

The Almanac

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

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 | VOL. 57 NO. 1



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How San Mateo County plans to transform rugged Tunitas Creek Beach into a beachfront park

By Kate Bradshaw

Tunitas Creek Beach, situated along the bluffs between Half Moon Bay and San Gregorio on San Mateo County's coasts, will soon undergo a public-access makeover, if a county parks department-led initiative moves forward as planned.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in February approved plans to add a walking path to the beach, restrooms, a ranger residence, a parking lot, and, midway down the bluff, a flexible space with tiered seating that could be used for people to gather for picnics or educational events.

Now the project's leaders are moving forward with securing environmental documents and permits with plans to begin construction as soon as summer 2022, said representatives from the San Mateo County Parks Department and the Peninsula Open Space Trust at a recent informational event. Those agencies have worked closely with each other and with the community to develop and move the plans forward.

The rugged property is about 58 acres and includes a 1-mile sandy beach along with a wide range of habitats, said Katherine Wright, San Mateo County

parks ranger. The beach is also a popular nesting site for the snowy plover, a federally threatened bird species, she said.

The Board of Supervisors approved the tentative plans for the beach improvements Feb. 23, and now environmental reviews are being prepared to ensure that the project complies with the California Environmental Quality Act. Starting this fall, the final designs for the project are expected to be completed, permits acquired and more outreach done. From there, contracts will be awarded, with a goal of starting construction in summer 2022, putting the project in line to open in spring 2023, according to Taylor Jang, stewardship project manager at the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Construction is estimated to cost about \$7 million and require \$1 million in ongoing operations.

A key part of the project is a pedestrian route from the parking area off of State Route 1 to the beach, which currently would also include a roughly 1,300-foot ADA-accessible pedestrian path to the middle portion of the bluff.

As planned, the pedestrian path will continue all the way to the beach, but it won't be able to offer fully ADA-compliant wheelchair access, said Taylor



Courtesy San Mateo County Parks

Tunitas Creek Beach is slated for a number of improvements aimed at boosting public access.

Jang, stewardship project manager at the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

While they are making efforts to accommodate as many users as possible and offer a handrail along the way for visitors who might need it, the steepness of the terrain and the threat of landslides in the area meant that they weren't able to make a fully wheelchair-accessible path all the way down to the beach, he said.

A beach with a history

Tunitas Creek and the beach have a long history of natural and human uses, Wright said.

The adjacent Tunitas Creek Open Space Preserve, located east of the beach, protects land that in turn helps protect the watershed, according to Wright. Tunitas Creek supports a number of species, including steelhead trout and Dungeness crab, she said.

The county park system is

planning steps to protect the snowy plovers' nesting area when the park is developed, likely by installing fencing during certain times of year, as well as to reduce crab poaching, she added.

The area was once home to the Cotogen tribe of the Ohlone people, one of about five cultural groups that lived along the coast in San Mateo County before

See **BEACH**, page 18

First COVID-19 cases reported at local high schools

By Angela Swartz

The first cases of COVID-19 have been reported at Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools and TIDE Academy.

The week of Aug. 9 to 13, the first week of school in the Sequoia Union High School District, seven cases were reported at M-A in Atherton,

six at Woodside and three at TIDE in Menlo Park, according to a newly created district data dashboard. The district assembled an internal team to develop the dashboard, said district spokeswoman Ana Maria Pulido in an email. The week of Aug. 30, there were fewer cases at the three schools; four at M-A (two students and two staff members), one student

at TIDE and none at Woodside.

The district counts a case during the week in which it is confirmed by school health staff, in collaboration with the San Mateo County health department, before listing it on the dashboard, even if it's from an earlier date. This could result in a delay of cases appearing on the dashboard.

The district entered this

school year with the goal of keeping numbers as low as possible, Pulido said. She said their ability to keep the numbers down is contingent on safety measures like mask wearing and health checks, and a series of external factors in the community, such as vaccination rates.

During the school year, the dashboard will be updated

weekly every Friday, according to the district.

Reporting procedures

When a positive case is reported to the school's health team, the school along with the district office initiate a case investigation with the county health

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INFO MENLO 2021

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Magali Gauthier

Dassi Brook and husband Rabbi Mayer Brook have launched a Chabad center in their Ladera home that aims to serve the local Jewish community.

Seeing a void, new Chabad center brings Jewish services to PV, Woodside

By Angela Swartz

Drive to Los Altos Hills or Palo Alto used to be required to attend Jewish religious services before Chabad Portola Valley & Woodside (PVW), a new Jewish community center, opened in Portola Valley this spring.

Mayer Brook, a rabbi and co-director of the nonprofit, moved from New York to Portola Valley in April with wife and co-director Dassi Brook and their two young sons. He

said he'd always dreamed of bringing a Jewish center to a place that doesn't have one.

"It's very special to bring this to the area for the first time ever in the hills," said Mayer, who is currently running the center out of his home in Ladera. He said he plans to rent larger facilities down the line.

He heard about Woodside and Portola Valley from his brother, who spent a summer in the Bay Area a few years ago. Mayer spent a year looking for a place to establish a center and

visited Portola Valley earlier this year to meet some Jewish families.

"There's not many Jewish activities in this area — you have to go past the highway to other cities," he said. "There's quite a few churches, but there are no other Jewish organizations that are in the hills."

Mayer said he's been in touch with 50 to 60 families from Los Altos Hills, Woodside, Portola Valley and Atherton.

See **CHABAD CENTER**, page 10

Independent group to decide Menlo Park's voting boundaries over next decade

By Kate Bradshaw

Menlo Park's next voting boundaries, set to last until 2030, will be decided by an unelected commission with no City Council oversight or input, the council decided following a tense discussion.

The Menlo Park City Council split 3-2, with Mayor Drew Combs and Councilman Ray Mueller opposed, over the decision to create an independent redistricting commission to redraw the boundaries of the

city's five City Council districts based on the new 2020 U.S. Census data.

Menlo Park's newly created Independent Redistricting Commission will be made up of seven commissioners and two alternates and will have to hold at least four public hearings throughout their process to draw updated voting boundaries.

They alone will be responsible for developing the new voting boundaries; a majority of City Council members voted at the Aug. 31 meeting to have no

authority or oversight of the commission.

Who should be responsible?

The council's split decision, at its core, highlighted the council members' differing opinions over who should ultimately be accountable for the weighty task of shaping residents' voting opportunities.

Mueller and Combs, in the minority, favored keeping that

See **BOUNDARIES**, page 19

Locals contribute over \$3.4M to fight Newsom recall

George Marcus, Laurene Powell Jobs among top donors

By Gennady Sheyner

With the California recall election less than a week away, the campaign fighting the effort to oust Gov. Gavin Newsom has established a commanding lead in cash raised — with local donors playing a major role.

Even though none of the 46 candidates vying to replace Newsom is from the Midpeninsula, area residents are leading the way when it comes to raising money to fight the recall, campaign finance data from Secretary of State Shirley Weber shows.

Of the roughly \$58 million that the main anti-recall campaign has raised to date, the vast majority has come from labor unions and statewide political action committees. At the same time, more than \$3.4 million came from individuals in the Midpeninsula cities of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Redwood City, Portola Valley and Woodside. This includes \$1.43 million from Palo Alto donors, a field that includes — among others — prominent tech executives, philanthropists, developers and investors.

The biggest local donor, by a wide margin, was George Marcus, founder of the real estate firm Marcus & Millichap Company and longtime donor to Democratic causes. Marcus donated \$1 million to the anti-recall campaign, Stop the Republican Recall. Among all of Newsom's individual donors, only Reed Hastings, CEO of Netflix, contributed more to the cause: \$3 million.

Hastings, Marcus and Connie Balmer, a Washington resident who contributed \$1 million to oppose the recall, are the only individuals on the list of top 16 donors to the anti-recall campaign. Others on the list include the California Democratic Party, which gave \$2.15 million to oppose the recall; Dignity Service Employees International Union Local 2015, which contributed \$2 million; the California Teachers Association

Independent Expenditure Committee, which gave \$1.8 million; and the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, Truth in American Government Fund, which contributed \$1.75 million.

Marcus, well known for his Democratic activism, is hardly the only donor from this area to make a sizable contribution to the campaign fighting the recall. Atherton philanthropist Elizabeth D. Simons, chair of the Heising-Simons Foundation board, made two contributions to the committee totaling \$575,000. Her husband, Mark Heising, founder of the investment firm Medley Partners, contributed another \$425,000.

Other notable Palo Alto residents who contributed to the anti-recall campaign are Laurene Powell Jobs, president of Emerson Collective, who gave \$400,000 to the committee known as Stop the Republican Recall. Marissa Mayer, former CEO of Yahoo, and former Google CEO Eric Schmidt, who now manages the investment firm Hillspire LLC, contributed \$200,000 and \$100,000, respectively.

The anti-recall committee also benefited from contributions from Redwood City investor Doris Fisher, who gave \$250,000, and developer Richard Tod Spieker, an Atherton resident who contributed \$100,000 to keep Newsom in office. Other local developers who have chipped in to support Newsom include John Sobrato, who gave \$6,000 over two separate contributions, and Peter Pao, who contributed \$500.

