

The Almanac

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New poll finds 71% of Bay Area residents think quality of life has declined

Majority of respondents say the region is on the 'wrong track' and are planning to leave soon

By Kevin Forestieri

Bay Area residents grappling with the high cost of living, growing homelessness and high taxes say the quality of life has sunk in recent years, with a record number looking to leave the region altogether.

The grim appraisal, captured in a survey by Joint Venture Silicon Valley in partnership with Bay Area News Group, shows a stark decline in public perception of the Bay Area since the COVID-19 pandemic began last year. Polling of residents across five counties, including Santa Clara and San Mateo, found 56% of respondents are likely to leave in the next few years, up from 47% in 2020 prior to the pandemic.

The results show residents are frustrated with the perennial problems of Silicon Valley — high housing costs, more people living on the street and con-

sternation over droughts and wildfires — but that COVID-19 may have tipped people over the edge, according to Russell Hancock, Joint Venture's president and CEO.

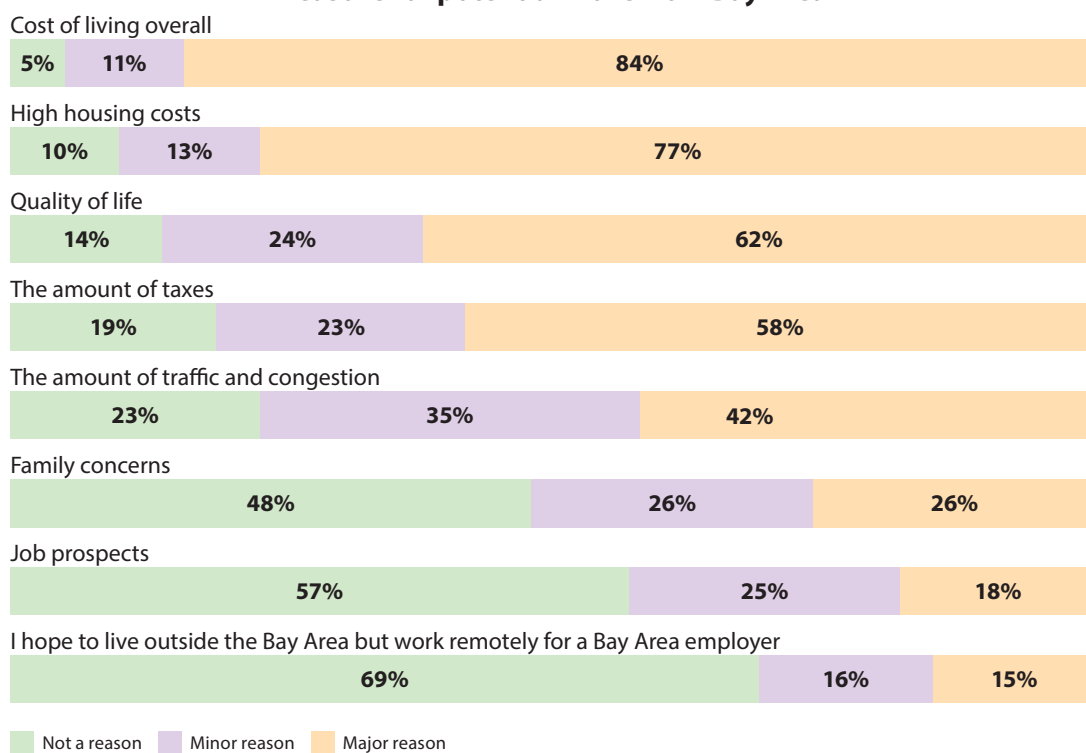
"When you toss a highly infectious disease into the mix you get a smothering amount of anxiety," Hancock said.

The survey, which was conducted late last month, found that 71% of those who responded felt the quality of life in the Bay Area is worse now than it was five years ago. The opinion was felt strongest among people ages 50 to 64 and those making a household income between \$100,000 and \$250,000. The perception also changes based on political affiliation, with 92% of those leaning Republican believing that quality of life has declined.

Top of mind for Bay Area residents is the high cost of

See **POLL**, page 19

Reasons for potential move from Bay Area



Source: Joint Venture Silicon Valley

embarcadero media

Campaign finance roundup: Contributions to Woodside's Measure A spark accusations

Real estate firm gives \$10K to Menlo Park schools parcel tax

By Angela Swartz

Owners of a popular Woodside restaurant and bakery are sounding off on claims made by an opponent of Measure A — that the initiative to allow for more outdoor community gathering spaces is a money grab by a local business.

Measure A opponent Don Pugh has alleged that the measure on the Nov. 2 ballot to change zoning on some parcels is a "ploy" by the Bacchus Man-

agement Group, which owns and operates The Village Bakery and The Village Pub, to "bulldoze the open space lot to expand parking to allow more seats and to make more money."

Bacchus has given a total of \$3,000 in cash and \$2,000 in-kind donations like banners, yard signs, design and legal work to proponents of Measure A since the beginning of the year, according to campaign finance reports. George Roberts, owner of Roberts Market, contributed \$3,000 to the Yes on

Measure A campaign, records show.

No other campaign contributions were reported.

"Does Bacchus Management benefit if Measure A passes? Yes, of course," said Bacchus spokesperson Karey Walker in an email. "And so does every other business in the Cañada Corners retail area. But the biggest winners of all? The residents of Woodside who get to continue meeting friends and neighbors at The Village Bakery and Buck's of Woodside to dine,

laugh, and enjoy our town."

She said Bacchus is "very disappointed by Mr. Pugh's misleading statements," calling the outdoor dining rolled out during the pandemic "an overwhelming success in Woodside for The Village Bakery and Buck's of Woodside. And that success is measured by the overwhelming support of bistro dining from the residents of Woodside, who have enjoyed it during these past difficult 18 months and want to continue to enjoy it in the future, despite the

grumbling of a few who would prefer not to let 'outsiders' into our town. ... The time has come for such a change and the residents clearly want to make this change."

Pugh, who wrote the argument against the ballot measure, also authored a measure back in the 1980s that put limits on two residentially zoned pieces of land adjacent to the Town Center — a town-owned complex along Woodside Road from Whiskey Hill Road to Roberts Market that includes government buildings and commercial businesses, and Cañada Corners at the Cañada Road intersection (owned by Roberts Market).

Measure A would allow the

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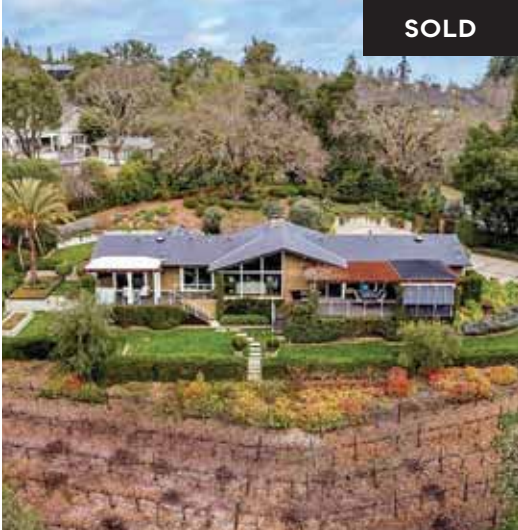
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Magali Gauthier

Sean Rose, Woodside's public works director and town engineer, stands by the nearly completed side of the Portola Road Bridge in Woodside on Sept. 30.

Woodside nears the end of \$2M bridge project

By Angela Swartz

A project this fall to reconstruct the aging Portola Road bridge in Woodside to make it safer is nearing completion.

The construction of the new 81.5-foot-long by 30-foot-wide concrete bridge, located on Portola Road, about 3 miles south of central Woodside and 0.3 miles southeast of Woodside and La Honda roads,

will cost about \$1.97 million, according to an April report from town staff. The federal government is paying for 88.5% of project costs, while the town is covering 11.5%, staff said.

The project is slated for completion between the end of October and end of November, said Public Works Director Sean Rose in an email. Traffic is closed to one of the bridge's two lanes during construction, and a temporary traffic signal

has been installed.

"The existing bridge, constructed in 1914, is in poor condition, and is considered 'functionally obsolete' due to the narrow width of the roadway and the bridge, and the lack of standard bridge rails and approach railings," according to a town staff report from 2020. The bridge carries traffic over Alambique

See **BRIDGE**, page 20

Measure A asks Woodside voters to decide on zoning changes to two parcels in town's center

By Angela Swartz

An initiative to allow for more outdoor community gathering spaces by amending zoning restrictions on some parcels in the Town Center area of Woodside is on the Nov. 2 ballot.

Measure A would amend current land use regulations that limit two residentially zoned pieces of land adjacent to the Town Center, a town-owned complex (called Village Hill) along Woodside Road from Whiskey Hill Road to Roberts Market that includes government buildings and commercial businesses, and Cañada Corners at the Cañada Road intersection (owned by Roberts Market). Because the rules were established by ballot measures J and I in 1988 and 1989, only voters can overturn the rules that limit future development on the sites.

Residents Alex Tauber and Peter Bailey, who met through the Safe Routes to School initiative several years ago, noticed the popularity of outdoor dining in Woodside that was made possible, in part, through an emergency ordinance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town Council's state of emergency ordinance allows the town to waive the restaurants' parking requirements that are part of a conditional use permit. When the emergency declaration ends, the town must once again enforce the parking requirements.

"Talking to stakeholders in the community, they said Woodside needed to create an open space where all the groups could meet," Tauber said. "We don't want any lights or speakers, we just want something that fits the environment."

They didn't want to "let a crisis go to waste," he said.

Measure A opponent Don Pugh alleges that the measure is a "ploy" by the Bacchus Management Group, which owns and operates The Village Bakery and The Village Pub, to "bulldoze the open space lot to expand parking to allow more seats and



to make more money."

Bacchus has given a total of \$3,000 in cash and \$2,000 in-kind donations like banners, yard signs, design and legal work to proponents of Measure A since the beginning of the year, according to campaign finance reports. Bacchus told The Almanac that the success of outdoor dining in town is "measured by the overwhelming support of bistro dining from the residents of Woodside, who have enjoyed it during these past difficult 18 months and want to continue to enjoy it in the future, despite the grumbling of a few who would prefer not to let 'outsiders' into our town."

Pugh, who also authored Measure J back in the 1980s, argues that Measure A threatens the town's rural atmosphere.

"The Town Council accepted that Village Hill was preserved to be open space," said Pugh, who has lived in Woodside since 1972. He's concerned the changes will bring traffic and noise. "We're a rural community; we're not downtown Redwood City where they have movie theaters. There are small gathering spaces already available; why do we need more people? It's an absolute traffic mob scene in the morning; it's too busy and there are kids walking to school. These people who think this is a wonderful idea maybe came from Los Angeles or something."

Pugh also argues the special election is costing the town too much money — an estimated \$100,000, according to Interim Town Clerk Melissa Cardinale.

"Woodside changes every day," Bailey, who serves on the Woodside Elementary School District governing board, said in response to Pugh's concerns. "I don't think it's a realistic perspective to try to freeze a place

See **VOTER GUIDE**, page 20

Menlo Park council meeting breaches protocols and raises questions

By Kate Bradshaw

Three members of Menlo Park's City Council authorized a closed session meeting the afternoon of Oct. 12, a time when the two other City Council members were unable to attend due to their full-time job commitments.

The meeting was scheduled without the prior knowledge or consent of Menlo Park Mayor Drew Combs, a highly unusual step that, while apparently legal, breached established protocols that dictate that the mayor and

city manager are expected to set City Council meeting agendas.

They later continued the meeting to 5 p.m. on Oct. 13, after The Almanac went to press.

Council members Jen Wolosin, Cecilia Taylor and Vice Mayor Betsy Nash initially scheduled the meeting for 3:30 p.m. Tuesday without Combs' knowledge. He said he didn't even know what the meeting would be about, beyond what was on the public meeting agenda, which states that the closed session will be regarding the "public employee performance evaluation of the

City Manager."

City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson confirmed that she didn't know what the meeting would be about either, other than what was listed on the agenda.

Generally, council meetings are scheduled after polling City Council members for their availability, but that didn't happen this time, Combs said.

"No one had ever come to me and said, 'I want to schedule a closed session on the city manager's performance review,'" he

See **MEETING** page 14

Portola Valley School District Governing Board Vacancies

Two seats on the Portola Valley School District Governing Board will become vacant in November. The term of each seat will be 12 months, beginning in mid-November, 2021 and ending in December, 2022. All residents of the Portola Valley School District who are also registered voters are eligible to apply to serve on the Board.

Any interested parent or community member must complete an application form and a "letter of interest" stating their experience in and commitment to educational, youth and community activities.

Application materials may be found on the Governing Board section of the PVSD web site www.pvsd.net or by calling 851-1777, ext. 2562. Completed applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 15, 2021, and should be sent to: Roberta Zarea, Superintendent Portola Valley School District, 4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

Candidates will be interviewed by the Board on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 6:00 PM. The new Trustees will take office on November 19, 2021.

