

# The Almanac

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

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## Small plane makes emergency landing at The Horse Park in Woodside

By Bay City News Service and Angela Swartz

A small plane made an emergency landing Sunday, Nov. 7, at a horse park in Woodside, fire officials said.

No injuries were reported after the aircraft touched down shortly after noon in an open area at The Horse Park, located at 3674 Sand Hill Road, according to the Woodside Fire Protection District.

"I was thrilled that nobody was hurt and a couple of horses thought it was kind of exciting," said Steve Roon, executive director of The Horse Park.

The plane, a Citabria, was still at the Woodside horse park as of Monday morning, as the pilot investigated how to move

it, Roon said.

The pilot told fire officials that he had to land due to a malfunctioning fuel line soon after takeoff from the Palo Alto Airport, about 7 miles away. The fire district called The Horse Park to let them know a plane needed to land, Roon said.

"It was an amateur pilot out flying and noticed an issue with his plane," he said. "Rather than try to fly back over residential area, he came to land at The Horse Park."

Planes have landed at The Horse Park, which is "just a big field with no trees," in the past, Roon noted. He said he considers the park a community resource. ■

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



Courtesy Julie White

A small plane made an emergency landing at The Horse Park in Woodside on Sunday, Nov. 7.

## Neighbors fed up with overflow parking near popular Alpine Inn

By Angela Swartz

Cars parking along a shoulder of the hilly Portola Valley road leading to the Alpine Hills neighborhood, across from the Alpine Inn, pose a major safety concern, neighbors say.

Neighbor Jean Paul Coupal, a resident for seven years, said the traffic and parking issues along the northern end of Golden Oak Drive, across the street from the Alpine Inn and Rossotti Field, have gotten worse since the popular restaurant reopened in 2019 after a major renovation. The situation is a "hazard in the making," he said.

"It's been a nightmare," said Coupal, who said he's spent a year asking the town to stop letting cars park along the Golden

Oak Drive shoulder. "The worst of the problem is the town does nothing to resolve this. (About) 5,000 people live here, so you're not running a city, just a small town."

He said the problem is worse on sunny weekends when people come out to eat brunch at the Alpine Inn and on Friday or Saturday nights. The Almanac observed a packed parking lot during some of these times, but there was little overflow onto Golden Oak Drive. Coupal and his neighbors shared photos of more than seven cars parked on Golden Oak at the end of September, with some cars blocking about half of the lane heading down the hill.

Neighbor Markus Ogurek and others said they have gotten used to cleaning up trash drivers leave behind.

Safety is their greatest concern for residents, they told the town's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety (BPTS) Committee in August. Over the summer, a car hit a cyclist going down Alpine Road, leaving Golden Oak Drive, in what San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Andy Hui described to the committee in September as a "major collision."

"Until there's an accident, until there's blood, they're (the town) not going to react," Coupal said. Coupal said he plans to start a petition to put landscaping or logs on the shoulder to prevent people from parking there. Neighbors are willing to pay for them, he said.

Neighbors say hazards include:

- Cars have to go over the double yellow line to pass parked cars
- Cars make U-turns on the Golden Oak Drive hill to park



Magali Gauthier

Cars fill the parking lot between the Alpine Inn and Rossotti Field in Portola Valley on Nov. 4.

■ Drivers may be impaired after drinking alcohol at the Alpine Inn

■ Visitors are parking on Golden Oak Drive not only to visit the Alpine Inn, but also to smoke cigarettes.

Those parking on Golden Oak Drive also have to walk across the busy Alpine Road to get to Rossotti soccer field or the restaurant, which doesn't have any

See **ALPINE INN**, page 12

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Magali Gauthier

**Principal Simone Rick-Kennel** talks with freshmen Oscar Solano and Jonny Hipple during an art class at TIDE Academy in Menlo Park on Oct. 27.

## Now in its third year, TIDE Academy campus is finally complete

By Angela Swartz

Eight months into its first year, TIDE Academy shut down in-person learning due to the pandemic. Now in its third year, students are back in class full time, the first school year at a completed campus.

The school, located at 150 Jefferson Drive in Menlo Park, is focused on a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) curriculum. The Almanac toured it to get a

look at the campus, which had been a work in progress, with ongoing construction caused by project setbacks.

Students use 3D printers in the makerspace and are in the process of starting a robotics club. Students and teachers work in collaboration spaces named “High TIDE” and “Low TIDE.”

TIDE started with a freshman class in August 2019 and has added a grade each year since.

It now has 196 students enrolled over three grade lev-

els, said Principal Simone Rick-Kennel, who left Menlo-Atherton High School as principal in June after nearly 20 years working for the Atherton school. There are 61 freshmen, 49 sophomores and 84 juniors. Of the current junior class, all but three students who transferred to TIDE (two this year, and one last year) started at the school as freshmen, she said.

Rick-Kennel was named head

See **TIDE**, page 12

## Menlo Park council OKs pilot to test Teslas as police vehicles

By Kate Bradshaw

As part of a move to curb the city’s carbon footprint, the Menlo Park City Council recently agreed to purchase a number of new hybrid and electric vehicles for the city’s police and public works departments. Part of that project involves the purchase of three new Model Y Teslas to shape a police department electric vehicle pilot program.

The council voted 3-2 on Oct. 26, with council members Jen Wolosin and Cecilia Taylor opposed, to replace six existing gas-powered police vehicles with hybrid Ford Mustang Mach-E vehicles and purchase a number of public works vehicles at a cost of about \$1.6 million. Wolosin said she favored approving the spending to buy the hybrid replacement vehicles but wanted to hold off on the Tesla pilot program and revisit the idea at a later date.

The police department will initiate a \$350,000 pilot program to test three Tesla electric vehicles. Each Tesla is expected to cost between \$108,000 and \$116,000 after it is outfitted for public safety patrol. In addition, the department plans to purchase an electric Chevy Bolt as a code enforcement vehicle.

The council also approved funding for the public works department to purchase vari-

ous other vehicles, including a hybrid forestry truck, a towable compressor, a dump truck, a tree chipper, a water tender, and a water valve exerciser truck.

The city is working on a plan to decarbonize the city’s vehicle fleet by 2030.

Generally, the standard used to determine suitability of vehicles for police work is the “Michigan State Police Vehicle Evaluation,” according to a staff report. It determines whether a vehicle is considered pursuit-rated or pursuit capable. Teslas haven’t been vetted by that system to see if they’re adequate for whatever car chase needs the department might have, but the city of Fremont has tested both Tesla’s Model Y and Model S in pilot programs. The Ford Mustang Mach-E has been tested recently, according to a staff report.

The city plans to design a template for converting a Tesla Model Y for civilians into a fully functioning patrol vehicle.

Currently, about 76% of the city’s fleet is powered with gas and renewable diesel, 20% is hybrid and 4% is electric. The switch would bump the number of the city’s hybrid vehicles to 27 up from 22 and electric vehicles to nine from five and drop the total number of gas or renewable diesel-powered vehicles to 80 down from 85, according to

See **GREEN CARS**, page 16

## John Getreu receives life sentence for 1974 murder

Family, friends of Janet Ann Taylor, other victims find relief after 47 years

By Sue Dremann

Calling the string of strangulation murders and sexual assaults by John Arthur Getreu “evil and despicable crimes,” San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Robert Foiles sentenced the 77-year-old man to life in prison and a \$5,000 fine Nov. 5 for killing Janet Ann Taylor 47 years ago.

“Words cannot begin to express my sorrow in this case,” Foiles said.

He wished that Taylor’s parents were alive to see the man who killed their daughter be

brought to justice and hoped all of the families and the surviving victims would get some solace from knowing that Getreu would spend the remainder of his life in prison.

A jury convicted Hayward resident Getreu of first-degree murder and infliction of great bodily injury on Sept. 14 after a scant hour of deliberation. His trial lasted 18 days. He murdered Taylor, 21, on March 24, 1974, while she was hitchhiking home after visiting a friend. Her body was found in a ditch on Sand Hill Road near Manzanita Way. The La Honda woman

had been strangled, beaten and sexually assaulted.

Witnesses, including his family, a former wife, the family of another murder victim and another victim who survived an assault by Getreu provided testimony during his trial.

Getreu was previously convicted and imprisoned in Germany when he was 18 years old for the 1963 strangulation, beating and rape of 15-year-old Margaret Williams. Her father, an Army chaplain, and his father, who was also an Army officer, were serving at a base in Bad Kreuznach.

Getreu spent more than six years of a 10-year sentence — the maximum allowed at that time in Germany — behind bars before returning to his family in the U.S. But his penchant for sexually assaulting and strangling young, dark-haired women apparently continued.

In 1975, he took a plea deal for a lesser charge, statutory rape, after being charged with the forcible rape of a Palo Alto teenager who was in his Explorer Scout troop. She testified during the Taylor case that he had also strangled her and threatened to kill her if she didn’t submit to his

assault. His stepdaughter and an ex-wife have also said off the witness stand that he sexually assaulted the girl for years during her childhood.

On Feb. 16, 1973, Leslie Marie Perlov, also 21, was found strangled in a remote area near what is now the Stanford Dish hiking trail, which isn’t far from where Taylor’s body was found 13 months later.

Getreu wasn’t on anyone’s suspect list, however. Although California had the first mandatory sex offender registry law

See **GETREU** page 22

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### COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Courtesy Erik Burmeister

**Mateo, 7, receives** his COVID-19 vaccine at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park on Nov. 6.

### Over 2K kids vaccinated at Hillview clinic

Some 2,317 children were inoculated against COVID-19 at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park Nov. 6 and 7 during events hosted by Safeway Pharmacy and the Menlo Park City School District. The clinics were planned in anticipation of the FDA's emergency use approval of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for 5- to 11-year-olds last week.