They are among the roughly 2,000 contributors from the Midpeninsula who donated to fight the recall effort, helping the anti-recall campaign establish a commanding fundraising lead over those of Newsom's challengers for the governor's job. The overwhelming majority are small donors. Of the contributions that had been reported as of Aug. 25, all but 32 were for

See **RECALL**, page 17



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE PROPOSED TOWN BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on the revised proposed Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022, Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom teleconference. To join the Zoom meeting, access the link provided on the September 22, 2021, Town Council agenda.

Comments may be submitted in writing prior to the Town Council meeting or presented at the meeting. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Town Council at the time and place herein above mentioned.

The Revised Town Budget for fiscal year 2021/2022 is available for viewing on the Town website at www.portolavalley.net and by emailing the Town Clerk at shanlon@portolavalley.net beginning 10 days prior to the meeting date above.

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.

Dated: September 6, 2021
 Sharon Hanlon, Town Clerk

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**CRIME BRIEFS****Juvenile suspects arrested in attempted murder**

Officers with the Redwood City Police Department arrested two juvenile suspects on suspicion of attempted murder in connection with the shooting of a 19-year-old man less than two weeks ago, police said Sept. 7.

The August 26 shooting happened around 7:35 a.m. in the 1500 block of Hudson Street, according to police.

At the scene, officers found the victim suffering from a gunshot wound to his upper torso. The victim was rendered aid by the responding officers and then transported to the hospital.

Officers learned the victim was at the carport of an apartment complex when an assailant shot at him. The suspect then fled in a black four-door sedan, later determined to be a Volkswagen Jetta, police said.

Later that evening, officers developed information that led them to execute a search warrant at a home in the 100 block of Hamilton Street in Menlo Park, where they seized electronics and firearms. The evidence led the officers to identify two underage suspects, who were arrested on Sept. 3.

Because the suspects are juveniles, police have not released their identities.

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 19

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Courtesy Devleena Shivakumar

Hillview student Shawnak Shivakumar won second place at the North American Youth Chess Tournament in the under-14 age category and third place in the Blitz tournament in Chicago.

Hillview student wins chess honors

Shawnak Shivakumar, 13, an eighth grader at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park, won second place at the North American Youth Chess Tournament in the under 14 age group and third place in the Blitz tournament in Chicago, Aug. 16-21. He was also awarded the FIDE Candidate Master title.

The tournament had several nail-biting moments, his mother, Devleena Shivakumar. Shawnak started at the 13th position in his category and fought his way up to second place, according to the tournament's website.

"He had the opportunity to play with many top-ranking kids from across the continent," she said. "This was the first major in-person tournament after 1.5 years of online tournaments, and a unique experience for all."

In his spare time, Shawnak composes music, plays piano and is part of Bay Area Debate team. He is interested in creating a chess program at the Little House Activity Center with senior citizens but because of the pandemic, the plan is on hold.

At the age of 8, Shawnak was already a state champion chess player.

For more on the event go to naycc2021.com.

Atherton disaster preparedness drill is Saturday

The Atherton Disaster Preparedness Team (A.D.A.P.T.) will host its annual emergency drill on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Holbrook-Palmer Park at 150 Watkins Ave. in Atherton.

Sign up at getreadyatherton.org/drill.

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 10

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Meet Darnise Williams, the new high school superintendent

By Angela Swartz

After a school year that saw the resignation of its top leader in the midst of a pandemic, the Sequoia Union High School District ushered in the academic year with more stability. The governing board hired Darnise Williams to head the district of about 9,000 students starting in July.

She replaces interim superintendent Crystal Leach who filled in after former superintendent Mary Streshly stepped down last fall amid calls for her resignation from teachers and administrators.

Williams previously led the Race and Equity Leadership Academy, a partnership between Los Angeles Unified School District and the University of Southern California that provides over 100 school principals and principal supervisors with leadership tools, according to a district press release.

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

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

She signed a three-year contract with an annual base salary of \$265,000 and up to \$17,500

in relocation expenses.

Williams sat down with The Almanac over Zoom to discuss her background, her goals and what to expect this school year, the first one to be fully in person in two years.



Darnise Williams

How did you come to work in education?

I grew up in south Los Angeles. ... I was inspired by my grandmother. ... She happened to be a custodian for one of the schools and she would just collect things; they became her treasures. She set up a library in the home and taught me the classics, (such as) Mark Twain and Langston Hughes. She expected a level of excellence. She initially wanted to be a teacher, but she didn't become a teacher. ... I became an English teacher at a school with 4,500 students and it was a joy teaching literacy to high school-aged kids and adults. She would go back to the story of Frederick Douglass, that if you learn to read you become a danger in a way. Once you are literate you understand the conditions by which you live, and you will no longer be satisfied under those conditions.

What has been the pandemic's impact on students?

For some of our students in distance learning, they were

having to sit in front of a device for several hours and not being able to connect (to others). It brought to me a realization this is not normal (distance learning) and we may never return to what was normal was, but normal for everyone wasn't great. ... I think about students who struggled prior to the pandemic. Not every student had support structures like I had with my grandmother. School is the safe haven; where they get their meals, social interaction, social-emotional support and feel protected. Some students did not get access to most rigorous platforms though (before the pandemic).

Students not only lost human connections but that connection of what was familiar: coming to school, graduation, prom. It was amplified when we (administrators) visited campuses; you can see 10th graders while being on distance learning for almost a year of their high school careers who didn't know where their classes were. They had that excitement and tentativeness.

What motivated you to join the Sequoia district?

During the pandemic I realized you have to take certain risks and this is the time; I started the search. I looked for a place that could be close to familiar folks but in a different setting. I found that in this community. I did a lot of research in terms of their academic performance; it was high achieving. The

programs, the partnerships with Stanford (University) and Cañada (College), were the things that drew me. There was an opportunity to serve a population of students who were at a different level; I want to help connect those learners to resources that could drive them to advance in their academic careers.

You said during a board meeting that you lost six family members to COVID-19.

It's a pain point for me. Like many families in our country, I was impacted on several levels during the pandemic. It brings me back to why I'm here (in the Sequoia district); I needed to disconnect from some of the loss. ... I wanted a change in pace where my skill set would connect.

I looked at a nurse in tears who said, 'You have only 15 minutes

to be with your loved one.' Prior to leaving, the nurse took my hand and said with tears in his eyes, 'I will not let him die alone.' It just amplified the trauma folks are experiencing and the pain attached to the pandemic. You want to connect with loved ones and you can't.

Q: What are the greatest challenges facing the district this year and how will you tackle them?

Remaining open. We understand we're going to have (COVID-19) cases and our contact tracing. I want to make sure we keep our community safe. We have to make sure we have systems in place to identify if we have a case. ▣

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

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For questions, please call (650) 289-5445. Your
response prior to September 17th is appreciated.

 **Avenidas**
Re-Inventing Aging

Sutter Health settles Medicare false claims civil case for \$90M

By Bay City News Service

Sutter Health has agreed to pay \$90 million to settle a civil lawsuit that alleged the company had overcharged a federal Medicare program.

The agreement was filed Aug. 30 in federal court in San Francisco by Sacramento-based Sutter Health and several of its affiliates, including Sutter Bay Medical Foundation (which conducts business as the Palo Alto Medical Foundation) and Sutter Valley Medical Foundation, to settle allegations that the medical care services provider violated the False Claims Act by knowingly submitting inaccurate information about the health status of beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage Plans.

The government alleged in 2015 that Sutter Health knowingly submitted unsupported

diagnosis codes for certain patient encounters for beneficiaries under its care, inflating payments to be made to Sutter Health. The lawsuit further alleged that, once Sutter Health became aware of the situation, it failed to correct it.

The suit includes resolution of a whistleblower action in 2013 by a former employee of Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

"Today's settlement exemplifies our commitment to fighting fraud in the Medicare program," said Stephanie Hinds, acting U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California. "Health care providers who flout the law need to know that my office will hold accountable those who pad their bottom line at taxpayer expense."

The government relies on health care providers to submit accurate information, said

Deputy Assistant Attorney General Sarah E. Harrington of the Justice Department's Civil Division.

"Today's result sends a clear message that we will hold health care providers responsible if they knowingly provide or fail to correct information that is untruthful," she said.

In connection with the settlement, Sutter Health entered into an agreement with the federal agencies that requires it to hire an independent reviewer to review a sample of the company's medical billing records.

Sutter Health officials said in a statement that the settlement and agreement, in which the company admitted no liability, "bring closure to a long-running dispute, allowing Sutter to avoid the uncertainty and further expense of protracted litigation, and enabling a constructive relationship with the government." ▣

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On 9/11's 20th anniversary, local groups offer service projects, peace picnic

By Sue Dremann

Two Palo Alto organizations are marking the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on Saturday with events meant to bring people together and to serve their communities in meaningful ways.

The Multifaith Peace Picnic on Saturday includes a free meal and interfaith prayer service and is sponsored by American Muslim Voice and Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice. The 2021 Mid-Peninsula National Day of Service and Remembrance, also on Saturday, brings volunteers together to perform service projects together

in memory of those who died and volunteered to save lives.

Samina Sundas, founder of American Muslim Voice, started the Multifaith Peace Picnic on the first anniversary of 9/11 after experiencing a confrontation with a shopper who blamed her for the terrorist event because she is a Muslim.

