

The Almanac

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

FEBRUARY 11, 2022 | VOL. 57 NO. 23



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

Woodside decides it's not a mountain lion habitat, after all

Developers can now propose split-lot housing under new state law, as town abandons a freeze on projects

By Angela Swartz

Facing a lawsuit, national attention and a warning from California Attorney General Rob Bonta, the Woodside Town Council on Sunday backpedaled on its recent move to ban all housing projects under a new state housing law.

As of Monday, Feb. 7, all applications for California's new split-lot law, Senate Bill 9, will be accepted in Woodside, said Deputy Town Attorney Kai Ruess. SB 9 allows homeowners to split up single-family lots to build up to four residential units, but the town froze applications two weeks ago, citing a loophole that exempts habitats for protected species like mountain lions.

Ruess made the announcement in a report out of a closed session meeting on Sunday, Feb. 6, after the council discussed a potential lawsuit by Californians for Homeownership, a nonprofit that focuses on local governments that limit housing development.

Starting on Jan. 25, as first reported by The Almanac, the town put an indefinite hold on all housing projects under SB 9 because of a clause in the law that prohibits development in areas identified as habitats for protected species. The move

followed a council study session on the same day, when the council discussed the mountain lion clause, but did not formally vote on it, according to Interim Town Clerk Melissa Cardinale.

"When the issue was raised at the Jan. 25, 2022, council meeting, the town had not yet received guidance on this question from state authorities," Ruess said. "As a result, the town paused acceptance of SB 9 applications while town staff continued to study and determine the answer to that question."

In the two weeks since the meeting, town staff heard from the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife on how to identify habitat, he said. "The Department of Fish and Wildlife advised that the entire Town of Woodside cannot be considered habitat. As such, the Town Council has directed staff to immediately begin accepting SB 9 applications."

Mountain lions are a protected species because they are a candidate for the California Endangered Species Act and Woodside, in "its entirety," lies within a mountain lion habitat, according to the town. The California Fish and Game Commission planned to release a decision on the animals' status in November, but the agency has



Embarcadero Media file photo

Woodside put an indefinite hold on all housing projects under Senate Bill 9, California's new split-lot law, citing a clause that exempts building in a mountain lion habitat. After a warning from the state attorney general, the town backtracked.

yet to make that determination.

There were no housing applications submitted to the town under SB 9 before project applications were halted, according to Bryant.

On Jan. 11, the Town Council

passed an ordinance that caps the size of units allowed under SB 9 to 800 square feet. Woodside also prohibited basements under SB 9 units and excluded development in areas at high risk of wildfires.

Ruess noted that "any interim statements made by any individual member of the town council represent personal views that do not represent the collective

See **MOUNTAIN LION**, page 16

Filoli catches the eye of Antiques Roadshow producer

Historic Woodside estate to host filming of popular TV show in June

By Angela Swartz

With a large outdoor space, pleasant weather and a history of filming on the property, Filoli checked all the boxes for a stop on the Antiques Roadshow, according to producers.

A few years ago, Allyson Izzo Smith, who works for the PBS series, stumbled upon

the historic Woodside estate when she was scouting show locations, said Marsha Bemko, Antiques Roadshow's executive producer. This summer, Filoli will be the fifth and final stop on the popular TV show's 27th season.

"We're always looking for distinctive historical locations that will fit us," Bemko said. "When we called and asked, they said

'yes, they'd love to have us.'"

The show stops at the 654-acre property on Wednesday, June 22. "When we knock on doors, not everyone says 'yes.'" She said having a large group of people visit for the show can be overwhelming to some.

About 5,000 people are expected to descend on Filoli, which includes a 54,000-square-foot Georgian revival-style

mansion and 16 acres of English Renaissance gardens, according to Bemko. Those interested in attending can enter to win two free tickets to the event, which runs from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will also be about 120 volunteers from KQED helping run the event.

Ticket holders will be given specific time slots to attend. Each attendee can bring up to

two items to be appraised by experts.

In each hour-long episode, auction house specialists and independent dealers offer free appraisals of antiques and collectibles, including family heirlooms and flea market finds, according to the show's website.

Although not everyone who

See **FILOLI**, page 12

INSIDE

VIEWPOINT 19 | ARTS 20 | FOOD 22

Read up-to-the-minute news on AlmanacNews.com



Moving forward, together.

Right now, in these times of uncertainty, there's a promise we can count on: together, we'll continue to rise to the challenge and find a way forward.

Stanford Medicine, comprised of Stanford Children's Health, Stanford School of Medicine, and Stanford Health Care, is working to end this pandemic with vaccines, boosters, and state-of-the-art testing.

We're responding to uncertainty with an unwavering commitment to our community and meeting this moment with courage, compassion, and innovation.

Thank you, Bay Area, for standing with us, together.

Today. Tomorrow. Always.

We are here for you.