"It was such a relief for our fourth grader to get his vaccination this weekend!" said Theresa Fox, an Upper Laurel School parent, in an email. "We had been eagerly awaiting the vaccine

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 17

### MENLO PARK BRIEFS

### City launches new website

The city of Menlo Park on Nov. 1 launched a new beta website to test and collect feedback from visitors. New events and information will be posted to the site, which aims to make it easier to find information and services, has better adaptations for phones, tablets, laptops and computers, and better integration with city social media accounts, according to the city. Access the new website at [beta.menlopark.org](http://beta.menlopark.org) and a new mobile app for the city at [beta.menlopark.org/apps](http://beta.menlopark.org/apps).

### Menlo Park police get \$70K traffic enforcement grant

The Menlo Park Police Department recently received a \$70,000 grant from California's Office of Traffic Safety to spend on traffic enforcement and education through September 2022.

"Impairment, speeding and other dangerous driving behaviors jeopardize the safety of other people on the road," police Chief Dave Norris said in a statement. "This funding allows us to provide necessary traffic enforcement measures with the goal of reducing serious injury and fatal crashes on our roads."

The grant is intended to pay for efforts like DUI checkpoints, distracted driving enforcement, bike and pedestrian safety, as well as driving violations such as speeding, not yielding, running stop signs or red lights and not properly turning or making lane changes. It will also help provide officer training and recertification in administering sobriety tests, impaired driving enforcement and recognizing drug use, according to a city announcement.

### Redistricting feedback sought

Like many other public entities, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is in the process of redistricting its seven wards in response to the population changes documented in the 2020 census. The district covers a wide swath of territory in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. There are three potential maps proposed, Scenarios A, B and C. Scenario A prioritizes ward boundaries shaped by roads, Scenario B prioritizes city boundaries, and Scenario C proposes minimal change. Go to [is.gd/mrosdredistrict](http://is.gd/mrosdredistrict) to review the maps and provide input. The

See **MENLO PARK BRIEFS**, page 16

# Menlo Park school district's parcel tax is headed for approval

Updated vote count shows \$4.6M Measure B with a comfortable lead

By Angela Swartz

Measure B, a parcel tax measure for the Menlo Park City School District, is getting the votes needed to pass, according to election results released Thursday, Nov. 4.

Some 74.3% of voters said yes to the measure, which requires a two-thirds, or 66.7%, voter majority, county election officials reported Nov. 4. There were 5,990 votes in favor and 2,072 opposed.

The county had just 60 votes left to count in the only two measures on the ballot, Measure

B and Woodside's closely divided Measure A race, according to the county's website.

The measure, on the Nov. 2 special election ballot, asks for \$598 per parcel annually, a \$193 bump from the current rate of about \$405. It would raise \$4.6 million annually for the district, which serves about 2,700 students in Menlo Park and Atherton.

District officials say they listened to voters who turned down the district's past attempts at a parcel tax, measures A and C, in part, because they were evergreen taxes with no expi-

ration dates. Instead, Measure B would sunset after 12 years, expiring in 2033. It would replace Measure X, a seven-year parcel tax which expires in June 2024. It has been described as a "stopgap" solution and raises \$2.83 million annually.

The most recent round of elections results were set to be released after The Almanac's Tuesday afternoon early press deadline. Visit [almanacnews.com](http://almanacnews.com) for the latest election results. ■

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



Magali Gauthier

**Students walk around** during recess at Hillview Middle School on the first day of school on Aug. 19. A parcel tax measure on the Nov. 2 ballot to support the Menlo Park City School District is passing by a comfortable margin.

# With a few ballots to count, Woodside's Measure A election is a nail-biter

By Angela Swartz

An initiative to allow two sites in the Town Center area of Woodside to be considered for outdoor community gathering spaces had a three-vote lead (50.1%) in the latest results released Thursday, Nov. 4. Measure A requires a simple majority to pass.

The San Mateo County Elections Office reported last week that 1,150 people voted yes on the measure, while 1,147 voted no, tightening the already close race that posted a 20-vote differ-

ence on election night.

The county had just 60 votes left to count in the only two races on the Nov. 2 ballot, Measure A and the Menlo Park City School District's Measure B, according to the county's website. Some 21 of those remaining ballots were cast in the Measure A race, said Jim Irizarry, assistant chief elections officer for the county.

Measure B, a parcel tax, was leading by a comfortable margin.

"Currently, we have not received any late ballots from

Woodside, and 17 of the 21 challenged ballots are signature issues," Irizarry said on Nov. 5. "Most of the remaining challenges are due to properly signed and returned envelopes which are empty and did not include a ballot."

The last day to "cure" challenged ballots is Nov. 17. A challenged ballot is one with an issue that would prevent it from being counted, which includes lateness, said Irizarry. The vast majority of the time it's due to a signature that is missing or does not match county records,

or late arrivals, he said.

There is no provision in the California law for an automatic recount in any election, Irizarry said.

Someone requesting a recount needs to file an application within five days after the certification of the election. In this case, the county plans to certify the results on Nov. 19, according to its website. The requester bears all costs of the recount if the results do not change as a result, he said. Details on how much it would cost were not immediately available.

"Constructively challenging an entrenched status quo is never easy," said Alex Tauber, a "Yes on A" proponent, adding that he and fellow proponent

Peter Bailey and were trying to create the conditions to have a real conversation about it. "Along with everyone who voted for Measure A, we remain hopeful and resolute that this was the right thing to do for our community."

Measure A opponent Don Pugh said in an email that he is "surprised that so many voters were beguiled into believing Measure A was about outdoor dining."

"We all like outdoor dining, and it can be done by working with the community to develop a plan," he said. "This was a power play by Bacchus (Management Group) to remove

See **MEASURE A**, page 12

# The Almanac sets \$200K goal for Holiday Fund charitable giving drive

Campaign will benefit local nonprofits that serve youth, families and others in need

By Almanac staff

The Almanac Holiday Fund campaign to support local nonprofits that provide critical help to those in need is kicking off this week, with the aim of raising \$200,000 — every cent of which will be distributed to community agencies.

Through the generosity of local residents and the Holiday Fund's partners, Peninsula service organizations will be able to provide primary medical and preventive health care, bridge educational gaps, put hot food in hungry stomachs, step in with services when times are tough and more.

Recent grants from the Holiday Fund have ensured non-

profits were able to continue their important work of helping others during the pandemic. Second Harvest Food Bank, the largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, met the tremendous increase in needs by serving hundreds of thousands of residents through its network of than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

The Boys & Girls Clubs provided much-needed after-school academic support, enrichment and mentoring to 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched this year, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. And because The Almanac and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation are absorbing all administrative costs to run the fund, 100% of every donation will go directly to an agency for services.

Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$260,000, which was distributed

See **HOLIDAY FUND**, page 18

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Timing of Selling

**Dear Monica: If inventory is as low as it is reported to be, shouldn't I sell my house now instead of waiting until next year?**

**Carol B.**

Dear Carol: There are good reasons to list your home now rather than wait but much depends on how quickly you want to sell. If you can wait until next year, you will have more time to prepare and likely more buyers will be looking then. From now until the end of the year, the holidays will take the attention away from home buying even for buyers who are ready now.

If you do list now, you will still reach some buyers but if you wait until January, the market will be likely be more active than it is now.

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

# Local Veterans Day ceremony honors members of armed forces

By Lloyd Lee

For Kenneth Horowitz, thinking about his service in the U.S. military doesn't come around often.

He served more than 50 years ago during the Vietnam War, as a young, and scared, Army dentist from 1968 to 1969.

But each year, when Palo Alto holds a ceremony for Veterans Day, as it did on this past Monday on a cloudy evening, Horowitz was grateful to be reminded of his contributions to his country — and those of millions of others.

"The only time I really remember my service is when Palo Alto holds this event," he said.

About 60 people gathered at King Plaza in front of City Hall to commemorate those who once served, or currently serve, in the military ahead of Veterans Day on Thursday, Nov. 11. In attendance were City Council members, members of the city's fire and police department, including Police Chief Robert Jonsen, city staff and local veterans.

Masako Yokota, a classical vocalist and chief of staff to the chair of the nonprofit Cancer Commons, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful." Dr. Joseph Felter, a Hoover Institution research fellow and a former U.S. Army Special Forces and foreign area

officer, gave a speech as the evening's guest speaker.

Felter recognized the late George Shultz, a top cabinet member during the Nixon and Reagan administrations and former captain in the Marine Corps, who died in February at his Stanford home. He also recognized members of local law enforcement and the fire department, which Felter likened to veterans.

"Our members of the law enforcement ... and fire department here, first responders — so many others take risks to protect us just like our veterans do in combat," Felter said.

The national holiday, which honors about 19 million living veterans, especially resonates with the city of Palo Alto: About 26 city employees have identified themselves as veterans, five who serve in the fire department, Palo Alto City Manager Ed Shikada said in his brief recognition on Monday.

In addition, about seven local veterans sat in the small audience, three of whom served in the Vietnam War, including Horowitz.

"I saw a lot of kids there (in Vietnam) — scared to death," Horowitz said in a brief conversation. "So was I."

Ray Powell, an Atherton resident who served in the U.S. Embassy as a defense attache in Canberra, Australia, and air attache in Hanoi, Vietnam, said in an interview that, for him, the



Magali Gauthier

Members of the color guard look toward the U.S. flag during a performance of the "The Star-Spangled Banner" at a Veterans Day celebration in King Plaza in Palo Alto on Nov. 8.



Magali Gauthier

Dr. Joseph Felter, a former U.S. Army Special Forces and foreign area officer, speaks with George Young, a former U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and captain during the Vietnam War, and Bert Laurence, a former executive officer of the Hawk air defense missile during the Vietnam War and a U.S. Army captain, at a Veterans Day event in Palo Alto's King Plaza on Nov. 8.

national holiday is a way to help service members feel included with the rest of American society, which includes many people who may never have to be exposed to a line of fire or other hostile environments.