"Some days, it seems like we are making progress, then all of a sudden something happens and the Muslim community feels like it could be a backlash again," she said, noting the recent return to power by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The Peace Picnic honors all who

were sacrificed during the 2001 attacks and the 9/11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows — families whose loved ones died in the attack but who have dedicated themselves to creating a more peaceful world.

"We wanted to honor the victims, families and first responders that have lost loved ones," she said.

This year, the event is limited to 150 people and participants are encouraged to preregister. Food will be boxed for people who don't want to eat on site due to COVID-19 concerns. Participants are required to wear a mask at all times and to socially distance. It takes place from 5:45 p.m. to 8:15

p.m. at King Plaza, 250 Hamilton Ave. Palo Alto. Register at tinyurl.com/e3swbyvr.

The YCS Day of Service event brings together volunteers to perform community-benefiting activities at multiple service sites in Palo Alto and East Palo Alto. It will kick off the weeklong celebration of Palo Alto Together Again, a city-wide celebration of the city's attempted return to normalcy after the months-long restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's theme is Reconnect, Remember and Renew and its lead sponsor is Youth Community Service.

"The struggles of this past year

have shown us the importance of community connections and supporting one another," the nonprofit organization said on its website. The projects include food drives, card making, mural painting, fence painting, gardening and clean-ups. The projects are open to people of all ages from every community. Masks are required and participants are encouraged to bring their own water bottles. For details and to register, visit youthcommunity-service.org/national-day-of-service/ or call 650-858-8019. ▀

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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Woodside Friends of the Library book sale

Woodside Friends of the Library will host a used book sale on from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 11. Books for all ages will be available, organizers said. The library is located at 3140 Woodside Road in Woodside.

Atherton officers donate backpacks to students

The nonprofit Atherton Police Activities League and Atherton Police Officers Association teamed up to buy 40 backpacks filled with school supplies to give to students at Atherton schools.

On Aug. 31, School Resource Officer Dimitri Andruha delivered the backpacks to Laurel, Encinal and Las Lomitas schools.

—Angela Swartz



Courtesy Atherton Police Officers Association

Atherton police officers collected backpacks with school supplies to donate to local students.

Stanford resident assistants go on strike

Resident assistants at Stanford University went on an indefinite strike Sept 2 after the university failed to meet their demands, according to the Stanford Daily.

The student staff members live in 28 residence halls and called

on Stanford to meet four main demands: provide a virtual option for in-person trainings (a demand that surfaced after a staff member tested positive for Covid-19 after attending a training in person), increase pay, involvement in decision-making, and revise the university's alcohol and drug policy.

Of more than 500 resident assistants which the university

hires annually, only about 150 attended a training Thursday morning, the first day of the strike. The strike started about a week before students are scheduled to begin moving into their dormitory rooms.

—Bay City News Service/
EdSource

Youth advisory committee applications open

Menlo Park's Youth Advisory Committee, which advises the Parks and Recreation Commission on activities, programs and events for youth in Menlo Park, is seeking applicants for the 2021-22 term.

Eligible youth should be in high school, live within the city limits of Menlo Park and commit to serving at least a one-year term from September to May. The committee meets once to twice monthly on Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. during the school year and meetings are currently held virtually.

The application is online at

is.gd/yacapp1 and is due Friday, Sept. 17.

Provide feedback on county parks programs

San Mateo County's Parks Department is looking for people to complete a survey to weigh in on its programs and offerings to the community as it embarks on the creation of its new "Interpretive Strategic Plan." The plan, when developed, will outline the department's agenda for the next five to 10 years and is aimed at enhancing visitors' experiences, getting visitors valuable information and figuring out which activities and programs resonate with all visitors so as to engage them better. The department is also interested in identifying the barriers to accessing parks.

Go to is.gd/parksurvey1 to fill out the survey in English, Spanish and Simplified Chinese. The survey is expected to take about 8 minutes and closes Monday, Sept. 20.

—Kate Bradshaw

CHABAD CENTER

continued from page 5

"We tried to stick to areas that don't have a Jewish presence," he said. "People are really happy to have a warm Jewish home."

Chabad is a Jewish organization

LEHUA GREENMAN



Never Forget
"A time to remember those who died, those who served, and those who carry on."
Sept. 11, 2001"

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started nearly 250 years ago, which has about 5,000 branches worldwide and is known for its outreach to unaffiliated Jewish groups and its humanitarian aid.

Portola Valley resident Len Lehmann said the Brookses reached out to him when they were considering settling in Portola Valley.

"Chabad is a great addition to civic life in Portola Valley and Woodside," he said in an email. "They are engaging and giving, focused on serving their community, and add to our many currently available resources for spiritual growth and practice. During these times, when many are seeking meaning, that can only be a good thing."

Jeffrey Carmel, a Portola Valley

resident who casually attended Chabad in Palo Alto for many years, said that now that there is a Chabad house right in his neighborhood, his family has been able to take advantage of the organization.

"Rabbi Brook and his amazing wife Dassi are young, enthusiastic, hospitable, warm and welcoming, and they bring a wealth of knowledge to our Jewish community and neighbors," Carmel said in an email. "What marks Chabad as a unique movement in Judaism is its non-judgmental approach to welcoming Jews of all religious levels and to enhance their cultural, religious, and educational experiences."

Chabad synagogues don't have membership dues. Instead, they

seek donations from those who go to their adult-education classes, attend their services and holiday celebrations, and attend Shabbat dinners. There are about 7.5 million Americans who identify as Jewish and about 16% of those participate in activities and services through Chabad, according to a 2020 Pew Research Center survey.

Politics are one topic that's not on the table at Chabad PVW.

"People are tired of hearing politics preached during services," Mayer said. "We don't get into any politics. We stick to our mission and our goal and community as a whole."

So far locals have been kind and welcoming to the group, Mayer said.

"We're getting messages from people who are really excited we're here," he said. "I'm very confident about the future of Jewish life in Portola Valley and Woodside."

Before launching Chabad PVW, Brook organized Jewish outreach programs and holiday events across five continents. He received his rabbinical ordination from Sydney Beth Din in Australia.

Upcoming events include "Sushi in the Sukkah" on Sept. 26. For more information, go to chabadpvw.com or email info@chabadpvw.com. ▀

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

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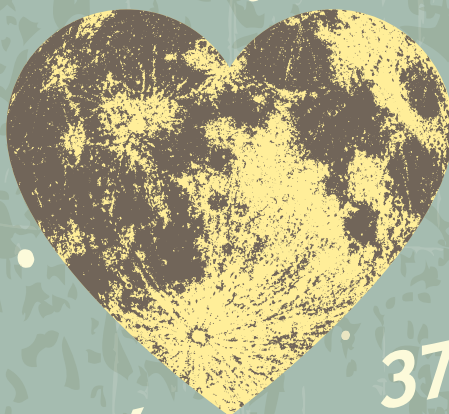
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TRADER JOE'S



Mervin Morris, founder of Mervyns stores, Atherton resident dies at 101

By Angela Swartz

Mervin “Merv” G. Morris, the founder of Mervyn’s department stores, a philanthropist and longtime Atherton resident, died on Aug. 24. He was 101.

Born to Fannie and Harry Morris in San Francisco on July 4, 1920, he grew up in the Central Valley town of Delano, alongside his sisters Bertille and Jacqueline.

A third generation California, his great-grandparents ran a store during the Gold Rush.

His parents ran a local retail store

called Morris’ where he worked as a sales clerk. He attended one semester at the University of California at Berkeley in 1938, before being called home to help run the family business.

He enlisted in the military during World War II, running an Army post exchange based in Arkansas.

Morris returned home after the war and rejoined the family business before deciding to start his own store. On July 29, 1949, at the age of 29, Merv opened the first Mervyns department store in San Lorenzo, Calif.

He met Roslyn Grossman, of Napa, on a blind date in the spring of 1950. They married in San Francisco in September 1950 and had four children. They moved to Atherton in the mid-1950s, according to Palo Alto Weekly archives.

Mervyns went public in the spring of 1971, and Morris sold it to Dayton Hudson (now Target) in January 1978. When he retired in 1979 there were about 75 Mervyns stores.

During his 30 years with Mervyns, Morris built a reputation of having both a keen business mind and a deep sense of loyalty, his family said. The stores were known from the time they were founded for their charitable giving benefiting children and families in communities where they were located, according to a 2008 Palo Alto Weekly story on the anticipated closure of Mervyns stores.

“He was an innovative leader, smartly choosing his store sites and understanding the consumers of the post-War boom years,” according to the family.

In 1977, the National Retail Merchants Association, an

organization of about 3,500 retail stores worldwide, elected Morris chairman of the board of directors.

After he retired from Mervyns, he became chairman of Morris Management Company, a family investment firm.

He became involved in philanthropy and served as a trustee on numerous nonprofit boards, including the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the California Academy of Sciences, the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Stanford Hospital, the Jewish Home for the Aged, Mt. Zion Hospital of San Francisco and the University of Southern California. He was appointed to serve as a trustee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by President George W. Bush in 2002.

He and his wife Roslyn, known as Roz, invested in building the Mervin G. Morris Clubhouse for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula. They also supported the San Francisco Symphony, the San Francisco Opera and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The Peninsula Volunteers’ Little House Activity Center was named after Roz following a \$1 million donation to a remodeling project at the center in 1995, according to The Almanac’s archives.