Children's Health School of Medicine Health Care

stanfordmedicine.org

PREMIER PROPERTIES represented by **SCOTT DANCER**

Woodside



NEW LISTING

OFFERED AT \$110,000,000

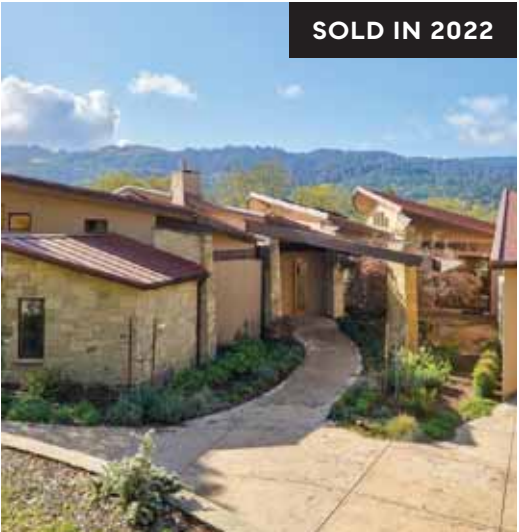
Portola Valley



SOLD IN 2022

ONE-OF-A-KIND | SOLD FOR \$25,000,000

Portola Valley



SOLD IN 2022

2.5+ ACRES | OFF-MARKET | \$7,695,000

Woodside



FOR SALE

17.79 ACRES | OFFERED AT \$27,500,000

Woodside



FOR SALE

5.6 ACRES | OFFERED AT \$4,495,000

Woodside



FOR SALE

EQUESTRIAN, 3 AC | OFFERED AT \$6,500,000

Woodside



NEW LISTING

13+ ACRES | OFFERED AT \$3,375,000

Woodside



FOR SALE - LAND

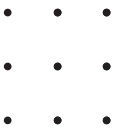
3.6 ACRES | OFFERED AT \$1,040,000

Woodside



SOLD

EQUESTRIAN, 3 AC | OFFERED AT \$11,500,000



COMPASS



SCOTT **DANCER**

650.888.8199
scott@scottdancer.com
www.scottdancer.com

2930 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062
License # 00868362

Compass is the brand name used for services provided by one or more of the Compass group of subsidiary companies. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

MARY GILLES REAL ESTATE



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW ANELLO, BLU SKYE MEDIA

Magnificent Atherton New Construction
Represented the Buyers

Listed by Nathalie de Saint Andrieu

Golden
Gate

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

MG | *mary gilles*
REAL ESTATE

Mary Gilles
650.814.0858
m.gilles@ggsir.com
MaryGillesRealEstate.com
License #01789710



Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Magali Gauthier

Teacher Raphael Kauffmann checks in with senior Jacob Armstrong in an audio production class at Woodside High School on Feb. 1. COVID-19 cases in the high school district dropped again last week.

COVID case counts drop to single digits in local elementary schools

By Angela Swartz

COVID-19 case counts continue to dwindle in local schools, a month into students' return from winter break.

Case counts in three elementary school districts — Las Lomas (seven cases), Portola Valley (two) and Woodside (four) — fell into the single digits last week, on par with infection rates during the fall semester. Cases

began to spike when students returned from the holiday break in January.

Beth Polito, superintendent of the 1,100-student Las Lomas district, said it feels "great" to see the drop in infections.

"And we have even enjoyed days without any positive cases," she said in an email on Tuesday.

There were 14 cases in the 2,700-student Menlo Park City School District, which

saw 88 at its peak this year.

The roughly 10,200-student Sequoia Union High School District saw 121 cases last week. The previous week, there were 237 cases. The district started off the semester with a staggering 710 in January. There have been a total of 2,115 cases this school year.

The Ravenswood City School District reported 31 cases last week, about half

See **COVID - SCHOOLS**, page 17

San Mateo County set to drop indoor mask mandate, but Santa Clara County won't

State to lift mask requirement for vaccinated people Feb. 16

By Sue Dremann

Santa Clara County's indoor mask mandate will stay in place when the state lifts its indoor masking requirement next week, county public health officials announced on Wednesday, diverging from neighboring San Mateo County's plans.

Santa Clara County health officials expect they will be able to lift indoor masking for vaccinated people in a matter of weeks, as COVID-19 case rates continue to decline, they said.

County officials are basing their decisions on the risks posed by COVID-19, using defined metrics related to vaccination, hospitalizations and COVID-19 case rates, they said. The county isn't alone in its decision. Los Angeles County has also announced it will not immediately lift its local masking requirement.

Most Bay Area counties, including San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, and the city of Berkeley, plan to follow the state's mask-lifting plan starting Feb. 16.

Despite the mandate being lifted, San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa said he would continue to wear his mask.

"We've been here before with delta and omicron so I will continue to wear my mask indoors for the foreseeable future to protect myself, my family and others from coming into contact with COVID-19," Canepa said, adding that while it's exciting news, people should keep in mind that many businesses may continue to require masks.

Santa Clara County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said that universal masking is critical to protecting community members who are older or immunocompromised.

"We must continue to base our decisions on the risks COVID-19 presents to our community, and we look forward to lifting the indoor mask requirement as soon as we can do so without putting vulnerable people at undue risk. In the meantime, we need to continue to do what's needed to keep our community protected," she said. "Continuing to mask indoors should

See **MASKS**, page 14

Bucking national trends, Menlo Park's crime rate dropped

Police data shows violent and property crimes decreased in 2021

By Lloyd Lee

As pandemic-related restrictions eased, violent crimes and property crimes in Menlo Park dropped in 2021, bucking a nationwide trend of increased crime in major U.S. cities. The decrease comes despite staff cuts to the city's police department.