"The extent to which our veterans connect to the rest of society is vital to the health of our democracy," Powell said. "We can't let veterans be something other than an integral part of our society."

Felter also took a brief moment to acknowledge veterans who have died by suicide and encouraged the audience to support veteran assistance organizations. (According to the latest

data from the Department of Veterans Affairs, 6,261 veterans died by suicide in 2019.)

"The best way to thank a veteran for their services is to be good citizens, to be worthy of our veterans' sacrifices," Felter said. ▣

#### Help is available

Any person who is feeling depressed, troubled or suicidal can call 800-784-2433 to speak with a crisis counselor. Reach trained counselors at Crisis Text Line by texting 741741.

Email Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee at [llee@paweekly.com](mailto:llee@paweekly.com).

## Man allegedly threatens to shoot police after causing disturbance, vandalism at Stanford Shopping Center

By Sue Dremann

A man led Palo Alto police on a harrowing foot chase and standoff after they tried to arrest him for smashing car windows at Stanford Shopping Center last week. He ran across El Camino Real to a hotel balcony in Menlo Park and repeatedly threatened to shoot officers, police said Monday.

Initially reported as a disturbance, the incident rapidly escalated to involve a crisis negotiator and police taking cover, according to a press release. On Nov. 5 around 1:45 p.m., Stanford Shopping Center security personnel called police dispatchers regarding the man,

who allegedly yelled at patrons, threatened passersby and spat on store windows at the mall at 180 El Camino Real.

Arriving officers found the man, who was uncooperative. He said he was waiting for a ride-share car so he could leave. Shopping center security told police they wanted to place him under a private person's arrest if he didn't leave the property for disrupting and interfering with business, police said.

The man then ran into the parking lot. Officers, who followed from a distance, assumed he was running to meet his ride-share car, according to

See **VANDALISM**, page 16

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# Menlo Park couple tapped to lead replanting campaign in wildfire-devastated Greece

By Kate Bradshaw

Menlo Park couple Steve and Dianne de Laet have long worked to build community in two peninsulas very far apart: the San Francisco Peninsula and Greece's Peloponnese peninsula.

Now, they're on a mission to help restore a decimated landscape in their Grecian community by appealing to their California hometown.

The de Laets were recently tapped by Gov. Nektarios Farmakis, the regional governor of Western Greece, to lead a private fundraiser aimed at replanting

olive trees that were burned by summer wildfires in Greece's Ancient Olympia region, they told *The Almanac* in a recent phone interview from their home in Greece's Peloponnese region.

In August, wildfires struck the Peloponnese region, triggering evacuations of dozens of villages near the archaeological site where the original Olympic Games began in 776 B.C., and destroying about 450,000 olive trees.

Within that region are many small olive farms and farmers who rely solely on the olive trees for their livelihoods, who lost

their farms and homes, Steven de Laet said. This year's wildfire also builds on longer-term damage from wildfires that struck the region in 2007 and 2018, he added.

To counteract the devastation, they are raising funds to plant 80,000 new olive trees, each at a cost of roughly \$5. Olive trees can live up to 4,000 years, but take a number of years before they begin to bear fruit, they said.

Greece has been a part of the de Laet family's history for some time. The couple married in Greece 50 years ago this past August. Then, in 2005, they bought a century-old farmhouse in Greece, which they have restored and now use as a space for supporting artistic and cultural endeavors, they said.

Pre-COVID, they would spend up to three months at a time at their home in Greece, typically visiting in the spring and fall. Menlo Park is their home base, Dianne de Laet told *The Almanac*. Their children live in Portola Valley and South Lake Tahoe.

The issue of wildfires strikes close to the family's own experiences — their own son was forced to evacuate his home due to California wildfires earlier this past year.

The couple is not new to



Courtesy Steve de Laet

**A charred landscape** in Greece's Peloponnese region shows the devastating impact of August wildfires on the area's olive farms.

philanthropy, either. In 1996, Dianne de Laet launched the Arete Fund with the proceeds of her book, an organization she now leads as executive director. The book, a memoir called "Giants & Heroes: A Daughter's Memories of Y.A. Tittle," built on stories of her relationship with her father, the famed football quarterback. The fund supports college scholarships for graduates of Menlo-Atherton High School as well as international humanitarian causes.

So far, the effort has raised enough to plant roughly 20,000 trees, about a quarter of their overall goal. However, the couple said that this initiative is still in its early phases. They are hoping that the fundraiser is only the first step toward starting conversations around promoting sustainability and entrepreneurship on these small farms,

as well as discussions about how to prevent future wildfires.

They encourage local residents to consider contributing to the fund. For \$5, people can plant a tree in memory of a loved one who has died, they said.

"We would love the participation of our neighbors on the Peninsula to donate and help us achieve this goal," Dianne de Laet said.

"So many Americans should feel proud of themselves for reaching out across the world," she added. "It's not lost on these people ... The fact that Americans care is such a gift. It maybe doesn't rebuild the house, but it certainly goes a long way toward establishing the kind of bond we want to have going forward."

Go to [olympia-trees.com](http://olympia-trees.com) for more information. ■

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



Courtesy Steve de Laet

**Steve (left) and Dianne de Laet** (second from right) in the village of Stefani.

## It's back! Expanded Junior Museum and Zoo to reopen on Nov. 12

By Lloyd Lee

Above the small tunnel that leads to the cichlid fish exhibit at Palo Alto's newly renovated Junior Museum and Zoo, sprawling fake tree roots, meticulously sculpted to blend into the natural elements of the facility, hang over the entrance.

The zoo's executive director, John Aikin, grabbed onto one of the artificial roots to squat down during a media preview of the facility last month to demonstrate how someone in a wheelchair might access the crawl space. The roots were not arranged like that by accident but by careful design to assist visitors with special needs, Aikin said.

The new Junior Museum and Zoo, which is set to reopen on Nov. 12, was designed with a focus on accessibility for visitors

of all mental and physical abilities, Aikin said.

"Our exhibits all have multiple ways of approaching them," said Aikin, who joined the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo staff in 2008. "They engage people of different ages, knowledge bases, and they include people of different abilities."

After two years of construction, the expanded Junior Museum and Zoo (JMZ) boasts nearly double the square footage of the old facility. The expansion — from 19,000 square feet to nearly 34,000 square feet — includes larger classrooms and a deck that will host educational programs. But the centerpiece of the new facility is an 18,000-square-foot outdoor zoo, which houses more than 50 animal species and features a two-story, wheelchair-accessible treehouse that parents and children can climb

to get an overview of the zoo's landscape.

The campus' main indoor building is an ode to science with interactive exhibits that allow children to experience gravity, motion, electricity and magnetism, among other natural phenomena.

Visitors can push a golf ball onto a winding track and follow its path in the museum's ball exhibit or see the contortion of the magnetic field by playing with magnetic sand.

In front of each exhibit are signs written in Spanish and English with "highly readable text" and some Braille, according to Aikin. There are also QR codes to provide visitors with aids for reading or seeing, he said.

In addition to the more subtle accessibility features are two large calming nooks (one inside and outside) with "bubble walls"



Magali Gauthier

**Rey Martinez Han** feeds flamingoes at the Junior Museum and Zoo in Palo Alto on Oct. 28.

to provide a safe, quiet space for over-stimulated children or nursing mothers. There also are restroom stalls that include adult-sized changing tables.

Aikin credits much of the facility's focus on accessibility to Tina Keegan, an exhibits director at JMZ.

"Tina Keegan took on the initiative to make the most accessible museum in the country," Aikin said during the tour. "And I think we're definitely heading there."

The reopening of the popular

See **MUSEUM AND ZOO**, page 16

# Give back locally

## with a gift to the Holiday Fund



Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$260,000 from more than 170 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed on this page.

### Boys & Girls Clubs

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, and mentoring for 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

### Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

### Fair Oaks Community Center

This multi-service facility, serving the broader Redwood City community, provides assistance with child care, senior programs, citizenship and immigration, housing and employment, and crisis intervention. Programs are available in Spanish and English.

### LifeMoves

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

### Literacy Partners — Menlo Park

Supports literacy programs and projects through fundraising and community awareness. Helps community members enhance their reading, writing and related skills and education to improve their economic, professional and personal wellbeing.

### Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

### Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

### St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

### StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people and families, with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

### Upward Scholars

Empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

The organizations below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.



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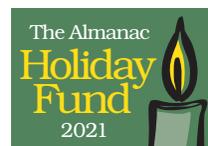
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**TIDE**

*continued from page 5*

of the Sequoia Union High School District’s small school innovation and alternative education, overseeing TIDE, Redwood High School and East Palo Alto Academy. She said 90% of her time is focused on TIDE this year. She replaces Allison Silvestri, who headed the school for about two years before resigning last spring, according to district governing board meeting minutes.

**Smaller school setting**

One of the biggest differences between TIDE and traditional high schools in the district is its small size, with classes ranging between 15 and around 29 students, Rick-Kennel said. The campus has room for 400 students total, she said.

Menlo-Atherton High School has around 2,200 students this school year, while Woodside has about 1,700 students enrolled, according to the district.

Since it’s a smaller school, Spanish is the only language offered at TIDE right now, Rick-Kennel said. The students run on the nearby Bayfront Trail twice

a week since the school doesn’t have a track. Outside the school’s third-floor library, there’s a small community garden, which is funded through a \$500 grant from San Mateo County.