For additional information, please contact Roberta Zarea at 851-1777, ext. 2561.

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CRIME BRIEFS

San Jose man guilty in robbery, sexual assault of Menlo Park man

A man who robbed a home and sexually assaulted a senior victim in Menlo Park has been found guilty by a jury of 14 felony charges, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

Current and former Menlo Park police officers testified in the trial about their investigations of the crime, which occurred at a home on the 1100 block of Ringwood Avenue in Menlo Park, according to the Menlo Park Police Department.

On Aug. 11, 2017, Lamar Dekari Stevens, a 40-year-old from San Jose, entered a Menlo Park home through an unlocked window, according to prosecutors. Stevens then covered the mouth of a 65-year-old male victim, held a knife to his throat and demanded money, according to prosecutors.

After the victim provided Stevens with \$40, he sexually assaulted the victim and demanded his car keys and credit cards, according to prosecutors.

The victim escaped to a neighbor's home and called police, who responded quickly and saw the suspect running toward the pedestrian foot bridge over U.S. 101. Police released a canine officer and the suspect jumped to the ground, falling about 30 feet and breaking an ankle, according to prosecutors.

He remains in custody on no-bail status; his previous bail had been set at \$8 million, according to prosecutors.

"The Menlo Park Police Department is grateful to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office for their dogged pursuit of justice in this heinous crime. I am extraordinarily proud of all the MPPD personnel who contributed to the successful outcome of this jury trial as are the rest of our department members," said Menlo Park Police Chief Dave Norris.

"Our primary goal is the peace and safety of our public, and when crimes such as these occur we are dedicated to ensuring that those responsible are held accountable for their reprehensible actions."

The case was scheduled to continue on Oct. 12 for a trial regarding Stevens' prior convictions and to set a date for when the sentence will be imposed.

— Kate Bradshaw

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 14

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Portola Valley joint meeting on housing

The Portola Valley Town Council and the Planning Commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 27, on Zoom to discuss their visions for the town's housing element.

This meeting will be in a webinar format. Members of the public can comment during the meeting. Information collected at the meeting will be provided to the Ad Hoc Housing Element Committee for review and consideration, according to the town.

For more information, go to portolavalley.net.

Hazardous waste collection event in Portola Valley Oct. 23

The town of Portola Valley is collecting garden chemicals, leftover paint, propane tanks, cleaning products and other hazardous waste on Saturday, Oct. 23, by appointment only.

Accepted items include cleaning products, fertilizers, pesticides, flammable liquids, fluorescent lights, paint, acids/bases, aerosol cans, automotive supplies, inks and photo chemicals. All waste collected is reused, recycled, or stabilized for proper disposal to achieve zero waste and prevent any items from going to the landfill and contaminating water and soil. They won't accept radioactive, explosive or medical waste.

Visit smchealth.org/hhw or call 650-372-6200 to sign up. Exact location and directions will be provided after you make an appointment.

There's a limit 10 gallons of liquid or 50 pounds of solids per appointment. No business waste will be accepted.

Discussion on housing and racial equity

Let's Talk Housing, an outreach effort of all the jurisdictions in San Mateo County, will host a talk on housing and racial equity on Wednesday, Oct. 27, from 6 to 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Questions that will be addressed include: "Why does where

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 21

Plan for lifting mask mandate announced by Bay Area health officers

By Sue Dremann

Eight Bay Area counties will lift the indoor mask mandates after a series of criteria are met, they announced Oct. 7.

The counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma and the City of Berkeley reached a consensus on criteria to lift health orders requiring the masks and to allow organizations to set requirements independently.

They will lift the indoor masking requirement in public spaces that are not subject to state and federal masking rules when all the following occur:

- The jurisdiction reaches the moderate COVID-19 transmission tier, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), and remains there for at least three weeks; and
- COVID-19 hospitalizations in the jurisdiction are low and stable, in the judgment of the health officer; and
- 80% of the jurisdiction's total population is fully vaccinated with two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson (booster doses not considered).

Alternatively, they could also lift the masking mandate if eight weeks have passed since a COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized for emergency use by federal and state authorities for 5- to 11-year-olds.

Currently, San Mateo, Santa



Sammy Dallal

Katherine Tincher checks her grocery list while shopping at Bianchini's Market in Portola Valley on March 20, 2020.

Clara and Contra Costa counties are all in the CDC's orange, or "substantial," tier, according to the CDC's County Check tool.

Most Bay Area health departments issued the masking requirements for their respective jurisdictions on Aug. 3, following a summer surge in cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

But with regional data showing that the surge is now receding, and with the Bay Area one of the most vaccinated regions in the country, Bay Area health officers agreed it is time to plan for a transition.

Lifting a local indoor mask mandate would not prevent businesses, nonprofits, churches or others with public indoor spaces from imposing their own requirements, however. COVID-19 easily spreads through

airborne droplets, and face coverings remain highly powerful in preventing its spread, San Mateo County's public health department noted.

"Each jurisdiction will rescind its order when criteria are met in that jurisdiction. The criteria were developed to assist in determining the safest time to lift the indoor masking orders, based on regional scientific and medical consensus. The criteria also provide safety for school children, ages 5-11, who need the added protection of masks in the community to keep case rates low so they can remain in school until they can be vaccinated," the San Mateo County announcement said.

"As a safety measure, along with vaccination, face coverings

See **MASK MANDATE**, page 19

Menlo Park council mulls options to encourage commuters to ditch solo driving

By Kate Bradshaw

It wasn't long ago when one of the most frequently cited problems with Menlo Park was its traffic. And as Menlo Park recovers from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic shut-downs and businesses figure out the circumstances under which they'll reopen their offices, the City Council is renewing its conversations about how to mitigate that traffic.

Pre-pandemic, one of the efforts underway was to explore a number of "traffic demand management" (TDM) programs, aimed at eliminating barriers to transit and promoting travel modes other than solo driving to and from work. Among those TDM programs, the city commissioned a feasi-

bility study to look into a transportation management association (TMA). Such associations typically are nonprofit organizations that develop, manage and market transportation programs; its members are made up of local businesses and institutions. For instance, the Palo Alto TMA subsidizes Caltrain passes for low-income employees and some carpool and rideshare trips, and provides trip planning for people who work in the city.

Rather than creating its own TMA, the feasibility study by city staff and the consultant Steer Group recommended that the city consider three steps toward expanding options for getting workers in Menlo Park out of solo vehicles.

The City Council adopted the study Oct. 12 on a 4-0 vote with

Councilwoman Cecilia Taylor absent, and supported working with Manzanita Works, a new organization to help employees avoid solo trips to work, to learn more about what benefits the city would receive from joining a transportation consortium managed by the organization. The council also agreed to do more research about the commute tools that the community needs as people's work habits may change as the threats posed by COVID-19 lessen.

Manzanita Works is a relatively new fiscally sponsored project of the nonprofit Community Initiatives. Among other projects, the organization manages a long-distance shuttle for essential workers employed by its

See **COMMUTERS**, page 18

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Is This The End of the 2021 Selling Season?

Dear Monica: I want to sell my house but wonder if I've missed the Fall selling season. What do you think?
Penny S.

Dear Penny: The days are getting shorter and this usually means the end of the more active Fall real estate market. Daylight Saving Time will end on November 7 and it will be dark an hour earlier in the afternoon. There will still be active buyers but inventory will decline as fewer sellers list their homes for sale. Some sellers whose homes are unsold may take them off the market and relist them in January when the market picks up again. You can weigh the pros and cons of listing now and decide if you want to wait until after the holidays to sell your home.

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Las Lomitas school board appoints two district parents to open seats

Heather Hopkins and Gautam Nadella to replace board members who resigned

By Angela Swartz

The Las Lomitas Elementary School District governing board appointed two new members during a meeting last week.

On Oct. 6, the board interviewed six candidates before selecting Heather Hopkins and Gautam Nadella to fill the openings left by board President Dana Nunn and trustee John Earnhardt. Hopkins and Nadella, who will serve until December 2022, will be sworn in at the Nov. 17 board meeting.

Hopkins said she has worked in the education space for 20 years. She co-founded the Community Equity Collaborative, a Menlo Park-based nonprofit that facilitates partnerships between organizations to expand educational opportunities for Silicon Valley youth. She also founded the nonprofit My Red Shoes in 2006, which has helped clothe

over 90,000 children, she said. Nunn said she appreciated Hopkins' "depth of knowledge" on education.

She's lived in the district for 13 years and her children attend La Entrada Middle School and Woodside High School, according to her application. She said during her board interview that she's throwing her hat in the ring now because she's very interested in the district's strategic plan. She served on the district's Strategic Plan Task Force and noted that social and emotional learning, equity and inclusion are areas of the plan she's excited about.

"Though I only have two years left as a parent in the district, I'm applying for this role because I'm interested in exploring running for a full, four-year term in 2022," said Hopkins, who holds a bachelor's degree in history from Princeton University, in her application. "I also believe diversity of a school board is

enhanced by having one or more trustees who are not current district parents." She'd like to see the district pursue "bold and thoughtful" anti-racism work and continue to create inclusive policies for LGBTQ members of the community.

Nadella's two sons attend Las Lomitas Elementary School and he has served as a board member for the Las Lomitas Education Foundation (LLEF) for two years.

He is an operating partner at venture capital firm EQT Ventures and has lived in the district for 10 years, according to the firm's website and his board application. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Stanford University and an MBA from Harvard University. Nadella said that he offers a unique perspective as a parent of a special needs student.

"I can bring a point of view for families whose children have either special or extra needs in terms of their education," he said. "I have been able to learn quite a bit about the financial needs of the district through my work on the LLEF and appreciate the many hard choices and tradeoffs the board often must

make with the superintendent."

He also believes the district needs to strengthen its finances because of the "unsettling" lack of funding from the state for local schools.

Reasons for board vacancies

Nunn resigned her post because she is moving out of district boundaries this fall and will no longer be eligible to serve as a trustee, she said. Her last day on the board will be Oct. 29 so she can help with the appointment process.

Earnhardt stepped down last month saying he believes that board members are more effective when the decisions they make impact their own children. He doesn't have a child in the district since his son graduated from La Entrada Middle School in June.

The board interviewed four other candidates: Rimmy Malhotra, an investor and parent of two children who attend district schools; Brian Ross, a district parent and municipal financial advisor; former La Entrada teacher Mimi Sabo; and district parent Adrienne Wonnacott.

Sabo, a 29-year resident of the

district who is now retired, said in her application that she had a "long-term, profound dedication" to the district. She noted that she would not be representing teachers' interests, but said her years of experience in the classroom give her a "wealth of knowledge and insight" to contribute to the board.

Board member Jason Morimoto said the decision didn't come easily.

"I would be honored to serve with all six of you," he said. "I rewrote my list four times in the course of 15 minutes, and I ended up almost every single time with a different twosome to talk about."

The board voted at the Sept. 8 meeting to appoint replacements. The board chose the provisional appointment process rather than calling a special election because it's significantly less costly, according to the district website. A special election would cost between \$365,000 and \$438,000, according to county counsel.

Last November, the district made national news when its former board president Jon

See **TRUSTEES**, page 21

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Wednesday, Oct. 20
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Mountain View, CA 94040

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Monday, Oct. 18
10:00 a.m.
Thursday, Oct. 21
10:00 a.m.

WEBINARS

Friday, Oct. 22
10:00 a.m.
Saturday, Oct. 23
10:00 a.m.

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VOTE NO
ON MEASURE A

PROTECT OUR TOWN. STOP URBAN SPRAWL.

Dear Citizens of
Woodside,

We are a group of
concerned residents
who for many years
have enjoyed and are
for outside dining in
our town. We are
against a commercial
expansion in our
already- congested
Woodside town center!

MEASURE A

- Would allow for the bulldozing and tree removal of 2+ acres of open space area in our town center increasing traffic, noise and congestion.
- Will displace our children's safe routes to school and equestrian trail off Canada Rd.
- Will allow for an amphitheater in the town center which will bring noise, traffic and litter to Woodside.

VOTE NO
ON MEASURE A
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 2,
2021

We can continue to have outdoor dining in Woodside WITHOUT Measure A.

Please vote NO on Measure A.

For more information, maps of the proposed changes, and ways that you can help our effort visit:

SaveRuralWoodside.org

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California pulls the plug on gas-powered leaf blowers under new law

Legislation targets sales of new 'small off-road engine' equipment

By Gennady Sheyner

Nearly three decades after Peninsula cities began implementing bans on gas-powered leaf blowers, the effort has found a foothold at the state level, with Gov. Gavin Newsom signing a bill on Oct. 9 that will phase out their sales. Among the dozens of bills that Newsom signed in his final action of the legislative session is Assembly Bill 1346, which was authored by Assembly member Marc Berman, D-Menlo Park, and which directs the California Air Resources Board to adopt regulations by July 2022 that would prohibit new "small off-road engines" — a category that includes gas-powered leaf blowers, generators, pressure washers and chainsaws — by 2024.

