I receiving this notice?

On May 3, 2021, California Water Service (Cal Water) filed its Cost of Capital (CoC) Application No. A.21-05-002 with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Cal Water's application requests an increase in CoC, which is the rate of return the company is authorized to recover on its investments in critical infrastructure required to deliver safe and reliable water service, by 0.02% to 7.50% from the current rate of 7.48%. Overall, the proposed changes would increase Cal Water's currently authorized earnings by \$421,900 (0.7%).

If the CPUC approves this application, Cal Water will begin recovering these costs no sooner than January 1, 2022. This will impact your bill.

Why is Cal Water requesting this increase to its CoC?

- Cal Water is required to file a CoC application every three years.
- This ensures funds are available to make critical infrastructure improvements, so water mains, wells, pumps, tanks, treatment systems, and other parts of the water system continue to provide safe, reliable water service.
- This application includes the funds needed to obtain equity and secure long-term debt (loans and financial obligations longer than one year).

How could this affect my water bill?

If approved by the CPUC, the typical residential customer bill in the Bear Gulch District (based on average monthly residential usage of 8,228 gallons, or 11 Ccf, with a 5/8" x 3/4" meter) would increase as follows. Please note this includes only service and quantity charges; your water bill may vary from this estimate due to credits and surcharges in effect. Customers using less water will see a smaller dollar/cent increase, while customers using more water will see a slightly higher dollar/cent increase. Figures may vary slightly due to rounding.

Current Bill	Proposed Increase	New Proposed Bill	Proposed Increase
\$95.90	\$0.70	\$96.60	0.7%

The revenue request for the Bear Gulch District is as follows:

Type of Service Provided	Current Revenue (in thousands)	Proposed Increase (in thousands)	New Proposed Revenue (in thousands)	Proposed Increase (as percent)
Residential Metered Service	\$49,038	\$358	\$49,395	0.7%
Nonresidential Metered Service*	\$8,820	\$64	\$8,885	0.7%

*Nonresidential metered service applies to all customer classes that are not residential (such as business, multi-family, and public authority customers) and do not have a separate tariff.

How does this process work?

This application will be assigned to a CPUC Administrative Law Judge who will consider proposals and evidence presented during the formal hearing process. The Administrative Law Judge will issue a proposed decision that may adopt Cal Water's application, modify it, or deny it. Any CPUC Commissioner may sponsor an alternate decision with a different outcome. The proposed decision, and any alternate decisions, will be discussed and voted upon by the CPUC Commissioners at a public CPUC Voting Meeting.

Parties to the proceeding are currently reviewing Cal Water's application, including the Public Advocates Office, which is an independent consumer advocate within the CPUC that represents customers to obtain the lowest possible rate for service consistent with reliable and safe service levels. For more information, regarding the Public Advocates Office please call (415) 703-1584, email PublicAdvocatesOffice@cpuc.ca.gov, or visit PublicAdvocates.cpuc.ca.gov.

Where can I get more information?

Contact Cal Water:

Phone: (650) 561-9709
Email: infoBG@calwater.com
Mail: 1720 North First Street, San Jose, CA, 95112

A copy of the application and any related documents may also be reviewed at calwater.com/rates/other-filings/2021-coc-application.

Contact CPUC:

Please visit cpuc.ca.gov/A2105002comments to submit a comment about this proceeding on the CPUC Docket Card. Here you can also view documents and other public comments related to this proceeding. Your participation by providing your thoughts on Cal Water's request can help the CPUC make an informed decision.

If you have questions about CPUC processes, you may contact the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office at:

Phone: 1-866-849-8390 (toll-free) or 1-415-703-2074
Email: Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov
Mail: CPUC Public Advisor's Office
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Please reference **Cal Water's CoC Application No. A.21-05-002** in any communications you have with the CPUC regarding this matter.

CNSB#3494584

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The Almanac

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Stormwater fees to remain

The Menlo Park City Council on July 20 voted 4-1, with Councilwoman Cecilia Taylor absent, to reauthorize an existing stormwater fee.

Currently, a master plan laying out stormwater system improvements over the next 25 years is being developed. The city has an agreement with Wood Rodgers, Inc. to develop the plan, a draft version of which is expected to be completed in 2022, according to the report.

In Menlo Park, property owners are responsible for paying both city-specific stormwater fees as well as a countywide fee related to stormwater.

The Menlo Park fee is collected as part of the San Mateo County tax roll, while the countywide fee is collected by the Countywide Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District, according to a staff report.

The city charges \$5.25 per 1,000 square feet of impervious area on each city property, a fee established in 1994 that has remained the same since then, according to staff. Smaller home parcels average roughly \$16 to \$18 per property, while larger home parcels average \$20 to \$26 per property. Typical 5,000-square-foot commercial properties along Santa Cruz Avenue pay \$26 per property.

The funds are used to cover the administration and operating costs, and help pay for overhead and various professional services, according to the report.



Courtesy office of Assemblyman Marc Berman/Twitter

State Assemblyman Marc Berman shared a screenshot via Twitter of a virtual "Coffee and Conversation" chat with Menlo Park Mayor Drew Combs. The event invited community members to ask questions and provide comments on Thursday, July 22.

Menlo Park mayor, assemblyman discuss legislative efforts

Menlo Park Mayor Drew Combs and state Assemblyman Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park) met for a virtual community chat on July 22, discussing the various local and statewide efforts to tackle problems affecting Menlo Park residents.

Berman highlighted a number of the initiatives in the California budget aimed at boosting housing affordability, tackling homelessness, supporting youth mental health, and improving local communities' resiliency against wildfires.

He mentioned legislation he's leading, such as AB 1346, a proposal to ban new gas-powered "small off-road engines" like leaf blowers and lawn mowers; AB 390, a proposal to ensure that consumers who sign up for services online are also able to cancel their subscriptions online with ease; and AB 928, a proposal to standardize course numbers at community colleges and make the college transfer process less confusing.

Combs talked about some of the city initiatives in Menlo Park, noting that the city has kicked off its reopening process and hopes to end the summer with a "full and complete reopening of the city's traditional programming and services."

The city has also begun to have talks about redistricting, updates to its climate action plan and hopefully will be moving forward with implementing the city's parks master plan, he added.

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 17

CORRECTION

In The Almanac's July 16 edition in the story "Menlo Park's data-driven new police chief aims to bring stability, mentoring to MPPD," it should say that the Racial and Identity Profiling Act will require data to be reported to the California Department of Justice, not the U.S. Department of Justice.

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Sequoia Hospital hits impasse with Anthem, putting patients out of network

By Kevin Forestieri

Dignity Health, the largest nonprofit hospital network in California, announced this month that it no longer has an agreement with Anthem Blue Cross, claiming the health insurer refuses to pay its fair share for hospital services.

The negotiations have been going on for six months, but soured on July 16 when most of Dignity Health's hospitals in California — including Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City — terminated their agreements with Anthem. The impasse means Anthem customers who rely on Sequoia may have to pay out-of-network costs for now,

though both parties are still in “active discussions” to bring the hospitals back in network, according to Dignity.

Hospitals in the Bay Area have struggled to renew contracts with Anthem in recent years, with many dropping contracts over disputes about what the country's second-largest health insurer is willing to pay for health care services. Dignity Health is the largest Medi-Cal provider in the state and has lost money in recent years, yet Anthem has been unwilling to compensate the network of hospitals with even modest rates, said Robert Quinn, president and CEO of Dignity Health.

“Dignity Health has offered Anthem a proposal with rates

that do not even cover hospital inflation costs and are below increases included in prior agreements,” Quinn said.

Dignity is the latest to drop Anthem over what health care providers describe as penny-pinching tactics that go well beyond those of other health insurers. Last month, Mountain View-based El Camino Health terminated its contract with Anthem over the same concerns. Sutter Health ran into similar trouble with Anthem in 2019, followed by a clash between MarinHealth and the insurance giant last year.

Anthem has defended its approach to contract negotiations, arguing that health care costs in Northern California are

inordinately high and can lead to hospitals reaping big profits. The company also claims that higher hospital prices are passed down to individual customers and employers that provide health care plans to their workers. In a statement, Anthem said it has not severed its negotiations with Dignity Health and is seeking a new contract focused on affordability.

“We continue to negotiate in good faith with Dignity in hopes of reaching a reasonable deal, one that compensates Dignity fairly and protects affordability for our members and customers,” an Anthem spokesperson said last week.

A total of 29 hospitals and medical centers have been

affected by Dignity's decision to terminate contracts with Anthem, including Sequoia Hospital and two hospitals in San Francisco — Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center. The expired contract affects members enrolled in commercial PPO, EPO, HMO, and POS benefit plans as well as some Medicaid and Medicare Advantage plans.

On its website documenting the dispute with Dignity, Anthem claims that the health system is already nearly 30% more expensive than other health systems across the state, yet it is now threatening to drop

See **SEQUOIA HOSPITAL**, page 16

Construction to expand Belle Haven child care center begins

All Five preschool is set to welcome younger children this fall

By Angela Swartz

Children cheered on construction workers from afar at All Five preschool in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park in mid-July. The project? To fulfill the school's mission to serve children for all of the first five years of life.

The program, which now serves students 2 years and 9 months to prekindergarten in its full-time program, will grow from 24 to 76 children this fall and enroll infants and toddlers. The infant and toddler program will be open to children ages 6 weeks to 2 years and will open Aug. 23, according to Karen Pace, All Five's strategic projects manager, and the school's website. Enrollment is based on availability, with priority given to children from the Belle Haven and Ravenswood communities, including school district staff, as well as to siblings of current and former students, according

to the school's website.

New buildings are set to be completed in late September, said Executive Director Carol Thomsen in a July 23 newsletter.

“As you know, serving children for all five of their first years has been the vision and plan for All Five for a very long time,” Thomsen said. “The new facilities include an outdoor deck and canopy to ensure children from families of all socioeconomic levels experience a holistic learning environment.” Construction workers were originally set to retrofit three portable classrooms — through a lease agreement with the Ravenswood City School District — adjacent to its campus at 1391 Chilco St. Ultimately one of the original portables was not certifiable and the other two required extraordinary measures to be certified by the Department of State Architects, so instead of refurbishing the used portables, the expanded facilities will be new portable

buildings, Pace said.

Thomsen had hoped to break ground on the project in March 2020 and expand the program later that fall. Many factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, ballooning costs and fundraising requirements, caused the setback, Thomsen said in an email Monday, July 26. The expansion costs increased from about \$800,000 to \$1.9 million, Pace said in a Monday email.