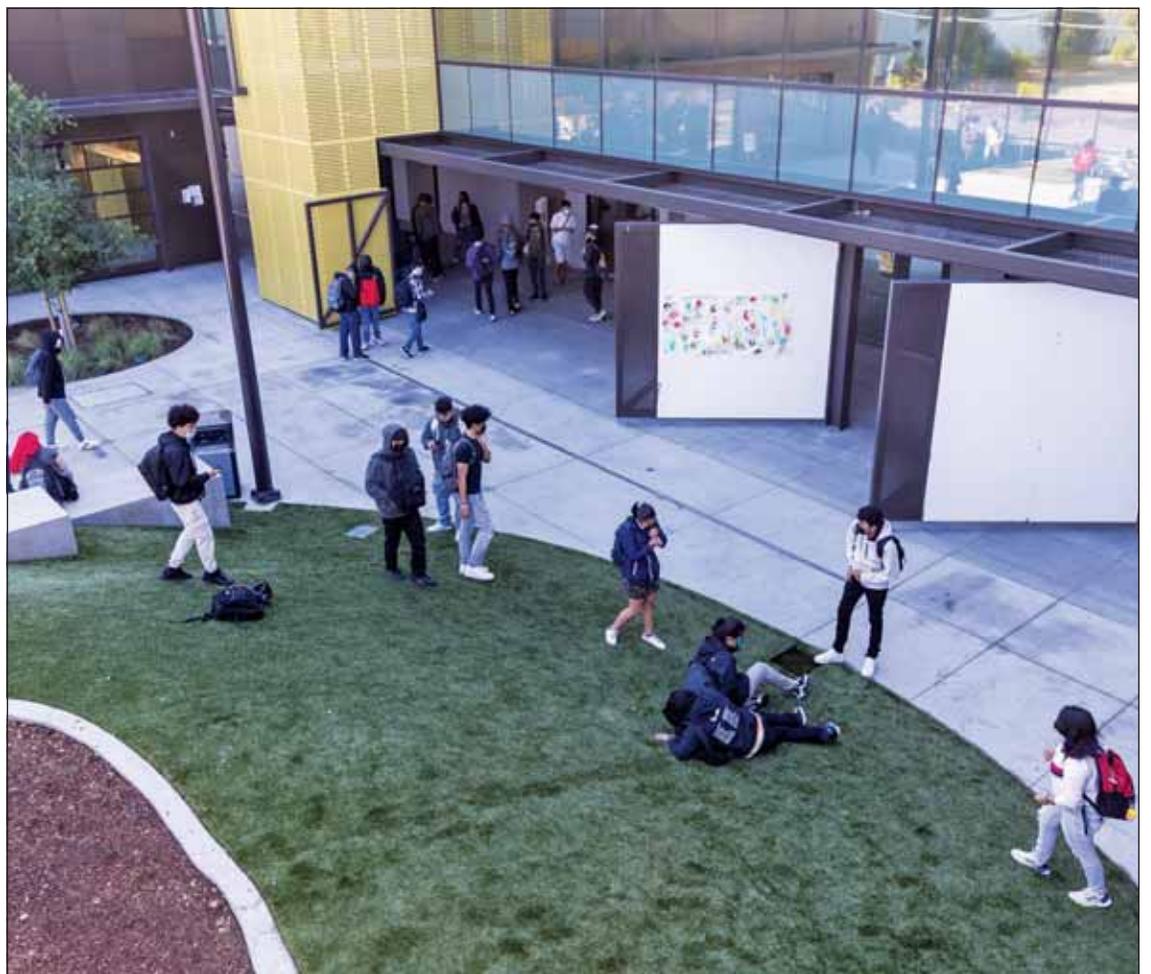
TIDE doesn’t offer Advanced Placement courses, but students can enroll in classes concurrently at Foothill College. Students can opt to earn a full year of college course credit, or more, while in high school.

TIDE teachers with master’s degrees can double as instructors of the Foothill-credited classes. Other Foothill instructors teach remotely or come to campus. Students may be able to take classes on Foothill’s campus during their senior years, Rick-Kennel said. Students are also paired with mentors in the technology industry.

Starting this school year, each high school in the district has enough Chromebooks for ninth graders to be able to borrow a school device. Students at TIDE each have an HP laptop.

For more on the school, go to [tideacademy.org](http://tideacademy.org). ■

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



Magali Gauthier

**TIDE Academy students** hang out on campus during their lunch break on Nov. 2.

**MEASURE A**

*continued from page 7*

zoning restrictions to allow bulldozing the open space to build a huge parking lot, which will allow them to expand the seating, allowing them to make more money. They are a corporate entity that cares little about what is right for Woodside and only cares about their profit.”

Bacchus Management, which owns The Village Bakery, has donated 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.

**What Measure A would do**

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 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 restrictions

that limit future development on the sites.

The measure would make consideration possible of adding to the property behind Cañada Corners 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 portion of a 1.65-acre plot called Village Hill. 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 I 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.

The most recent round of elections results were released after The Almanac’s Tuesday afternoon press deadline. Go to [almanacnews.com](http://almanacnews.com) for the latest election news.

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

**ALPINE INN**

*continued from page 1*

crosswalks or pedestrian lights, Coupal noted.

“It’s a tricky situation,” he said. “The Alpine Inn is so successful, and we love their success, and we can’t hold the Alpine Inn responsible for where their clients park.”

Greg St. Claire, managing partner of the Alpine Inn, said it is important for the business to be sensitive to neighbors’ concerns while supporting the town’s policies.

“Our hope is that as COVID restrictions and fears subside, people will resume carpooling and ride-sharing, which is really

the best thing for everyone,” he said. “We share this lot with hikers, bikers and a robust youth soccer league. Like almost every other park or hiking spot in the Bay Area they are overwhelmed with demand of people wanting to be outside. This spike happened literally everywhere with the onset of COVID and the loss of normal activities. We are hoping that as time goes on and the pandemic is finally under control the demand will return to normal.”

**Possible solutions**

Neighbors placed logs along the road’s town-owned shoulder to prevent parking, but the town removed them, at a cost of \$500.

The town placed a large log to define the shoulder, which doesn’t prevent people from parking on Golden Oak Drive. Vice Mayor Craig Hughes said the goal is to define the shoulder and make sure the parking doesn’t cause problems by cars going into the ditch or fence. The town plans to allow parking to continue on Golden Oak Drive.

“It is hard for us to comprehend why the legitimate concerns and anxiety of tax-paying Portola Valley residents are considered to be less important and significant than the mere convenience of visitors to a commercial enterprise,” five neighbors, including Ogurek and Coupal, wrote to Mayor

Maryann Derwin in August. “It feels as though the town’s administration has its priorities upside down. This situation needs no time-consuming study, but rather a reasonable and intelligent decision to prevent the parking for the rest of this location. We ask that you act with the same speed and urgency that you exhibited in removing the additional logs recently placed there!”

Bill Leckonby, who has lived in town over 30 years, said “no parking” signs wouldn’t be enough to stop drivers from parking along the stretch. He’d rather see rocks or logs block people from parking there.

“I’ve screamed to a halt multi-

ple times (driving down the hill) with people making U-turns (to park on Golden Oak),” he said. “It’s frustrating.”

The town can’t put up no parking signs unilaterally, said Town Manager Jeremy Dennis. The transportation committee would have to make a recommendation to put up such signs, he said. The BPTS committee has not made recommendations on parking in this area.

“Parking is a sensitive issue in town,” Dennis said. “We have to be careful; it has to be (parking restriction) related to an issue that has to be resolved.” ■

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

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**VANDALISM**

continued from page 6

police. Instead, the man allegedly swung a metal water bottle and shattered the rear windows of two unoccupied vehicles.

Police chased him to an outdoor area of the Stanford Park Hotel at 100 El Camino Real in Menlo Park. At one point, he placed his hand into his jacket pocket, said he had a gun, and threatened multiple times to shoot and kill the officers. He

then climbed up to a second-floor balcony.

Officers took cover and tried to de-escalate the situation. A member of the police crisis negotiation team spoke with the man in an attempt to negotiate a compliant arrest. When the man refused commands and the negotiations failed, police fired less-lethal pepperball rounds at a wall near him to see if the pepper spray would encourage compliance or move him off the balcony. The method was unsuccessful, so officers fired

a less-lethal projectile weapon that struck him in the hip area.

The man then surrendered without further incident. Police found he did not have any weapons in his possession. Personnel from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District transported him to a hospital for a medical clearance prior to booking, which is standard procedure when someone is exposed to chemical agents or is struck with a less-lethal projectile, police said. The man suffered a visible injury to his hip area but was otherwise

uninjured. Officers were not injured.

Police booked the 32-year-old Campbell resident into the Santa Clara County Main Jail on suspicion of felony vandalism, misdemeanor obstructing a business establishment and misdemeanor resisting arrest.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the department's 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413. Anonymous tips can be emailed to paloalto@tipnow.org or sent by text message or voicemail to

650-383-8984. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through the police's free mobile app, downloadable at bit.ly/PAPD-AppStore or bit.ly/PAPD-GooglePlay. ■

*Editor's note: The Almanac's policy is to withhold the names of those arrested for most crimes until the district attorney has determined there is sufficient evidence to file charges in the case.*

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

**MENLO PARK BRIEFS**

continued from page 6

deadline to comment is Dec. 10.

**Mortgage assistance available**

Homeowners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic may soon also be eligible for financial relief in Menlo Park. The Menlo Park

City Council recently approved plans to dedicate up to \$250,000 of the city's funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act to support its housing assistance program administered by Samaritan House. Of that, all but 12%, or about \$30,000, will go directly toward aiding the Menlo Park community.

As part of that approval

on Oct. 26, the council also expanded the scope of the housing assistance program to include mortgage assistance in addition to rent assistance and other financial assistance to help prevent eviction or displacement. It can also be used for tenant relocation assistance. Between April 1, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2021, Samaritan House distributed about \$95,600 to 32 households, or 86 individuals in Menlo Park through the city's tenant assistance pro-

gram, while Samaritan House leveraged other funding sources to provide about \$176,000 in financial assistance to help Menlo Park residents during the pandemic.