Granddaughter Kimberley Morris Rosen, a Portola Valley School District trustee, said she’ll miss meals with him the most.

“We would sit down for a proper meal, the rush of the world would stop, and we’d have some time to talk and connect,” she said. “Grandpa was charming, interesting, wise and thoughtful. I’ll miss talking about history (both our family’s and the world’s), politics, and how everyone in our very large

family is doing. I’ll also miss further opportunities for my children to get to spend time with him. We were just so lucky to have had him with us — and in such extraordinary mental capacity — for so long.”

One of her favorite memories from recent years is when her daughter, Charlotte, then a first grader, went to her great-grandfather’s house to sell him Girl Scout cookies.

“Always the retailer, Grandpa asked Charlotte to give him a full detailing of the entire product line,” Morris Rosen said. “He then asked specific questions about various cookies and encouraged her to practice her addition skills when he bought multiple boxes and asked for the total price. It was so sweet to see him passing on his profession to his great-granddaughter.”

Morris was preceded in death by wife Roz in 2016 and by his sister, Bertille. He is survived by four children and their spouses, Diane, Jeff (Missy), John, and Jim (Susan); and by his sister, Jacqueline; 14 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren; and devoted friend Cynthia Hockey.

An interview with Morris at the Computer History Museum in November 2019 is posted on YouTube at tinyurl.com/mervmorris.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be sent to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula at 401 Pierce Road in Menlo Park, Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. at 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park, or the donor’s favorite charity.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. ▣

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

Kathleen Braunstein

December 21, 1943 – September 2, 2021

Woodside, California

Kathleen Gaffney Braunstein died on September 2, 2021, in Woodside, California, with her children and husband at her side.

Kathleen Margaret Gaffney was born in Los Angeles, California, the eldest of five children born to Thomas and Margaret (Donovan) Gaffney. The family moved to San Francisco after the war, and Kathleen grew up in the Sacred Heart Parish, just west of Hayes Valley. She graduated from Lowell High School, City College of San Francisco, and UC-Berkeley, where she majored in Accounting. Kathleen later earned an M.B.A. from Golden Gate University while working full-time.

In 1976, she met Terry Braunstein on a cross-country flight from BWI to SFO, as both returned from business trips to Washington, DC. The two married in January 1978 and settled in the Skywood neighborhood of Woodside later that year. Apart from 4 years when the family lived in London and Palo Alto, Kathleen resided there until her passing.

Kathleen’s career with the federal government spanned decades, starting in the 1960s as a management trainee with the Social Security Administration. She was subsequently an executive with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now known as the Department of Health and Human Services, or HHS), and later, with the US Geological Survey. Kathleen enjoyed being active in the community and dedicated time to volunteering, first for the Town of Woodside, for which she served on the Architecture and Site Review Board and the Planning Commission. Her volunteer work also included providing issues education at retirement communities for the League of Women Voters, more than 25 years as a docent at the Filoli Historic House in Woodside, and more than a decade as a docent at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco.

Kathleen had a lifelong love of the arts and music. For more than 40 years, she was a subscriber and regular attendee of the San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Symphony. Her annual birthday celebration featured the San Francisco Ballet’s production of Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Ballet — as she could bring her children and later her grandchildren — and this became a cherished family tradition.

Terry and Kathleen traveled extensively together, visiting cultural sites from St. Petersburg to Damascus to Samarkand. This travel was often paired with study or lectures, as when they took a Stanford Continuing Studies course on the Peloponnesian War and then circumnavigated the Peloponnese by car, visiting the sites of ancient Sparta and the Battle of Pylos, among others.

Kathleen’s dry wit was enjoyed by friends and family alike. When feeling underappreciated by her teenage children, Kathleen would occasionally don an ornate silver pin from her travels in Eastern Europe, marking her as a member of the USSR’s “Order of Maternal Glory.”

Kathleen was a devoted mother to three children — daughter Roberta Peterson, of Palo Alto, and sons Ryan Braunstein, of San Carlos, and Shane Braunstein, of San Francisco. Later in life, she relished her role as ‘Nana’ to her grandchildren, Izaak, Levi, Rose and Katherine Braunstein.

Kathleen was predeceased by her parents. She is mourned by her husband Terry, her daughter Roberta, her sons Ryan and Shane, her siblings Jeanne Penrose, Thomas Gaffney, James Gaffney and Grace Gaffney, her four grandchildren, extended family, and many friends.

“In lieu of flowers, a donation to the SF Symphony’s Education & Community Programs would be appreciated.”

<https://www.sfsymphony.org/Donate-Volunteer/Donate> Visitation and a celebration of Kathleen’s life will be held on Saturday, September 11, at Duggan’s Serra Mortuary, starting at 10am. Kathleen was an inspiration to many, and she will be missed.



Mervin Morris

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PAID OBITUARY

Victim's brother testifies alleged serial killer raped, murdered teen in 1963

By Sue Dremann

Alleged serial killer John Arthur Getreu was convicted of killing and raping a 15-year-old girl in Germany in 1964, a decade before the strangled bodies of two young women he is now accused of killing were found on Stanford University land, the brother of the murdered teenager testified on Tuesday.

Evan David Williams, a pastor, said that Getreu killed his sister on June 9, 1963, when his family and Getreu's parents were stationed at the U.S. Army base in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. His sister, Margaret Williams, was found on a field beaten, strangled and raped.

Williams said his father, who was an army chaplain at the time, told him that Getreu had been arrested for the crime.

Getreu, 76, of Hayward, is now being tried in San Mateo County Superior Court for allegedly killing Janet Ann Taylor, 21, whose beaten face and strangled body was found in a ditch near the intersection of Sand Hill Road and Manzanita Way in 1974. Taylor was the second woman found on Stanford land with similar injuries. Leslie Marie Perlov, 21, was found near what is now the Stanford Dish hiking area in a remote area in 1973. Getreu is facing a first-degree murder charge in her death in Santa Clara County.



Veronica Weber

Janet Ann Taylor's body was found in a ditch just off the side of Sand Hill Road near Manzanita Road in 1974.

San Mateo County Sheriff Det. Gordon Currie testified that he obtained 10 volumes of court documents related to Getreu's 1964 conviction in Margaret Williams' murder and rape. Deputy District Attorney Josh Stauffer read excerpts from the more than 1,000 pages of court documents. Getreu, who was 18 years old at the time of the killing, was convicted on July 13, 1964, to 10 years in prison for rape with fatal

consequences. He served a partial sentence of five years and nine months. German officials believed he was likely to lead a "righteous life" after he was sent to live with his parents in the U.S., where he returned in 1969 under probation supervision, according to the German court documents.

Getreu, in his own statement to German investigators, said he and Williams met at a dance. He hadn't seen the girl before but noticed her when she exited a car. They went for a walk and talked.

Williams told him she had to be home at a specific time, but rather than walk toward the school and her home, they headed in the opposite direction. They sat on a bench in a park and later walked to a playground. He said he wanted to be alone with her; they walked away from people nearby.

Getreu claimed he didn't intend to have intercourse with her; he was looking for a good place where he had taken other girls before for "smooching."

Getreu and Williams began kissing while sitting on his jacket and soon they were lying down. He engaged in light petting and soon began to advance to wanting intercourse. He told her that he had consumed "a lot of drinks." She was nervous and distressed and wanted to go home. It began to rain, and she said that was why she wanted to leave. "She did not react positively" to his advances, according to the police investigation. He said as his excitement had

increased, he wanted to rape her.

Williams began talking loudly to try to attract attention. Getreu gave her a judo chop in the neck so she couldn't talk anymore, he said. Williams started to weep, and he "gave her a blow in the face" with his fist because he thought when she regained her voice, she would only cry louder. The only reason he struck her was to prevent her from talking, he said.

'I feel glad that there's the potential to convict someone who needs to be convicted.'

EVAN WILLIAMS,
MURDERED TEEN'S BROTHER

Williams, who had been standing up to leave, fell to the ground after Getreu struck her. She was about to cry out, so he covered her face with his jacket and held it over her mouth with both hands. As Williams began to kick and tried to scream, he held her mouth shut with one hand and grabbed her by the throat with the other, he told police.

Williams lost consciousness, but Getreu had the impression she was still breathing. She didn't move at all and he raped her. He kept his hand over her mouth to keep her from crying out if she regained consciousness, he said.

As car headlights passed

nearby, he grabbed his jacket and ran away. After returning home, he took his dog for a walk and returned to the area to see if she was still alive. Margaret Williams never regained consciousness. She died on the playing field, police said.

Outside the courtroom, Evan Williams said there were new aspects to the crime he hadn't heard before.

"I feel glad that there's the potential to convict someone who needs to be convicted," he said, adding he felt a connection to others who have lost loved ones to murder.

Getreu's first wife, Susan Cammarota, testified that he told her before they were married that he had killed a girl in Germany. She also said he was convicted of statutory rape after initially being charged with raping a teenage girl who was a member of his Explorer Scout troop in 1975. (The victim testified in court last week.) He served his jail sentence on weekends, she said.

Getreu also regularly traveled along the route where Taylor was found, according to testimony from his stepdaughter.