“We have raised over \$1.7 million and continue seeking funding to close the gap between our

expansion costs and funding,” Pace said.

“As we have navigated the unsettling events of this past year, including the pandemic-related health and financial challenges, facilitating an all-outdoor program during widely varied weather, and construction timing changes, our exceptional teachers and staff have been extraordinary in their dedication and thoughtfulness,” Thomsen said. “I am grateful for the outstanding team of mission-driven educators here at All Five.”

Families are desperate for infant and toddler care on the Peninsula, according to All Five.

Also of note in the newsletter: In June, the preschoolers had a chance to visit with chickens, rabbits, goats, and a miniature horse from Jasper Ridge Farm in Portola Valley for the first time since the pandemic began.

For more on All Five, go to allfive.org. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE AND APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AMENDMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing, via teleconference, on **Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.** on the following:

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY AMENDING SECTION 18.14.030 [CONDITIONAL USES PERMITTED] OF CHAPTER 18.41 [R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT REGULATIONS] OF TITLE 18 [ZONING] OF THE PORTOLA VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE; AMENDMENT TO CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT [XD7-5]; AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW FOR A PROPOSED EXPANSION TO AN EXISTING FIRE STATION [WFPD STATION #8] WITHIN THE TOWN'S R-1 ZONING DISTRICT; 135 PORTOLA ROAD; FILE #PLN_ZONA0001-2021 & PLN_ARCH0022-2019

The Town Council will consider a recommendation made by the Planning Commission on July 7, 2021 regarding amendments to the Portola Valley Municipal Code which include: 1) changing the conditionally permitted uses in the R-1 Zoning District to include fire stations, and 2) allowing the development standards of such uses to be established by a conditional use permit approved by the decision-making body.

This project has been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)(3) – Review for Exemption.

To join the Zoom meeting online:
Go to Zoom.com – Click Join the Meeting -
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Public Hearings provide the general public and interested parties an opportunity to provide testimony on these items. If you challenge a proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at a Public Hearing(s) described above, or in written correspondence delivered to the Town Council at, or prior to, the Public Hearing(s).

Information pertaining to the proposal may be viewed at <https://www.portolavalley.net/projects>. The agenda and staff report will be published at <https://www.portolavalley.net/town-government/town-council/minutes-and-agendas> in advance of the meeting.

Publication Date: July 30, 2021
Sharon Hanlon, Town Clerk



Courtesy All Five

All Five preschoolers donned hard hats on July 13 during a visit to their future school play yard.



Guests at Sarah Johnson's celebration of life ceremony grab green stickers and wristbands to indicate they are comfortable receiving hugs outside the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto on July 17.



Children dance during a concert at the Magical Bridge playground at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto on July 23.



Jasper, 12, creates a huge bubble for Alice, 6, to jump to at a summer park pop-up event hosted by the city of Mountain View in Cuesta Park on July 7.

SIGNS OF LIFE

continued from page 1

Pastor Diana Gibson went up to the lectern in her signature blue clergy shirt and began: "Let us gather in remembrance."

Though many are reluctant to say the pandemic is over, fear of the coronavirus among the public has simmered down thanks to recent advancements, mainly effective vaccines, which have allowed California to drop most health restrictions.

Since the state "reopened" on June 15, gatherings have restarted throughout the Midpeninsula. Families from multiple generations are coming together to celebrate 100th birthdays; concerts and other entertainment productions are happening; and people are now flying in from other states and countries to see family and friends.

Leah Hwung, founder of Two Perfect Events in Palo Alto, which organizes large and small celebratory gatherings, is on the front lines of the resurgence: Her

calendars for this year and the next are now packed with parties — some of which include postponed weddings from the previous year. Her company is booked with around 30 events for the summer and fall, which is typical for a normal year, she said.

At Mitchell Park on July 23, about 160 masked and unmasked parents and children gathered at the Magical Bridge playground for its second community concert of the summer. Alice Tang, who was visiting from New York, joined her friend and her three kids — comfortable in a low lawn chair and enjoying the outside air without a mask.

"When I'm outdoors I feel very comfortable," Tang said. "Indoors is when I'm a little bit more cautious."

At Pioneer Saloon in Woodside, most regulars have come back and are filling up the modest-sized space once again. Recently, the bar also restarted its regular live music shows.

Angeles Valdez, the sole



Ken Clark reads a book in the fiction section of the main library in Menlo Park on July 22. Both city library locations opened for indoor access on July 6.



Ruchira Sood hits a punching bag during a class at Title Boxing Club in Mountain View on July 22.



Ballerinas rehearse for the production of “The Rose and the Butterfly: A Love Story” at Bayer Ballet Academy in Mountain View on July 23.

bartender, was serving maskless customers indoors on a recent early Thursday evening. Valdez didn't have a mask herself since most customers at the bar were longtime, trusted regulars, she said. But when the crowds have picked up in recent nights, she's opted to put on her mask.

“I kept my mask on because I didn't trust the crowds just yet,” Valdez said.

Some of the hesitancy comes as new cases of the more infectious delta variant are being reported throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, where health officers have said the cases are largely among unvaccinated individuals.

But even as cases increase, an air of cautious optimism remains in the Midpeninsula as Bay Area counties report high

vaccination rates: Among people 12 years old and up in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, 75% are fully vaccinated.

“I'm optimistic,” Tang said. “I don't think we would do well if there was another backward-slide shutdown.”

The vaccines have empowered high-risk facilities such as the Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center, an adult day clinic in Mountain

View, to finally reopen.

At the center on July 23, Loreta Austin helped celebrate a 76th birthday by having one of the seniors play a joyful rendition of “Happy Birthday” on the piano while others, still masked, sang along. Celebrating birthdays at Avenidas transitioned to Zoom and phone calls while the facility was closed for 16 months.

On July 12, Avenidas reopened

its doors to seniors at 50% capacity after conditions became safer and all staff members were vaccinated.

“Everybody feels like they're home when they're here,” said Austin, the activities manager at Avenidas.

Businesses make a comeback

Business owners are benefiting from the public's growing confidence to come back in larger numbers.

At the Mountain View Farmers' Market on July 18, a river of people flowed in between vendors, making pit stops at fruit and food stands to try free samples — an offering that was only resumed the prior week.

For Patti Knoblich, the “Apricot Queen” of ApricotKing Orchards — which sells dried and fresh fruits, nuts and chocolate-covered goods — sales have doubled in recent months, at one point going from \$1,000 to \$2,000 “easily,” she said.

ApricotKing has had a stand in Mountain View for nearly three decades, where Knoblich has seen children grow into adults. She cherishes the camaraderie that comes with interacting with customers. But during the pandemic, Knoblich said there were times when the market was a “ghost town.”

“It was no fun,” she said.

Adrienne Rush experienced even more challenging days in the past year at Title Boxing Gym, which she opened in Mountain View in 2015. While some gyms were able to adapt



Far West Fungi worker Derick Brown hands Taylor Rose a bag of mushrooms at the farmers market in Mountain View on July 18.

See **SIGNS OF LIFE**, page 10

SIGNS OF LIFE

continued from page 9

to online and outdoor services, Title Boxing Club confronted more limitations due to its location at Mountain View Shopping Center and because the type of workout it offers, which requires special equipment like heavy bags, doesn't easily lend itself to online or outdoor classes.

"We were closed with no revenue," Rush said.

But with capacity restrictions now gone, Rush said she can allow more people into group classes, which is the core product of Title Boxing Club. Vaccinated clients can also now take off their masks as they exercise.

"It's good to see people taking care of themselves," Rush said. "So many people have told me that they're so glad to be back because people have gained weight and were under stress."

COVID has left its mark

Though people are eager to gather and lives have begun to move forward, the impacts and trauma of the pandemic are still felt today.

Grace Kim, a 17-year-old recent high school graduate, was at Bayer Ballet Academy on July 23 for a six-week summer intensive, as the school was rehearsing for a new production, "The Rose and the Butterfly: A Love Story."

For several months, the academy held group classes at an outdoor studio, complete with wood floors, mirrors, barres, fans and other fixtures. Some instructors taught remotely, while others taught in person while significantly adjusting the way they interact with the dancers.

"I think COVID has left that mark on us," Kim said. "We're still a little scared to get too close."

Rehearsals this summer were



Anna plays "Happy Birthday" on the piano for Annie, center, and Dina Caceres, the activities floor leader at the Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center in Mountain View on July 23.

particularly significant for the academy. The production, which will open at Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, will be the first live and in-person performance since December 2019. During the pandemic the school had resorted to prerecorded shows online, which stitched together separate recordings of the dancers. According to Christine Wood, Bayer's administrative assistant, the academy finalized the contract to perform at the Mountain View center a few weeks ago.

At the Palo Alto memorial service, Johnson's children, Lynn Hoffman and Stephen

Johnson, said they were thankful to at last join their mom's closest friends in remembering her vibrant life.

Their mother's death at age 81 came to the family as a shock, Hoffman said. A memorial service, surrounded by loved ones, offered Hoffman some comfort. But before the ceremony, she spoke about the frustrations she still has.

"I'm very mad and sad," said Hoffman, who directs blame toward the Trump administration's handling of the pandemic. "It's one of those things that was just so unnecessary, in my opinion."

For Hoffman, working

through the anger involves delving more into "political activity" like her mom. Recently, she worked on get-out-the-vote campaigns and was proud that she helped Andy Kim, a Democratic U.S. representative, get reelected in New Jersey, where Hoffman currently resides.

But time hasn't made it easier to cope with her mom's death just yet.

"The whole COVID thing is still shocking," she said.

Thinking about the significance of having in-person services, the pastor Gibson had two perspectives to offer during an interview — one theological and the other more broadly

existential. For Christians, she said, "God comes to us in flesh in one another, just as God came to us in Jesus."

As humans, Gibson said, there will always be something about in-person interactions that Zoom conferences can never replace.

"Human beings were made so all of our senses want to connect," she said. "I just think that's really essential to what it means to be human." ▣

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Yoko Ohara, an event planner and designer with Two Perfect Events, and Leah Hwung, the company's owner, work out of the Hensley Event Resources showroom in Brisbane on June 11.



David Steenson, Brynda Olson and Kelley Wathen have a drink with friends at the Pioneer Saloon in Woodside on July 22.