Of those served by the tenant assistance program, 54% were Hispanic or Latino, 30% were mixed race, 8% were Black, 6% were white and 2% were Asian, according to a staff report. Reasons provided for seeking the assistance were temporary layoffs (50%), furloughs (22%),

self-isolation with illness (9%), reduced work hours (9%), self-quarantine (6%) and job hunting during the pandemic (3%).

Those seeking more information about the assistance program can visit samaritanhouse-anmateo.org or call 650-347-3648. The program provides up to \$5,000 of assistance per household, disbursed directly to landlords, property managers, banks or other financial institutions. ■

— Kate Bradshaw

# Public Notices

**995 Fictitious Name Statement**

LEONE ADVERTISING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 289159

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Leone Advertising, located at 2024 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
LAUREL LEONE

2024 Santa Cruz 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 9/1/93.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 8, 2021.

(ALM Oct. 22, 29; Nov. 5, 12, 2021)

MARY M SCHMIDT FUNDRAISING  
COUNSEL  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 289342

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Mary M Schmidt Fundraising Counsel, located at 75 El Vanada Road, Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
MARY M SCHMIDT

75 El Vanada Road

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 August 1, 2021.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 28, 2021.

(ALM Nov. 12, 19, 26; Dec. 3, 2021)

**997 All Other Legals**

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

MARYANN SMETZER

Case No.: 21-PRO-00632-A

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of MARYANN SMETZER. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: ROBERT J. KIDWELL in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.

The Petition for Probate requests that: ROBERT J. KIDWELL be appointed as personal representative to administer the

estate of the decedent.

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

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 12/07/2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 11 of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:

Alexandra Gadzo, Esq.

Gadzo Law, P.C.

220 State Street, Suite E,

Los Altos, CA 94022

(650)397-9300

(ALM Nov. 12, 19, 26, 2021)

**MUSEUM AND ZOO**

continued from page 9

city attraction comes after two years of construction and the temporary relocation of animals and programs to Cubberley Community Center.

A majority of the \$33 million project — about \$25 million — was funded by donations to the Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo. About \$10 million came from private donations from local donors, along with an \$8 million contribution from the city, according to a press release.

With the hefty investment, the city was able to double the size of JMZ at its original site at the Rinconada Park at 1451 Middlefield Road.

"In talking about sites and where we were going to rebuild, we decided to rebuild on our site in Palo Alto, which kept us constrained," Aikin said. "It meant that we had to stay small because we're in a residential neighborhood. But the relationship that this institution has with its community was well worth that trade-off."

The new outdoor zoo area is called Loose-in-the-Zoo and attempts to immerse people into the context of natural wildlife

habitats, Aikin said. The area features various plant life, boulders and water structures.

There, visitors have an opportunity to feed American flamingos over the screech of Manusela, a Moluccan cockatoo named after the Manusela National Park, or visit Edward, a 21-year-old rescued African tortoise raised by a local Palo Alto family.

Overhead is a netted roof that allows most of the zoo's birds to roam freely alongside guests, except for the colorful macaws, which according to Aikin, are equipped with beaks strong enough to crack open brazil nuts. (Their wings are clipped, the director assured.)

The animals at JMZ come from a wide range of sources: Some are rescues from local households; others come from accredited zoos from around the globe, according to Aikin.

"The scarlet ibises, the flamingos, the African spoonbills, the hammerkop, the Von der Deken's hornbill, the ring-tailed lemurs — all are part of a population of animals in accredited zoos that are managed for the long haul, which means that we know about their genetics and we move them around and breed them appropriately to preserve

genetic diversity," he said.

The JMZ was in the final stages of completion during the media tour. Some animals such as the lemurs had yet to arrive at the facility due to travel restrictions. According to Aikin, lemurs are able to be infected with COVID-19 just like humans and consequently are unable to travel on commercial airlines for now.

The facility will be run by 20 half-time staff members and eight full-time employees, Aikin said. Each staff member is in the process of being trained to know how to interact and be mindful of parents with children who may be on the autism spectrum.

"We now have kits to train staff and consultants that come in so that everybody understands how you can help a mom whose got an overstimulated kid on the spectrum, and be respectful to her and everybody around them, so that we make the process as inclusive, painless and accommodating as possible," Aikin said.

The zoo is set to open to the public on Nov. 12. Visitors will have to purchase tickets in advance at cityofpaloalto.org. ■

*Email Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee at lleee@paweekly.com.*

**GREEN CARS**

continued from page 5

a staff report.

While there are some questions as to whether having electric vehicles as part of the police

fleet will be effective, to some degree that is part of what the pilot program seeks to answer, said Mayor Drew Combs.

"The council has expressed desire that we be a leader in issues related to reducing carbon

footprint," he said. "I like the idea of the city taking the onus on itself versus issuing mandates for the public." ■

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

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

approval. We can't wait to visit family over the holidays and have less worry about our son getting seriously sick or exposing older family members to the virus. Our eighth grader was vaccinated in June, so now we are (almost!) all fully vaccinated!"

Encinal parent Stephanie Lucianovic said she was relieved to have her son vaccinated over the weekend.

"Our 8-year-old has been looking forward to getting his vaccine for a very long time now," Lucianovic said in an email. She reports he didn't have any side effects other than a mildly sore arm. "We were very relieved when MPCSD set up a clinic that meant we could make an (appointment) for the vaccine outside of our doctor's office — which was being less transparent about when and how for the 5- to 11-year-olds — and are grateful we had the opportunity to have both his first COVID vaccine and his seasonal flu shot."

### Webinar on Sudden Oak blitz results is Saturday

Results of the 2021 Sudden Oak Death (SOD) blitzes in the Bay Area will be announced on Saturday, Nov. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Zoom. Organizers mapped the distribution of the disease that kills many oaks, tanoaks and, since 2017, some of California's unique manzanitas and the animals that depend on them. Portola Valley is typically part of the survey.

"Despite the COVID-19 outbreak, the 2021 SOD blitzes were an incredible success, and the activity resulted in the survey of almost 20,000 trees across the entire state and without incident," according to a letter from University of California at Berkeley Forest Pathology and Mycology Laboratory, which organizes the survey. "The

results of this statewide survey will identify new local outbreaks of the disease and determine disease severity in areas already known to be affected by SOD."

A map identifying trees affected by the disease will be accessible at both [sodblitz.org](http://sodblitz.org) and [sodmap.org](http://sodmap.org). SODmap mobile apps will allow users to determine the risk of an oak contracting Sudden Oak Death in the location where they are standing.

Visit [sodblitz.org](http://sodblitz.org) to join the webinar, which will be hosted by Dr. Matteo Garbelotto.

Information on the 2022 blitzes will be posted in February,

and the first events are normally scheduled at the end of March or beginning of April.

### Sequoia Adult School celebrates 100 years

Sequoia Adult School (SAS) in Menlo Park is celebrating its centennial. Founded in 1921, SAS serves adults primarily from the unincorporated North Fair Oaks area of San Mateo County, Redwood City, East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park.

Over 1,200 students attend the

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 22

## Dean Babcock

March 14, 1924 – May 11, 2021

Dean Babcock, a 63 year resident of Portola Valley, died at home with his family around him on May 11, 2021. He was 96 years old. Dean was born and raised in Minneapolis. He attended the University of Minnesota, earning a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He enlisted as an officer in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He served as radio officer on the U.S.S. Earle in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. After his service in the Navy Dean worked for the Collins Radio Advanced Projects Division in Burbank, CA. While at Collins Radio he also pursued a graduate degree in Electrical Engineering at UCLA. It was there that he met and married Agnes Bierman. They moved to Portola Valley in 1958 when Dean was offered a position at Stanford Research Institute where he would spend the rest of his career. At SRI Dean and his lab researched and developed some of the most advanced RADAR technology in the world. The technology and practical applications his lab developed greatly increased the safety of air travel worldwide and aided our troops wherever they were engaged.



Dean was always civically engaged. In 1958 Portola Valley was an unincorporated part of Menlo Park. It was not long before Dean joined a group of farsighted individuals in developing a plan and undergoing the lengthy process of creating a new town, the town of Portola Valley. The town was incorporated in 1964. A central mission of incorporation was the autonomous maintenance of Portola Valley's rural character. In the decades to follow he was actively involved in the planning and regulation required to sustain this mission.

Dean was passionate about everything he did, whether for work or pleasure. He had an intense love of the outdoors. Skiing was his greatest passion. He moved from the Midwest to California to live near mountains. He and Agnes first met as members of the UCLA Ski Club. After moving to Portola Valley Dean became a member of the National Ski Patrol. He began teaching his children to ski by the time they were 3 and 4 years old. The two also loved exploring the West by camper with their 4 children and one very large dog. Through all they did with their children Dean and Agnes were both forever-learners and forever-teachers.

Dean gave his all in every endeavor. He was a devoted husband, a dedicated father to Cecile (Herb), Frank (Mandy, Carl (Linda) and Meg (Emmanuel), and a beloved Grandfather to Emily, Christian, Justin, Ben, Katy and Gabrielle.

A Memorial Service will be held Monday November 22nd, at 11:00a.m. at Our Lady of the Wayside Church.

PAID OBITUARY

## James Paul Woollomes

August 4, 1931 – November 1, 2021

After a long illness, James Paul Woollomes left this world on "All Saints' Day," November 1, 2021. Although named James Paul when born in 1931, he was always addressed by his middle name. Paul was one of this earth's truly good men.