In making the case for the bill, Berman cited their environmental impact. In a June speech on the floor of the Assembly, he noted that daily emissions of air pollution from small engines are projected to surpass those from passenger cars this year.

"These emissions worsen air quality and negatively impact human health, causing asthma and lung disease and other awful health impacts on landscaping professionals who breathe in exhaust day in and day out," Berman said.

For cities like Palo Alto, Los Altos and Menlo Park — all of which are in Berman's district — a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers is far from new. Los Altos banned them in 1991, becoming the first jurisdiction in the area to do so. Menlo Park and Palo Alto followed suit in 1998 and 2005, respectively, though Menlo Park's law was subsequently overturned in a referendum and Palo Alto's, which applies exclusively to residential neighborhoods, has not been vigilantly enforced.

The new state law casts a wider net than these local ordinances. It applies to all devices with small off-road engines under 25 horsepower and unlike the local ordinances, which were prompted primarily by noise complaints, the state law focuses on greenhouse gas emissions and health impacts. The bill's passage makes California the first state to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers.

For some, particularly in the commercial sector, the shift

could pose significant challenges, according to an analysis of AB 1346 by state Assembly staff. The analysis notes that for residential uses, rechargeable electric lawnmowers, leaf blowers and string trimmers have been "available for years and have significant market share." For commercial users, however, "there is very little market for zero-emission equipment as today's technology is relatively expensive and requires multiple batteries and/or frequent recharging and replacement."

Supporters of the bill hope to address the slow adoption of zero-emissions equipment by the commercial sector by both adopting the new restrictions and by appropriating \$30 million in the budget to help small businesses make the switch. Minutes before the Senate voted 21-9 to approve the bill on Sept. 8, Sen. Ben Allen, D-Santa Monica, argued that the law is necessary to foster the state's transition to cleaner equipment.

"Unless we put pressure on the industry, they're not going to take the steps necessary to get these better lower-emission or zero-emission generators onto the market and widely available for folks," Allen said.

Not everyone agrees. Opponents of the bill argued that the legislation will impose unreasonable restrictions on landscapers while doing very little to address climate change. Sen. Brian Dahle, R-Bieber, suggested at a Sept. 8 hearing on the bill that a switch to electric equipment would make generators less reliable.

"When the power is out, how are you going to charge your battery so that you can supposedly keep your refrigerator on?" Dahle asked during a Sept. 8 hearing on AB 1346. "We're converting everything to power because, for some reason, this Legislature hates fuel, which is very sustainable, easy to access and, when the power is off, you can still use it."

Assembly member Devon Mathis, R-Visalia, similarly argued that the bill would cause more harm than good. He characterized the bill at a Sept. 9 hearing as one that would create "severe regulations for the businesses that use this equipment without providing

See **LEAF BLOWERS**, page 12



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TOP 10 SALES*			
1. \$13,850,000	2. \$9,800,000	3. \$8,300,000	4. \$7,800,000
5 Robert S Drive	1360 Garden Lane	1720 Holly Avenue	1245 N Lemon Avenue
5. \$7,600,000	6. \$6,931,000	7. \$6,825,000	8. \$5,900,000
1585 Bay Laurel Drive	1216 San Mateo Drive	1875 White Oak Drive	1170 May Brown Avenue
9. \$5,500,483	10. \$5,485,000		
1830 White Oak Drive	5 Bolton Place		

ACTIVE LISTING

Q3 21: 149
Q3 20: 181

-18%

PENDING LISTING

Q3 21: 137
Q3 20: 117

17%

SOLD LISTING

Q3 21: 134
Q3 20: 103

30%

AVERAGE SALES PRICE

Q3 21: \$3,044,178
Q3 20: \$3,011,759

1%

AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET

Q3 21: 31
Q3 20: 26

19%

SALE/LIST PRICE

Q3 21: 103.60%
Q3 20: 100.00%

4%

AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ Ft

Q3 21: \$1,481
Q3 20: \$1,386

7%

MONTHS OF INVENTORY

Q3 21: 1.40
Q3 20: 2.50

-44%

30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE

Q3 21: 3.17%
Q3 20: 3.05%

4%

*Q3 2021 compared Q3 2020

*Source: MLS Listings for Single Family Properties | Townhomes | Condos

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California's drought is no longer a temporary emergency

State's drought manager warns: Adapt to dry new normal or brace for environmental disaster

By Sue Dremann

California's declining water supply, the current drought and global warming are leading to serious environmental consequences, the state's drought manager said on Oct. 3 during a Zoom presentation for the Los Altos-Mountain View branch of the American Association of University Women.

Jeanine Jones, drought manager for the California Department of Water Resources, painted a sobering picture of the future that includes a possibly unrecoverable situation for the state's fish and a greater depletion of water unless there are significant changes in how the state manages its water supply.

The current drought conditions would require a significant increase in rainfall this coming

winter if there is a chance of recovery. That's unlikely.

"We would need to have 140% of average precipitation in 2022 to bring usable runoff up to normal level," Jones said.

The two-year drought has parched rivers and reservoirs, but it has been a long time in the making, she said. Insufficient regulation of groundwater and the lack of creating adequate water storage to meet the state's

growing needs have contributed to the current predicament.

The state's water problems date to the California Gold Rush, when projects first began moving water from abundant sources in wetter areas to drier places where it was needed, Jones said. Regulation historically lagged behind development.

Although groundwater aquifers have supplied 60% of California's water needs, statewide regulations were not in place until 2014. Overuse of the aquifers causes compaction, which prevents them from being able to refill during rainstorms, Jones said.

The ecological impact of moving water resources also was largely ignored until the 21st century, she said. Warmer temperatures have amplified the effects of drought, making it much harder for wildlife to survive when water sources they rely on are diminished or dry up.

Less snowmelt runoff is leading to ecological disaster, Jones warned. It's probably too late to

rescue migratory fish such as salmon, which depend on cold water from melting snow to migrate upriver, she said. The problem is compounded by the state's catastrophic wildfires, which also reduce runoff by damaging existing waterways and infrastructure.

Californians do have recourse, she said. But it means taking action against anticipated water shortages as soon as possible. Residents will need to be resilient and adapt to a world where drought is a normal condition, not a temporary "drought emergency," she said.

Santa Clara Valley Water District offers a variety of programs and suggestions, including landscaping rebates to replace water-loving lawns, rain barrels and other conservation methods. Information can be found at valleywater.org/water-conservation-programs. ▀

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

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LEAF BLOWERS

continued from page 11

anywhere close to adequate funding to support the rebate programs necessary to support this transition."

"Many of these businesses are small and minority-owned and are predominant professions for Latino communities involving landscape, tree care and construction," Mathis said, before the Assembly approved the bill by a 49-21 vote.

Supporters of AB 1346 counter that the bill does not regulate use of existing gas-powered equipment but only purchase of new equipment. They also note that the bill includes exceptions for farmers and emergency responders. Assembly member Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego, who worked with Berman to advance the bill and secure the funding, argued in a statement Monday that the bill would help address both the environmental and health impacts of small gas engines.

"It's time we phased out these

super polluters, and help small landscaping businesses transition to cleaner alternatives," Gonzalez said in a statement Monday.

Berman's bill has also garnered support from organizations such as Sierra Club California, Union of Concerned Scientists and Coalition of Clean Air. Bill Magavern, policy director for Coalition for Clean Air, said in a statement that AB 1346 will "protect Californians' health by cleaning up the shockingly high pollution from small off-road engines like leaf blowers and lawn mowers." Daniel Barad, policy advocate with Sierra Club California, said the bill will "curb toxic pollution in California neighborhoods by addressing emissions from leaf blowers, lawn mowers and other small off-road engines."

"This bill is another important step towards breathable air and a livable climate in California," Barad said in a statement. ▀

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



INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (IRC) VACANCIES

Setting the electoral boundaries

The City of Menlo Park is seeking Menlo Park residents to apply for the IRC.

The Commission shall be comprised of seven (7) commissioners and two (2) alternate commissioners. Alternates may fully participate in Commission deliberations but may not vote and may not be counted toward the establishment of a quorum. Alternates are subject to the same qualifications, restrictions and standards of conduct as all other Commissioners.

The IRC's responsible for setting Menlo Park's electoral boundaries for City Council districts following the 2020 census.

Redistricting determines which neighborhoods and communities are grouped together into a district for purposes of electing a city councilmember

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS:

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Magali Gauthier

Menlo Park City Council meetings typically have the agendas set by the mayor and city manager. Instead, the vice mayor and two council members set a meeting for Oct. 12 without notifying Mayor Drew Combs, scheduled for a time when he could not attend.

MEETING

continued from page 5

said. “The focus has been on the city manager recruitment process.” (The city has hired a search firm to help find a new city manager, as Jerome-Robinson announced that she is planning to retire.)

Councilman Ray Mueller, who was also unable to attend the afternoon meeting due to work commitments, said the scheduling approach was unprecedented in his experience.

“I’m having a hard time reconciling why the mayor was not

approached with setting this meeting. I’ve never seen that in the 12 years I’ve been serving the city as a commissioner and council member,” he told *The Almanac*.

In an interview, Wolosin said that “there was not a deliberate attempt to make anyone miss the special council meeting.” She said that there were constraints in setting the meeting time, “including rules around not being able to add a special council agenda item to an existing agenda, not being able to push back the start time of an existing council meeting (and the) availability of the lawyer.”

Combs expressed concern that the scheduling process for the meeting could have an adverse impact on city staff, generating chaos and uncertainty within the city government, as well as potential incivility.

“This isn’t about me being disrespected. Specifically, this is about the impact on this organization. This throws the organization into a lot of uncertainty,” he said. “...That impacts the service we provide to residents.”

In an Oct. 10 public email to the City Council, Combs said that failing to poll City Council members to determine their availability and omitting the mayor from the scheduling process “seems unethical and appears to violate the Brown Act.”

The Brown Act is California’s open meeting law that dictates that a majority of City Council members cannot talk privately about government matters unless a meeting is scheduled 24 to 72 hours in advance — depending on the content of the meeting — and the public is notified.

In a text, Nash said that she was “confident there was no effort to exclude anyone and I know of no Brown Act violations.”

According to Wolosin, alternative times, at 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., had been presented as options for the council to meet after concerns that other council members were unable to make the scheduled meeting, but those weren’t accepted. She said that the Brown Act had been followed.

Wolosin said there was an urgent need to hold the meeting and that it couldn’t be rescheduled, but declined to say why the matter was time-sensitive.

Taylor did not respond to a request for comment.

Both Mueller and Combs asked that the meeting be rescheduled and it was eventually continued to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, after *The Almanac*’s press deadline. Go to almanacnews.com for the latest updates. ■

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

CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

Charges in Rangoon Ruby embezzlement

A former employee of Palo Alto restaurants Rangoon Ruby and Burma Ruby has been charged with embezzling more than \$200,000, the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office announced on Oct. 6.

Jennifer Colvin, 40, of Oakland, was the director of human resources, payroll and risk management for Rangoon Ruby Investments, LLC and Burma Ruby Investments, LLC in Palo Alto. She allegedly increased her monthly salary and paid herself bonuses without authorization.

The alleged embezzlement occurred between February 2019 and October 2020. The owner of Rangoon Ruby and Burma Ruby discovered the alleged fraud in November 2020 after noticing accounting discrepancies. Colvin had given herself multiple \$15,000 bonuses and made a \$65,000 payment for a Porsche, among other alleged thefts, investigators reportedly found.

Colvin has been charged with two felony counts of theft by an employee. If convicted, she could face incarceration and be required to pay restitution to the company. Colvin was scheduled

for arraignment on Wednesday afternoon in the Santa Clara County Superior Court in San Jose.

District Attorney Jeff Rosen cautioned business owners to watch their business finances closely.

“This theft happened during the height of the pandemic, when local restaurants were already struggling. Please develop robust checks and balances for your business. Trust, but verify. Your livelihood depends on it,” he said.

To prevent embezzlement, the DA’s office recommends:

- Set up dual authority so oversight is built into the handling of finances (i.e., the employee handling accounting is not the same employee in charge of writing checks).
- Run background checks for people who handle finances.
- Hire a CPA firm to do a sampling of transactions on a regular interval.
- A business with a high amount of cash transactions should keep good records, exercise high scrutiny and/or oversight or consider converting to a non-cash business.
- When you discover an employee has been stealing, report it immediately to the police.