Kathi Stone, Cammarota's daughter, testified that she first met Getreu when she was 6 years old. The family lived in various locations along the Midpeninsula. They lived about two years on Montrose Avenue in Palo Alto, then moved to Redwood City for another two years before moving back to an apartment in Palo Alto. They also lived in Woodside.

While living at an aunt's house on Roberta Drive in Woodside, a quiet area of trees and grasslands, Getreu would drive her to school daily. To get to Roberta Drive, one travels on Mountain Home Road, which connects up with Sand Hill Road, west of Searsville Lake.

During his testimony, Currie, the detective, pointed to a map with a green square depicting where Taylor's body was found on Sand Hill Road near Manzanita Way, the route Getreu would have taken daily to go home.

How far is the location from Sand Hill and Manzanita from Roberta Drive? Stauffer asked.

"About 2 miles," Currie said. The time to travel from the scene of Taylor's murder to Roberta Drive takes about six minutes, he said. ▀

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



Veronica Weber

John Getreu, who is being charged with the murders of Leslie Perlov and Janet Ann Taylor, waits in a courtroom at the Santa Clara County Hall of Justice on July 15, 2019 during a hearing relating to the Perlov killing.

RECALL

continued from page 5

amounts of \$1,000 or lower.

Several of Newsom's 46 opponents in the recall effort have also benefited from local largess. Talk show host Larry Elder, who has amassed a war chest of \$6.8 million, is among them. Though his list of top donors is dominated by contributors from Southern California, Elder has also received \$32,400 contributions from Woodside resident Saul Fox, CEO of Fox Paine; \$5,000 from Palo Alto investor William Jarvis; and \$2,000 contribution from local developer Boyd Smith.

Woodside resident Stacey Siebel, a philanthropist whose husband, Thomas Siebel, founded the software company Siebel Systems, gave \$5,000 to Elder's campaign. She also contributed \$25,000 to the campaign of Kevin Faulconer, the former San Diego mayor who is also hoping to replace Newsom.

Despite these efforts, the total amount raised by Elder's campaign from the Midpeninsula is just a fraction of that received by the anti-recall faction. Donors from the cities Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Woodside, and Portola Valley accounted for \$79,575 in contributions received by Elder.

Businessman John Cox has reported \$7.7 million in contributions, though \$6.9 million consist of money he contributed to his own campaign. His biggest contributor from the Midpeninsula area was the Sunnyvale-based construction company De Anza Building and Maintenance, which gave \$32,400 to Cox (while state law caps contributions to gubernatorial candidates at \$32,400, that rule does not apply to contributions made by political parties or by political action committees that are not tied to a particular candidate). No one else from the Midpeninsula gave more than \$100 to the Cox campaign, finance records show.

Faulconer's biggest supporter from the area is Palo Alto resident John Chambers, who contributed \$32,400 to Faulconer. Los Altos Hills resident Douglas Scrivener contributed \$17,500, while Woodside resident Michael Marks gave \$15,000, records show.

San Mateo County voters can find information for the Sept. 14 recall election at smacre.org/elections, including hours and locations for in-person voting centers. **A**

Email Staff Writer
Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com.



RESOLUTION NO. 2261 (2021)

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

Lands of Mckelvy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

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

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

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

Date: October 13, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

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

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

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

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

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

Exhibit A

"EXHIBIT A"

DATE: 01-26-2021
ANNEXED TO: WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT
NAME OF ANNEXATION: WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT

GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION
LANDS OF MCKELVY
AND PORTIONS OF SHAWNEE PASS
PROPOSED WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ANNEXATION
1.53 ACRE +/- PARCEL

ALL THAT REAL PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEING ALL OF LOT 12 BLOCK 2, AND PORTIONS OF SHAWNEE PASS, AS DESIGNATED ON THE MAP ENTITLED "TRACT NO. 761, ARROWHEAD MEADOWS UNIT NO.2, SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, BEING A PORTION OF THE RANCHO EL CORTE MADERA SUBDIVISION", FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA ON MAY 29, 1958 IN BOOK 48 OF MAPS AT PAGES 48 TO 49, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE MOST SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT THENCE ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT NORTH 07°58'43" EAST 137.75 FEET (1);
THENCE CONTINUING ALONG SAID WESTERLY LINE NORTH 03°30'00" WEST 40.00 FEET (2) TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT;
THENCE LEAVING SAID WESTERLY LINE NORTH 86°30'00" EAST 300.00 FEET (3) TO A POINT ON THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF SAID SHAWNEE PASS, 50 FEET IN WIDTH;
THENCE ALONG THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF SAID SHAWNEE PASS SOUTH 03°30'00" EAST 250.43 FEET (4) TO A POINT OF THAT CERTAIN ANNEXATION RESOLUTION NO. 2030, SAID POINT LYING ON THE WESTERLY LINE OF LOT 1, BLOCK 5 OF SAID MAP AND THE BEGINNING OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT WITH A RADIUS OF 275.00 FEET;
THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 31°45'00" AN ARC LENGTH 152.39 FEET (5);
THENCE LEAVING SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY AND SAID ANNEXATION DOCUMENT, SOUTH 34°45'00" WEST 50.00 FEET (6) TO A POINT ON THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF SAID SHAWNEE PASS, TO THE BEGINNING OF A NON-TANGENT CURVE TO THE RIGHT, TO WHICH A RADIAL BEARS SOUTH 54°45'00" WEST;
THENCE ALONG SAID WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY THROUGH SAID CURVE WITH A RADIUS OF 325.00 FEET, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 31°45'00", AN ARC LENGTH OF 180.10 FEET (7);
THENCE NORTH 03°30'00" WEST 75.43 FEET (8) TO THE SOUTH EAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 12,
THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT OF WAY ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT, SOUTH 86°30'00" WEST 277.39 FEET (9) TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

CONTAINING 1.53 ACRES +/-

FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY. THIS DESCRIPTION OF LAND IS NOT A LEGAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AS DEFINED IN THE SUBDIVISION MAP ACT AND MAY NOT BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR AN OFFER FOR SALE OF THE LAND DESCRIBED.

G:\Correspondence\2020\JCBS\220476\CHLAI\Co Annexation Form\Exhibit A ANNEXATION.doc

Exhibit B

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT
EXHIBIT "B"
SITE LOCATION
130 SHAWNEE PASS
PORTOLA VALLEY, CA
GRINDER SYSTEM

Council denies gas station permit to sell beer and wine

By Kate Bradshaw

The Menlo Park City Council last week denied the owners of the A&S Union 76 gas station on Willow Road a permit to sell beer and wine and operate longer hours.

The station's owners wanted to be able to sell beer and wine between 6 a.m. and 2 a.m. and operate 24 hours a day, but neither request was approved.

California's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control governs which establishments are permitted to sell beer and wine, and has to determine if the request would offer convenience or meet community needs. Since there are already other three

locations in the neighborhood that sell alcoholic beverages, the department would consider adding a fourth license within the same census tract to be "over-concentrated," according to staff.

Generally, the department looks to the Planning Commission to avoid creating an "undue concentration" of alcohol vendors if the ratio of alcohol retail licenses to population exceeds that of the average census tract within the county, or it's in an area where there is a 20% greater number of reported crimes than the county average, according to a staff report.

Other locations selling beer and wine near the Union 76 station at 710 Willow Road are at El Rancho

Market at 812 Willow Road and Hacienda Super Mercado at 1933 Menalto Ave. The Willows Market at 60 Middlefield Road sells beer, wine and spirits.

The Planning Commission previously denied the permit request in March 2020. City staff members recommended that the City Council deny the appeal of the permit request; and the council voted 4-0 vote, with Councilman Ray Mueller absent, to uphold the commission's decision.

A number of residents spoke in opposition to the permit at the appeal hearing on Aug. 31.

Resident Jeffrey Chen suggested that gas station patrons would not buy alcohol for a

planned meal or event but instead to consume immediately, which could increase the risk of DUI-related accidents nearby. Resident Brian Gilmer said that the gas station "tends to attract problems" and that he's found trash in his yard including receipts from the gas station.

Gas station owner Aparna Saha and her son pushed back against the neighbors' concerns. They said that several other nearby businesses around the neighborhood have permits to sell alcohol, so it hardly seems fair to deny their request out of some concern that it would somehow be more dangerous or disruptive than selling it in other nearby locations.

"I don't think it's fair to say that (in) granting us a beer and wine license we're going to significantly cause the neighborhood to deteriorate," Saha's son said.

He added that the pandemic has roughly halved sales for the family's business at the gas station, and being permitted to sell beer and wine on the premises could help them increase their income.

"I'm not in support of giving a permit for increased hours or for alcohol sales," said Councilwoman Cecilia Taylor. ▀

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

COVID-19 cases fall 2021

Week	8/9	8/16	8/23	8/30
Menlo Atherton High School	7	2	4	4
Woodside High School	7	1	0	0
TIDE Academy	3	1	0	1

HIGH SCHOOLS

continued from page 1

department, according to the district's fall reopening plan.

The school's health team works with the district office to start contact tracing, and the school informs close contacts — interactions within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes with someone who is positive for COVID-19 — about their possible exposure, the plan states. The contacts are referred to testing, told to monitor for virus systems and connected to resources to support self-quarantining.