Local community colleges to offer at least 30% of courses in person this fall

The San Mateo County district plans to reopen more widely in the spring

By Angela Swartz

After shutting down nearly a year and a half ago when the COVID-19 pandemic began, the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) is preparing to welcome students back on campuses this fall. The district plans to offer a minimum of 30% of its class sections on campus for the fall across its three campuses, which includes Cañada College in Woodside, according to Chancellor Mike Claire.

During a July 14 district governing board meeting, Claire said the biggest challenge for resuming in-person learning was ensuring good building ventilation. The fall term is set to begin Aug. 18.

“Ventilation is a strategy, but it is vaccination that is the strategy that is going to protect everyone,” he said.

In-person instruction will expand to include courses that are hard to teach online, in addition to courses that have been delivered in person in previous semesters, according to a June district presentation. Since summer 2020, the district has had about 1,600 students, out of a total enrollment of about 41,000, on campuses at any given time, said Claire in a July 25 email. There are certain courses with labs that must be offered in person that resumed as soon as the “most stringent health orders” were lifted, Claire said.

“SMCCCD staff and faculty demonstrated tremendous creativity and flexibility switching to almost 100% online instruction in spring 2020,” said trustee John Pimentel of Menlo Park in a Sunday email. “Now we are searching for the right mix of in-person instruction that produces a vibrant campus environment and readily available student services, balanced with the tremendous gain in accessibility, affordability and convenience enabled by high-quality, online instruction. I reckon the new normal for SMCCCD post-pandemic will be better than before with a robust mix of in-person, on-line, and hybrid instruction. In fact, I believe hybrid operation combined with tuition-free community college and more aggressive engagement in our targeted communities will be our best strategy to correct declining enrollment at SMCCCD.”



Magali Gauthier

Cañada College is one of three local community colleges that will offer some in-person classes this fall. Nearly 100% in-person instruction is expected for the spring.

Student support services, programs and business operations will also return. The district plans to require all students and instructors on campus to be fully vaccinated when the FDA gives the COVID-19 vaccine full (rather than emergency) approval or when the fall semester starts, whichever is later. The district intends to have a more widespread reopening in the spring of 2022 and would require all employees and students to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 beginning Jan. 3, 2022.

The board planned to vote on a mandatory vaccination policy at its Wednesday, July 28, meeting after The Almanac’s Wednesday press deadline. The policy is modeled on the vaccine policy approved by the board of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, Claire said.

Michele Rudovsky, the district’s director of maintenance and operations, presented the district’s reopening plans to the board. She said the air filtration systems in 80 buildings across the district’s three campuses are of high enough quality that students can safely occupy them.

The district upgraded from MERV-8 to MERV-13 medical-grade filters and purchased 10,000 N95 respirators in anticipation of reopening, she said. Officials also ordered fans if more air movement is needed in some facilities, and repaired windows.

Pimentel described the ventilation systems as “top of the line.”

The district shut down in-person classes in March 2020, days before the county announced its shelter-in-place order. Enrollment has dropped 10% since the shutdown, according to the June presentation. The pandemic has had its most dramatic impact on international and low-income student enrollment, the presentation noted.

During the meeting, College of San Mateo staff members brought up concerns that classified staff members have been given differing information about whether the district will be able to accommodate requests to work from home. District officials said they would follow up. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Jack Phillips**, 82, former educator and counselor at Palo Alto High School and one of the founding members of the Music@Menlo festival, on June 1; **Suzanne Stephens Weeks**, 100, a former mayor of Woodside, on July 1; and **Glena Lois Ballentine**, 95, a former Woodside and Menlo Park resident and active community volunteer, on July 14.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at almanacnews.com/obituaries.

Jack Phillips

August 26, 1938 – June 1, 2021

Jack was born in Tulare, California, the youngest of Mabel and Tulsa Phillips’ four sons.



He received a B.A. degree at the University of San Francisco where he was an original member of the a cappella group, the “Pipes”. He was a beloved English teacher and guidance counselor to generations of students at Palo Alto High School, where he worked for 35 years. Never a avid runner, but instead an avid walker, Jack was an active member of the LGBTQ+ BayLands FrontRunners, for which he served on the Board of Directors and hosted countless pool parties, meetings, and celebrations. He was a pianist, sculptor, talented man around the house, devoted Shakespearean and composer of sonnets. Additionally, Jack was a passionate theater-goer and Broadway visitor, and one of the founding fathers of the annual Music@Menlo festival, at the Menlo School. Each of his homes reflected his gifts as an interior designer extraordinaire and visionary gardener.

Jack was renowned for his hospitality, generosity, and civic commitments, qualities which made him a caring mentor to countless others, and a cherished friend to everyone he met. His playfulness and engagement with the world around him, as evidenced in his travels abroad with friends, are a testimony to his inextinguishable joie de vivre. Jack lived his life by a maxim on his workshop wall: Do not count the days; make the days count.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Sunday, August 15th at 1:00 PM in the Jennings Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton. Individuals wishing to attend are asked to notify Fred Weldy at weldyfred@gmail.com. As parking is limited, attendees are strongly encouraged to car pool. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Music@Menlo Fund (musicatmenlo.org) or the Human Rights Campaign (hrc.org).

PAID OBITUARY

Suzanne Stephens Weeks

May 27, 1921 – July 1, 2021

Suzanne (Sue) Stephens Weeks, a former mayor of Woodside, passed away quietly and in the company of her family on July 1 at the age of 100. Sue built a home in Woodside in 1949 with her husband, the late William R Weeks, and became an active member of the community. She was on the committee that oversaw the town’s incorporation in 1957 and was elected to the Town Council in 1970, and re-elected in 1974 and 1978 as a advocate of protecting Woodside’s



rural character, keeping down town administration costs and protecting property rights and values through reasonable ordinances. She was a member of the Woodside Village Church and the Altar Guild. Sue was born in Sacramento on May 27, 1921, and moved with her family to San Francisco where she attended Commodore Sloat elementary and Lowell High School before entering Stanford University. She graduated in 1943 with a degree in psychology. At Stanford, she was the president of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. After college, Sue worked for the Matson Steamship Line in San Francisco and lived in Washington, D.C., while her husband was in officer candidate school. While in Washington, she trained staff at the then War Department on operating IBM punch-card computers. Sue was an avid tennis player, skier, river rafter and world traveler, and spent as much time as possible at Lake Tahoe. She was often accompanied around Woodside by one of her beloved boxer dogs. Sue is survived by her daughter, Tacy Weeks Hahn of Nevada City, and her son, Stephen Weeks of London as well as her grandchildren, Nick, Natalie, Maria and Amelia and her great grand-daughter, Nicole.

A private memorial will be held later this year.

Memorial donations may be made to The League to Save Lake Tahoe.

Link: <https://www.keeptahoeblue.org>

PAID OBITUARY



1968 MENALTO AVENUE MENLO PARK



STYLISH MEDITERRANEAN WITH A MODERN FLOORPLAN

A courtyard entrance welcomes you to this stylish Mediterranean home, built in 2014 and located in the charming Willows neighborhood of Menlo Park. High ceilings give the home a sense of openness, and excellent use of glass fills the interior space with natural light, highlighting engineered hardwood floors that extend throughout most of the home's 1,934 square feet of living space. The modern floorplan includes the living room with fireplace, the dining room with a wet bar and outdoor access, and the marble-appointed kitchen with stainless-steel appliances. Accommodations include 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, including the primary bedroom suite with an adjacent room of around 160 additional square feet perfect for use as an office or nursery. And for outdoor enjoyment, the backyard includes ample patio space and multiple fruit trees. Just minutes to Willow Oaks Park, this home is also a short drive away from downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, and offers access to acclaimed Menlo Park schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

www.1968Menalto.com

Offered at \$1,998,000

Listed by Audrey Sun of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park

Data from BrokerMetrics © based on MLS sales from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, in Menlo Park, 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

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Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224



26660 SNELL LANE
LOS ALTOS HILLS



INCREDIBLE PRIVACY AND A CONVENIENT FLOORPLAN

The tranquility of Los Altos Hills takes center stage in this spacious and bright 4-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom home set on over an acre of verdant, vibrant land. A circular driveway leads past the beautifully manicured front garden to the column-framed front porch, and inside, 4,400 square feet of interior space features luxurious appointments including beautiful hardwood floors, new carpeting, plantation shutters, and crown molding. Grand-scale spaces include the living room that leads into the formal dining room, the marble-appointed kitchen with a sunny breakfast nook, and the spectacular family room with a beamed cathedral ceiling as well as a focal-point fireplace. Find comfort in the palatial primary suite that offers a fireplace and access to a private patio, and appreciate the convenience of the office with stylish work-from-home space. And for outdoor enjoyment, the backyard is an entertainer's dream, with a pool, spa, gazebo, and a large patio, while the attached 3-car garage ensures plenty of parking is always available. This incredible location takes full advantage of the privacy that Los Altos Hills affords, yet is still just moments away from tech firms including VMWare and Tesla, a short drive from downtown Los Altos and Palo Alto, and is served by acclaimed Los Altos schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

www.26660Snell.com

Offered at \$4,488,000

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Los Altos Hills

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

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Coronavirus central: Three Bay Area counties urging employers to set vaccination policy

San Mateo County mandates face masks at county facilities

By Embarcadero Media staff

Counties urging employers to implement vaccination policy

As the Bay Area experiences an increased rate of COVID-19 cases, particularly among the unvaccinated population, three county health officers urged employers last week to consider implementing a vaccination mandate in the workplace.

At a virtual press conference July 22, health officers from Contra Costa, Santa Clara and San Francisco counties spoke on the current impact of COVID-19 within their respective jurisdictions, but were in unison when it came to the broader recent trends: The highly contagious delta variant has caused a surge in cases in the past few weeks and it's mostly coming from unvaccinated individuals.

"The current surge is really being driven by unvaccinated, working age adults, mostly in the 20- to 50-year-old age range," said Dr. Chris Farnitano, Contra Costa County's health officer, adding that the age group has seen the most cases since seniors are more likely to be vaccinated.

The current case numbers in Santa Clara County are far below the rate the region experienced at the beginning of the year. On Jan. 5, the county recorded 2,251 cases — the highest one-day total so far this year. Data shows a recent spike in cases. On July 15, the county recorded 162 cases, which is seven times higher than the lowest total on May 31 with just 22 infections.

"One of the reasons that this recommendation is occurring at this time is that all the various counties have been seeing a dramatic increase in cases in the last several weeks," said Naveena Bobba, deputy health director at the San Francisco Public Health Department.