— Sue Dremann



WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the District Board of the West Bay Sanitary District will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday evening, December 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Room located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park or attend by Zoom or telephone to encourage social distancing. Please refer to: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84425104056?pwd=NzlnNWUvSC84T1V6L05YeIREbGtRQT09> Meeting ID: 844 2510 4056 Passcode: 203810 or 1-669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 844 2510 4056 Passcode: 203810

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider a proposed increase in some of the customer rates for year 2022 effective January 1, 2022 for the collection of waste and recyclable materials in the West Bay Sanitary District.

The need for this increase was discussed by the District Board at the September 8, 2021 Board meeting. The staff report for this matter is available at the District Office located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park or online at www.westbaysanitary.org.

PROPOSED NEW RATES:

Approximately fifty-six percent (56%) of residential service containers are a 32 gallon size. The new rate for 2022 for a 32 gallon container would increase from \$53.50 per month to \$55.25 per month, a \$1.75 per month increase. The new rate for the 20 gallon container would increase from \$46.00 per month to \$48.75 per month, a \$2.75 per month increase. 20 gallon containers will be grandfathered to current users but are no longer available to new customers or to customers wishing to migrate down to a 20 gallon container. As further detailed in the 2020 Rate Study. The purpose of these increases is to align the Solid Waste Rates with the actual proportionate cost of providing the service to customers in each customer service level.

The proposed rate increases will align rates for 20 and 32 gallon carts with the actual cost of providing service received by the two smaller carts. All rates for other carts and commercial bins will remain the same.

The following table shows the current rates and the proposed monthly rates for West Bay Sanitary District Franchised Customers to be effective beginning January 1, 2022.

Proposed Maximum Solid Waste Rates for 2022						
Customer	MONTHLY RATES			QUARTERLY RATES		
	Current Monthly Rate	Proposed Monthly Rate	Monthly Increase	Current Quarterly Rate	Proposed Quarterly Rate	Quarterly Increase
Residential:						
20 gallon can	\$46.00	\$48.75	\$2.75	\$138.00	\$146.25	\$8.25
32 gallon can	\$53.50	\$55.25	\$1.75	\$160.50	\$165.75	\$5.25
64 gallon can	\$72.00	\$72.00	\$0.00	\$216.00	\$216.00	\$0.00
96 gallon can	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$315.00	\$315.00	\$0.00
*Commercial:(Per Pick Up)						
1 yard bin	\$176.27	\$176.27	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
2 yard bin	\$334.54	\$334.54	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
3 yard bin	\$372.53	\$372.53	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
4 yard bin	\$496.70	\$496.70	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
6 yard bin	\$615.76	\$615.76	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
32-Gallon Cart	\$53.50	\$53.50	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
64-Gallon Cart	\$72.00	\$72.00	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
96-Gallon Cart	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a

Commercial bin rates reflect collection charge for **one** pick up per week; to calculate charge for more than one collection per week, multiply rate by number of collections per week. For example, 1-Cubic Yard Bin (at current rate) collected 3 times per week = \$528.81 (\$176.27 x 3 collections/wk)

At this hearing, the Board of Directors will consider public comment as well as written protests by ratepayers regarding the proposed increase in monthly collection rates. If you would like additional information on the proposed rates, please call the District at 650-321-0384.

Any person interested, including all solid waste/recycling collection customers of the West Bay Sanitary District, may appear at the public hearing and be heard on any matter related to the proposed increase in monthly rates or attend by Zoom or telephone to encourage social distancing. Again, please refer to: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84425104056?pwd=NzlnNWUvSC84T1V6L05YeIREbGtRQT09> Meeting ID: 844 2510 4056 Passcode: 203810 or 1-669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 844 2510 4056 Passcode: 203810

West Bay Sanitary District
Board of Directors
San Mateo County, California

/s/ Sergio Ramirez
District Manager
Dated: September 8, 2021

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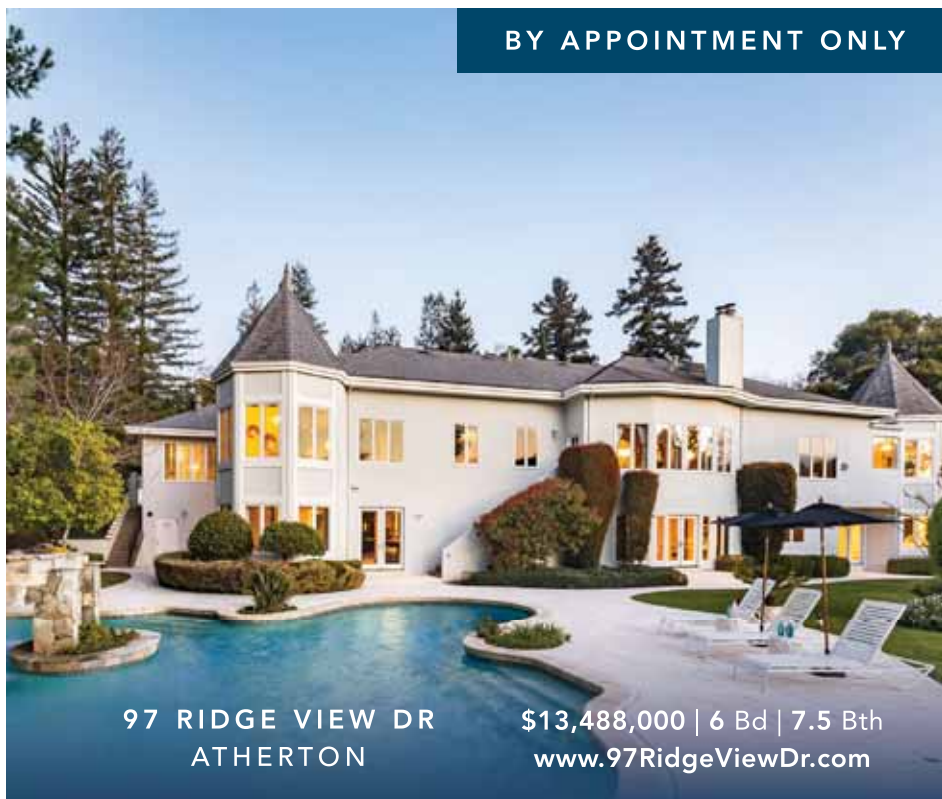
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Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | DeLeon Realty, DRE #01903224

Mary Margaret “Peggy” Merz

April 23, 1934 – October 5, 2021

Peggy passed away peacefully in her sleep on October 5, 2021 at the age of 87. Peggy (nee Milhoan) and her husband Tony lived 45 years in the home they built in Portola Valley, only moving to San Diego in recent years to be near one of their daughters. Peggy was raised in West Virginia and as a young adult moved to New York City. It was there she met Tony, her husband of 52 years, at a shared summer rental house on Fire Island. They married in Paris in 1964, lived in Boston as newlyweds and ultimately settled in Portola Valley in 1972 to raise their two daughters. A talented artist, Peggy received her degree in Graphic Arts at San Jose State University and owned a screen printing business for over 20 years. She will be remembered for her compassion to animals, her soft spoken inquisitive demeanor and her sense of humor.

She is survived by her daughters Alison and Rebecca, and sister Phyllis.



PAID OBITUARY

Irving Holzberg

November 29, 1938 – October 5, 2021

Irving Holzberg, loving husband, father, and grandfather died at age 82 after a heroic and difficult struggle with Parkinson's Disease. His family is now at peace knowing his suffering has come to an end.

Irving is survived by his wife, Lorri Holzberg, and his daughters, Rachel Hulst (Peter) and Emily Rakow (Jamie); his stepsons David Buch and Robert Buch; and 7 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Maurice and Diane Holzberg and his sister Ruth Namad.

Irving was born on November 29, 1938, in Cairo, Egypt. He grew up speaking three languages, often interchanging French, Arabic and English in one sentence. Irving's father's dream was to have his son have a British education which he did by attending high school in Cairo at Victoria College where he graduated in 1955. He continued his education at the University of Manchester where he graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 1959. At that time, which was no longer safe for Jews in Egypt, he and his parents and sister came to the United States and settled in New Jersey. Irving went on to get a PhD at Cornell in biochemical engineering.

Early in his career, he worked as a biochemical engineer at General Foods and Johnson & Johnson. Later in his life, he took on a second career of financial planning.

Generosity was the touchstone of Irving's life -- he was always willing to share whatever he had with family and friends and donate readily to many needy causes.

Until Irving became more disabled from Parkinson's Disease, he and Lorri traveled, attended concerts, plays, and spent lots of time with friends and family.

He was profoundly committed to Judaism, always remembering his time in Egypt when he had to hide his religion. After his marriage to his wife, Lorri, he became an active member of Congregation Beth Am.

Irving lived his life with dignity and strength and will always be remembered for his commitment to family and friends.



PAID OBITUARY

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

continued from page 1

property behind Cañada Corners to be outfitted with surface parking to accommodate permanent outdoor dining, trails and play structures, all of which are now prohibited. It would also allow for the possible construction of a public building — amphitheater or gazebo — for community events in the residentially zoned Town Center area.

To overturn these rules, established by ballot measures J and 1 in 1988 and 1989, respectively, residents had to submit a petition to the town for a ballot measure. The current new outdoor dining is only possible because the town waived certain parking requirements, which are part of the conditional use permits, due the pandemic, Walker said. Normally a zoning issue this simple would be under the purview of the Town Council, but Measure J requires a vote of the citizens of Woodside, a condition of any changes to this specific area, Walker said.

“The new outdoor dining was so wonderful and enjoyed by so many Woodside residents. ... that (Woodside residents) Alex Tauber and Peter Bailey recognized there might be an opportunity to allow for both continued outdoor dining and also to alleviate the chronic lack of parking, which has existed for a long, long time before the pandemic,” she said. “In fact, 40 parking spaces are required every day just for the employees of Roberts Market and the hardware store.”

She added that it's possible that the new lot could be employee parking only, which would alleviate the overcrowding in the rest of the lot.

Tauber and Bailey, who proposed the measure, noted they have no ownership in The Village Bakery and have never met with

the owners of Bacchus. They also argued that since Roberts Market owns the Cañada Corners plot, it should be able to decide what it wants to do with it.

Pugh said he is not opposed to outdoor dining in an email Oct. 8, but said that the proponents of Measure A are going about it backwards. “They should have gone to the town and planning department to develop a specific plan with details of seating, parking, etc. Then determine what zoning issues need to be addressed. Instead they took a axe to eliminate a provision from Measure J that prevents residential parcels for being used for commercial purposes. This is why I do not trust them. Bacchus is spending thousands of dollars to beguile the citizens to vote (in) their favor.”

He said without the protection of Measure J, “their proposal is to bulldoze the lot to create lots of parking to facilitate the expansion of (The Village) Bakery.”

Menlo Park district initiative raises over \$40K in latest reporting period

Lane Partners LLC, a Menlo Park-based commercial real estate services firm, donated \$10,000 to the Menlo Park City School District (MPCSD)'s parcel tax measure campaign. The proposed tax is also on the November ballot.

Lane Partners, which is involved in plans to redevelop SRI International's 63-acre Menlo Park headquarters at 333 Ravenswood Ave. by redeveloping buildings, adding housing and opening part of the campus to the public, made the donation to the “Committee to Support Menlo Park Schools, Yes on Parcel Tax Measure” on Aug. 19.

“Lane Partners is a Menlo Park-based company,” said Mark Murray, principal at Lane Part-

ners, in an email about the contribution. “Our partners and employees are residents of Menlo Park and several of us have children in the district. We share the deep commitment residents have for their schools and we believe in being good partners to the communities where we live and work. We know that Measure B is vitally important to our city and our kids and we are happy to stand with parents, teachers, seniors, other business owners, and community leaders in support of our schools. We look forward to Measure B passing for a stronger and better Menlo Park.”

The committee raised \$40,015 from the beginning of July until mid-September to support the measure, which would provide \$4.6 million annually for 12 years. Statements show a total of 40 donations were made.

Valerie Frederickson, CEO of Frederickson Partners, gave the second largest contribution of \$5,000. Former MPCSD trustee Mark Box gave \$1,000. Trustee Scott Saywell gave \$250.

During the reporting period, the campaign spent nearly \$45,000. The bulk went to pay Whitehurst/Mosher Campaign Strategy and Media, a political consulting firm hired by the district that charged \$15,000 for its campaign consulting fees. The campaign organizers paid the consultants an additional \$20,000 for marketing materials.

In June, Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg also donated \$10,000 to the campaign.

Measure B, which requires two-thirds voter approval to pass, would replace the district's Measure X, which passed in 2017 with an initial annual rate of \$360 per parcel for \$2.83 million annually and expires in July 2022. ■

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

COMMUTERS

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member organizations. Members of the Manzanita Coalition include school employee and teacher associations in several local school districts, including the Mountain View Los Altos, Mountain View Whisman, Palo Alto, Los Altos and Ravenswood districts, as well as several local churches including Congregation Etz Chayim in Palo Alto, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in East Palo Alto, and the St. Mark and University AME Zion churches in East Palo Alto and Palo Alto.