A general exposure notice is sent to classmates, guardians, teachers and others potentially exposed during the case's

infectious period on campus. Notice will be sent to all staff members who were on campus at the same time as the positive case's infectious period, according to the plan.

Not all students or staff who tested positive were on a district site during the infectious period, which creates a discrepancy between case counts and notifications, according to the district.

Staff vaccination rates

District staff vaccination percentages are currently based on self-reported responses. The vaccinated percentage rate is equal to the total number of vaccinated staff members divided by the total responses received.

she added.

In the early 1900s, the creek became the southern terminus of the Ocean Shore Railroad, which operated between 1905 and 1920 before going bankrupt, partly due to rockslides at Devil's Slide, farther north, she said. From the Tunitas Creek train stop, people used to get off of the train and onto shuttle buses to continue south, she said.

In 2017, the Peninsula Open Space Trust bought the beach's southern coastal bluff with plans to transfer the property to San Mateo County, according to the agency.

Since then, POST said it has worked with San Mateo County Parks and community stakeholders, including a group of



Adam Pardee

Woodside High School seniors wait in line to have their picture taken for their student ID cards during orientation on Aug. 10.

As of Aug. 27, 74% of all district staff members have responded.

At M-A, 96.02% of staff members who responded are fully vaccinated. Some 96.1% of Woodside High staffers are vaccinated and at TIDE, 93.3% of staff reported being

vaccinated.

The district promised to collect data on student vaccination rates at an Aug. 5 Parent Community Night. District officials expect to collect those numbers, which will be voluntarily reported, by September,

Superintendent Darnise Williams said at the meeting.

View the data dashboard on the district's website, seq.org. ▀

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

BEACH

continued from page 1

Europeans arrived in 1769 with the Portola Expedition, she said.

In the latter half of the 1800s, the property became the home of what would be known as "Gordon's Chute" — a 45-degree ramp built into the cliffs just north of the creek that was used to load freight ships directly from the bluffs, Wright said. The chute was "not very practical," she said, describing how some burlap sacks that were sent sliding down the chute would catch fire because of the friction, which would endanger the ship below.

You can still see the bolts in the rock walls at the beach,

community members working on what became the Tunitas Creek Beach Community Advisory Committee, to develop plans for the property.

As with other new parks, one of the big questions is whether pets will be allowed. At the moment, it's still up in the air as to whether dogs or horses might be permitted at the new beach and park, Wright said. The county parks department is currently undergoing feasibility studies to determine the future of canine visitors in county parks, and it's not clear yet what the future will hold for the Tunitas Creek Beach site, she added. Currently, no pets are allowed and the beach is only accessible when visitors are accompanied



Courtesy San Mateo County Parks

The plan for the mid-bluff area at Tunitas Creek Beach is to add tiered seating, picnic tables, a restroom and a pedestrian path down to the beach.

by park staff.

Go to parks.smcgov.org/tunitas-creek-beach to learn more. ▀

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

BOUNDARIES

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privilege with elected officials. Mueller said that he felt it to be the role of elected officials to be accountable for protecting residents' voting rights, and that the City Council is up to the task.

"I really believe the residents of Menlo Park expect that of the elected officials who they put faith and confidence in, (that the council) would retain some ... minimum level of oversight in case something were to go awry. I think this council would hold that to a very high bar and wouldn't act unless absolutely necessary," he said.

With the independent system, he argued, there's a theoretical worst case scenario in which, for instance, a majority of members had a grudge against one council member, and could go out of their way to "draw a weird map," Mueller said. "That shouldn't be shaping people's voting rights."

"I see this as empowering a randomly selected body to disenfranchise members of our community," Combs said.

Combs added that he objected to the notion that having elected officials retain some authority in the redistricting process would impact the impartiality of the outcome.

"All of the major decisions are made by elected officials; their ability to make those decisions comes from them being elected," Combs said, adding that having elected officials involved would legitimize the process, in his perspective.

Councilwoman Jen Wolosin, who voted for the independent commission, said, "This isn't about the elected officials, this is about the voters." She also favored shortening a residency requirement to one year instead of the recommended three, but didn't get support from other council members.

Menlo Park switched from at-large to

district-based representation in 2018 after a threatened lawsuit alleged that the city's election system violated state law because Latino and Black residents in the Belle Haven neighborhood didn't have fair representation on the City Council.

During the initial process to draw election boundaries in 2018, an advisory commission over eight weeks developed a series of maps dividing the city into its current five districts which the City Council adopted.

At the time, council members expressed interest in assigning redistricting to an independent commission in the future. Council members are impacted by redistricting outcomes, since those boundaries may shape their reelection chances, supporters of the independent commission approach said at the time. They argued that taking away the council's authority to alter the commission's map would prevent council members from interfering with the redistricting process to benefit themselves.

There are other legal checks and balances against gerrymandering, according to Jesus Garcia, demographer with GEOinovo Solutions Inc., the consulting firm the city hired to provide demographic analysis and census mapping services to help with its redistricting process.

The new district map that the independent commission develops will still need to comply with fair voting laws, and anyone may challenge the fairness and validity of the map, he said.

"If it's a bad map, it's a bad map. It can and probably will be challenged going forward," Garcia said.

The commission

Commission applicants must be at least 18 years old and have lived in Menlo Park for at least three years. They'll have to agree to comply with

the Brown Act, Public Records Act and Political Reform Act, and not serve on the City Council for at least five years after participating on the commission.

For at least four years, they'll also have to agree not to participate in or contribute to any City Council campaign and not enter a contract with the city unless it was part of a competitive bidding process, according to Assistant City Attorney Denise Bazzano.

The City Clerk will randomly pick the first three commissioners from among the applicants. Those three commissioners will, with a majority vote, pick the other four commissioners and two alternates from among the remaining applicants, Bazzano said. Both of those selection processes would be held in public meetings, she added.

A downside of districts

One outcome of redistricting that seems to be unavoidable is that, for any households that suddenly find themselves in a new district, it's likely that the next election they will be allowed to vote in will be in either two or six years, rather than the traditional four years.

That's because of the staggered election system, which mandates three City Council members and two City Council members be eligible for election in alternate even years. Districts 1, 2 and 4 will be up for election in 2022 while districts 3 and 5 won't be up for election until 2024.

For instance, if a boundary were to shift from District 3 toward District 2, some former District 2 residents, suddenly part of District 3, wouldn't be able to vote until 2024 even though the last election they would have participated in would have been in 2018.

The potential delaying effect from

the boundary shift would also apply to elected officials. If an elected official lives in an area where the district boundaries have changed, he or she would be permitted to serve the remainder of the term, but then would have to wait until the next time the new district seat is up for election, Bazzano said.

Combs expressed interest in synchronizing the election cycles so that all five City Council members are up for election at one time, but the rule of splitting the number of council members up for reelection in alternate two-year cycles is a law codified within the city's incorporation, according to Bazzano.

Combs called the fact that someone might have to wait six years between able to vote in local elections "a defect in the process."

"I'd say that's disenfranchisement," he said.

The city is required to complete the redistricting process by April 17, 2022, according to a staff report. ■

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

Your COVID-19 vaccine questions — answered

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

CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

Police are asking anyone with more information about the shooting to contact Det. Kyle Trinh at 650-780-7620 or the Redwood City Police Department's tip line at 650-780-7110.

Homicide suspects arrested in fatal shooting

Police have arrested two suspects in the January 2020 fatal shooting of a 28-year-old Hayward man in East Palo Alto.

Alexis Pulido Garcia was found with a gunshot wound at about 8 p.m. Jan. 28, 2020, in the 900 block of Mouton Circle, authorities said. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The arrest of suspects in the shooting was a joint effort by police and the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office, according to a news release issued Friday by the East Palo Alto Police Department.

The names of the suspects, now in custody at San Mateo County jail, were not released. No further information was provided about the ongoing investigation.

Police ask anyone who witnessed the shooting or has information to contact

the East Palo Alto Police Department by calling Det. Robert Weigand at 650-853-7250. Anonymous tips can also be made by text or voicemail at 650-409-6792 or email to epa@tipnow.org.

—*Bay City News Service*

Coroner identifies skeletal remains found in April

Skeletal remains found near the Sky-londa/Woodside area on April 12 have been identified as belonging to a 42-year-old woman, according to an autopsy report by the San Mateo County Coroner's office.

A dog found the remains of Jill Anderegg, 42, on a residential property near Kebet Ridge Road. The winding road runs west from La Honda Road and dead ends in a remote area.

Anderegg's remains were found at about 8 a.m., according to the autopsy report. The cause of death was listed as "undetermined" due to the advanced state of decomposition. The coroner did not find any signs of obvious traumatic injuries nor signs of suspicious circumstances. The manner of her death is pending investigation.

Anderegg was determined to have been unsheltered and transient, according to the report.