The health officers also recommended that employers acquire documentation of vaccination statuses rather than self-attestations to ensure workers are following workplace policies.

For employees who refuse to get vaccinated, the officers recommended employers require medical grade masks such as N95s for the entire workplace as well as weekly COVID-19 testing for the unvaccinated. However, if all employees within a workplace show proof of

vaccination, Farnitano said that "it would be very reasonable for them to unmask."

Last week's announcement was only a recommendation and not a mandate, but the health officers reminded the public that state and federal laws allow workplaces to implement a vaccination requirement. Some major employers already have done so, including the city and county of San Francisco and smaller local businesses such as Kepler's Books in Menlo Park.

Some counties, including San Francisco and Contra Costa, have also put in place vaccine mandates specifically for workers in high-risk facilities such as acute care hospitals and homeless shelters.

But as of July 22, the three health officials said their counties have no plans to implement a mandate for all employers or have established a specific threshold that triggers it.

"Our focus right now is really on encouraging employers to take that step for their own employees," Farnitano said. "They know their own workforce and their own workplace conditions and know best how to design workplace policies that will move their employees

towards vaccination."

In trying to make the case for a universal vaccination policy in the workplace, Dr. George Han, deputy health officer of Santa Clara County, pointed to the financial incentive in keeping a safe workplace environment.

"While health and safety are the most important concerns, there's also a strong financial argument for business owners to get behind vaccine requirements that help their bottom line by reducing lost productivity from employees that have to isolate or quarantine or take sick time off due to a COVID case or exposure," Han said. "And remember, some people who get severe cases of COVID or long COVID may be out of work for months."

Counties across the state are currently experiencing a spike in COVID-19 cases due to the delta variant after public health restrictions were mostly removed over a month ago on June 15.

Earlier this month, Los Angeles County reinstated a mask mandate in indoor settings for all, vaccinated or unvaccinated.

"We know COVID is not going away," Farnitano said. "The choice now is to get the

vaccine or get COVID."

Kim McCarl, communications officer for the Contra Costa Health Services, said she anticipates other Bay Area counties will make similar recommendations to employers "in due time."

San Mateo County requiring face masks at county facilities

Face coverings are again required at San Mateo County facilities effective Monday, July 26, the county announced July 22.

The requirement is out of an abundance of caution, due to a "troubling rise in coronavirus cases," county officials said in a July 22 news release.

Visitors and county employees will need to wear face coverings at county offices, clinics or other public facilities, regardless of vaccination status.

County officials also expressed concerns about the rise of the delta variant of the coronavirus, which is more contagious and spreads more easily.

As of July 22, the delta variant makes up 83% of positive

See **CORONAVIRUS**, page 17

State employees, health care workers must show proof of vaccination

By Sue Dremann

Amid climbing numbers of hospitalizations and a test positivity rate of 80% for the COVID-19 delta variant, all state employees and health care workers will be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination, the California Health and Human Services and Government Operations agencies and Gov. Gavin Newsom announced in separate news conferences on Monday, July 26.

Under the new order, all state employees will be required to show proof of vaccination by Aug. 2. Unvaccinated employees will be required to follow a testing protocol and must wear masks indoors, the state agencies said. Verification of vaccination status would be through a vaccination card or a vaccination code through the state Department of Public Health.

Unvaccinated hospital workers in both public and private facilities and employees working in congregate care settings would be required to be tested twice weekly and wear N95

masks. Unvaccinated workers in outpatient settings must be tested once per week and wear surgical masks by Aug. 9.

Officials stopped short of issuing a mandate for proof of vaccination verification from employees at private businesses, but the state is encouraging employers to put a similar plan in place. Vaccination is key to keeping the economy going and schools open, the agencies said.

"We are now dealing with a pandemic of the unvaccinated, and it's going to take renewed efforts to protect Californians from the dangerous delta variant," said Newsom. "As the state's largest employer, we are leading by example and requiring all state and health care workers to show proof of vaccination or be tested regularly, and we are encouraging local governments and businesses to do the same. Vaccines are safe — they protect our family, those who truly can't get vaccinated, our children and our economy. Vaccines are the way we end this pandemic."

Newsom clarified that teachers

are not required under the state mandate to show proof of vaccine verification, but he hoped that school districts also would adopt a proof-of-vaccine policy. The state wants to get children back into school for in-person learning, he said.

'As the state's largest employer, we are leading by example.'

GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM

The call for greater scrutiny of proof of vaccination comes as the state saw its biggest jump in COVID-19 cases over the weekend after weeks of rising case numbers. The state reported 7,500 cases per day over the weekend, an increase from 6,400 reported per day last week. Since May 15, the state positivity rate has jumped to 9.6 cases per 100,000 people from 1.9 cases per 100,000.

The numbers also show a striking disparity between case rates for unvaccinated patients and vaccinated patients. The

seven-day average for unvaccinated patients who tested positive for COVID-19 was 14 cases per 100,000 compared to just 2 cases per 100,000 for those who were vaccinated, the agencies said.

Hospitalizations also have increased from 900 patients on May 15 to 3,000. Hospital admissions have risen to 600 patients per day compared to 150 patients per day in the first half of May.

Newsom said that the profiteering of misinformation by right-wing pundits has put people at risk, and he called them out for fomenting distrust in science. He likened the choice of not getting a vaccine against the deadly virus to having the choice to drive drunk and put other people at risk.

Newsom noted that the longer we wait to extinguish COVID-19, the more likely we will face another variant that might make the vaccines less effective. He said the state is focusing on vaccinations and is at this time not returning to a mask mandate.

California has a vaccination rate of more than 75%. While vaccination levels slowed down for multiple weeks, there have been some signs that people are starting to take the delta virus more seriously. The state saw a 16% increase in vaccination rates last week, the agencies said. ■

Email Staff Writer
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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. Have a question? Send it to editor@paweekly.com and we'll do our best to answer it.

Sports roundup

Olympics

Another Olympic swimming medal highlighted Wednesday's efforts from Stanford athletes at the Tokyo Olympics. Former Cardinal players also helped men's volleyball, rowing and other sports.

Swimming

Stanford grad and world record holder Katie Ledecky won the gold medal in the women's 1,500 free roughly 73 minutes after finishing fifth in the 200 free at the Tokyo Aquatics Center.

The longer the distance, the better Ledecky swims. She won the 1,500 with a time of 15:37.34, over four seconds faster than second place Erica Sullivan, her fellow American.

Ledecky owns the world record in the event (15:20.48 on May 16, 2018, in Indianapolis) and set the Olympic record (15:35.35) on Monday.

Wednesday's victory gives her six Olympic gold medals. She also has two silver medals. She was scheduled to compete in the 800 free on Thursday, after The Almanac's press deadline.

Australia's Ariarne Titmus won her second gold medal in the 200 free, winning in an Olympic record 1:53.50, 1.71 seconds ahead of Ledecky.

Stanford's Andrei Minakov placed fifth in the finals of the 100 free, swimming a time of 48.03. Minakov, competing for the Russian Olympics Committee, was in second place after 50 meters.

ROC's Kliment Kolesnikov won the race in 47.11.

Incoming Stanford freshman Regan Smith placed second in her semifinal heat of the 200 fly, qualifying for her second championship final. Smith was timed in 2:06.64, .41 seconds behind American teammate Hali Flickinger.

Volleyball

Former Stanford standout Erik Shoji recorded 10 digs and the U.S. men's volleyball team rebounded from a loss to beat Tunisia 25-14, 23-25, 25-14, 25-23 Wednesday at Ariake Arena.

The Americans (2-1 in pool play) meet Brazil on Friday.

Rowing

Stanford was represented by two athletes competing for two different countries, each in the same position (stroke) on the boat, in the women's four B final at Sea Forest Waterway.

Grace Luczak, who earned a gold medal with the women's eight four years ago, helped the U.S. win the B final, seventh overall, with a time of 6:33.65.

Stephanie Grauer, also a two-time Olympian, helped Canada finish fourth in the race and

11th overall. Canada finished in 6:35.15.

The U.S. men's eight, with **Stanford grad Austin Hack** on board in seat four, placed third in Wednesday's repechage to earn a spot in the A final.

The Americans finished with a time of 5:23.43, 1.39 seconds behind winner New Zealand.

Stanford's Alie Rusher was in seat three for the U.S. women's quadruple sculls. They finished fourth in the B final in 6:30.03.

Men's basketball

Former Stanford star KZ Okpala scored five points, grabbed six rebounds, had two assists and a team-high five steals but Nigeria lost to Germany 99-92 on Wednesday, falling to 0-2.

Women's water polo

Hungary scored with 45 seconds remaining to upset the U.S. national women's team 10-9 on Wednesday.

Maddie Musselman scored three goals to lead the Americans, who were held to a 29% shooting percentage (9x31) in the contest.

The U.S. plays the Russian Olympic Committee on Friday on the final day of the preliminary round.

The Americans were 5-0 against Hungary this year, including in the championship match of the FINA World League Super Final on June 19.

It was also the first time a team other than Australia beat the U.S. since the Netherlands did so on Dec. 16, 2015.

Stanford's Makenzie Fischer added two goals while **Stanford alums Melissa Seidemann and Maggie Steffens** each added one.

Canada, with **Stanford grad Gurpreet Sohi** leading the way with four goals, beat South Africa 20-1.

Rugby

The U.S. Rugby Sevens placed sixth, losing to South Africa 28-7 in its final match.

The Americans (3-3), captained by **East Palo Alto resident and Woodside High grad Folau Niua**, beat Canada 21-14 earlier in the day to advance to the fifth-place match.

—Rick Eymmer

Water polo

The **Stanford 18A girls** closed the USA Water Polo National Junior Olympics the same way they opened them — with a victory.

"It's always better to finish with a win than a loss," said Stanford head coach Jessica Cima on Sunday.

Stanford finished the four-day tournament in Orange County with an 11-8 victory over Lamorinda at Buena Park High. That



Michelle Bishop

Katie Ledecky won the 1,500 free on Wednesday, her sixth career Olympic gold medal.

gave Stanford 11th place and a 4-4 mark in the nation's largest age-group water polo event.

"The losses we had were significant," Cima said. "But, in hindsight, we had a lot of success against teams that rank among the best in the nation. There's a lot to look forward to next year."