In a public comment, Manzanita Works CEO Mila Zelkha encouraged the City Council to join the consortium this year to help speed up and shape the pro-

grams that the consortium pursues. Councilman Ray Mueller favored joining the consortium sooner, but ultimately the council held off on considering that proposal until more details were ironed out, in accordance with a request from Councilwoman Jen Wolosin.

In addition, the three steps toward better managing transportation options for workers citywide were laid out in the adopted plan. In the first step, to endorse existing TDM programs in the region, the city would join commute.org and its board. It could also encourage other employers within the city to participate in Manzanita Works' transportation programs.

In the second step, the city could work to become an exam-

ple of an employer offering its workers a robust set of options to avoid driving solo. That step might include educating city employees about and promoting the transportation offerings available through commute.org. It could also join Manzanita Works as an employer to offer its workers more commuter benefits, estimated to cost about \$40,000.

In the third step, the city could invest further funds in supporting commute.org and Manzanita Transit at an estimated cost of anywhere between \$30,000 and \$120,000.

Those steps would begin later this fiscal year and run into the 2022-23 and 2023-24 fiscal years, according to a staff report. ■

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

POLL

continued from page 1

housing, which 76% of respondents described as an “extremely serious” problem, followed by general cost of living at 68%, homelessness at 66% and the increasing frequency of wildfires and droughts at 60%.

Among those seeking to leave the Bay Area, the vast majority (84%) cited the high overall cost of living as a major reason, followed by housing costs (77%), quality of life (62%) and the amount of taxes (58%).

Though the survey draws a correlation between the pandemic and rising levels of anxiety and discontent, 66% of those polled said they approved of how their employer responded to the pandemic. And among those working from home, nearly all — 95% — say they want to continue working remotely at least some of the time. Only about 1 in 3 respondents (34%) want to continue to work from home all the time and slightly more than a third (36%) want to work from home “most” of the time.

A large number of Silicon Valley employers, including tech giants like Google and Apple, have delayed a full return to the office until January 2022, leaving many employees to work from home for nearly two years. During the extended hiatus, the survey found 44% of those working remotely have felt their work-life balance has improved. That number sinks to just 20% among those who have had to continue working in person during COVID-19.

The abrupt switch to telecommuting has been a mixed bag. Respondents say they are saving time normally spent sitting in gridlock traffic, and have far more flexibility in taking care of children and other family responsibilities during the day. On the other hand, the report by Joint Venture makes clear that it’s taken a psychological toll, and that the majority of those working from home feel more isolated and alone than prior to the pandemic.

“Across income levels and most demographic categories, majorities of residents feel more stressed, say their families are more stressed, feel that it has become harder to stay connected with family and friends, and are more worried and uncertain about the future,” according to the report.

Only a sliver of respondents (5%) said they wanted to make a full return to in-person work once the COVID-19 public health and employer restrictions have been lifted. ■

Email Staff Writer

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MASK MANDATE

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have been key to our success in the Bay Area in reducing transmission and protecting public health. As we look toward lifting the mandate, it’s vital for everyone who has not gotten vaccinated to consider getting vaccinated right away,” Dr. Scott Morrow, San Mateo County health officer, said.

People who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 must continue to wear masks in businesses and indoor public spaces, in accordance with state health guidance.

The state also requires face coverings for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, in health care facilities, public transit and adult and senior care facilities. California’s masking guidelines in K-12 schools would also not be affected by changes to local health orders.

The county health officers have to decide on metrics for reimposing indoor mask requirements should that become necessary, Santa Clara County Health Officer Sara Cody said during a Thursday morning press conference. They are jointly keeping an eye out for emerging new variants and assessing how the vaccines do over time with new variants, she said.

Santa Clara County remains on the CDC’s orange tier but the number of new infections is trending down. The county currently has 72.4% of total population fully vaccinated, though 84.2% of those 12 and older have been fully inoculated. The county has just shy of 175,000 children ages 5 to 11 who would be eligible for the vaccine once it is approved for that age group. Cody said the county will diligently pursue getting those children vaccinated.

A Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory committee is scheduled to consider an application from Pfizer-BioNTech to grant emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine for 5- to 11-year-olds on Oct. 26.

Cody said she has “enormous gratitude” to the public in Santa Clara County and in the region for following the COVID-19 protocols. Because of that, the region has gotten to the point of being able to potentially lift the mask mandates.

The fourth infection surge, which was fueled by the more communicable delta variant, was relatively blunted compared to other parts of the state and the country because residents have largely heeded the five ways to lower transmission: testing, vaccinations, masking, ventilation and social distancing, she said.

The public can track together with health departments how

each county is doing by following cdc.gov and looking at the counties’ COVID-19 websites. ■

Email Staff Writer

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OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Ernest Edward Goitein**, 96, an environmental activist and Atherton resident, on Sept. 25; **Louella “Lou” Elizabeth Harrington**, 98, a longtime Menlo Park resident, on Sept. 28; **Irving Holzberg**, 82, a Menlo Park resident, on Oct. 5; and **Mary Margaret “Peggy” Merz**, 87, a Portola Valley resident of 45 years, on Oct. 5.

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

Ernest Edward Goitein

1925 – September 25, 2021

Ernest Edward Goitein, environmental and social justice activist, engineer, adventurer, talented arborist, kind and curious human being passed away on September 25, 2021. Born in Berlin in 1925 Ernie’s life circumstances took him from Germany to Holland, Palestine (Israel), Trinidad, Cuba, New York, New Jersey and eventually Northern California.

Ernie was predeceased by his first wife, Eva Hoffman Goitein, his daughter Deborah [Goitein] Goodyear, and his second wife Claire Bradley Feder. He is survived by his daughter, Karen Rizzolo (Richard), his 3 stepsons Judson Feder, Sean Feder (Rita Hosking), Augie Feder (Leah Smith) and 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Although Ernie faced challenges as a Jewish German refugee, he managed to approach life with a positive outlook, enjoying the challenge of learning new languages and cultures. Ernie had a great appreciation for nature and spent much of his early adult life hiking, swimming, skiing and attending to his bountiful orchard and garden. Ernie took great pleasure in the time he spent at his beloved Kincaid Ranch in the eastern hills of San Jose, California. He was not one to shy away from hard physical work. Immediately after arriving in the United States, he joined the army and due to a bout of measles was spared combat in Europe, but joined in the occupation of the Philippines and Okinawa. He competed in swimming at the 1946 Army Pacific Olympics in Tokyo.

After graduating with a degree in engineering from the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ, Ernie snared a grant to support a bicycle excursion around Belgium and the Netherlands ostensibly to confirm his theory that Hoboken might have been named after a town in Flanders.

Ernie worked as an engineer for Foster Wheeler, and later Bechtel Corporation in San Francisco, specializing in large-scale cooling systems. Before his early retirement, he worked on the design of nuclear power stations on the West Coast.

Ernie cared deeply for the environment and spearheaded many early campaigns on nuclear waste. He entered this “second career” at a pivotal point in the environmental activism movement. If you met Ernie during this time, you were probably struck by his endless curiosity and inquisitive nature. If you struggled alongside him, you were family too. He embraced the opportunity to organize several initiatives to help secure a healthier and safer world for future generations. Notable among these were:

A successful campaign to stop the Mobil Oil Company from building on 2,600 acres of wetlands at Bair Island, Redwood City, in



San Francisco Bay. A grassroots referendum was initiated by those opposed to this development. This acreage is now part of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge system.

Participation in a 1983 delegation, led by Scott Kennedy under the auspices of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, to Israel, Jordan, and the occupied Palestinian Territories, which dramatically altered his perception of Zionism, a movement which his family had actively supported for almost a century.

There was a proposal to build a municipal Waste to Energy plant along the San Francisco Bay. The incineration of this waste would have released harmful materials into the environment. A small group was able to organize local citizens in San Mateo and San Francisco to stop this plant.

When he learned that United Technology was burning missile fuel near San Jose, polluting the air and ground water with dioxins, a small group organized to shut down this operation.

In the early 1990’s a nuclear waste dump was planned for the desert in Southern California at Ward Valley in the Mohave desert. The struggle to stop this waste dump lasted ten years, ending in a victory in 1999. By the end of the struggle hundreds of activists were involved. No new nuclear waste dumps have been built since then.

In 1998 Ernie and Dr. Howard Wilshire traveled to Stockholm and presented a paper on radioactive waste disposal at the International Symposium on Radioactive Waste.

In 1999 he was in Seattle to participate in one of the largest civil protest gatherings in recent US history to protest the convening of the World Trade organization (WTO). It was an inspiration to see Labor and Environmentalists together (Teamsters and Turtles united at last!).

In 2002 he drove across the US to protest at the School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, Georgia. It is the military base where the soldiers and officers from Central and South America are trained in torture and repression.

In 2003 he traveled to Cancun to help shut down another WTO conference. Delegates from less developed countries, encouraged by the large number of protesters from many countries, refused to accept the WTO rules on international trade.

In 2005 he had the exceptional experience of traveling with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in his plane to witness land redistribution in the Gran Sabana (savannah), as well as observing the farming co-ops in the province of Lara, which he felt were reminiscent of the early kibbutzim.

Ernie was grateful until the end of his life. Notably his last words were “Thank You.”

PAID OBITUARY

VOTER GUIDE

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in time. People are excited about creating community gathering spots." Bailey noted that the elementary school and churches are the only gathering spots for residents currently.

Bailey argues there is already traffic in town from people coming to Woodside to enjoy the outdoors and eat at restaurants, but no one can find parking as it is.

"Adding 40 spots on land that's not used, that's something that most would welcome," he

said. "The amphitheater is for people who live in Woodside and I don't think this would add any traffic."

For opponents of the measure to compare the potential amphitheater to large event spaces like Shoreline Amphitheater in Mountain View, which draws rock concerts, is off base given that the space is just 100 feet across by 50 feet deep, Bailey and Tauber said.

The measure, which needs a simple majority in favor to pass, would allow the property behind Cañada Corners to be outfitted with surface parking

to accommodate permanent outdoor dining, trails and play structures, all of which are now prohibited. It would also allow for the possible construction of a public building — an amphitheater or gazebo — for community events in the residentially zoned Town Center area on a 1.65-acre plot called Village Hill. A trail transverses the site and an equestrian sculpture ("Spring and Sprite") was installed in 2010, a gift from the Woodside Landscape Committee, according to the town. Measure J, approved by the voters in 1988, prohibited development

of commercial or office space on a then vacant, town-owned parcel near where Town Hall is now located. It also required residential properties within and adjoining Town Center to remain in residential use unless commercial parking on those properties had been permitted prior to June 1, 1988.

Measure I, approved by voters the following year, created an exception to Measure J's requirement that residential parcels in Town Center remain in residential use. Upon its approval by the voters, residentially zoned parcels in the Woodside Road

Whiskey Hill Road Parking Assessment District were authorized to be improved to provide access, parking and open space — as shown in the 1989 Town Center site plan — so long as at least 50% of the residential parcels were maintained in open space. Approval of Measure 1 allowed the town to construct Town Hall parking and access improvements which now serve Town Hall, commercial businesses in the Town Center and the public. ■

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

TOWN OF WOODSIDE 2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062

PLANNING COMMISSION OCTOBER 20, 2021 6:00 PM

Pursuant to the governor's executive order n-29-20, as amended through order n-08-21, planning commission meetings will be held as hybrid meetings with the option to attend by teleconference/video conference or in person. Members of the public that wish to attend and/or participate in a meeting may do so in person or by joining the zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736> public comments will be accepted both in person and via Zoom meeting. Any emails sent to sharper@woodsidetown.org will be provided to the planning commission prior to the meeting. In the event that any member of the planning commission participates in a meeting by teleconference or video conference, pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown act, government code section 54953, all votes of the planning commission shall be by roll call.

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Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: sharper@woodsidetown.org

PUBLIC HEARING

2. Sten and Carole Mawson

PCDR2021-0001; VARI2021-0004

63 Romero Road

Planner: Sage Schaan, Principal Planner

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

On July 7, 2021, this item was continued by the Planning Commission with design recommendations for the applicant to address with the ASRB before returning to the Planning Commission for final action on the project at a future date.

On September 20, 2021, the ASRB reviewed the item determining that the project did not adequately address the Planning Commission recommendations and continued the item to October 4, 2021, with direction to the applicant to make further project revisions.

On October 4, 2021, the ASRB recommended that the project design be altered by removing the gable roof ridge eave/overhang located on the addition over proposed the skylights.

3. The Stenson Revocable Trust

VARI2021-0010

3470 Tripp Road

Planner: Sage Schaan, Principal Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a Variance to the 50-foot side setback requirements for a proposal to allow two HVAC units within a required side setback, which would be located immediately adjacent to a recently rebuilt nonconforming single-family residence (located within the required side setbacks). The HVAC units were installed before obtaining Town approval. No additional units are proposed other than the two already installed in the side setback. The proposal includes a 4-foot-tall solid wood fence around the units.