—*Sue Dremann*

THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

LOS ALTOS

919 Lundy Lane \$4,988,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 6BD/3.5BA
DeLeon Realty, Inc. 650-900-7000

MOUNTAIN VIEW

1963 Rock St. (C) \$1,249,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/3BA
DeLeon Realty, Inc. 650-963-5062
555 California Street \$2,468,000
Sat/Sun 2:00-5:00 4BD/3BA
Compass 650-996-0123

PALO ALTO

155 South California Ave G202 (C) \$1,288,000
Sat 11:00-2:00 2BD/1.5BA
Compass 650-793-4583
1181 Lincoln Avenue \$4,300,000
Sun 2:00-4:00 3BD/2BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 650-485-3476
2018 Kings Lane \$2,450,000
Sat 1:30-4:00 3BD/2.5BA
Compass 650-888-0860
4102 Mackay Drive \$2,498,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty, Inc. 650-785-5822
955 Celia Drive \$2,498,888
Sun 1:00-5:00 3BD/2BA
Serenio 650-303-5511
1280 Pine Street \$3,998,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3BA
Serenio 650-269-7266

PALO ALTO

129 Lowell Avenue \$4,399,000
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 4BD/2.5BA
Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 650-380-9918
156 Lowell Avenue \$5,995,000
Sun 2:00-4:00 4BD/3.5BA
Compass 650-400-8424
160 Nevada Avenue \$4,780,000
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 4BD/3BA
Compass 650-248-3950
3433 Alma Village Ln \$2,288,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3.5BA
DeLeon Realty, Inc. 650-459-3888
2303 Cowper Street \$7,500,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/6BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 650-485-3476
4121 Orchard Court \$4,663,250
Sun 2:00-4:00 5BD/7BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 650-485-3476
843 Sutter Avenue \$6,995,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/4.5BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 650-485-3476

SAN JOSE

6315 Rainbow Drive \$1,890,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty, Inc. 650-785-5822

Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T).

Agents: submit open homes at AlmanacNews.com/real_estate

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

On 20th anniversary, 9/11 volunteer revisits the tragedy — and humanity

By Francine Toder

GUEST OPINION

I left Palo Alto for New York City, my birthplace, as soon as I could get my Red Cross Disaster Mental Health volunteer documents in order, just two weeks after the attack in lower Manhattan.

As a psychologist, I already had the training and just needed the hard hat, badge, walkie-talkie and a flight to get me there. My role was to support the efforts of first responders — police, firefighters, handlers of survivor- and cadaver-sniffing dogs as well as volunteer medical personnel as they struggled to manage the horrors.

Wearing a helmet, goggles and face mask, I left my emergency response vehicle and entered a surreal space, once the World Trade Center, noting a smell permeating the air that defied description. Some said it smelled like death or maybe the electrical smell of a melted toaster cord. Hot smoldering hills of rubble rose from the ground and

manholes.

The smoke was so heavy at the makeshift police station at Ground Zero that walking the flight of stairs took enormous effort. The whole scene was eerie and seemed like a black-and-white movie in slow motion. Delivering food and drink to disaster workers there, I noticed how little they talked, communicating through eyes that were sad and intense. The mood was somber, resolved and very subdued. New York was humbled by Sept. 11 and you could see it reflected in locals' behavior — less horn honking, more courteous encounters and recognition of sorrow in each other's faces. It was business as usual but with a tenderness I'd never before witnessed in New York City.

Winding my way up to the top of the landfill at the Staten Island facility designated to sort body parts, I could see at a glance that this was no ordinary place.

Enormous hills of mangled metal dotted the landscape. I knew what was in the piles and why there were people raking the ground and why others were watching debris pass over a conveyor belt. The mission of this place was awesome: trying to separate building materials from human remains.

Even though I was acquainted with the facts, I wasn't prepared for the mood of this place — melancholy, quiet for a New York setting and uncharacteristically gentle. A walk through the mess hall where hundreds of exhausted disaster workers ate around the clock, I observed a sense of seriousness and camaraderie. Outside it was very cold, the early November wind was howling and it was hard to keep the swirling dust and debris out of my eyes. I used my gut to pick out workers who I thought might benefit from some conversation or support and took my lunch with them.

The slow, painstaking work was critical because the facility

served both as a crime scene and a personal memorial. The losses were very real to the locals, many of whom lost someone or had a friend who did. This was sacred work, made clear by the clergy of different religions who blessed the ground where bodies had been brought but of course couldn't be definitively identified. I thought that the whole landfill ought to be regarded as a sacred burial ground or identified as a memorial site — the final resting place for so many people. I hoped that this would mark the end of a tragedy and a step toward recovery.

As if the mood in New York weren't somber enough, the crash of a commercial plane in Rockaway Beach on Nov. 12 ratcheted up the general nervousness several notches. The site was less than a quarter mile from where I was stationed, and I saw the plumes of black smoke as I was riding in a Red Cross Emergency Response vehicle on my trek to provide food and water to disaster workers at Ground Zero.

My new orders rerouted me to Rockaway Beach to talk with local residents who were traumatized by the crash from seeing either the crash itself or the destruction of homes, their own or their neighbor's. I saw disbelief, anger and fear on their faces as they assembled at the barriers constructed at the crash site. A temporary morgue was set up within their view. They came alone or in families. Kids in twos and threes wandered by to gawk, cry and inquire about the safety of their neighbors.

A woman rocked as she sat on her porch steps facing the burned out remains of the house across the street. Another woman sat in shock. Her house was

demolished with a piece of the plane sitting in what had been her front yard. Even though all of the tangible reminders of her former life were taken by the fire, she was focused on a mother and child, neighbors across the street, who had perished in the fire. Over and over I saw people being re-traumatized, this crash being just the latest assault on their lives. Rockaway lost 84 people at the World Trade Center. Now this. It was almost unbearable.

After daily shifts that woke me at 4:30 a.m. and didn't end until nightfall, sleep didn't come easily. But writing did. As a writer, this immersion proved invaluable. Keeping my sanity meant chronicling what I witnessed and observed on a daily basis because some of it was so unspeakable that talking to loved ones at home wasn't an option.

In looking back, I was amazed at the resilience of Americans to deal with disaster and come together with heroism and compassion even in the darkest of times. Three weeks later I returned to California. Ten years later I was diagnosed with lung cancer, like so many disaster responders.

At the time it seemed impossible to imagine that an attack on American soil would ever be repeated. Yet here we are two decades later following a domestic attack and ongoing threats from foreign adversaries. Domestic terrorism is something new, but our ability to come together as a nation of patriots is not.

Francine Toder, Ph.D., is a local psychologist, writer, author of four books and emeritus faculty at CSU Sacramento. She can be emailed at Francine@docToder.com.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Town of Atherton Town Administrative Offices
150 Watkins Avenue, Atherton, California 94027 650-752-0500

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider amendments to Atherton Municipal Code Chapter 2.08 Posting Places.

This meeting is being held in compliance with the Governors Executive Order N-08-21 issued on September 15, 2021, allowing for deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act. The purpose of this is to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The meeting will be held by tele or video conferencing. The public may participate in the City Council Meeting via: Zoom Meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/506897786>

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,506897786# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us

Description: The purpose of the amendments is to ensure consistency with current Town practices while be fully compliant with government code and regulations related to posting notices and ordinances. A copy of the City Council staff report and draft amendments to the Ordinance can be found online, by Friday September 10, 2021 here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=41>

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on September 15, 2021, at 6:00 PM via teleconference accessible through the above-described information, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the amendments should or should not be approved.

IF YOU CHALLENGE any amendments to the Posting Places Ordinance in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

If you have any questions on the item please contact Anthony Suber, City Clerk, at asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us or 650-752-0529. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the City Clerk's Office Building Division at (650) 752-0529 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Date Published: September 10, 2021

Date Posted: September 10, 2021

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL

/s/ Anthony Suber

Anthony Suber, City Clerk

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

PELLARIN ENTERPRISES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288512

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Pellarin Enterprises, located at 1520 Main Street, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ARRON PELLARIN
1520 Main Street
Redwood City, CA 94063

CLAUDE PELLARIN
1520 Main Street
Redwood City, CA 94063
ALICE PELLARIN
1520 Main Street
Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: A General Partnership.

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Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

POST SCRIPT



Courtesy Fuse Theatre

The correspondence that's central to Fuse Theatre's "Special Delivery" includes photos of places that are relevant to the story.



Courtesy Fuse Theatre

Stacey Ardelean is the founder and Artistic Director of Fuse Theatre.

Fuse Theatre's 'Special Delivery' uses letters to explore connection, relationships — and it's coming to a mailbox near you

By Heather Zimmerman

Fuse Theatre has been among the many performing arts groups that looked to online platforms to reach audiences while theaters have mostly been off-limits for the past year and a half. And the Redwood City-based company's latest production is still made for a remote audience, but rather than using Zoom, the show relies on a much older form of communication: the mail.

Starting in mid-September, Fuse's show "Special Delivery: Theatre by Mail" will unfold via a series of letters sent to audience members who "subscribe" to the show by buying a ticket.

The company was inspired to create a theater-by-mail production in part because so many projects had migrated online, said Fuse Theatre's Artistic Director Stacey Ardelean.

"We were looking for creative ways to not only work together but also address the pandemic and how that has isolated, many, many people ... (we were) thinking about the communities that didn't have access to the internet and how difficult that would be," Ardelean said.

"Special Delivery" isn't about the pandemic per se, which is more of a backdrop, but it does explore how people have kept in contact in these unusual times, and asks what has been lost amid the isolation.

"We kept coming back to this idea of 'not using technology,



Courtesy Fuse Theatre

Although "Special Delivery" unfolds via regular mail, the members of Fuse's artist collective developed the show through online discussions.

how can we do theater?" Ardelean said.