Paul was born and grew up in San Francisco, CA. His parents were Helen Gaughan Woollomes and James Paul Woollomes Sr. He attended Commodore Sloat Elementary School, Lowell High School and he graduated from the Business School at UC Berkeley. He was a Captain in the Air Force and was active for a short time but served for twenty years in the Air Force Reserve. He worked in the investment business and was a talented stockbroker for fifty years. He began his career at his father's firm Wulff Hansen and ended his career at Smith Barney in San Francisco, then part of Citigroup.

In July of 1960, he married Martha Taylor Madden of Indianapolis, Indiana. They began their married life on the San Francisco Peninsula and raised three daughters there. Paul's family meant a great deal to him. When the girls were growing up and his family was vacationing at Lake Tahoe, he commuted every weekend during the summer to be with them. All looked forward to his delectable grilled mountain chicken and hamburgers. There were trips to Tahoe during the winter and summer. Many years the station wagon was filled with adult Corgis and puppies along with the family. As the girls grew, he was an involved father helping with their sports, their special projects and as a math tutor.

During his retirement years, Paul loved to work with Ham Radio. He bought a 1968 Volkswagen and completely rebuilt it inside and out. He installed all the floors in his house and painted and papered the walls as well. He was diligent about pruning "his" rose bushes in the garden. Film photography was also of great interest to him. Additionally, he and Martha enjoyed traveling together. They took several driving trips through Europe and had a grand time fly fishing on the Snake River in Idaho. Paul had fond memories of fly fishing with his father when he was a teenager.

After retiring, Paul was also active in the community. He served as Treasurer of the Menlo Park Rotary Club as well as Treasurer of the Club's foundation and he tutored children at the local charter school. While an active member of "The Family" men's club, he enjoyed being part of the photography group. He was a member of the San Francisco Bond Club, the Olympic Club, and a member of the Menlo Circus Club.

Paul is survived by his wife Martha, his three daughters: Susan Coggins, Mary Lipian, Sarah Grebe, his sister Loraine Fulmer, and his niece Julie Mason. Paul had a wonderful sense of humor and was a true optimist. He was warmhearted, considerate, generous, and a man of integrity. During his illness, he made caring for him as easy as he could. He will be sorely missed. The family thanks caregivers John Patacsil and Wendy Mamiam whose excellent care for Paul is greatly appreciated.

A suggested donations in Paul's memory can be made to the Menlo Park Rotary Club: P.O. BOX 876, Menlo Park, CA 94026. Or please donate to a charity of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY

## OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Dean Babcock**, 96, a Portola Valley resident of 63 years, on May 11; **James Paul Woollomes**, 90, an Atherton resident and former treasurer of the Menlo Park Rotary Club, on Nov. 1; and **Lydia Chi Ngar Li**, 69, a Menlo Park resident of 26 years, on Nov. 5.

To read the full obituary, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at [almanacnews.com/obituaries](http://almanacnews.com/obituaries).

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

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 17, 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](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](mailto: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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|---|--|
| <p><b>Join Zoom Meeting:</b></p> <p><b>One tap mobile</b><br/>+16699009128,86068472736<br/>+12532158782,86068472736</p> <p><b>Dial by your location</b><br/>+1 669 900 9128<br/>+1 253 215 8782<br/>+1 346 248 7799<br/>+1 301 715 8592<br/>+1 312 626 6799<br/>+1 646 558 8656</p> <p><b>Meeting ID: 860 6847 2736</b></p> | <p><b>Weblink:</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736</a></p> <p><b>Remote Public Comments:</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:sharper@woodsidetown.org">sharper@woodsidetown.org</a></p> |
|---|--|

PUBLIC HEARING

2. Town-wide OAM2021-0004

Town of Woodside Planner: Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner

Review and Approval/Denial of a Resolution of Intention and Recommendation to the Town Council to Amend Chapter 153 (Zoning) of the Woodside Municipal Code to align the minimum required side yard setback for properties located within the Woodside Hills Homes Association with the requirements of the HOA.

3. Town-wide MCAM2021-0001

Town of Woodside Planner: Sage Schaan, Principal Planner

Review and Approval/Denial of a Resolution of Intention and Recommendation to the Town Council to Amend Chapter 152 (Subdivisions) to bring the Woodside Municipal Code into compliance with recently enacted legislation (SB9, Atkins), which becomes effective on January 1, 2022. This legislation amended subdivision regulations State-wide by allowing ministerial approval of the lot split of any single-family residential lot that meets certain objective requirements and extends the period the approval of a tentative map from 12 months to 24 months.

4. Town-wide

Town of Woodside Planner: Jackie Young, Planning Director

Review and Approval/Denial of a Resolution of Intention and Recommendation to the Town Council to Adopt Objective Design Standards for SB9 projects to comply with recently enacted legislation (SB9, Atkins), which becomes effective on January 1, 2022. This legislation amended residential density in single-family zoning districts State-wide by allowing ministerial approval and objective design review only of certain two unit (attached or detached) residential projects.

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING SARAH FILIPE AT [SFILIFE@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG](mailto:SFILIFE@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG) OR SAGE SCHAAN AT [SSCHAAN@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG](mailto:SSCHAAN@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG) OR JACKIE YOUNG AT [JYOUNG@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG](mailto:JYOUNG@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG)

**HOLIDAY FUND**

*continued from page 7*

equally among 10 agencies, listed below.

“Each of these organizations have done a tremendous job in fulfilling their missions to serve Peninsula residents during the pandemic,” said Bill Johnson, president and CEO of Embarcadero Media, The Almanac’s parent company. “We expect that this year’s grants will aid them in the coming year as they determine their paths forward post-COVID.”

Donors to the fund may make contributions in honor of someone special. All donors and their gift amounts will be published in The Almanac unless anonymity is requested. Donations can be made online at [siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund](http://siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund). Or go to page 10 of this edition to complete a coupon and donate by check.

The Almanac Holiday Fund is a donor-advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows donations to be tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

“Every year, donors to the Holiday Fund demonstrate their compassion and open hearts through their giving,” Johnson said. “We hope they’ll do the same this year.”

The Holiday Fund campaign will run through early January.

**Boys & Girls Clubs**

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, and mentoring for 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

**Ecumenical Hunger Program**

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

**Fair Oaks Community Center**

This multi-service facility, serving the broader Redwood City community, provides assistance with child care, senior programs, citizenship and immigration, housing and employment, and crisis intervention. Programs are available in Spanish and English.

**LifeMoves**

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the

Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

**Literacy Partners - Menlo Park**

Supports literacy programs and projects through fundraising and community awareness. Helps community members enhance their reading, writing and related skills and education to improve their economic, professional and personal well-being.

**Ravenswood Family Health Center**

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

**Second Harvest Food Bank**

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

**St. Anthony’s Padua Dining Room**

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony’s is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

**StarVista**

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people and families, with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

**Upward Scholars**

Empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

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303 ATHERTON AVENUE  
ATHERTON



## RENOVATED COLONIAL MASTERPIECE IN SOUGHT-AFTER ATHERTON

From the moment you step into the foyer of this American Colonial masterpiece, you will get a sense of the grandeur that is yet to come. Flawless interiors brimming with high-end appointments have been expertly renovated to provide for a modern Silicon Valley lifestyle, with 7 bedrooms, 8.5 bathrooms, and over 11,650 square feet of living space offering perfect venues for both entertaining and everyday living. Rich hardwood floors, impeccable marble finishes, detailed millwork, and soaring ceilings craft a luxurious ambiance throughout all 4 levels of the estate, with multiple rooms opening to the 1.14-acre grounds for true indoor/outdoor living. Highlights include 4 fireplaces, expansive and light-filled formal rooms, the gourmet kitchen with new top-end appliances, and the handsome office that can also double as a guest suite. Enjoy movie nights in the incredible theater with its own projection room, unwind in the fitness center with a relaxing sauna, and enjoy your favorite vintage from the wine cellar with space for over 1,300 bottles. Retire at the end of the day to the magnificent master suite with 2 spacious bathrooms, while multiple additional bedroom suites provide comfortable accommodations for friends and family. The newly landscaped grounds include a new pool, outdoor kitchen, and inviting fire pit, and for added convenience this estate offers a 5-car garage, plus a gated motor court with ample parking. Find yourself just moments to both downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, as well as Stanford University, the Menlo Circus Club, and Venture Capital centers along Sand Hill Road. Plus, acclaimed public and private schools are minutes away.

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

[www.303AthertonAve.com](http://www.303AthertonAve.com)

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



1251 COLLEGE AVENUE  
PALO ALTO



## BRAND-NEW CONSTRUCTION WITH A CONVENIENT LOCATION

Clean, modern lines and a floorplan perfect for the Silicon Valley lifestyle of today highlight this newly constructed home created by Tektive Design. Soaring ceilings and tremendous natural light offer a breezy sense of openness from the moment you step inside, as beautiful wide-plank oak floors extend throughout nearly 3,700 square feet of living space filled with open gathering areas scaled for entertaining. A focal-point fireplace in floor-to-ceiling textured tile centers the living room, the chef's kitchen enjoys top-of-the-line appliances from Wolf, Bosch, and Sub-Zero, and the downstairs level includes a wet bar and offers space for a game room, wine room, and a convenient Zoom office. Arranged over three levels, the home's 5 bedrooms and 4.5 bathrooms offer comfortable accommodations for family and friends, highlighted by the expansive primary suite, and the convenient guest suite. And for indoor/outdoor living, the peaceful backyard provides a sizable patio, lush lawn, and trees lining the perimeter. Just moments to the great shops and restaurants along California Avenue, this home is also minutes away from Stanford University, a short drive to University Avenue, and blocks from top-ranked Escondido Elementary.