4. California Water Company

CUSE2021-0004

Portola Road Public Right-of-Way, near 1540 Portola Rd.

Planner: Sage Schaan, Principal Planner

Review and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a Conditional Use Permit for a proposal to replace approximately 1,800 linear feet of a 12-inch water main with a 16-inch water main, of which 1,320 linear feet will be located within the Town of Woodside. A segment of this water line replacement would be installed over an existing culvert that is part of Dennis Martin Creek, a designated stream corridor. A Conditional Use Permit is required for the project as a portion of the project is located within a designated stream corridor (50 feet on both sides of the existing culvert).

5. San Mateo County Community College District

WCFF2021-0001

4200 Farm Hill Blvd

Planner: Joseph Balatbat, Assistant Planner

Presentation and consideration of a proposal to modify an existing unmanned Verizon wireless telecommunication facility. The project consists of relocating antennas and remote radio equipment to two locations at the corner edges of the existing theater building rooftop (approximately 50 feet from the current location) and installing two FRP screens to conceal the existing and new antennas and radios.

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING SAGE SCHAAAN AT [SSCHAAN@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG](mailto:sschaan@woodsidetown.org) OR JOSEPH BALATBAT AT JBALATBAT@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG



Magali Gauthier

Woodside resident Alex Tauber stands on the undeveloped parcel of land beside the Woodside Community Museum in Woodside in April. He's behind the citizen initiative Measure A on the Nov. 2 ballot.

BRIDGE

continued from page 5

Creek, a seasonal stream.

The alignment of the bridge's north approach does not meet federal standards for a bridge with 3,000 vehicle crossings a day, officials told The Almanac in 2014. A report by Caltrans found that parts of the concrete had deteriorated from the bridge.

The new bridge includes two 10-foot-wide lanes, a 5-foot-wide eastbound sidewalk, an about 2-foot-wide westbound shoulder and concrete barriers on both sides.

The bridge abutments are remaining in place to make sure the existing stream flow is not affected, the report states. ■

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

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TRUSTEES

continued from page 8

Venverloh stepped down over his wife's racist and misogynistic tweets about Vice President Kamala Harris.

Earnhardt was the subject of an attempted recall started by parents who said his comments in a local newspaper reacting to Mehredith Venverloh's insulting tweets about Harris lacked sensitivity and warranted his removal. (The recall was proposed on Change.org — an official recall petition would have required signatures from a quarter of the district's registered voters in order

to move forward.)

The board also filled a seat left vacant by Jody Leng, who was elected to the board in the Nov. 3, 2020, election. After winning, she informed the district that she would not take her seat. Trustees voted to pursue an appointment process at that time, selecting former candidate Molly Finn and Cynthia Solis Yi.

Voters have 30 days after the appointments were made to gather signatures to call for an election. It would require 1.5% of district voters to sign a petition calling for the positions to be put on a ballot. ■

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

you live matter? Why are our neighborhoods segregated, even though our communities are diverse? What can we do to create more inclusive and equitable communities?"

Register online at tinyurl.com/smchousingequity.

Atherton police create resident volunteer patrol

The Atherton Police Department is

recruiting for its new Resident Volunteer Patrol (RVP) program.

Volunteers can take part in street walking patrols to serve as "eyes and ears" for the police department. They can also participate in the "You Are Not Alone" program to provide welfare checks on seniors and ill residents.

To apply to join the RVP, download an application on the town's website at ci.atherton.ca.us and submit it to Cmdr. Dan Larsen at dlarsen@ci.atherton.ca.us.

— Angela Swartz

THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

ATHERTON

59 Leon Way **\$6,950,000**
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00 3BD/4BA
Compass 650-400-8424

LA HONDA

60 Fernwood Drive **\$3,149,000**
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00 4BD/3BA
Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 650-678-1108

LOS ALTOS

1378 Chelsea Drive **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 5BD/3.5BA
Compass 650-300-9773

MENLO PARK

903 Berkeley Avenue **\$5,998,000**
Sun 11:00-2:00 5BD/5.5BA
Hugh Cornish/Stephane Elkins 650-619-6461

PALO ALTO

240 Parkside Drive **\$3,195,000**
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 3BD/2BA
Serenio 650-996-1118

551 Lytton Avenue (T) **\$1,888,888**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2.5BA
JLee Realty 650-857-1000

170 Santa Rita Avenue **\$3,988,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3BA
DeLeon Realty 650-459-3888

PALO ALTO

425 Ferne Avenue **\$2,988,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3BA
DeLeon Realty 650-459-3888

629 Edgewood Drive **\$5,498,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/3BA
Serenio Leannah Hunt 650-400-2718

552 Kellogg Avenue **\$6,495,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3.5BA
Compass 650-465-5958

1585 Edgewood Drive **\$7,750,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/5.5BA
Compass 650-465-5958

REDWOOD CITY

410 Wembley Court **\$1,988,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/2.5BA
DeLeon Realty 650-684-0887

SUNNYVALE

650 Oneida Drive **\$2,488,000**
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00 3BD/2BA
Compass 650-269-0210

WOODSIDE

132 Alta Vista Road **\$2,795,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:00 3BD/2.5BA
COMPASS 650-740-2970

190 Phillip Road **\$5,495,000**
Sun 1:30-4:00 4BD/3.5BA
COMPASS 650-740-2970

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

Agents: submit open homes at AlmanacNews.com/real_estate

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Vote yes on Measure B

Parcel tax will preserve educational opportunities for Menlo Park students

One year ago last month, roughly 535 Menlo Park City School District students donned masks and backpacks as they returned to the district's three elementary schools for in-person learning. Oak Knoll, Encinal and Laurel were the first public schools in San Mateo County to reopen since schools shut down during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

This fall, schools that had been shuttered for over a year reopened across the country, as in-person learning — albeit with pandemic protocols still in place — has once again become the norm, especially in areas with high vaccination rates like the Bay Area. The anticipated approval of the Pfizer vaccine for 5- to 11-year-olds will soon allow many more children to get vaccinated against COVID.

But coronavirus aside, the potential for disruption in local schools still looms.

Menlo Park City School District officials say they face a budget shortfall should voters fail to approve a parcel tax on the Nov. 2 ballot, Measure B, which would add \$193 annually onto the current parcel tax rate of about \$405. The initiative, which requires two-thirds voter approval to pass, would replace Measure X, which passed in 2017 with an initial annual rate of \$360 per parcel and expires in July 2022. Measure

X has brought in \$2.83 million in annual revenue, while Measure B would raise \$4.6 million annually for the K-8 district. The new parcel tax would sunset after 12 years, expiring in 2033.

The district, like others throughout the state, has placed parcel taxes on the ballot to bridge a funding gap that has persisted since the passage of Proposition 13 in the 1970s, according to district officials. It was determined that 18 cents from each property tax dollar in Menlo Park would go toward the school district, a percentage that is unchangeable. As a result, property taxes only cover 62% of the district's budget; the district relies on local sources for 88% of its total budget.

The district implemented about \$1.8 million in cuts in the 2021-22 fiscal year budget — and another \$2 million between 2017 and 2021 — and district officials communicated before the passage of Measure X that it was a temporary solution to address long-standing financial needs. Expenses are outpacing revenue growth due to increased enrollment over the past 15 years, teacher pay raises and pandemic-related expenses such as additional staff and personal protective

equipment, according to the district.

Should Measure B fail, the district would have to cut an additional \$3 million from its budget, according to the ballot argument in favor of the initiative. No decisions have been made about what might be

cut, but the school board has discussed increasing class sizes and making cuts to librarian programs, world language courses and physical education teachers, with classroom teachers then becoming responsible for PE. The passage of Measure B will not enable the district to add programs; rather, it would allow for the continuation of current programs without disruption at a time when children are still recovering both emotionally and academically.

The Almanac recommends a yes vote on Measure B.

The district proposed Measure B after discussing past parcel tax measures with voters and learning they didn't want frequent parcel tax elections or evergreen taxes, such as the ones proposed with measures A and C, which were voted down. Officials have sought to balance the budget with previous cuts, and the district's highly rated schools have been a primary factor

in drawing families to move to the area, driving up home values in the process. The district initially began offering in-person learning to kindergartners and first graders in September 2020 while also continuing distance learning, and officials have been able to continue safely providing face-to-face education as schools have returned to a semblance of a "normal" full school year this fall.

Formal arguments submitted against the measure which contend that the district doesn't "need" more parcel tax revenue because revenues have been up \$12.2 million in the last five years and because enrollment has decreased fail to tell the full story. District officials have effectively communicated why there is a need for the funding and attribute the decline in enrollment to the pandemic, arguing it is temporary — the city of Menlo Park has proposed gradually adding 3,000 housing units to comply with state mandates, nearly all of which would be within MPCSD boundaries.

As we near the start of the third year of the pandemic, the last thing local families, students and educators need is the emotional and financial strife that losing teachers and essential programs would bring. Vote yes on Measure B.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Yes on Woodside's Measure A

By Peter Bailey and Alex Tauber

There has been a lot of information and misinformation shared recently about Measure A. In the simplest terms, Measure A unlocks potential. It creates a zoning exemption that would allow the owner of the "Cañada Corners" property to discuss the prospect of additional parking (needed to make outdoor dining permanent) and makes possible an option to explore a small community gathering area on the town-owned property adjacent to Town Hall. Neither of these possibilities are guaranteed by the passing of Measure A. Both options will be heard separately by the appropriate town boards and committees in public meetings where everyone will have a chance to make their opinions known throughout the process.

Measure A is not a case of "paving over paradise." The area under discussion at "Cañada Corners" would allow for additional parking spaces, hardly the "2.2-acre" paving bandied about by some sources. Any improvements would include updates and extensions to the existing trail infrastructure and would be made in accordance with the town's current guidelines and rules. Any and all development would be paid for by the owner of the property, not the town or the citizens of Woodside.

Measure A supports our local businesses

GUEST OPINION

and allows us to continue enjoying our lovely Woodside with outdoor dining. Without the zoning exemptions provided by Measure A, and the possibility it brings to create some additional parking, the outdoor dining we have all been enjoying at The Village Bakery and Buck's (in current parking areas) will come to an end as early as Dec. 31. The exemption to the conditional use permit patron/parking space rule was put in place to help our local businesses during the pandemic, but eventually the outside dining areas will revert to parking without the zoning exemption that Measure A creates.

Much angst has been caused by the idea of a small community gathering area near Town Hall. And while we may think it's an exciting idea, we will simply repeat that Measure A only puts this option on the table for discussion. Measure A in no way guarantees that improvements to this area will make it through the lengthy public design and planning review process. It is possible to support Measure A and not be in favor of an amphitheater. Measure A only creates possibility.

Measure A unlocks what was locked up by Measure J in 1988 (passed 52.8% to 47.2%). Measure J took away the abil-

Vote no on Measure A

By Don Pugh

For many years, the citizens of Woodside have fought to preserve rural Woodside. In 1988, Measure J was passed to stop the use of residential lots to facilitate commercial expansion. Do we want Woodside to continue to be a delightful rural community without attracting even more traffic, and overwhelming our town? The Woodside general plan requires that businesses primarily serve the day-to-day needs of the local community. How many customers are not local residents? Are we becoming a destination, not a residential community?

Proponents allege that outdoor dining will be eliminated without passage of this measure. Hyperbole like this beguiles folks to supporting Measure A, but nothing could be further from the truth. Both restaurants have had outdoor dining for years and can have more outdoor dining by presenting a plan to the town and Planning Commission.

We all want and enjoy outdoor dining and can continue to enjoy it and work to expand it. Let us work together to develop a comprehensive plan with the town and citizen input and review and determine the best approach with specific details for seating and parking for providing outdoor dining. It is wrong to start with a brute force initiative to remove the limit on com-

mercial expansion for these two areas. By eliminating these protections, there will be no restrictions on bulldozing the open space lot to build a large parking lot and facilitate expansion of the restaurant.

A second completely unrelated plan is to build an amphitheater by Town Hall to provide a venue for commercial events. This idea should also be brought to the town as a developed plan which includes details on size, performance times, number of customers, building cost, and ongoing maintenance rather than charging forward to overrule limitations. In fact, they can gather there today where the proposed amphitheater is, if it is not a commercial event, like a rock concert. So why do we need to allow commercial use in this amphitheater? How will such commercial use impact the local businesses? How will it impact the neighbors?

Neither of these projects has been studied, engineered, planned, or designed to allow for an intelligent vote. Instead, scare tactics have been employed for a reactionary vote.