From 2020 to 2021, violent crimes — which include homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault — decreased by 8.5%, from 47 to 43 reported cases, according to an annual

crime report released Monday by the Menlo Park Police Department.

Property crimes fell more substantially. During the same period, incidents involving burglary, a stolen vehicle, arson, larceny and theft from vehicles decreased by 28%, from 776 to 558 reported cases. Violent crimes and property crimes are categorized using the police department's own classification.

The decrease presents a contrasting picture from a year that saw an uptick in crimes throughout major cities, accompanied

by media reports of violence and brazen organized thefts at stores.

According to a study from the Public Policy Institute of California, preliminary data from four major California police departments — Los Angeles, Oakland, San Diego and San Francisco — show that property and violent crimes increased when comparing data from January to October of 2020 and 2021.

Property crimes rose around 7% in 2021 on those cities, while violent crimes increased by 5%,

the study found. Definitions of violent and property crimes may vary across departments, but generally include similar incidents.

Menlo Park Police Chief David Norris wrote in an email that the crime drop in 2021 could be due to the lasting impacts of the shelter-in-place orders and a community that's still on high alert.

"We must also attribute some of the impact to our alert residents and businesses reporting suspicious activity and safeguarding their property,"

Norris said, pointing out that the department has worked to improve engagement with community members prior to the pandemic.

The decrease comes after a downsizing of the police department's staff by 20% when the city slashed \$2.46 million from the agency in 2020. At the time, those cuts eliminated the city's traffic unit, proactive gang and narcotics investigations and daytime parking enforcement.

"The loss of 15 police

See **CRIME**, page 18



Portola Valley School District Invitation for Bid Vended Meals for Child Nutrition Programs

Portola Valley School District is soliciting bids for the provision of vended meals for the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs. Bids will be accepted until Friday, March 18, 2022 at 1:00 P.M. at the District Office, located at 4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, California, 94028. Visit the district website at <http://PVSD.net/rfp> to view the full Bid document. Clarifying questions may be directed to the District Office by emailing rfp@pvsd.net or calling (650) 851-1777.

Deadline for Submission: March 18, 2022 by 1:00 PM



NOTICE INVITING BIDS TOWN OF ATHERTON, CA

The Town of Atherton will accept bids for construction of the following public work:

2022 OVERLAY PROJECT

Removal and replacement of 2 inches of asphalt concrete pavement on Various Streets. Crack sealing and grind and replace approximately 5,000 square feet of asphalt to a 4-inch depth of pavement failures and placement of thermoplastic/paint striping. Some hand work around utility access-hole covers will be necessary.

Plans & Specifications may be obtained at <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/bids.aspx> at no cost. The Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town's website.

SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, California 94027, until 1:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on February 22, 2022, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for 2022 OVERLAY PROJECT", along with date and time of bid opening.

Established 1965

The Almanac

Serving Menlo Park,
Atherton, Portola Valley,
and Woodside for over 50 years

NEWSROOM

Editor

Andrea Gemmet (223-6537)

Assistant Editor

Kevin Forestieri (223-6535)

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Heather Zimmerman (223-6515)

Staff Writers

Lloyd Lee (223-6526)

Angela Swartz (223-6529)

Embarcadero Media Staff Writers

Kate Bradshaw (223-6536), Sue Dremann

(223-6518), Zoe Morgan (223-6519),

Gennady Sheyner (223-6513), Leah

Worthington (223-6533)

Contributors

Kate Daly, Maggie Mah

Special Sections Editor

Linda Taaffe (223-6511)

Chief Visual Journalist

Magali Gauthier (223-6530)

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown (223-6562)

Designers

Linda Atilano, Kevin Legnon, Paul

Llewellyn, Mary Watanabe, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Vice President and Chief Revenue Officer

Tom Zahiralis (223-6570)

Display Advertising Sales

(223-6570)

Real Estate Manager

Neal Fine (223-6583)

Legal Advertising

Alicia Santillan (223-6578)

ADVERTISING SERVICES

Advertising Services Manager

Kevin Legarda (223-6597)

Sales & Production Coordinator

Diane Martin (223-6584)

The Almanac is published

every Friday at

3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, CA 94025

■ **Newsroom:** (650) 223-6525

Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

■ **Email news** and photos with captions

to: Editor@AlmanacNews.com

■ **Email letters** to:

Letters@AlmanacNews.com

■ **Advertising:** (650) 854-2626

Advertising Fax: (650) 223-7570

■ **Classified Advertising:** (650) 854-0858

■ **Submit Obituaries:**

AlmanacNews.com/obituaries

The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370)

is published every Friday by Embarcadero

Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park,

CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at

Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices.

Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation

for San Mateo County. The Almanac is delivered

to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley

and Woodside. However, in order to continue

delivering you the news you depend on, we

encourage you to become a paid subscribing

member. Go to AlmanacNews.com/subscribe to

start supporting The Almanac today.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the

Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo

Park, CA 94025-6558.