Over the course of about a month, "Special Delivery" audience members will receive mail — 12 pieces in all — every two or three days that advances the story. The letters are written by different characters, some of whom discuss the same events but from different perspectives.

As a recipient of the correspondence, the audience gets to be a character in the show — though no interaction is required. But they can engage further with the play, thanks to some optional online extras. "Special Delivery" will have its own website (separate from Fuse Theatre's online presence), where audience members can seek out some extras if they choose, such as sharing photos of themselves posing with the "props" that arrive with one of the mailings.

The online component is offered as more of a bonus, though; the main story of "Special Delivery" takes place via mail.

So what is this show of letters all about? Ardelean didn't want to give too much away, but said it focuses on relationships and connections.

"This story is about our friends, our chosen family, reconnecting and (it's about) celebration, love and friendship. It's kind of a surprise," she said.

The unconventional format of "Special Delivery" makes the most of a reorganization at Fuse Theatre over the past year, a shift that's still underway as the group moves from a more traditional hierarchical model, with a board and executive positions, to an artists' collective — a group of artists that Fuse calls "SPARKS."

"We have a collective of 12

artists now. We've been working a lot on the company and the structure and dealing a lot with (the idea of) how do we run this company, being very mindful of dismantling systemic racism within those structures," Ardelean said.

The SPARKS artists' collective created "Special Delivery" together, each contributing to the show.

Ironically, the online realm of video conferencing, chats and emails that the show is deliberately avoiding in its presentation actually aided in its development. The era of Zoom has allowed Fuse Theatre to broaden its reach and the SPARKS collective features actors from beyond the Bay Area, including Southern California and Boston.

Theater-by-mail may be low-tech compared to performing via video conference, but the concept came with its own array of unusual logistics.

With the U.S. Postal Service's well-publicized delivery troubles over the past year or so, the company made sure to put a system in place to deal with any letters that go astray. Each missive is numbered so that audience members don't accidentally open anything in the wrong order that would spoil the show for them (the correct order is also shared on the show's website).

As they created "Special Delivery," the collective had to approach creating a theatrical experience in a new way, such as having to take into account a

sensory element, which doesn't come into play much with traditional in-person productions or those presented online. Company members had to consider not only how the letters would be designed, including instructions on how to read them, but also what paper each letter might use, not to mention how to incorporate props in this production.

The unique challenge was, Ardelean said, "How do we create not only the storytelling aspect of it, but also that theatrical aspect of it?"

And then of course making sure every piece of mail actually reaches its destination has involved a multitude of mailing labels.

"We have to have mailing labels for every single thing. With just the labels alone, it was like, 'My God, how do we do this?'" Ardelean said with a laugh. "It's just been a new way of thinking."

If "Special Delivery" does well in its first outing, the company will look at potentially offering it again this fall, she said, and could even add a theater-by-mail production as a regular feature of coming seasons.

Subscriptions for "Special Delivery" are \$20 and offered on a limited basis; as of press time, subscriptions were still available. For more information, visit fusetheatre.org. ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com.

Food & Drink

FARM STAND

safari

Cruising the Coastsides for the perfect produce

By Sara Hayden

Cruising the San Mateo County coast down Highway 1, it's never long before you find a farm stand that showcases just what's in season. The phenomenal bounty of the local farms paints the landscape in a palette of beautiful earthy tones — emerald fields of Brussels sprouts, pops of orange pumpkins, dusky green artichokes and golden sunflower petals dancing around rich brown centers. At a stand, customers can purchase these directly at the property where they're produced.

Soon, you might also find a broader assortment of items that aren't produced on site. Since March, the San Mateo County Agricultural Advisory Committee has been considering updating farm stand guidelines to satisfy customer cravings for ready-to-eat items by sourcing more from partner farms.

"Artichokes are a popular seller. Peas are still good. But when families stop at the stand, they want something to snack on, such as fruits. If you don't have it, they don't return," farmer Bob Marsh of Bob's Vegetable Stand and Pumpkin Farm said at a recent committee meeting. "If you just have a couple items, your farm stand isn't going to stay open very long."

A farm stand is one thread in a lifeline for preserving the agricultural industry as local farms face tough circumstances: The total estimated gross value of San Mateo County agricultural production dropped by more than 27% between 1999 and 2019, while operating costs have continued to rise. The COVID-19 pandemic and CZU Lightning Complex fires made last year even more challenging.

"We're kind of a dying breed. I hate to see us dying off altogether," Marsh said.

Expanding the types of items that can be sold at farm stands could help. If the proposed guidelines are approved, offerings could supplement the local vegetables with more

snack-friendly produce like stone fruits, and lightly processed foods such as jams, nut butters, preserves, juice and pickles. Committee members plan to finalize their comments on the county's latest draft of the proposed guidelines at their September 13 meeting.

In the meantime, there's plenty to feast on. Farm stands provide an opportunity to see where food comes from and meet the people cultivating it.

"You're getting fresher, healthier food," says Dawn Dillman of Andreotti Family Farms. "That is the crème de la crème."

We've created a guide featuring a few to whet your appetite.

Andreotti Family Farms

The Andreotti family has been farming since 1926. Their roots are in growing artichokes, beans and broccoli, but they have a plethora of other winter vegetables too including kale and garlic — "food staples people want on their plate every day," says Dillman, who works with husband Frank Andreotti and family. They also offer fruits, jams, jelly, nuts and other treats from sister farms in the area. Their historic century-old barn where they previously sold their produce was destroyed in a fire in February. They're currently raising money to rebuild, and usually sell produce on site Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m.

Andreotti Family Farms, 329 Kelly Avenue, Half Moon Bay; 650-922-0141.

Bob's Vegetable Stand and Pumpkin Farm

Heading a few miles south from Half Moon Bay, this stand sits just on the east side of Highway 1, across from cows peering over the coastal bluffs. It's a sight that's as dramatic as it sounds. Apples, plums, peaches and cherries might catch your eye up front (and we've been equally tempted by the strawberries), but look in the barrel bins behind and you just might find the largest potatoes you've ever seen. We grabbed a giant russet spud that weighed in at a whopping 1.7 pounds. Try cooking them up as twice-baked potatoes: Slice a spud in half lengthwise, bake it, scoop out the pith and mash it, put it back and pop the potato back in the oven for one more go. Dress it up with toppings of your choice, and you've got yourself a hearty meal.

Bob's Vegetable Stand and Pumpkin Farm, 650-726-4567.

Cozzolino's

The Cozzolino family provides something fresh all year round, including Christmas trees during the winter holiday season. During other months, stop by for staples from their farm like beans and peas, lettuce and chard, onions, potatoes and eggs. They also have seasonal stone fruits and strawberries from partner farms.



Charles Russo

Already looking forward to fall? Pumpkins will be available soon. This year, they plan to start offering them in mid-September. The farm stand is usually open Friday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Cozzolino's, 12599 San Mateo Road, Half Moon Bay; 650-504-8206.

Ouroboros Farms

You can enjoy Ouroboros's fresh produce grown in water at a variety of restaurants on the Coastsides, throughout the Peninsula and in San Francisco, but to prepare your own, you can Cruising the Coastsides for the perfect produce visit one of the nation's largest commercial aquaponic farms right in Half Moon Bay. They have a collection of leafy greens and herbs. Ouroboros is usually open Thursday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Monday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ouroboros Farms, 12511 San Mateo Road, Half Moon Bay; 650-522-0542.

Pie Ranch

Pie Ranch was founded in 2002 with a focus on regenerative farming and food system education, and the surrounding lands are cared for in partnership with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and Land Trust. At the farm stand, the aptly named Pie Ranch does indeed have literal pies, but they're symbolic of something more — idealistic "pie in the sky thinking"

in line with their vision for social change. The farm stand also has fresh produce from neighboring farms, herbs, fresh cut flowers, preserves, hot sauce from local peppers and more. Stop by any day except Tuesday, when they're closed. Weekday hours are noon to 5 p.m., and weekend hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pie Ranch, 2080 Highway 1, Pescadero; 650-879-0996.

R&R Fresh Farms

Owner and operator Jose Ramirez's bread and butter is actually an herb — rosemary. The farm sells it wholesale, and also directly to consumers at its Pescadero farm stand. Also available at the stand are fresh duck eggs, chayote, tamarind and plump, green tomatillos. There are dried goods too, offering a selection of rich, red chiles, fruits preserved in syrup and a multitude of beans that look like perfectly polished pebbles.

A sweet bonus: you can pick your own berries — blackberries, raspberries and olallieberries among them — or pick up a pint (or several) at the stand. Just as sweet are the baked goods like pan dulce or a slice of tres leches cake.

R&R Fresh Farms, 2310 Pescadero Creek Road, Pescadero; 650-954-0055. ■

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Sara Hayden



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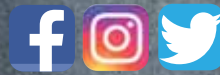
Top: Artichokes are plentiful coastsides, but San Mateo County Agricultural Advisory Committee is considering guideline changes to allow farm stands to sell more items that aren't produced on-site. **Left,** Candied fruits from R&R Fresh Farms in Pescadero. **Right,** Some local farmers supplement income from the produce they sell with flowers, fruit-picking and other ventures.

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