The Stanford 18A team took a 2-0 mark into the second day, which saw losses to Newport Beach and SET Gray. Newport Beach played for the division title on Sunday, dropping an 8-7 decision to SoCal Black A while SET played for third, losing to 680 Red A 6-4.

The last time Stanford played in this tournament, in 2019, the then-16s finished 15th. Thus, Sunday's finish was a solid improvement.

"The focus today was that we were competitive with the top teams," Cima said. "Top six was our goal, but finishing top 12 after a COVID year, limited practices and some things to overcome I'd say we had some great moments."

The final day of the Orange County-based tournament for girls and boys (they played last week) was a solid one. The **12A squad** finished fifth with a 5-3 record following an 11-8 victory over the SC Tritons at El Segundo Aquatic Center. The **14A team** also finished 5-3 and took 21st following a 10-2 win over SJ Express A at Capistrano Valley High. The **10A squad** finished 3-4 in its round-robin division following a 16-3 drubbing of Lamorinda B at Laguna Hills High.

Stanford's 12U team may have been the surprise of the tournament. The 12s were seeded 27th.

The only Stanford A team to fall on the final day was the **16s**, who dropped a tough 9-8 decision to SoCal Gold B at Beckman High in Irvine. Stanford finished 4-4 and in 16th place.

The Stanford 16s looked headed toward a possible victory after grabbing leads of 3-2 after one quarter and 6-4 after three periods. SoCal Black, however, came roaring back to tally three

unanswered goals and take a 7-6 lead.

Stanford rallied with back-to-back goals from **Vivian Golub from Menlo School** and **Riley Hocker from Sacred Heart Prep**, the last one coming with 3:21 to play. SoCal Gold, however, scored twice more and held off a final attempt by Stanford to secure 15th place.

Sydney Lowell from Castilleja led Stanford with three goals with Golub adding two. Megan Newby from Castilleja and Kira Clark each added a solo goal.

SHP's Natalie Szczerba was a driving force for the Stanford offense as she recorded several assists.

For the Castilleja players, knowing that the Brenda Villa Aquatic Center in Commerce hosted several contests in the largest age-group water polo tournament in the nation had to be special.

Villa, an Olympic gold medalist and a member of the Stanford Hall of Fame and the Water

Polo Hall of Fame, coaches at Castilleja.

Mayfield 650A (2-5) fell to Riverside 10-8 in a shootout and placed 24th overall. Mayfield was seeded No. 29. The game was tied at 5-5 in regulation.

In the **16 Classic Division**, Mayfield 650B earned a 12-10 shootout victory over Southern at Villa Park High to place ninth overall. It was 9-9 in regulation.

The **16Bs** (4-3) finished strong, winning three of their final four games.

In the **14 Championship Division**, 47th-seeded Mayfield 650 (1-6) lost to Alameda 16-5 at Capistrano Valley High and finished 20th.

—Keith Peters

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Employment

STANFORD R&DE

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San Mateo County to legalize home cooking businesses and offer startup grants for home chefs

By Kate Bradshaw

Home chefs in San Mateo County now have a path toward legally selling their creations, following a unanimous decision by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors July 20.

The supervisors agreed to permit what are called “MEHKO,” or Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations, as a two-year pilot program allowing small-scale chefs to cook food for sale from their homes.

The supervisors then went even further to support such operations, voting to allocate \$238,000 in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to cover the costs of the pilot program and an additional \$62,500 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to create a grant program to help small-scale food entrepreneurs who were affected by the pandemic cover startup costs associated with becoming a MEHKO.

The grants will provide up to \$2,500 to 25 people who attain permits to operate a MEHKO to help cover business startup costs, including food safety training, advertising and marketing, and developing an online presence.

The application period is expected to open after Oct. 1,

and eligible applicants will be selected at random.

In September 2018, Assembly Bill 626 (later amended in 2019) authorized home cooks to use their own kitchens to make small-scale, direct food sales to consumers. However, the law allows home kitchen operations only if the county authorizes them.

The board’s action to authorize these kitchens applies to all cities and unincorporated areas in San Mateo County.

Through the program, home cooks may make no more than 30 meals per day or 60 meals per week, sell no more than \$50,000 in gross annual sales each year, and only sell directly to people. They may hold cooking classes or food demonstrations, and may prepare meals for pickup, delivery or for people to eat on-site.

They’re also permitted to operate outdoor cooking areas like a barbecue or wood-burning oven, and to employ up to one worker. They’re not allowed to advertise with signage, but can market via traditional or social media. The permits also come with required food safety training.

In a public comment, Alvin Salehi, co-founder of shef.com, an online platform for independent chefs to sell their culinary



Elena Kadvany

The owner of this home-based business in East Palo Alto sells tacos, burritos and other fare out of his backyard kitchen.

creations directly to consumers, urged the supervisors to approve the legislation.

“Candidly, this is a lifeline,” he said, noting that about 85% of the cooks who use the Shef platform are people of color. Many cooks have had to work from commercial kitchens to prepare their products, which has created obstacles in their work, he said.

He added that there is already an informal network of people who sell food from their homes, but the practice is not regulated, and argued that introducing “well-informed regulations is

safer than doing nothing.”

Several home chefs working with Shef said that they’d had to travel to commercial kitchens in San Francisco or San Jose to prepare their foods for delivery, and favored having the opportunity to cook from home instead.

The supervisors also voted unanimously to allocate an additional \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding in grants to help “micro” food businesses that have been impacted during the pandemic.

The program will be administered by the San Mateo Credit Union Community Fund.

Grants will be set at \$2,500 for cottage food operators, \$5,000 for caterers, food trucks and food carts and \$10,000 for commissaries or incubator kitchens.

Eligible businesses need to have been operating before the start of 2021, have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, live in or operate in San Mateo County, have no more than five businesses within the county and comply with other regulations. They won’t be eligible if they’ve received grants from other county initiatives aimed at supporting small businesses or food enterprises during the pandemic.

Priority for the grants will go to applicants who have a household income at or below the area median income, which is \$121,800 for a one-person household, according to a staff report.

People can learn more at smchealth.org/node/4020 or by emailing mehko@smcgov.org. The county’s Environmental Health Department also plans to host Zoom webinars and in-person presentations as well as provide multilingual information about the program in the months to come. ▀

Email Staff Writer

Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.

MASKS

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The CDC also recommended on Tuesday that vaccinated people in all areas of the country wear masks indoors if they are immunocompromised or have a higher risk of severe disease if infected, or if they live with someone who is. It also issued guidelines that everyone who attends, works at or visits a K-12 school wear masks regardless of vaccination status.

As in other states, California’s COVID-19 cases have spiked in recent weeks as the more infectious delta variant has become dominant. Nearly 30% of eligible Californians remain unvaccinated along with children too young to be immunized.

Nationally, nearly two-thirds of U.S. counties are experiencing high or substantial transmission rates, according to CDC data.

State health officials on July 27 reported more than 7,700 new COVID-19 cases and five new deaths, compared to about 700 new cases on June 15, the state’s reopening day.

In response, California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday said health care workers and state employees must be vaccinated or undergo weekly testing and wear masks. The federal government is expected to follow suit on Thursday, CNN reported Tuesday.

Los Angeles County and city officials also renewed indoor mask mandates in mid-July. Yolo and Ventura counties have followed suit.

On Wednesday, the state public health department updated its mask guidance to align with the new CDC recommendations, asking vaccinated Californians to mask up in indoor public spaces.

The new federal guidelines were prompted by evidence showing that the delta variant may be more likely than other variants to cause breakthrough cases in vaccinated people, and those people may still carry large quantities of the virus that can be passed to others, said CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky. But she also noted that such breakthrough cases remain rare.

In California, about 21,000 breakthrough cases have been identified among nearly 21 million fully vaccinated people — just .1%, according to state health data.

Some public health experts were relieved by the CDC’s reversal on Tuesday after criticizing its previous guidance, issued before the delta variant became predominant, as misguided.

“The CDC’s decision in May to apply one size fits all mask guidance regardless of vaccines or prevalence was always a bad one for this exact reason: every community is different, and public health should be flexible enough to accommodate those distinctions,” University of Saskatchewan virologist Angela Rasmussen tweeted Tuesday. “By oversimplifying complex and uncertain situations ... we will not convince people to wear masks if they weren’t already or persuade skeptics to get vaccinated.” ▀

Email Staff Writer

Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com.

SEQUOIA HOSPITAL

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the insurer if it does not agree to “substantial” rate increases under a new contract.

“We cannot, and will not, agree to excessive rate increases that will make care at Dignity even less affordable for those we serve,” Anthem said.

The American Hospital Association has criticized Anthem in recent years for adopting controversial policies designed to save money at the expense of hospitals and patients. Though not implemented in California, the health insurer rolled out a 2017 policy to deny coverage for emergency services at hospitals if it decided the symptoms and conditions didn’t warrant emergency-level care, making that determination after the fact rather than based on what was observed by the patient and medical staff prior to the diagnosis.

The company also sought to no longer cover outpatient imaging services at hospitals, instead diverting patients to free-standing imaging centers

for MRIs and CT scans.

While Dignity Health has been going through tough financial times in recent years, Anthem has raked in billions in profits as a powerful for-profit insurance company, Dignity Health said in a statement. Yet Anthem has refused to pay more than it does for services and accept a “reasonable” contract, and the result is that more than 1 million patients have lost in-network access to care. Dignity, for its part, is encouraging its patients to take action and urge Anthem to sign a new agreement at keepdignityhealth.org.

With the contract expired, some patients will still have access to in-network rates, particularly those who require “continued” care for things like cancer treatment, pregnancy and serious chronic conditions. Anthem also said in a statement that it is taking steps to help members make a “seamless transition” to new health care facilities that are still in network. ▀

Email Staff Writer

Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com.

POSTAL WORKER

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who reminds me of my mom, Cynthia Jamplis, grabbed my hands and said: ‘Welcome to Woodside.’”

At the time, the Postal Service was switching from manual machines to computerized machines and everything was getting digitized. “The first week was extremely fast training,” she said.

Over the years, Vasquez said she tried to keep the office upbeat, playing music on her Pandora station, putting candy and doggy treats on the front desk for customers. At one point, she put out oranges at the request of customers, since Woodsiders tend to be healthier, and displayed a chalkboard by the front window with positive sayings. She said people would come from San Carlos or Palo Alto for the Woodside post office’s customer service. Yelp reviewers sing the praises of Vasquez and her former co-worker Joe Dizon. (The small post office is just staffed by two employees.)