Copyright ©2022 by Embarcadero Media.

All rights reserved. Reproduction without

permission is strictly prohibited.

The Almanac is qualified by decree of the

Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish

public notices of a governmental and legal

nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued

November 9, 1969.

To request delivery, or stop delivery, of
The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027,
94028 and the Woodside portion of
94062, call 854-2626.



As pandemic outlook improves, county health officials say COVID won't disappear

By Astrid Casimire/ Bay City
News Service

Even as the COVID-19 outlook for San Mateo County improves, health officials warn that the virus is not going to disappear.

During a meeting of the county's Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Louise Rogers, chief of San Mateo County Health, explained her thinking behind COVID-19 becoming endemic.

"I think the way we're really thinking about this is to de-emphasize the word 'end' in 'endemic,'" Rogers said. "It's not that the virus is going to disappear. Endemic is really about accepting that it will be present in the environment and we all have to take steps to protect ourselves and our family members and our communities in ways that are appropriate for the situation."

In San Mateo County and across the state, the COVID situation is improving as case rates fall.

"We see February's local COVID-19 situation beginning much better than January," Rogers said.

On Monday, the county saw a seven-day average of 85 cases per 100,000 people, a considerable drop from the early January peak of 239 cases per 100,000.

In addition, hospitalizations are falling. County data shows that daily COVID-19 hospitalizations have dropped to 84 as of Monday, compared to over 100 in recent weeks.

And while the county plans to align with the state's decision to lift its indoor mask mandate for vaccinated residents on Feb. 16, Rogers said

businesses and organizations will be able to make their own decisions when it comes to masking.

"We can expect as we go around, certainly in the next months, that there will be a need to pull out a mask because the business that you're interacting with or the organization has that requirement, even if it is not the law," Rogers said.

And she encouraged people to assess their own individual risk when it comes to masking.

Dr. Anand Chabra, San Mateo County Health COVID-19 mass vaccination section chief, said that getting vaccinated remains the most important way to protect against COVID-19, as vaccinated and boosted people are less likely to end up hospitalized from COVID compared to unvaccinated people.

Across the county, 82% of total residents have been fully vaccinated while almost 90% have received at least one vaccine dose, and almost 400,000 booster doses have been administered.

"We want to see that all eligible residents receive a booster to maintain their optimal protection," Chabra said.

But certain groups — including children ages 5-11 and Black, Latinx and Pacific Islander populations — have vaccination rates less than 80%.

However, about 64,000 people who were vaccinated marked their race/ethnicity as 'other' or 'unknown.'

And given that about one in five people who tested positive in the county did not disclose their race, Rogers warned against over-interpreting data, especially when it comes to race and ethnicity. ■



Daniela Beltran B.

Vaccines, like this tray of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School in East Palo Alto, are key to lowering the risk of a severe COVID-19 infection, county health officials said.

 **embarcadero media**

Join our team!

We're looking for talented,
highly motivated and dynamic people

Editorial assistant & internship coordinator

Embarcadero Media is for looking for a detail-oriented, organized self-starter who enjoys working as a key member of a news team.

The ideal candidate for the full-time job of Editorial Assistant & Internship Coordinator is able to accomplish a wide variety of daily and weekly responsibilities with a high degree of quality. You enjoy working on publications and have a knack for copy editing; are fluent in such programs as G Suite (Google Apps), Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat; are flexible and able to take direction; and have knowledge of the Palo Alto area. A background in journalism is strongly preferred.

The Embarcadero Media editorial assistant wears three main hats: co-editor of special publications, internship-program coordinator and departmental "glue." The position supports the editorial staff in general and directly reports to the associate editor.

This is a great opportunity to contribute to an award-winning, 42-year-old online and print publication that plays a critical role in the community. **For more details, go to tinyurl.com/EMEditCoord22.**

To apply, please email your resume, cover letter and three news clips to Editorial Director Jocelyn Dong at jdong@paweb.com, with "Editorial Assistant" in the subject line. No phone calls, please.

 **The Almanac**

 **Mountain View
Voice
ONLINE**

 **Palo Alto
ONLINE**

 **express**

450 Cambridge Avenue | Palo Alto, CA 94306 | 650.326.8210
PaloAltoOnline.com | TheAlmanacOnline.com | MountainViewOnline.com

Illegal dumping is costing Caltrans \$1 million annually

Piles of debris left by commercial firms risks environmental and fire hazards

By Sue Dremann

Hundreds of mounds of leaves, dirt, tree stumps and construction debris are being illegally dumped on Caltrans property in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

The problem, which has grown considerably in the past few years statewide, has cost the state transportation agency approximately \$1 million in 2021 alone.

At two exits in San Mateo County, hundreds of piles of debris litter the grassy areas adjacent to freeway exits and entrances along Interstate 280. At Sand Hill Road off the southbound side of 280, dozens of mounds of chipped wood, dirt piles and other landscaping debris form hills. Along the entrance and exit to 280 at Alpine Road, it's the same issue, with the addition of several large piles of gnarled tree stumps.