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

[www.1251College.com](http://www.1251College.com)

Offered at \$4,988,000

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Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com  
Alexandra Wilbur, DRE #01926475 | 650.459.3888 | alex@deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

**GETREU**

*continued from page 5*

in the nation, dating to 1947, mandatory federal sex offender registration that could link crimes committed in other states wasn't enacted until 1994. The National Sex Offender Registry database, which is used by law enforcement, wasn't established until 1996, two decades after Getreu's crime in Germany and his Palo Alto conviction.

It was nearly 50 years until modern DNA testing linked him to the Taylor and Perlov murders. (Getreu still faces trial in Santa Clara County for Perlov's death.)

On Nov. 5, Getreu sat motionless in his wheelchair in court wearing a red jail jumpsuit. A pair of headphones was strapped over his ears so Getreu, who is hearing impaired, could listen to the court proceedings.

He remained alert, neither appearing to doze during testimony, nor perking up with interest when photographs of his dead victims were shown on a screen, as he had during his trial.

He didn't swivel his head to acknowledge his only son, the sole member of his family who attended the trial and his sentencing. He didn't look at Taylor's friend, James Schroeder, when Schroeder made an impact statement to the court. During the trial, Getreu had fixed a steady gaze on Schroeder and Taylor's then-boyfriend, Russell Bissonnette, during their testimonies.

Schroeder and Bissonnette, who was also present at the sentencing, had been fast

friends who met while students at Cañada College. Taylor was "a quiet force of nature," a serious student; and a wonderful, beautiful person who was well-spoken, kind and who loved nature, he said.

Shortly before she died, Schroeder took photographs of Taylor leaning against his favorite car, he recalled. "I'm so glad to have the pictures," he said in court.

The photographs reminded him of Taylor's vibrant life, a life lost before anyone would ever know her promise and what she would bring to the world, he said.

The pictures are grainy, he noted. It took a few years before he had the film developed.

"It was a simple thing that got lost in the aftermath of Janet's murder," he said.

Schroeder said he is glad he was able to testify during the trial. He feels sorry for the Explorer Scout Getreu raped and strangled and for the deaths of Margaret Williams, Perlov and Taylor and the pain their families and friends have experienced, he said.

Schroeder said he wished Getreu had faced the death penalty. Still, Getreu "will get the justice he deserves today," he said of the life sentence.

San Mateo County Deputy District Attorney Josh Stauffer read additional impact statements into the court record. He asked the court to add the statements to Getreu's probation file for consideration if he ever comes up for a parole hearing. Foiles admitted the documents.

In a moving statement read by Stauffer, Perlov's sister Diane noted that she is still

traumatized by her sibling's death. She doesn't like tight clothing near her neck and she won't go alone into a parking lot at night.

"The scarf wrapped around her neck was mine," she said.

Fourteen months apart in age, Leslie was the older sister. She was her protector and dear friend.

"No one made me laugh so hard," she said.

Families are affected for multiple generations by murder, she noted. It's not only about memories lost, but the robbing of memories and experiences that can never be made. Diane's son cherishes an oil painting of the aunt he never met and he named his daughter after Leslie, she said.

"I'm relieved that this convicted killer will not murder again," she said. She asked that Getreu not have any opportunity of parole to eliminate any chance of his relief from his crimes.

Stauffer, in his final closing statement, also emphasized the need for Getreu to remain imprisoned to reflect on his crimes.

"John Getreu is the definition of a serial killer. He deserves nothing less than to be alone, locked in a cell for the rest of his life; to be haunted by the killings and rapes" he committed, he said.

Taylor's family has preferred to remain private. Stauffer said her sister thanked the court for the opportunity to view the trial privately from a livestream in the District Attorney's Office. In a report filed in court, she described her sister as fun, pleasant, outgoing, talkative, smart, beautiful, strong, compassionate and well-balanced.

Stauffer also read a victim's impact statement from the brother of Getreu's first known victim, Margaret Williams. Evan Williams, who also testified at the trial, said he was 7 years old when his sister was murdered. Getreu might justify his killings in his mind, leaving their bodies "like trash," but he has seriously damaged other lives. Still, Getreu didn't destroy them. "We have lived and loved," he said.

Since his sister's murder in 1963 to this day, Getreu has never showed remorse for his crimes, Evan Williams noted.

"When you were on trial in 1964, you tried blaming and shaming Margaret" with "twisted lies" during the trial, he said.

"You did not show strength. You showed weakness. You will try to hide in the darkness of your soul. Step up into the light of truth. Stand up and speak the truth," he said.

There's one glimmer of hope that Getreu might someday own up to his crimes, Stauffer noted. On page four of the probation report, Getreu said he wants to plead guilty to the murder of Perlov, Stauffer said. If he does so, perhaps then the families can begin to feel some closure to Getreu's crimes, he added.

Outside of the courtroom, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Detective Gordon Currie said the most poignant moment for him during sentencing came while hearing the words of the victims' families. He was struck by the effect of Getreu's crimes on all of the families, including the killer's own.

For detectives, a murder and a lack of closure are also emotional and hard. Currie thinks of the many investigators who worked on the Taylor case before him and the avenues of inquiry they went down that only led to dead ends. They didn't have the tools of DNA that he had, he noted.

But Currie knows what it is to live and breathe a case for years in hopes of getting justice for a victim and their family, he said. In that moment, when a long-retired investigator gets a call that a case has been solved, there's a tremendous feeling of relief and closure, he said.

"It's like we're on a peaceful lake and Getreu is a speedboat leaving long wakes in everyone's life. ... I'm glad that he's finally out of gas," he said.

Getreu will appear in Santa Clara County Superior Court for a trial-setting conference for Perlov's murder on Jan. 19. ■

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

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**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

*continued from page 17*

school annually, transitioning more than 150 students a year to community college and workforce training programs.

For more information on Sequoia Adult School, visit seqsas.org.

— Angela Swartz

**Caltrans starts testing new Highway 101 toll lanes**

Caltrans on Sunday began its first phase of testing toll equipment along U.S. Highway 101 in San Mateo County ahead of express lanes that are expected to open next year.

Drivers will see signs activated with

orange banners that say "TOLL TESTING." Crews will make sure the signs communicate with the toll data center and the regional operations center, but no tolls will be charged, according to Caltrans.

Construction is ongoing related to the express lanes, which are opening in two phases, first from Whipple Avenue in Redwood City to the San Mateo County line with Santa Clara County early in 2022, then further north from Redwood City to Interstate Highway 380 later in the year. In all, there will be 22 miles of new express lanes in both directions.

The southern part of the express lanes are currently carpool lanes.

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# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## A cut above

*Four women try to reform a revolution while dodging the guillotine in 'The Revolutionists'*

By Heather Zimmerman

The leaders of the French Revolution might have talked a big game about everyone being equal, but the omissions in their motto “Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité” (liberty, equality, brotherhood) were a definite red flag. Just ask the four very different women who challenge France’s Reign of Terror, each in her own way, in Lauren Gunderson’s “The Revolutionists.”

The comedy/drama is the second show in the Palo Alto Players’ 91st season, running through Nov. 21 at the Lucie Stern Theatre in Palo Alto. The production will also be presented virtually Nov. 18-21.

The stakes are life and death, but Gunderson somehow finds room for everything from tongue-in-cheek skewerings of “Les Mis” to musings on

the meaning of art, with Director Tessa Corrie keeping it steady while embracing Gunderson’s deliberate chaos. The fast pace can feel a little wearying at times, but it also suits the turbulent setting.

“The Revolutionists” is highly theatrical both in subject matter and presentation, which is fitting not only for a show set at such a fraught time, but also one pointedly concerned with how stories are told. The show even takes a swipe at the tiredness of the “play within a play” device but eventually dives right into it.

Gabriella Goldstein brings an excitable energy to the character of playwright Olympe de Gouges, whose profession gives the wild story some framing: as we meet Olympe in 1793 in her Paris study, she’s primed to write a masterwork on behalf of righteousness, but about what? Olympe is so caught up in having the power of the pen, she doesn’t always see its responsibilities, even as three visi-



Courtesy Scott Lasky

**Haitian spy Marianne Angelle** (Kimberly Ridgeway, left) and former queen Marie Antoinette (Olga Molina) swap stories in “The Revolutionists.”

tors to her study underscore the importance of standing up and making your story heard.

Kimberly Ridgeway imbues spy Marianne Angelle with warmth and determination. Marianne is a leader in the Haitian Revolution, fighting the French colonial forces that enslaved people on the Caribbean island then known as Saint Domingue.

Olympe is Marianne’s friend, but her self-absorption renders her infuriatingly clueless in how to support Marianne’s cause, despite Marianne often stating exactly how. And Marianne’s frustration and heartbreak in the second act is palpable.

A stranger, Charlotte Corday (Katherine Hamilton), comes next, plotting an assassination and seeking a way to be remembered in the process. Hamilton gives us a poignant portrayal of Charlotte’s resolve, which doesn’t waver even when she’s terrified.

Finally, the former queen of France, Marie Antoinette (Olga Molina), comes to Olympe hoping for a bit of image rehab.

The ex-queen arrives in a flurry of ribbons and melodramatic sighs, and Molina often earns some of the show’s biggest laughs, but her former majesty also seems to be guarding herself a bit behind her well-publicized frivolity.

The ensemble works well together, creating a sense of distance between women

who began largely as strangers, and portraying the sometimes conflicted camaraderie that grows among them.

The characters feel familiar, and not just because they speak in modern vernacular, f-bombs and all. All four women understand the importance of being able to tell one’s own story, knowing the greatest power lies in who has the public platform to tell that story and how they frame it. It seems a very contemporary sensibility, particularly as we’ve all seen the ability of a catchy narrative to sometimes overwhelm all.

The drama is heightened by the beautifully stark palette of Lisa Claybaugh’s costumes and Scott Ludwig’s set design. They work perfectly with Edward Hunter’s lighting and Jeff Grafton’s sound design, which pull off some striking effects with nary a drop of stage blood spilled.