“What I’ve always loved about living in Woodside is



Courtesy Lydia Vasquez

Woodside lead post office clerk Lydia Vasquez on her final day of work on June 30.

the small-town feeling,” said Woodside resident Michele Colucci in an email. “Lydia’s face always has a smile on it. ... Does not matter how long it takes you to fumble with your packages or to write the labels. Or how many children

are tugging on your skirt and demanding your attention while you’re at the window.”

Colucci described Vasquez as very patient, defying every stereotype of postal employees. “Lydia has a beautiful spirit and I know she will be sorely missed by us all,” she said.

Decision to retire

In March Vasquez started thinking about retiring. She said she wanted to “walk,” “not crawl” out of her job at the post office.

The pandemic also took its toll on her. The post office kept its normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.), but fewer customers stopped in for fear of catching the virus. She adjusted to wearing a mask, but was unused to customers feeling uneasy and fearful.

“Especially working in Woodside, I got pretty close to my customers,” she said. “I shared tidbits of my life. People were afraid of being too close; it took its toll. I wear my feelings on my sleeve. Overall I still tried to create the same dynamics before the

pandemic.”

She continued to put candy on the counter, but everyone was afraid to touch anything.

With 1,000 P.O. boxes at the office, there was still an influx of people coming to pick up their mail, but they just were not very social, she said.

Customers commented that Vasquez was too young to retire.

“I’m not as young as you guys think,” she retorted.

A ‘beautiful’ send-off

Vasquez described her retirement party as “beautiful.” There were balloons, a bottle of wine, a musical performance and many flowers. She said her home looked like a flower shop when she brought them home. She was surprised by the high turnout — about 25 people — given the number of people on vacation and the ongoing pandemic.

She’ll miss the banter she had with her co-worker Dizon, who she worked with for at least a decade, she said.

“We acted like an old married couple,” she said. “We would always tease each other. When

I left I said: ‘Good riddance.’ ... I’ll miss having someone to joke with on a daily basis, eight hours a day.”

She’ll also miss the homemade candy and baked goods from customers, she said.

Vasquez said she received about 35 letters from customers expressing their well wishes and support for her retirement. She’s kept a file of the letters, along with her retirement banner, photos from her last day on the job and old Christmas cards from customers over the years.

What’s next for Vasquez? She plans to travel with her friend Ana Carmelita, the former Redwood City postmaster.

“I wanted to spend time with her and live the life she was living,” Vasquez said. They plan to travel to Ecuador, and Vasquez plans to spend time with friends and family she wasn’t able to see during the pandemic — “my job being so in the face of the public” — over concerns about COVID-19 exposure. ▀

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

Menlo Spark releases new study on transitioning gas-powered homes to electricity

Menlo Spark, a nonprofit in Menlo Park working to make the community become climate neutral by 2025, on July 23 released a new report called “Gassed Out: How Building Electrification Now Means a Healthy, Prosperous Menlo Park.” The report lays out a pathway for the city to achieve all-electric buildings. The City Council has enacted a set of “reach” codes that mandate all-new buildings built as of January 2020 be heated and powered by electricity rather than natural gas.

According to an early announcement of the report’s findings, methane gas is responsible for nearly 40% of the carbon pollution in Menlo Park.

In addition, it can have health impacts — according to the report, children in homes with gas stoves are 42% more likely to develop asthma than those with electric stoves.

Switching to electricity can also help households save up to \$800 per year in utility bills, and, the report states, making the switch can be affordable to everyone in the city “with the right mix of support programs and incentives.”

Access the full report at is.gd/msparkreport.

The city’s Environmental Quality Commission discussed the topic, one of the city’s climate action priorities, at its July 21 meeting. Access the meeting video at is.gd/eqc721.

—Kate Bradshaw

Atherton’s National Night Out is Aug. 3

The Atherton Police Department will host a “National Night Out” event on Tuesday, Aug. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. in front of the Main House in Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave.

National Night Out is a nationwide campaign held annually by the National Association of Town Watch. Neighbors are encouraged to step out of their homes and interact with police, fire and safety officers, often during a block party-style event, according to the organization’s website.

People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 do not need to wear a mask, but unvaccinated attendees are required to wear a mask, according to the town. There will be free food and drinks, which will be provided cafeteria-style on individual platters.

Anyone feeling sick is asked to stay home.

RSVP for the event by July 30 online at bit.ly/3hS9Naq, though reservations are not necessary, Deputy City Manager/City Clerk Anthony Suber noted.

Atherton to host Citizens’ Police Academy

The Atherton Police Department is hosting a Citizens’ Police Academy, a one-day citizen engagement program, on Oct. 30 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Holbrook-Palmer Park’s Main House, 150 Watkins Ave.

The program is designed to provide Atherton residents with firsthand information about how the local police department works.

The instruction will be provided primarily by both sworn and non-sworn staff from the police department’s patrol detail, dispatch, property and evidence, K9, and investigations departments.

Topics of discussion will include crisis intervention training, use of force, traffic, security systems and cameras, and dispatch and the patrol call.

Spaces for the workshop are limited. The department plans to accept the first 25 applications so that the class size allows for better interaction and hands-on training. If there is a high level of interest, there may be other workshops in 2022. To attend, you must be at least 21 years old, an Atherton resident, and not have any felony convictions.

Go to the town’s website ci.atherton.ca.us, for more information and to apply. The deadline is Sept. 10.

—Angela Swartz

CORONAVIRUS

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COVID-19 cases that have been sequenced in California, making it the dominant strain.

County Manager Mike Callagy encouraged people to get vaccinated and take common-sense precautions to keep everyone safe.

“The increasing case numbers are a harsh reminder that we are not done with COVID and COVID is not done with us,” Callagy said.

Board of Supervisors President David Canepa supported the mask mandate for county facilities, saying, “No one wants to ditch these damn masks more than I do but we can’t do it until we are all vaccinated.”

While vaccinations are highly effective against COVID-19 and its variants, county officials said they “need to take action now to protect younger children and overall public health as cases rise.”

On July 15, San Mateo County Health recorded 74 new COVID-19 cases, compared to 13 new cases recorded on June 15, the day the state reopened. Hospitalizations have also risen in the last week, with 20 confirmed COVID-19 patients hospitalized as of July 21.

A schedule of free vaccination clinics for San Mateo County is available online smhealth.org/vaccine-clinic-calendar. Appointments are not required.

Comprehensive COVID-19 coverage

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

CalMatters and Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

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HOUSING

continued from page 5

certain areas of the state because of fire danger. Some of Portola Valley may be included, but she doesn't think all of the town should be a "no-build zone."

Vice Mayor Craig Hughes echoed Derwin's comments.

"I think we could build 253 units in areas that are not high fire danger," he said. "I don't think we would prevail on appeal and I don't think it's worth putting staff time into."

Turcott said he is concerned about the effect of accelerated growth in high hazard areas.

"We were told, repeatedly, that the appeals process would take too much staff time and was doomed to failure, so appealing couldn't be justified," he said in an email. "In fact the requirements for appeal are modest — most of the 28 communities that appealed submitted a short narrative description of the issues — and the stakes in terms of life-safety are high, so what's the downside to appealing?"

Some 28 jurisdictions appealed their housing element figures to ABAG this round, including Palo Alto, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, according to ABAG's website.

Hughes said the town should track other towns' appeals since Portola Valley's RHNA figures could increase if another appeal won, he said. Ultimately, no San Mateo County cities appealed.

Portola Valley Town Manager Jeremy Dennis said that once Cal Fire updates its fire hazard maps for the state in 2022, council members would be remiss not "to have a conversation" about next steps in regard to the latest RHNA figures. The maps highlight the risk of wildfire in a particular area with a scale ranging from moderate to very high risk.

"I don't think we'll be alone in this issue (about fire safety and building)," Dennis said. "Hillsborough and Woodside may have this issue."

Leora Tanjuatco Ross, associate director of the Housing Leadership Council, a San Mateo-based nonprofit focused on supporting housing development and



Magali Gauthier

The exterior of the accessory dwelling unit (ADU) on Steven Toben's property in Portola Valley on June 30. Town officials are trying to find creative ways to add housing stock, including promoting that residents build ADUs.

affordability for residents and workers in the county, said she appreciates the leadership of towns such as Portola Valley and Woodside.

"It's great to see that every city in San Mateo County is planning for the housing that we need," she said in an email Monday, July 26.

'Lots of available land in Humboldt County'

In Woodside, the Town Council is equally concerned about fire risks associated with building new homes in town.

Councilman Sean P. Scott noted during a June 6 council meeting that perhaps developers could build in Humboldt County, where there is "lots of available land."

"... Nobody is addressing the downstream implications in terms of school capacity, (or) septic capacity," he said. "It's increased population density. We've already got a public high school that's bursting at its seams."

The town is considering how to encourage residents to build accessory dwelling units (ADUs), said Planning Director Jackie Young at the meeting.

She'd like the town to host educational ADU workshops. She said San Mateo County's Second Unit Resources Center is a good resource for people interested in adding them to their homes.

New rules to relax development standards in the Glens neighborhood took effect at the end of January to make it easier to build there, but few have taken advantage of them, Young noted. None of the 48 permits taken out for development in the neighborhood between March and June was for new building, but rather for fire safety measures such as electrical service upgrades, roofs and tree removals, she said.

The town does have a seven-lot subdivision coming in on Cañada Road, she said.

In the fall, the council is looking to relax development standards in the Southern Western Hills area of Woodside, "a very wooded area" close to Skyline Boulevard, which could be challenging to develop, she noted.

Senate Bill 9 would allow homeowners to put a duplex on single-family lots with simple ministerial approval, which means it's automatically allowed if it meets a set of fixed standards. It would apply to "urban clusters," defined as towns with more than 2,500 residents (Woodside has a population of about 5,500 residents as of 2019, according to the Census Bureau) and fewer than 50,000. Young said she has been in touch with the U.S. Census Bureau to see if the legislation would apply to Woodside. There may be an update to what constitutes an urban cluster in the 2020 census, she said.

"That (urban clusters) is a specific aspect of this legislation we should look at closely," she said. "Lands on the east side of (Highway) 280 are falling into urban cluster."

Fire risk concerns

Portola Valley and Woodside residents have also expressed concern — at public meetings and in letters to the town councils — that new buildings may not even be considered insurable because of wildfire risk.