The problem increased dramatically more than a year ago when Caltrans was repairing the guardrails along 280 and repaving some of the exit ramps, some residents have reported. The sites most affected locally include the stretch along 280 from Woodside to Los Altos, spanning the two counties.

Other hotspots include Interstate 680 at Montague Expressway, U.S. Highway 101 at Montague; California State Route 237 at the "Golf Course" exit, Highway 101 and State Route 85, Highway 101 at Coyote Creek and Interstate 280 at Foothill Expressway, Alejandro Lopez, spokesman for Caltrans District 4, which oversees the nine Bay Area counties, said in an email.

Caltrans is seeking the public's help to report the problem. The locations are hard to spot from the interstate, however. These areas are set back some distance from view or are hidden by trees.

"We do see illegal dumping as a prevalent issue throughout the district," Lopez said.

At Alpine Road alone, he said the district estimated there are 75 piles at the northbound 280 Alpine onramp and southbound 280 Alpine offramp, equaling approximately 150 tons, or roughly 210 cubic yards.

If the illegal dumping creates hazardous lane conditions or impedes sight-distance requirements, Caltrans responds immediately to clean up the site. But it's a large area to have to clean up in its entirety.

"The crew that oversees the Sand Hill/Alpine area maintains roughly 1,100 lane miles including roadside vegetation, vista points and a Park & Ride. We have directed our crew to focus on this area and will request a heightened CHP presence when possible," Lopez said.

Liquid slurry waste was dumped by a trail near Whiskey Hill Road and Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park, up slope from Bear Creek.

Illegal dumping has been prevalent for many years, but has increased dramatically over the last two to three years, Lopez said. Caltrans doesn't know who is doing the dumping but the items are construction, demolition and landscape debris, he noted.

The price tag for properly disposing of these materials can be high, which likely explains the proliferation of dumping. The South Bay Recycling Center charges \$49 per cubic yard for construction debris; \$50 per cubic yard for yard trimmings; \$119 per ton for dirt and concrete; \$131 per ton for asphalt roofing and \$50 per load for green waste and lumber, according to its online fee schedule.

The 210 cubic yards dumped at Alpine Road at minimum would cost upwards of \$10,500 at the recycling center, if depositing just yard trimmings. Dumping the 8,500 cubic yards of materials that Caltrans had to clean up overall in 2021 on its properties "saved" the businesses at minimum \$416,500 while the price tag to the agency

was close to \$1 million.

The costs for this illegal dumping are far higher when considering environmental factors, however.

In one recent notable case, the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office Consumer and Environmental Unit on Feb. 2 announced it obtained a judgment in a civil law enforcement action against a Livermore-based commercial contracting company. On-Site Commercial Services Inc. was illegally dumping harmful material in an area where it could pass into the state waterways.

On-Site Commercial Services performs contracting jobs throughout the Bay Area.

In January 2021, after dark, company employees drove a truck with an attached vacuum trailer of liquid slurry waste to a trail in the area of Whiskey Hill Road and Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park, according to the DA's office.

The dumping occurred up slope from Bear Creek, a habitat for steelhead trout, a federally threatened central California coast species. A representative of Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, adjacent to where it occurred, spotted the dumped materials and notified authorities. Investigators collected mud samples in the area, which contained organic chemicals found in diesel and motor oil.

On-Site Commercial Services Inc. cooperated fully with the investigation, the DA's office said. The company agreed to resolve the court complaint immediately, with no findings or admissions of liability. The judgment prohibits the company from polluting waterways and illegal dumping and requires a \$28,927 payment

in civil penalties and reimbursement of investigative and response costs.

To try to catch illicit dumpers, Caltrans is working with the Redwood City California Highway Patrol. Caltrans has also erected temporary no-dumping signage on barricades that ring the areas around Alpine Road and other locations as they remove the debris.

In a letter obtained by The Almanac, Caltrans maintenance program manager Parviz Lashai said the agency is evaluating the installation of permanent signage to deter illegal dumping. They are considering adding earthen berms around areas of concern but there are obstacles they must consider.

Caltrans also supplemented its routine litter and debris

pickup efforts with a new program referred to as "litter blitz," with crews systematically working to clean from one major freeway corridor to the next. Workers began focusing on the Interstate 280 stretch from Woodside to Los Altos in mid-December. The area will be checked by maintenance supervisors on a weekly basis and activities will be scheduled twice a month for future clean ups or as needed.

The public can help. Lopez said illegal dumping or activities can be reported to the CHP or to the Caltrans Customer Service Request webpage at csr.dot.ca.gov. ■

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



Magali Gauthier

Piles of debris illegally dumped on the shoulder of Interstate 280 by the southbound Sand Hill Road onramp sit behind a Caltrans sign that says, "No dumping state property! It is against the law" on Feb. 8.

This Valentine's,



why not...

♥ Start a conversation!

Learn to text & tweet with help from Senior Planet @Avenidas from AARP.

♥ Get your body grooving!

Ease into exercise with Avenidas' gentle online yoga or other movement classes

♥ Fall in love....

...with your brain! Then treat it well by taking a variety of online classes from Avenidas.