*Palo Alto Players present “The Revolutionists” through Nov. 21 at the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto and streaming Nov. 18-21. Tickets are \$27-\$57 for in-person shows and \$20 per household for virtual shows. For more information, visit [paplayers.org](http://paplayers.org).* ▣

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at [hzimmerman@almanacnews.com](mailto:hzimmerman@almanacnews.com).



Courtesy Scott Lasky

**The assassin Charlotte Corday** (Katherine Hamilton, left), the playwright Olympe de Gouges (Gabriella Goldstein, center) and the spy Marianne Angelle (Kimberly Ridgeway, right) ponder the right turn of phrase in Palo Alto Players’ production of “The Revolutionists.”



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# Food & Drink

## From Michelin stars to takeout lunch

Meet the \$15 sandwich from the restaurateurs behind Baumé

By Sara Hayden

Palo Alto's Baumé offers fine dining meals that run hundreds of dollars, but as of Monday, Nov. 8, you can order a sandwich for lunch priced at \$14.98 — to go.

B Deux Go is a new grab-and-go concept from the restaurateurs behind the Michelin-lauded Baumé as they pivot their business model in response to COVID-19, and plan for the future.

"I foresee Baumé being something else," said chef and owner Bruno Chemel earlier in the fall. "My new concept won't fit in the (Michelin) book with two stars."

The Baumé team, which is currently composed of married couple Bruno and Christie Chemel, maintained two Michelin stars between 2011 and 2019, but requested that Michelin omit the restaurant from its guide. Now, Baumé is no longer listed.

In a previous interview, Chemel said that he cared about the Michelin stars. "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."

Going forward, Baumé will continue to serve dinner. But now diners can preorder online through B Deux Go and pick up their sandwiches from Baumé's kitchen door on Park Boulevard.

The to-go model and drastically lower price point offers a chance to reach new customers, and also gives loyal Baumé followers something new to try.

"It's like a (car) dealership: You have Ferrari, and then you have used Toyota, so we try the extremes ... you can have both," Chemel said in an interview last Thursday. "It's an opportunity to try more affordable food to try to feed people who don't want to

spend hundreds of dollars on dinner. It's an opportunity to please new clientele ... The concept is honest sandwiches for honest people. There's nothing fancy."

Christie Chemel had long observed a need for quick lunches as she worked in offices. There, someone was tasked with ordering team lunches from a restaurant to take back to the office for a 30-minute lunch break, so she saw that grab-and-go options had business potential.

Bruno Chemel said that he had the idea for a sandwich concept as far back as a decade, when their son was in grade school.

"When my son was small I'd always make him a croque monsieur," Chemel recalled. "Because the cafeteria was so bad, he didn't want to eat the food."

Chemel would make the French-style sandwich and wrap it in foil, and his son would take it on his way. Sometimes, Chemel would make croque monsieurs for his son's friends — and they enjoyed them too, as did members of Baumé's staff.

"They're not French. They're from different origins. And they like it," Chemel said. "I think maybe that could be a potential business."

But the Chemels had started the fine-dining Baumé just a couple of years prior. At that time, it didn't seem savvy to operate a casual eatery out of the same space, and it was hard to find another one. Having some people pay \$1,000 for a multi-course dinner next to people paying \$15 for a sandwich in the dining room?

"It makes no sense," Chemel said.

Since then, the Chemels have been considering how to best evolve their business.

Sit-down dining at their restaurant was already limited since they let go of employees to run the restaurant by themselves, and seating has continued to be limited during the pandemic: Baumé is about 2,000 square feet, and has been serving up to six people a night. Despite the ample space between diners in the indoor dining hall, "people are scared, they don't want to come indoors," Chemel said.

Chemel counts himself among those individuals. "Even me, on my days off (when I want a) fast lunch, I don't want to go somewhere and sit at a table and order and wait 20 minutes in COVID."

In past months, Chemel observed what other restaurants were doing to adjust.

"Everybody started to-go. I was like, 'I don't want to do that (for Baumé),' Chemel said. "If you asked me that four or five years ago, I'd tell you I'd never do that. But people change."

It turned out, much to his surprise, that he liked the to-go model.

"When we opened the dining hall, we kept to-go," Chemel said. "I kind of enjoy doing that, and it could be part of the next evolution."

And so it is. Unlike Baumé, B Deux Go doesn't have a flurry of courses. The menu is pared down for launch, featuring two sandwich types, each served with more than 11 ounces of



Veronica Weber

The Chemel family's B Deux Go offers sandwiches to go from the kitchen door of their fine dining restaurant, Baumé, in Palo Alto.

country-style buttermilk bread, baked to a crispy crunch.

The croque jambon has Black Forest ham, Swiss cheese and béchamel sauce. Croque poivrons features colorful bell peppers, Swiss cheese and curry béchamel sauce.

Chemel is careful not to call these sandwiches "croque monsieur," though he has fond memories of that particular sandwich type: "When I used to work in Paris in those restaurants, at 11 or midnight, your shift ends, and you meet your friends, have a beer and order a croque monsieur. There, it's fork and knife, here you grab it and bite into it."

Chemel has built on the idea of a croque monsieur sandwich, modifying it so it can be eaten by hand. Instead of putting béchamel and cheese on top of the sandwich, there's no oil or butter on the outside. It's baked "so it's crispy and your fingers are not greasy."

While B Deux Go's prices are exponentially lower than Baumé's, the care is not. "I try to analyze every detail as a customer," Chemel said.

The sandwiches feature Chemel's béchamel recipe, using cornstarch instead of flour for a light consistency, and just the right blend of butter, milk, salt and nutmeg.

"It should be warm," Chemel said. "It shouldn't be piping hot," lest the cheese and béchamel slide all over the place.

Each sandwich is packed into just the right bag, just the right way with a napkin neatly folded into the top, so the sandwich can be conveniently eaten on the street.

"Down the road I have plenty of crazy ideas I don't want to say now, in case I don't do them," Chemel said.

In the days to come, another change may include having for-

mer employees return to work part time, or even friends of his son, now a teenager.

These changes seem to coincide with an evolving relationship with precision, perfection and practicality. Precise work is something that Chemel continues to value, but he sees perfection as relative. Chemel said he remembers people telling him in the restaurant industry, "Nobody's perfect. Perfection doesn't exist."

"Now I kind of do understand. What's perfect for me might not be perfect for you. What's perfect for you might not be perfect for me," Chemel said, adding, "But we definitely try to make it nice."

Maybe a critic will see the two concepts sharing a single space and it will work for them, maybe it won't. Maybe one day the Chemels will transition to a food truck, or another brick-and-mortar location, or maybe they won't, Chemel said.

So the Chemels will see if the B Deux Go concept works, Chemel said. "If you don't try, you don't know."

B Deux Go, 201 California Ave., Palo Alto (pick up from kitchen door on Park Boulevard); 408-900-8000, [bdeuxgo.com](http://bdeuxgo.com). Baumé, 201 California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-328-8899 (text only), [maisonbaume.com](http://maisonbaume.com). ■

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Courtesy B Deux Go

B Deux Go's croque jambon and croque poivrons sandwiches are ready to eat, sans fork and knife.

### LEHUA GREENMAN



"To our men and women in uniform... past, present and future, God Bless you...and thank you"

Veterans Day 2021

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835 WESTRIDGE DRIVE  
PORTOLA VALLEY



## RESORT-LIKE PROPERTY OF OVER 3.5 ACRES

The quintessential beauty of Portola Valley provides the perfect backdrop for this spectacular estate of over 7,400 square feet, including a beautiful guest home of more than 700 square feet, resting on over 3.5 verdant acres of resort-like grounds. A gated paver motor court introduces the property, and inside, this home presents a luxurious ambiance with soaring ceilings, fine millwork, floors of marble and hardwood, and stunning walls of glass that bring the outside in. The floorplan is scaled for entertaining yet comfortable enough for everyday living, and features the living room with a fireplace, the chef's kitchen with high-end appliances, and the expansive family/game room, plus a theater, wine cellar, yoga/fitness room, and so much more. Accommodations include 4 bedroom suites, highlighted by the incredible primary suite with a sitting room and fireplace, while the detached guest home offers an additional bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen. Experience true indoor/outdoor living as multiple points throughout the home open to a multi-level deck with a built-in grill and peaceful views of the home's magnificent grounds, featuring meandering walking trails, a gazebo, and a side area with an enticing blend of both natural and synthetic grass. Moments from beautiful nature preserves and trails, this home is just minutes to the iconic Roberts Market, and offers access to acclaimed Portola Valley schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

[www.835Westridge.com](http://www.835Westridge.com)

Offered at \$8,988,000

Listed by the DeLeon Team • 2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer's Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer's Agent

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

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

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## WEBINARS

Saturday, Nov. 13  
10:00 a.m.

Monday, Nov. 15  
10:00 a.m.

## WEBINARS

Tuesday, Nov. 16  
2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 17  
2:00 p.m.

## WEBINARS

Thursday, Nov. 18  
10:00 a.m.

Friday, Nov. 19  
10:00 a.m.

## COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday, Nov. 18  
2:00 p.m.

Oshman Family JCC  
3921 Fabian Way  
Pavilion Room, Bldg. C, 1st Floor  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

RSVPs are required for in-person meetings. To register, or for a complete list of meetings: Visit [www.EssenceHealthcare.com/Meet](http://www.EssenceHealthcare.com/Meet) or Call 1-855-437-3867 (TTY: 711)\*

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### MENLO PARK | \$2,000,000

Surrounded by Sharon Heights Golf Links, this large townhome boasts exceptional living for the most discerning buyer. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with updated kitchen & baths. So much to offer! [www.1264Sharonpark.com](http://www.1264Sharonpark.com) for more details.

#### Liza Vernazza

650.218.8040  
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