According to a 2008 map prepared by Ray Moritz, a consultant in mapping fire-prone vegetation, "very high" threats exist in some Portola Valley neighborhoods, and "high" threats exist in many others, based on the proximity and topography of fire-prone forested areas.

Last week, a judge in Los Angeles ruled that California's insurance commissioner can order the "insurer of last resort" to offer more options for homeowners who can't buy traditional coverage because they live in areas threatened by wildfires, according to media reports. The industry-run FAIR Plan had sued the commissioner, seeking to block his order.

Derwin said at a June 3 forum on wildfire risk that she lost her homeowner's insurance after 28 years — twice — in the last year because her home qualifies as a "high value house in brush."

"My story is not unique," she said. Derwin said she cleared a 135-foot defensible space around her house and will work until she creates a 200-foot zone, and attached Rain Bird sprinklers on the cleared lands to "squelch embers," built a fire access gate and learned how to create emergency go boxes.

In January, ABAG Executive Director Therese W. McMillan acknowledged Portola Valley's November 2020 letter about natural hazard risk and infrastructure constraints to housing development.

"(ABAG) Staff believes that the draft RHNA methodology effectively incorporates both hazard risk and potential development constraints," McMillan said. "ABAG staff worked with local governments to gather information about local plans, zoning, physical characteristics and potential development opportunities and constraints. ... The Plan Bay Area 2050 Blueprint not only exclude Cal Fire designated 'very high' fire severity areas, but they also exclude 'high' fire severity areas in unincorporated communities as well as county-designated wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas where applicable."

ABAG realizes that planning for a "substantially larger RHNA" than previous cycles is a "daunting task" that all jurisdictions in the region are grappling with, she said.

"Fortunately, over \$12 million in grant funding is available to assist local jurisdictions with implementing Plan Bay Area 2050 and RHNA," she added. ▣

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

ATHERTON

327 Stockbridge Avenue \$12,988,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/6.5BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

LOS ALTOS

773 Berry Avenue \$3,995,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/2BA
Midtown Realty, Inc. 650-387-5078

LOS ALTOS HILLS

26660 Snell Lane \$4,488,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3.5BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

25608 Deerfield Drive \$7,495,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/7BA
Midtown Realty 650-492-0088

MENLO PARK

1968 Menalto Avenue \$1,998,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3BA
DeLeon Realty 650-785-5822

PALO ALTO

2000 & 2010 Amherst Street \$1,970,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 2BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty 650-543-8550

2080 Middlefield Road \$2,988,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty 650-459-3888

1180 Forest Avenue \$4,988,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

1336 Emerson Street \$5,988,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/4BA
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

PORTOLA VALLEY

30 Firethorn Way \$5,995,000
Sun 2:00-4:00 5BD/4.5BA
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

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)

MANUEL'S PAINTING AND REGLAZING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288312

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Manuel's Painting and Reglazing, located at 2246 Menalto Ave., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
MANUEL PAINTING AND REGLAZING INC.
2246 Menalto Ave.
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303
California

This business is conducted by: A Corporation.

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 July 16, 2021.

(ALM July 30; Aug. 6, 13, 20, 2021)

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650-223-6578 or email
asantillan@pawekly.com
for assistance with your legal
advertising needs.

997 All Other Legals

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)

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Let's protect Menlo Park's kids from the pollution inside our homes

By Dr. Erika Drazan, M.D.

With wildfire season upon us, the threat of air pollution in our community becomes more pressing. The hazardous smoke that we breathe in each wildfire season is a threat to our health and the health of our children — past fires have been linked to upticks in asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes. Just last year, at the height of the fire season, Menlo Park and the Bay Area experienced such hazardous air quality that it was measured as the worst air quality in the world at the time.

When the skies turn hazy and orange, we retreat inside our homes. However, we burn methane gas in our homes for heat and to cook our food. This gas unfortunately packs a double punch: it both significantly contributes to global warming and causes unhealthy pollution in our homes. We have already witnessed impacts of climate change in Menlo Park: wildfires, scorching temperatures and rising water levels threaten our community's safety. But also, as we use our gas appliances, we release toxic pollutants including carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and formaldehyde into our homes. These byproducts are far from harmless. Using methane gas inside the home, such as cooking on a gas stove without adequate ventilation, has the potential to create pollution levels that would be

GUEST OPINION

illegal under air quality standards outdoors.

Children are particularly at risk of health effects from this gas pollution. Their immune and respiratory systems are still in development, and because they engage in more physical activity and have higher breathing rates than adults, they take in higher volumes of the toxic particles created by the burning gas. Studies have found that children in homes with gas stoves without adequate ventilation have higher rates of asthma compared to homes with electric appliances. They are also at risk of additional adverse health impacts including nose, throat and eye irritation, bronchitis, allergies, and respiratory and ear infections.

As a pediatrician, I know that every parent's priority is keeping their children healthy and I work with families each day to ensure that their children thrive. As a parent myself, I believe that our Menlo Park community and neighbors have the responsibility to create a healthier environment for our families. To do this, we must start inside our own homes.

Across Menlo Park, we are fortunate that our electricity is completely carbon free, and we should move away from gas inside our homes by making the switch to electric appliances. In the kitchen, this means

swapping out gas stoves and ovens for electric or induction stoves. Heat pump heating and electric water heating are comparable in price to gas models (with local rebate programs) and can provide overall cost savings. Heat pump heating can also provide cooling from the same appliance, which will come in handy during wildfire seasons when smoky, polluted skies make it challenging to cool down Menlo Park homes by simply opening our windows. To ensure that everyone can afford the upfront costs of making the switch away from gas to reduce the pollutants that their families are exposed to, let's encourage our city leaders to support electrification in both new construction and existing homes.

When we reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, we not only prevent the harmful effects of burning pollutants in our homes, but also play a role in tackling the emissions that are contributing to our warming planet. Let's do our part to ensure that Menlo Park's children — and children all over the globe — have the opportunity to grow up in a safer, cleaner world.

Dr. Erika Drazan is a pediatrician who lives in Menlo Park.

TOWN SQUARE

Post your news and views on TownSquare at:
www.AlmanacNews.com

LETTERS

Our readers write

More office space

Yet another big office development is proposed for the Peninsula, this one sponsored by Laurene Powell Jobs' real estate company (under the nonprofit dressing of Emerson Collective). This is in East Palo Alto, who first brought us big box stores' and office buildings' traffic around Y2K. Office development on the Peninsula has hardly paused since, and the burden on

our lives is obvious. Obvious, except to the city councils that continue to entertain these problem-generating projects.

The Emerson project offers 260 housing units, but will add 4,120 jobs. What does it take for a city to look up and see the elephant? We have only one true transit system, Caltrain, and it doesn't get workers close to new east-side developments. The best commute "diversion rate" from single occupancy cars so far is barely 50% (corporate buses), while most new buildings don't divert even 20%. If you thought traffic was an issue before COVID,

imagine what it will be after even a couple of the huge South San Francisco, Burlingame, San Mateo, Redwood City, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Mountain View and Sunnyvale current applications are built.

City councils have to quit trying to "expand the tax base" and look at quality of life for the residents they serve now. Instead, Peninsula cities have been literally creating housing demand — and traffic — then wringing their hands as if these things "just happened." And these council members are thinking about more?

Google "city council email"

and ask them: Do we need another big office project?

*Henry Riggs
Callie Lane, Menlo Park*

Creating a safer world

The 2002 Iraq War authorization has been repealed!

Let's celebrate the passage of the repeal of the 2002 Iraq War authorization (HR 256) that happened in a bipartisan 268-161 vote in the House of Representatives! Nineteen years ago, Congresswoman Barbara Lee of Oakland was the lone voice speaking against the use of military force in Iraq by the president without

Congress' authorization. She has been working tirelessly since then to repeal it, and now the bill is on its way to the Senate floor. Since President Biden supports it, there is a good chance the Senate will pass it in a bipartisan way.

If it passes in both houses, it would limit the power of the executive branch to engage in military actions unrelated to Iraq. Congresswoman Anna Eshoo was one of the co-sponsors of the bill and should be thanked for her important support of this effort and in helping to create a safer world for all.

*Barbara Kyser
Los Altos*



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.

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



97 RIDGE VIEW ATHERTON



GRAND ATHERTON ESTATE ON 2.16 ACRES

European grandeur and sophistication await in this spectacular gated estate, nestled in supreme privacy on 2.16 acres. Introduced by a courtyard entrance with a cascading 9-tier waterfall, this home wraps you in elegance from the moment you step inside. Luxurious appointments include stained and leaded glass, crystal chandeliers, gilded accents, hand-forged ironwork, and custom wall coverings. Offering 5 bedrooms, 6.5 bathrooms, and over 9,100 square feet, this estate includes an in-home apartment, while a beautiful 1-bed, 1-bath guest home of 700 square feet. Entertain guests with ease thanks to gathering spaces scaled for entertaining, a gourmet kitchen, and incredible grounds with a pool and swim-through grotto. Work from home in style in the executive office, and unwind in the whimsical Parisian wine cellar and Old English bar. The palatial master suite features a fireplace and spa-like bathroom, while 3 additional guest suites are perfect for friends and family alike. Convenient to Stanford University, Sand Hill Road, and both downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, this impressive home is also served by acclaimed Las Lomas schools, with top private schools close at hand.

www.97RidgeViewDr.com

Offered at \$13,988,000

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

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Food & Drink



Coming soon at State Street Market

Michelin-starred chefs bring Korean & Taiwanese fare to Los Altos State Street Market

Courtesy Los Altos Community Investments

State Street Market in Los Altos will open before the end of the summer and features a 20,000-square-foot food hall.

By Sara Hayden

The Los Altos State Street Market is slated to open before the end of the summer and include a teaching kitchen, adjacent restaurant and a 20,000-square-foot food hall that will be dedicated to showcasing local talent, promoting public art and developing new culinary concepts.

LEHUA GREENMAN



"Don't put a limit on anything. The more you dream, the further you get."

650.245.1845 COMPASS

"... The aim is to create a community gathering space where people will connect with friends, family and food," said Robert Hindman in an email. Hindman is managing director of State Street developer Los Altos Community Investments (founded by 23andMe's co-founder and CEO Anne Wojcicki).

The lineup at 170 State St. includes Tin Pot Creamery, which founder Becky Sunseri first launched from her home kitchen in Los Altos, as well as Cowgirl Creamery of Point Reyes, offering customers a new communal setting in which to enjoy their cheeses since the San Francisco Ferry Building location closed. Anchor restaurant (and speakeasy) El Alto will open in the fall, developed by Traci Des Jardins, who has been twice recognized as a James Beard

Award winner.