From: *Your Secret Admirer*



Avenidas
Re-Inventing Aging

(650) 289-5400 • www.avenidas.org

Floor Sample Sale

40-50% off

— SELECT FLOOR ITEMS —

**INCREDIBLE
SAVINGS**
Come in today
and save!



FLEGELS *F* DESIGN

1010 El Camino Real, Suite 90, Menlo Park • (650) 326-9661
www.flegels.com

Menlo Park floats option to take over Burgess Park and new community center pools

City contract with Team Sheeper Inc. set to expire Aug. 23, 2023

By Lloyd Lee

Since 2006, Menlo Park has outsourced the management of Burgess Park and Belle Haven community pools to a private operator — Team Sheeper Inc.

But with the contract now set to expire and the Menlo Park Community Campus aquatics center to open in 2023, the City Council is considering taking back the management of the public pools.

Council member Drew Combs proposed the idea during a City Council meeting Tuesday, Feb. 8, saying it could help avoid issues that may come from working with a third party.

“I just think that some of the concerns that have been expressed are probably going to recur with any vendor,” Combs said. “And so one way to at least possibly address them is to look at the option of the city running it.”

The City Council voted 3-1 to end the contract with Team



Michelle Le

Burgess Park offers lap swimming, lessons and a kiddie pool. It's one of two Menlo Park public aquatics centers operated by Team Sheeper Inc. City Council members are considering finding a new operator or moving pool management in house.

Sheeper on Aug. 23, 2023 or until the new Belle Haven community center opens around summer 2023. Council member Cecilia Taylor voted no and council member Ray Mueller recused himself to avoid any

appearance of conflict of interest. (His son had a summer job at the pool.)

In a second vote, the council unanimously agreed on three directions to the staff: conduct public outreach about the pools,

issue a Request for Proposals in fall 2022 — opening the city to bids from aquatic operators — and explore the option of “in-house management.”

In the past, contracting services to Team Sheeper came with some hurdles for both parties, as well as concerns from local residents about public access to the pools.

The business of pool operations can be a costly, low-profit venture. In 2018, a staff report showed that maintenance of the pools cost the city \$27,900 a month. When the city asked Team Sheeper to assume more operational and financial burdens, Tim Sheeper, owner of the pool services company, approached the city in 2017 to renegotiate contract terms.

Sheeper was struggling to turn a profit while maintaining the pool with year-round staff members. He told *The Almanac* in 2018 that he keeps the company afloat by offering a variety of programs and keeping a versatile staff.

Despite extensive operating hours, some residents felt the pools weren't as available to the public because they were often reserved for athletic teams, or that the price to use the pools was too high.

“There's people that have contacted me that they don't actually swim because of the hours or the pricing,” Vice Mayor Jen Wolosin said in the meeting.

But Wolosin acknowledged Team Sheeper for maintaining city pools and their programs throughout the pandemic and was supportive of extending the contract for another year.

“Sheeper has carried it through this pandemic, which is pretty amazing, so I am supportive of renewing (the contract),” she said.

Sheeper can respond to the Request for Proposals if the company wants to continue running the pools after the contract expires. ■

Email Lloyd Lee at llee@almanacnews.com.



OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, Feb 12, 1:00pm – 5:00pm & Sunday, Feb 13, 12:00pm – 4:00pm



302 Atherton Avenue Atherton

Grand Modern Mediterranean estate in exclusive Atherton, blending European romance and modern living. Masterfully designed by architects Young & Borlik. Exceptional details and quality of material convey timeless elegance. Perfect combination of luxury and comfort on 7,940 sqft total living space.

Main house includes 5 bedroom suites, chef's kitchen, library, office, multiple living and reception areas, 10 natural stone bathrooms, intricate millwork, and multi-zone climate control system. Expansive entertainment space in the lower level with high-tech home theater, hobby room, exercise room, wine room and game room. Resort-like grounds inspired by the Riviera with cypress, palm and olive trees, rose garden, old world fountain, sprawling lawn and sparkling pool.

Well-appointed 2-bd/1-ba guest house with full kitchen. Detached 3-car garage + additional parking off double-gated circular driveway. Easy access to 280, Stanford & hi-tech campuses. Award-winning Las Lomitas schools.

Main House: 5 Bedroom Suites / 7 Baths and 3 Powder Rooms

Guest House: 2 Bedrooms / 1 Bath

Lot: 35,545 sqft | Building: 7,940 sqft

Offered at: \$9,188,000

www.302athertonave.com

ANNIE WATSON

D: 650.380.9898

O: 650.325.6161

annie@annie-watson.com

CalDRE# 01964881



New state bill seeks to cut down on county community college tuition

By Astrid Casimire/
Bay City News Service

State Sen. Josh Becker (D-Menlo Park) has introduced a bill that could allow San Mateo County Community College District students to attend college tuition-free.

Senate Bill 893 — co-authored by Assemblymember Kevin Mullin (D-San Mateo) and Assemblymember Marc Berman (D-Palo Alto) — would allow the district to charge students less than the tuition rate of \$46 per unit, a rate that is currently required by the state.

The bill would also allow the district to waive or cover enrollment fees using local revenue.

Becker said that increasing access to higher education is life-changing, as it helps ensure economic mobility for county residents.