Bacchus Management is spending thousands of dollars and using employees to gather signatures, send emails, and reportedly solicit callers who are seeking reserva-

See **YES ON A**, page 23

See **NO ON A**, page 23

YES ON A*continued from page 22*

ity to discuss how both private property (at Cañada Corners) and public property (next to Town Hall) could be used to meet the desires and needs of the community; needs that have become more complex over the last 33 years. (Who could have foreseen our current pandemic and the ensuing need and subsequent enthusiasm for outdoor dining?) Measure J restricts the use of properties within and adjacent to the Town Center and requires that any changes be subject to a vote of the citizens of Woodside. Why Measure A? Because Measure J and the evolving needs of our community demand it.

We all know that change is scary. But Measure A isn't a mandate to overdevelop our rural community. It simply allows the town and the citizens of Woodside to discuss in a public forum how to best meet the current needs of its residents.

Peter Bailey and Alex Tauber are co-leading Measure A and are both longtime residents of Woodside. To read Measure A in full, go to smcacre.org/post/november-2-2021 "Resolution, Measure, Full Text" and see page 5.

NO ON A*continued from page 22*

tions. It is clear that Bacchus could benefit through expansion and revenue if Measure A passes.

We are the custodians of Woodside, and its future is dependent on your vote. Will you allow the circumvention of the protection of our planning process and allow commercial interests to exploit our beautiful town and in so doing destroy our rural environment? Or will you stand with the many residents who are voting no on Measure A to enable an inclusive conversation for a proper solution to the issues before us? Let's work together to see how we can provide more outdoor dining and gathering places without damaging the rural character of our beautiful town.

I ask you to vote no on this measure.

Don Pugh has been a Woodside resident since 1972 and was the author of Measure J. He can be reached at don@SaveRuralWoodside.org. Visit saveruralwoodside.org for more information.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Saving energy

Menlo Park wants to go all-electric ("Guest opinion: How to get on board with Menlo Park's climate action plan,"

LETTERS *continued*

Sept. 24). In order to save energy, we need to get back to basics: Insulate the whole house, including windows, and use thermal mass to its fullest advantage, summer and winter. Small fans can circulate air. Heat pumps are noisy; cross ventilation is best.

The sun does wonders in drying our clothes, providing light and hot water, and keeps our bodies and homes warm throughout the day, and some of the evening. This does mean we all need to keep our trees trimmed, petite, open, and not hanging into someone else's property. The sun is free to all. Blocking out its rays is taking from others what rightfully belongs to them, preventing them from saving energy, money and comfort, for all. An opened, well-groomed landscape makes the property look bigger, cleaner, tidier and more inviting.

We are all in this together. Let us help each other save energy, our natural resources, and money, and let our light shine.

*Jackie Leonard-Dimmick
Walnut Avenue, Atherton*

Overseas emissions

Here at Worcester Polytechnic

Institute, I recently picked up an electric skateboard, brought overseas from China. When opening the container, it came across my mind how a ship had to bring this here, and with that ship the pollution trail behind it.

The Guardian recently posted an article about shipping companies seeking to reduce their emission, using money gained from lowered fuel costs and a \$2 billion fund. "The global shipping industry has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero by mid-century but only if governments impose a mandatory levy on shipping fuel to fund the development of new low-carbon technology."

When we think of shipping companies, research and development are not the foremost thoughts. When it comes to scientific research there are already corporations that center themselves around finding a better tomorrow.

Three percent emissions, being the estimated amount put out from shipping companies, is not a large portion of the overall picture. That said, any amount of emissions is damaging to the environment, and steps should be made to better the world in many areas.

*Jonathan Blecherman
Menlo Oaks Drive, Menlo Park*

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

BC HANDYWORKS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288855
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
BC Handyworks, located at 120 Scenic Drive, Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
BENJAMIN C CAMPOS
120 Scenic Drive
Redwood City, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 14, 2021.
(ALM Sep. 24; Oct. 1, 8, 15, 2021)

JLCZ TRANSPORTATION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288893
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
JLCZ TRANSPORTATION, located at 2065 California St. Apt. 46, Mountain View, CA 94040, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
JORGE LUIS CUEVAS ZAVALA
2065 California St. Apt. 46
Mountain View, CA 94040
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 17, 2021.
(ALM Sep. 24; Oct. 1, 8, 15, 2021)

KIDDIE COTTAGE BILINGUAL DAY CARE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288814
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Kiddie Cottage Bilingual Day Care, located at 1750 Croner Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ALEJANDRA ESPINOSA
1750 Croner Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 9, 2021.
(ALM Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

MID-PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288864
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Mid-Peninsula High School, located at 1340 Willow Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MID-PENINSULA EDUCATION CENTER, INC.
1340 Willow Rd.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/15/2002.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 14, 2021.
(ALM Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288929
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Select Physical Therapy, located at 540 Ralston Ave., Suite B, Belmont, CA 94001, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettysburg Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.
Registered owner(s):
PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATES, INC.
4714 Gettysburg Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Michigan
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 21, 2021.
(ALM Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288928
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Select Physical Therapy, located at 900 Veterans Blvd., Suite 230, Redwood City, CA 94063-1750, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettysburg Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.
Registered owner(s):
PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATES, INC.
4714 Gettysburg Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Michigan
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 21, 2021.
(ALM Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288927
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Select Physical Therapy, located at 1860 El Camino Real, Suite 201, Burlingame, CA 94010, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettysburg Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.
Registered owner(s):
PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATES, INC.
4714 Gettysburg Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Michigan
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 21, 2021.
(ALM Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

BOTTLETREE CULTURE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288861
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
BottleTree Culture, located at 321 Bell Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County; Mailing address: P.O. Box 50713, East Palo Alto, CA 94303.
Registered owner(s):
MUISI-KONGO MALONGA
321 Bell Street
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 1, 2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 14, 2021.
(ALM Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021)

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

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Palo Alto. . . At Its Finest!

Elegant Updated Home in Sought-After Crescent Park

By Monica Lander,
Freelance Writer

Crescent Park, the epitome of quintessential Palo Alto lifestyle, offers a sophisticated urban/suburban mix, providing fortunate residents the best of both worlds.

Discover something special the minute you walk up to the lovely porch and bright blue door at 1342 Dana Avenue. Originally built as a two-bedroom, two-bath house in 1946, Mr. and Mrs. Lee then purchased it in 1966. They added the second story that includes two bedrooms, a full bath, and the pool. (Mr. Lee was one of the founders of Ming's Restaurant, a Palo Alto landmark for many decades.)

In 1996, the Duttons, a distinguished and award-winning Stanford University electrical engineering professor, and his wife purchased the property. They



were walking by the property, and Mrs. Dutton heard “a splash-splash” of what sounded like someone in the pool (pools were rarely found at that time) and knew then and there that it was the home for them.

No detail was overlooked in the subsequent two-year, million-dollar renovation that redesigned the second level and extended the floor plan enlarging the main floor master suite and guest room. From hardwood floors, custom baseboards and crown molding to exquisite millwork and new windows, the home was meticulously updated and has been lovingly maintained throughout the years.

The approximately 2,374 square feet of living space sits on an exceptional almost 8,900 sq ft

property with backyard gardens and multiple outdoor spaces that create a much-desired sanctuary and blend of entertaining, play, and relaxing venues.

Relish the tree-lined streets of Crescent Park with its manicured lawns and gardens, showcasing pride in ownership, and its peaceful and walkable neighborhoods. The coveted location is close to downtown Palo Alto's renowned world-class entertainment, dining,



and nightlife.

Additionally, enjoy the shops, charming cafes, and restaurants at both Town and County and Stanford Shopping Centers, located nearby. Some of the best award-winning schools, including Duveneck Elementary, Green Jr. Middle, and Palo Alto High School,

are within about a mile, not to mention the sprawling Stanford University campus, just a quick two-mile drive or bike ride away.

The 10-acre Eleanor Pardee Park and community gardens, just blocks from this home, offer a delightful meeting place for families and friends.

South Bay Realtor Rebecca Jepsen is particularly excited to bring this one-of-a-kind property to market. Chosen by these owners for her market knowledge and professional reputation, they were also impressed by the “extra measures and personal care” that Jepsen offers to her clients. She continues to go the extra mile for her clients, making transitioning to either a smaller home or senior community a “calming and even enjoyable experience.” The Duttons recently moved to their stunningly remodeled apartment at the Vi, and said they truly couldn't have done it without Rebecca's care, limitless energy and support.

The open and light-filled interior of this home on Dana Avenue, and

especially the elegant and grand living room, were perfect for the current owners. These competitive ballroom dancers began to take dance lessons at the Arthur Murray dance studio when their son was getting married. They fell in love with dancing and became “Gold Champions” in their division.

The timeless and classic features like hardwood floors, artisan



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millwork, crown molding, custom ironwork, recessed and gallery lighting, and fresh interior paint make this a statement home. Multiple French doors open to the backyard oasis and pool, delivering the essence of California indoor/outdoor lifestyle.

The elegant primary suite features a sitting area, new plush carpet-

Two additional bedrooms on the upper level were converted into a fabulous dual office with a pair of custom built-in workstations, a murphy bed, and a window seat with a pullout bed. A built-in bookcase pivots to reveal a spacious walk-in closet. High tech workers or business owners will find this space exceptionally useful to create an incredible home office and guest room, or they can choose to revert this space to bedrooms. A full bathroom with a floating vanity and tile wainscot is also on this level.

Stately columns define the expansive living room with its front-facing garden windows, beautiful custom-built honed fireplace and

and spice racks, an appliance lift, and lots of storage. Five stylish pendants illuminate the two-level island and breakfast bar topped

pool and spa with custom lighting and an automatic cover, or exercise your green thumb in an ideal vegetable garden.



ing, coffered ceilings, and access to the backyard. A corner fireplace with a custom-carved and honed marble mantel creates a warm and cozy setting. Behind a mirrored pocket door is the en suite bathroom with a deep, jetted tub, oversized shower, a single-sink vanity, and additional make-up vanity. The sizeable walk-in closet is also behind a mirrored pocket door and includes a stackable washer and dryer, multiple built-ins, and lots of natural light.

The main-level bedroom features a cedar-lined closet with extensive custom-built organizers. Its en suite bathroom features a beautiful granite vanity and walk-in shower with custom lighting.

mantle, and French doors leading to the backyard patio.

The formal dining room accommodates both large gatherings or intimate family meals. Throw open the French doors to extend this generous space onto the patio for the perfect garden party.

The detailed and thoughtful redesign of the kitchen creates a true chef's kitchen imagined and planned by someone passionate about cooking and entertaining.

Custom crafted cabinetry with upper seeded glass-faced cabinets includes a built-in china cabinet with glass-paneled doors, deep drawers, pullout cabinets with custom stemware organizers

with granite. A stainless counter and stainless backsplash provide the ideal prep station nearby the cooktop and open shelving. There is also a built-in workstation.

The casual dining nook is a charming setting with a built-in corner bench, extra storage and garden views. Conveniently access the gardens and patio from the kitchen.

The kitchen is well appointed with dual SubZero refrigerators, a Miele oven and warming drawer, a Panasonic microwave, a Thermador five-burner cooktop with a pot filler, two Miele dishwashers, and a U-Line wine refrigerator.

The ultra-private backyard includes lush garden beds bordering a brick patio with a pergola and other venues shaded by the canopies of mature trees. Cool off in the resurfaced pebble tec lap

Additional features include a two-car garage with a second washer and dryer, a utility sink and walls of storage cabinets.



This not-to-be-missed home is a true gem on this friendly and quiet block in sought-after Crescent Park.

Offered at \$4,500,000

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Photos courtesy Kevin Berne/TheatreWorks

Above: Cary (William A. Williams) is admired by Trevor (Justin Huertas) in TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's "Lizard Boy."
Top: Siren (Kirsten "Kiki" deLoehr Helland) has a magnetic voice and big plans for the world.

By Heather Zimmerman

It's probably not a surprise that there are scales in a show called "Lizard Boy," but not just the green, reptilian kind that cover the titular hero head to toe. This comic book-inspired story can't be told without a whole lot of musical scales — and a menagerie of instruments, from guitars to glockenspiels. Music is the superpower that the show's trio of cast members share.

In fact, from the show's soundtrack, which has found popularity online, to the small but mighty cast, to the longtime collaborations that underpin "Lizard Boy," the hero's reptilian scales might be one of the least striking things about this indie-folk rock musical. "Lizard Boy" is now playing in person and streaming at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley through Oct. 31.

The original "Lizard Boy" cast, made up of the show's writer/creator Justin Huertas, actors Kirsten "Kiki" deLoehr Helland and William A. Williams, along with director Brandon Ivie, has developed the show off and on for the better part of a decade.

"Lizard Boy" made its world premiere in 2015 at the Seattle Repertory Theatre, but the musical's foundations go back farther, to 2011 when the Seattle Rep commissioned the show and Huertas called on his friends Helland and Williams — who had also previously worked with him on other projects — to join the cast.

Helland recalled that, at that time, she didn't really play any instruments, but that's no longer the case.