State Street Market will also be the site of Bǎo Bèi — the latest concept from Michelin-starred chefs Meichih and Michael Kim, who formerly led the kitchen at Maum in Palo Alto. Bǎo Bèi is in part inspired by their son, their "treasured one."

"Bǎo Bèi' is what I like to call our son ... a term of endearment. Our son is kind of our muse because he's multicultural, being Asian American," Meichi Kim said.

"It's specific to us, different than the other concepts," she said. "The whole idea behind (Bǎo Bèi) was behind our cultural identities, Michael being Korean and me having Taiwanese parents. It's the co-mingling of the flavors, bringing them together in our concept."

Developing unique takes

on noodle dishes, seasonal banchan and other dishes, they'll incorporate both Taiwanese and Korean herbs and spices, such as white pepper, cilantro, black vinegar, fried shallots, sesame oil and gojuchang. Case in point: On the menu is a bao filled with spicy pork belly, gochujang, cilantro and caramelized peanuts.

"The baos were an opportunity for us to show our backgrounds," Michael Kim said. "In each of the gua baos, it's not necessarily a very traditional Korean or Taiwanese flavor, but it's a co-mingling of both."

The Kims are also selecting beverages to complement the food, with a selection of makgeolli, Taiwanese and Korean beers and yuzu and mandarin sodas.

At the State Street Market,

food and drink, of course, are a serious focus for the Kims, who've cooked in top restaurants across the country. But there's an appeal even beyond that.

"The big draw was the community aspect," Meichih Kim said. "Given how the pandemic forced us to stay indoors, I think we lost touch with connecting, and that feeling of being around others."

Meichih Kim said that they intend to provide that — a space where people from different generations can come together time and time again, and try different foods to suit the appetites of the day.

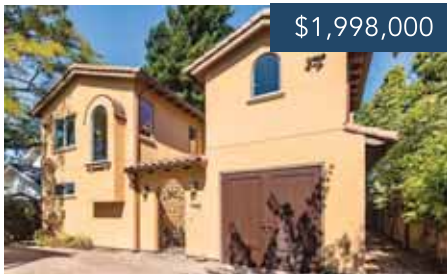
"There's a big variety," she said. "It'll make you keep going back." ▀

Email Associate Editor Sara Hayden at peninsulafoodist@almanacnews.com.



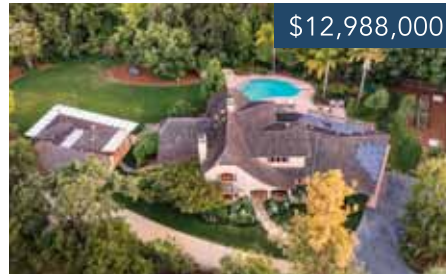
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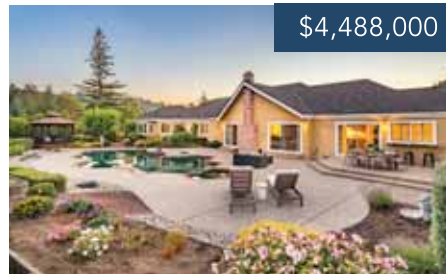
\$1,998,000

1968 Menalto Avenue, Menlo Park
4 Bd | 3 Bth
www.1968menalto.com



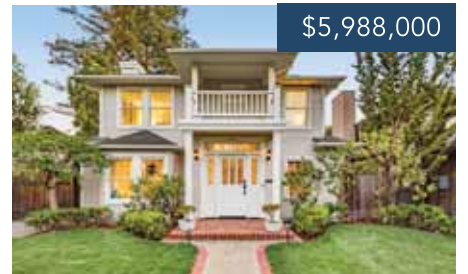
\$12,988,000

327 Stockbridge Avenue, Atherton
5 Bd | 8 Bth (6 Full, 2 Half)
www.327Stockbridge.com



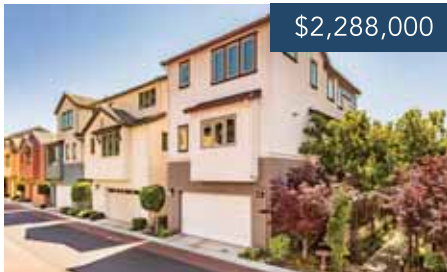
\$4,488,000

26660 Snell Lane, Los Altos Hills
4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
www.26660Snell.com



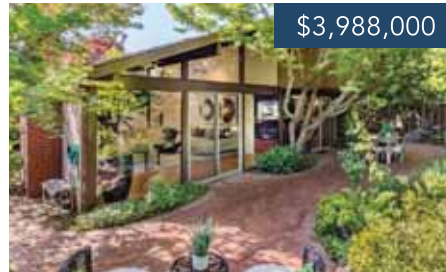
\$5,988,000

1336 Emerson Street, Palo Alto
5 Bd | 4 Bth
www.1336Emerson.com



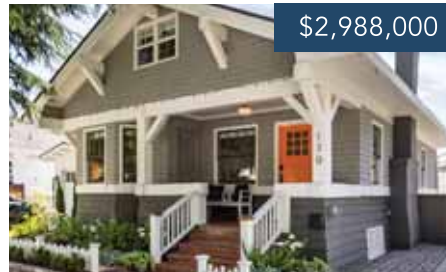
\$2,288,000

3527 Alma Village Circle, Palo Alto
4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
www.3527AlmaVillage.com



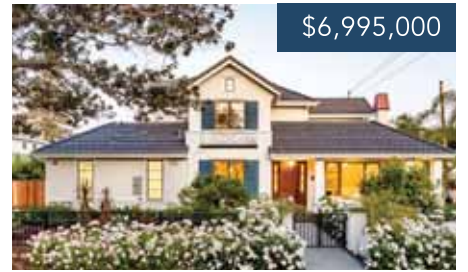
\$3,988,000

480 Melville Avenue, Palo Alto
3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
www.480Melville.com



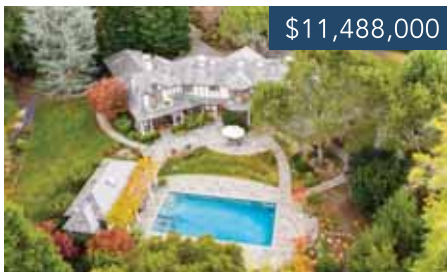
\$2,988,000

170 Hawthorne Avenue, Palo Alto
4 Bd | 4.5 Bth
www.170HawthorneAve.com



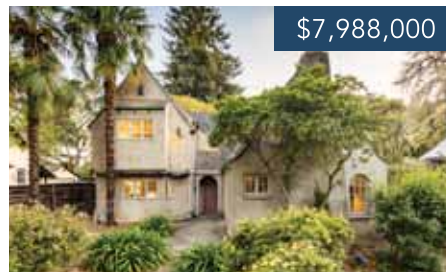
\$6,995,000

900 N California Avenue, Palo Alto
5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
www.900NCalifornia.com



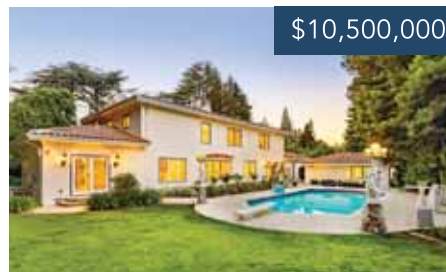
\$11,488,000

3787 Woodside Rd, Woodside
6 Bd | 5.5 Bth
www.3787Woodside.com



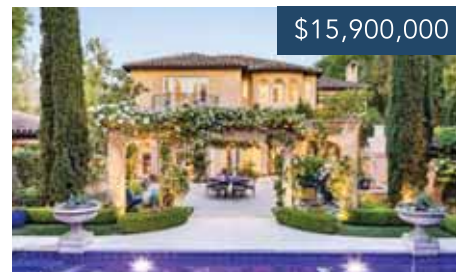
\$7,988,000

1550 Cowper Street, Palo Alto
9 Bd | 7 Bth
www.1550Cowper.com



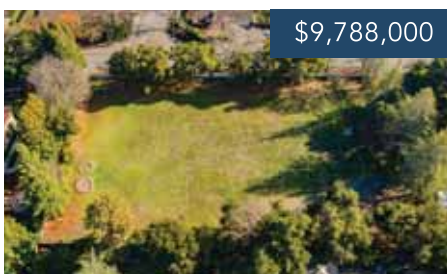
\$10,500,000

165 Patricia Drive, Atherton
5 Bd | 7.5 Bth
www.165Patricia.com



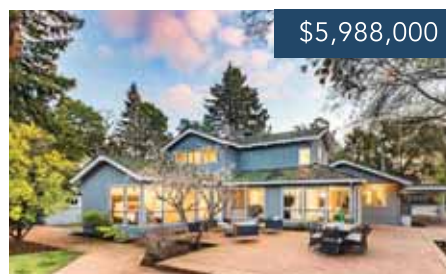
\$15,900,000

51 Crescent Drive, Palo Alto
5 Bd | 8 Bth (5 Full, 3 Half)
www.51Crescent.com



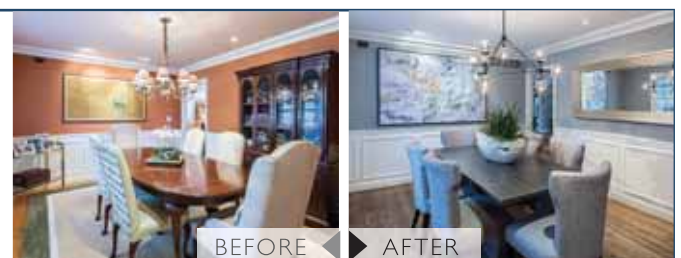
\$9,788,000

97 Santiago Avenue, Atherton
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- PENTHOUSE C:** 2 bedrooms, 2.5 bath, ~1,769 sf plus ~1,125 sf of terrace \$3,700,000

www.MenloParkPenthouses.com



RENTALS 2



FOR RENT: 917 FREMONT PLACE, MENLO PARK
 Convenient close to town location on a cul-de-sac with only 4 homes
 Townhome with 2 bedrooms, plus den, 2.5 bath, ~1902 sf
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750 FREMONT STREET, MENLO PARK
 Unit located behind front home | ~750 sf
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\$3,500 PER MONTH

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