District Chancellor Michael Claire said the bill would help the district leverage its resources to help students.

“Our district has the resources to do more for more — if we had the authority to do so,” Claire said.

Currently, the district’s Promise Scholars Program provides financial assistance to help cover food, transportation, tuition, supplies and other college fees. The program also provides personalized career development and academic counseling.

Khalid Shatrat, one Fall 2019 promise scholar at the College of San Mateo, said that the biggest benefit of the program is the fact that the first two years of education are free.

“Books are covered, tuition is covered. And really, regardless of your goal, just getting a quality education from a school like College of San Mateo, without really having to pay anything for it is something that’s really incredible and it shouldn’t be taken for granted,” said Shatrat, who earned an Associate of Science degree in accounting.

If Senate Bill 893 passes, the district would be able to expand the Promise Scholars Program and help all 6,000 students who

are eligible for the program. Right now the district can only help 2,000 of those students, according to a press release from Becker’s office.

The bill would also require the district’s board to establish eligibility requirements for the reduced fees and to provide a statement showing how the fee changes would impact the district financially.

John Pimentel, a member of the district’s board of trustees, said that the cost of tuition is a barrier to working adults who cannot afford those fees.

“All county residents should be able to affordably complete college or a technical degree, which is the most effective

and lasting tool to foster broad social equity,” Pimentel said. “We don’t need to wait for federal or state funding because San Mateo County is blessed with strong property values and stable funding for the San Mateo County Community College District.”

In order to advance, the bill must clear senate policy committees and a fiscal review if necessary, then it must be passed by the senate by May 27 to proceed to the assembly.

Founded in 1922, the district’s three colleges enroll about 45,000 students annually, according to its website. The colleges are located in Redwood City, San Bruno and San Mateo. ■

How childless seniors can navigate the future without a family caregiver

‘Solo agers’ can find assistance at upcoming virtual event

By Chris Kenrick

Ros and John know firsthand the particular challenges of navigating old age alone. The longtime married couple, who agreed to share their story but asked that their last names not be published to protect their privacy, are

childless and without immediate family to provide them needed care as they age.

John, a software engineer, was diagnosed with cancer in 2005 at age 49, and had to stop working the following year. He now has difficulty walking, suffers from frontotemporal dementia and needs considerable care.

Ros, who is in her 60s, looks after him at home as she continues to work remotely for Stanford University.

The pair immigrated to the United States from England 37 years ago, and without family, Ros worries about who will care for John should she become incapacitated.

“I’m coping on my own as we navigate his illness, which we’ve been doing for over 15 years,” she said. “I have many friends, but you can’t ask friends to do what you would ask family. It’s a huge concern.”

Ros and John are not alone. More than 15 million American adults over 55 — nearly 1 in 6 — do not have children, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. And the bureau projects that “levels of childlessness among older adults” will increase in coming years.

Without adult children to help in case they’re no longer able to care for themselves, “solo agers” have particular challenges in planning for their futures, said Paula Wolfson, manager of social work and caregiving for the Palo Alto senior services agency Avenidas.

On Wednesday, Feb. 16, Avenidas will host a free, virtual discussion with retirement coach and author Sara Zeff Geber on how seniors without family or others to help can find resources and make an aging solo plan. “Meeting the Challenges of Solo Aging” is part of the “Aging Wisely” town hall series sponsored by Avenidas.

“Solo agers have literally called me from the hospital because they’re going to be discharged and they don’t have anybody at home, don’t have any way to get food,” Wolfson said.

For those with money, hiring in-home care or paying roughly \$10,000 in monthly fees to live in a care facility are possibilities, but most do not have such resources, she said.

“Middle- to low-income solo agers — teachers, office workers, social workers — cannot afford to age here if they become frail,”

Wolfson said. “You can maybe have \$200,000 or \$300,000 in a Fidelity Investments account, but that’s not going to last very long when you’re paying \$10,000 a month (for a care facility) or in-home care.”

Wolfson knows of many seniors who have moved to lower-cost areas, such as Idaho and Oregon, or have moved in with friends.

Rich or poor, it’s especially important for solo agers to focus on proactive planning, she said.

“Do you have a durable power of attorney designated in case you have difficulty with health care or financial decision-making? That is the key,” she said.

Ros said she has researched options and has interviewed professional fiduciaries, who charge by the hour, to provide daily care and other services that a family member might typically take on.

“I’ve found one I’m very comfortable with,” she said. “I’d prefer a friend to do it, but it’s way too much to ask a friend to do.”

She has yet to formalize arrangements with the fiduciary. She does take some comfort, however, in the fact that if all else fails, every county has a conservatorship process, which allows a judge to put a conservator in charge of making sure a person has proper food, clothing, shelter and health care.

The Santa Clara County Office of the Public Guardian, which handles conservatorships, was managing more than 1,400 cases as of November 2019, according to a Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury report.