"As the show developed, and we started learning more about what the style of the piece was going to be and how we wanted to score the piece, it became clear that there were going to be an endless number of instruments that were played," she said with a laugh.

Over the course of about eight years, both Helland and Williams learned a host of instruments, some more expected on a musical theater stage than others.

"I play the guitar and piano, I play ukulele, glockenspiel — this is my first time playing the glockenspiel. We have a kazoo chorus," Williams said.

One of the first things Helland learned was flute, at Huertas' behest, for another show he had created. That laid the foundations to eventually learn how to play many more instruments for "Lizard Boy," she said, crediting Huertas' support and encouragement.

"That's really how I did it. I mean, honestly, he just has so much faith in his friends and he believes in our talents and our ability to learn. He just said, 'I believe you can, and we have time.' And it's true, once I put my brain in that place, I discovered that I was able to learn new things," she said.

"Lizard Boy" starts with a first date but quickly turns into an epic journey to save the world. Trevor (Huertas), the Lizard Boy of the title, is a young gay man who lives in Seattle, used to keeping to himself due to a strange childhood accident that caused him to be covered in green scales.

But, as the pandemic perhaps has taught us all, daily isolation is tough, so as Trevor hops on the dating app Grindr in the hopes of finding his ex, he instead encounters the charming, new-in-town Cary (Williams). Cary convinces

Trevor to meet, but they soon find themselves confronting the villainous Siren (Helland), who has big plans and a magnetic voice that Trevor recognizes — it haunts his dreams.

"Cary is new in town, to Seattle. And he's a fun guy but he's really lost at the moment — he's lonely. He's reaching out and trying to meet some people, but having a little bit of a difficult time doing that. The interaction he has with Trevor, it's a little more honest and real than the stuff that he's kind of experienced before," Williams said.

Williams, who is now based in New York City, is not new in town when it comes to the Bay Area: He grew up in Los Altos and attended Mountain View High School. He said he took the opportunity of being in town with "Lizard Boy" to show his castmates around where he used to live, and take them to San Francisco.

The show has been performed in various venues, from its Seattle debut to San Diego's Diversionary Theatre, staged readings at Playwrights Horizons in New York and an online performance for the 2020 National Alliance for Musical Theatre Festival, and the longtime collaboration of the show's original cast members has allowed for deeper development of the characters.

Helland said that although the easiest way to describe Siren is as the supervillain of the piece, the character has grown to be much more than that.

"In early versions of the piece she was pure evil — just wanted to be queen of the world, and would do anything she wanted in order to make that happen," Helland said, noting it quickly became apparent that the character needed more dimension.

"She's a complicated woman who is very lonely, partially because of the choices she's made and partially just because of the world that she lives in. She really seeks companionship and friendship and a connection to someone who understands her, and is also driven by that," she said.

"Over time, both of our characters have really been fleshed out and had a chance to become more complex," Williams said. "It's really great, because I know every time I come back to it, there's just going to be a little more for me to take out of the character."

And it's between meeting a new love and a possible new foe, and an eventual battle to save the world, that Trevor begins to see his scales differently. As much as superheroes seem to be larger than life, the best superhero stories look at the inner emotions of its characters — and explore what their "superpowers" actually are.

"The thing that I love the most about 'Lizard Boy' is that no matter who you are, anyone could look at Trevor, and see his scales and immediately understand and connect to your own personal scales, and how that affects your journey in life," Helland said. "The biggest theme for me in the show is that no matter what your scales are, whatever is the thing that you think is negative about you is actually the thing that makes you the most positive, and the strongest, the most independent and the most special person."

"Lizard Boy" plays in person through Oct. 31 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. For more information, visit theatreworks.org.

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



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Food & Drink



Sammy Dallal

Selby's chef Mark Sullivan prepares a Black Label Burger on Nov. 18, 2019. The restaurant was awarded a Michelin star in 2021.



Veronica Weber

Baumé chef Bruno Chemel maintained two Michelin stars at his restaurant starting in 2011. He's since requested that Baumé be removed from the Michelin Guide listings so he can focus on developing a new concept.

Seeing stars

Peninsula restaurants shine in the 2021 Michelin Guide

By Sara Hayden

As a food writer, I feel like I'm expected to cover the Michelin Guide, a long-standing publication that rates dining experiences, originating from a French tire company. And I must admit, I've been wrestling with why I feel this pressure, and if I do cover the guide, what degree to do so.

I'm puzzled as more and more media outlets ditch their own rating systems, but also continue to dedicate quite a bit of coverage to this particular one. In the U.S., Google searches for "Michelin Guide" outpace searches for other travel-ish and food-ish guides, so it looks like there's at least some curios-

ity about it across the country, especially in California and New York.

For my part, much of my musing boils down to these questions: Is this coverage of interest to the million or so readers across our greater community? Does it serve the Peninsula? When bandwidth is limited, does this accolade warrant coverage over another? Is it more noteworthy than a restaurant simply surviving?

I haven't settled on answers to all these questions. And I'm curious to hear what you think — as readers, as people who work in the industry, as diners — what does the Michelin Guide mean to you? Dear reader, do let me know: peninsulafoodist@embarcaderopublishing.com.

dozens of restaurants on the Peninsula and surrounding area in its 2021 California edition, the first since 2019 after it took a break in 2020.

The list includes some extraordinary local restaurants, rated with symbols, like stars and plates that denote things like whether a restaurant is "worth a stop," how good the cooking quality is and how "comfortable" a restaurant is.

One of the newcomers to the list was Sushi Shin in Redwood City. This year, the restaurant's second since opening, it earned one star. However, chef Jason Zhan is not new to this recognition. Zhan trained in his craft under Hideo Kuribara at Ushiwakamaru in New York, which received a Michelin star while Zhan was there.

Now at his own Michelin-starred restaurant, Zhan gets to work at 8:30 a.m. and leaves at midnight as he prepares 20- to 22-course meals with a lean team that includes his wife, a dishwasher and a part-time assistant. Zhan said, "I don't work just to earn a star, or to get a good review from Yelp, so it (doesn't) really change anything to me — just still the same thing, every day."

Zhan paused, and laughed: "I feel, 'Just — oh! — one star?'

Local stars

In any case, I'd like to congratulate the restaurants and the teams behind them that received Michelin recognition this year, achieved in difficult circumstances that have included navigating COVID-19 safety measures, physical and mental health needs for themselves and their loved ones, staffing challenges and rising costs.

Out of more than 500 listees, the Michelin Guide included

Because I've been working 20 years," he said. "But it's good. This is the second year, and we got one star. Hopefully we can improve, and get two stars, three stars in the future. That means to me, I work hard, and people like it, so (I'll) have more energy to do and to create more unique dishes so people can enjoy."

A restaurant that maintained two stars between 2011 and 2019 has been removed from the Michelin Guide at the proprietor's request. You'll no longer find Baumé in the guide's proverbial pages.

"I care about my stars, it's not that I don't care," Bruno Chemel said of the restaurant he runs with his wife, Christie Chemel. "But I reach a stage of my life, a stage of my business, when I need to evolve the business ... I need to pay the bills, I need to have my life, because owning a two-Michelin star restaurant in COVID in Palo Alto is not easy."

Removing the restaurant from the guide now alleviates the pressure to adhere to what's demanded of a Michelin-starred restaurant, Chemel said.

"To me, we're just a mom and pop restaurant. It's just me and my wife," Chemel said. "I'm just a cook, and I want to please my guests. That's what's very important to me. I feel very happy. I have no stress for guidelines I need to follow. I just follow what I want to do, and we see if it works."

Meanwhile, Manresa returned with three stars in Los Gatos.

The Bacchus Group has added another Michelin star to its portfolio with Selby's, its newest property on the border of Redwood City and Atherton. The group's San Francisco outpost, Spruce, also holds a Michelin star. And The Village Pub in Woodside has been recognized with a Michelin star for 12 consecutive years.

"Three restaurants, three stars ... It means I have to open a fourth one now, because I'm not competitive or anything," founding partner and president Tim Stannard said, a joke with a kernel of truth.

So while the Bacchus Group has seen plenty of stars, this year's hold special meaning. Selby's opened in 2019, but then closed when COVID-19 shelter-in-place ordinances were announced in March 2020. After briefly reopening to offer takeout and delivery, they closed again in October. They remained completely shuttered nearly a year, and just reopened last month.

Selby's team, all together when they heard the news about their Michelin recognition, popped a magnum of champagne and shed tears.

"It is for us like the Oscars, the World Series, the NBA Finals and the Super Bowl all wrapped up into one," Stannard said. "It means a lot to us, just from a business perspective. And more than that it just feels great — especially after the last 18 months — to see the hard work that everyone undertook ... be recognized." ■

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Peninsula Michelin Guide restaurants

Here's the complete list of local restaurants included in the 2021 Michelin Guide:

Atherton

- Selby's: 1 Michelin star; 3 comfort and quality

Belmont

- Shalazaar: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

Burlingame

- Rasa: 1 Michelin star; 2 comfort and quality
- New England Lobster Eatery: Michelin Plate; 1 comfort and quality

Half Moon Bay

- Pasta Moon: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

Los Altos

- Aurum: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

Menlo Park

- Flea Street Cafe: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality
- Madera: 1 Michelin star; 2 comfort and quality
- Camper: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

Millbrae

- Tasty Place: Michelin Plate; 1 comfort and quality

- Wonderful: Michelin Plate; 1 comfort and quality
- Hong Kong Flower Lounge: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

Mountain View

- Chez TJ: 1 Michelin star; 3 comfort and quality
- Doppio Zero Pizza Napoletana: Michelin Plate; 1 comfort and quality

Palo Alto

- Bird Dog: Michelin Plate; 3 comfort and quality
- Ettan: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality
- Evvia: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality
- iTalico: Michelin Bib Gourmand; 2 comfort and quality
- Protégé: 1 Michelin star; 2 comfort and quality
- Tamarine: Michelin Plate; 1 comfort and quality
- Vina Enoteca: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality
- Zola: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

Redwood City

- La Vega Seafood & Cocina: Michelin Plate; 1 comfort and quality

- Sushi Shin: 1 Michelin star; 2 comfort and quality
- Warung Siska: Michelin Plate; 1 comfort and quality

San Bruno

- Gintei: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

San Carlos

- Saffron: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality

San Mateo

- All Spice: Michelin Plate; 2 comfort and quality
- Pausa: Michelin Bib Gourmand; 2 comfort and quality
- Sushi Yoshizumi: 1 Michelin star; 2 comfort and quality
- Wakuriya: 1 Michelin star; 2 comfort and quality

Woodside

- Village Pub: 1 Michelin star; 3 comfort and quality

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

*Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on **Instagram** @peninsulafoodist and subscribe to the newsletter at almanacnews.com/express/foodist to get insights on the latest openings and closings, learn what the Foodist is excited about eating, read exclusive interviews and keep up on the trends affecting local restaurants.*

Michelin Guide rating system

Michelin restaurant recognition is awarded according to a rating system that includes icons and accompanying descriptions. I'm trying to wrap my head around what they all mean. This is how Michelin breaks down some of its ratings:

Star

- One: High-quality cooking, worth a stop
- Two: Excellent cooking, worth a detour
- Three: Exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey

Comfort and quality

Represented by a fork and spoon icon

- One: Quite comfortable (according to one Michelin Guide article; it's described as "simple restaurant" according to some of their restaurant listings)
- Two: Comfortable
- Three: Very comfortable
- Four: Top class comfort
- Five: Luxury in the traditional style

Michelin Bib Gourmand

Represented by an icon of Bibendum, the formal name of the "Michelin Man"

- Good quality, good value cooking

Michelin Plate

Represented by an icon featuring a plate, fork and knife

- Fresh ingredients, carefully prepared; a good meal



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Exemplary grounds of over an acre provide an intimate setting for this spectacular Atherton estate, custom-built in 2017 by renowned builder Lencioni Construction. Natural tones create a warm, welcoming ambiance that puts you at ease from the moment you step inside, with a quiet elegance that emanates throughout over 9,300 total square feet of interior space filled with high-end appointments and finishes. The modern floorplan offers grand-scale formal rooms made for entertaining, as well as a gourmet kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances, a convenient office, family room with wet bar, theater, wine cellar, and much more. An impressive 5 bedrooms and 7 bathrooms include the detached pool house, as well as 4 en suite bedrooms in the main home highlighted by the primary suite with a spa-like bathroom and stunning walk-in closet. Enjoy true indoor/outdoor living as numerous glass doors open to impressive grounds filled with vast heated terraces, a fireplace, grilling station, and a lap pool. Plus, ample parking for family and guests is always available thanks to a gated motor court and oversized 4-car garage. Just moments to downtown Menlo Park, this estate is also within easy reach of downtown Palo Alto and Stanford University, with the venture capital firms of Sand Hill Road close at hand.

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