Geber said people of any age

Menlo Park Monthly Market Report
January 1, 2022 - January 31, 2022

11 COSTLY HOME INSPECTIONS PITFALLS
Free Report reveals what you need to know before you list your home for sale.
www.Rossetti11CostlyPitfalls.com

TOP 10 SALES*	
1. \$6,375,000 625 Cotton Street	2. \$4,495,000 2071 Sterling Avenue
3. \$4,400,000 407 Laurel Avenue	4. \$4,300,000 1400 Middle Avenue
5. \$4,000,000 2098 Manzanita Avenue	6. \$3,800,000 309 Princeton Road
7. \$3,495,000 904 Laurel	8. \$3,200,000 20 Barney Court
9. \$3,000,000 2080 Mills Avenue	10. \$2,935,000 1285 Altichai Avenue

ACTIVE LISTING

Jan 22: 23
Dec 21: 13

↑ 77%

PENDING LISTING

Jan 22: 22
Dec 21: 23

↓ -4%

SOLD LISTING

Jan 22: 22
Dec 21: 23

↓ -4%

AVERAGE SALES PRICE

Jan 22: \$2,886,973
Dec 21: \$3,115,998

↓ -7%

AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ FT

Jan 22: \$1,491
Dec 21: \$1,506

↓ -1%

AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET

Jan 22: 27
Dec 21: 19

↑ 42%

MONTHS OF INVENTORY

Jan 22: 1.20
Dec 21: 0.40

↑ 200%

SALE/LIST PRICE

Jan 22: 105.00%
Dec 21: 104.20%

↑ 1%

30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE

Jan 22: 3.71%
Dec 21: 3.27%

↑ 13%

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

January 2022 compared to December 2021

Making A Move?

Sellers Start Here: RossettiMarketValue.com

Buyers Start here: RossettiHomeFinder.com

3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas Suite C Menlo Park, CA Phone: 650-854-4100

Gail Antoinette Rossetti
Founder | CEO | Broker
License #01179344

Becker introduces bill to coordinate Bay Area public transit fare systems, schedules

By Eli Walsh/
Bay City News Service

State Sen. Josh Becker (D-Menlo Park) introduced a bill on Feb. 3 that would require Bay Area transit agencies to coordinate their fare structures and schedules in an effort to entice riders back to public transit.

Senate Bill 917 would require the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the region's 27 transit agencies to utilize a universal fare system, coordinate their schedules and develop a single transit map and trip planning system by mid-2024.

Becker noted that the transit agencies operating across the Bay Area's nine counties have multiple different fare structures, discount and loyalty programs and trip planning

systems and lack integrated schedules and live transit data.

As a result, he argued, transferring between multiple public transit systems can be unreliable and leave riders waiting for needlessly long periods of time.

"Right now, riding transit in our region can be a disjointed and unreliable experience," Becker said. "This legislation will help transform our system into a world-class, seamless experience for the public, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving access to jobs and housing for residents."

Becker also argued that making transit across the region more seamless would help entice riders back to systems that have seen significant ridership drops since the pandemic began.

Even before 2020, however,

transit ridership across the Bay Area was flagging. According to Becker's office, transit ridership fell 5.2% across the region between 2016 and 2018 and just 12% of the Bay Area's residents have used public transit for their commute since 1970.

"We must act quickly to entice riders back to public transit and put the rider experience front and center," Becker said.

SB 917's requirement of a streamlined fare structure would help mitigate the so-called "transfer penalty," when riders must pay a fare for each individual transit system they enter, regardless of the length of each segment of their trip and even if they use a fare system like Clipper that is available across multiple transit agencies.

According to Becker, the bill would require the universal fare system to include free transfers between local systems, like the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, and regional ones like BART.

The MTC has already endorsed fare integration between transit agencies and formed a Fare Integration Task Force in early 2020 to oversee studies of a potential universal fare system.

Becker said that riders are already benefiting from inter-agency coordination as Caltrain and BART have aligned their schedules at Millbrae Station and Golden Gate Transit now provides local service within San Francisco.

The bill is supported by regional transit and business

groups, including the Bay Area Council and the transportation think tank San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR).

"As we move past COVID, it's critical we get commuters back on public transit," Bay Area Council President and CEO Jim Wunderman said. "Making transit as easy, affordable and convenient for everyone to use is paramount in that effort and better integrating fares is one of the most cost-effective, common-sense tools for making that happen."

Co-authors include Assembly members Bill Quirk, D-Hayward; Kevin Mullin, D-South San Francisco; Alex Lee, D-San Jose; Marc Levine, D-San Rafael; and Phil Ting, D-San Francisco; and Sens. Bill Dodd, D-Napa; and Scott Wiener, D-San Francisco.

The Senate's Transportation Committee is expected to begin discussing SB 917 this spring. ■

SENIORS

continued from page 10

may temporarily or permanently lose the ability to care for themselves, "but the odds go up dramatically as we get older."

The proportion of solo agers will only increase in coming years because younger cohorts are increasingly not having children, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. For example, of all adults 55 to 64, 19.6% were childless, according to census data from 2018. Of those ages 65 to 74, 15.9% were childless, and of those 75 and older, 10.9% were childless.

"About 22% of adults are, or will be, their own sole caregiver in old age," according to the census bureau's "Childless Older Americans" report released in 2020. "Such adults have no known family member or designated surrogate or caregiver they can count on for support."

Much of Geber's planning advice — such as completing an advance health care directive or designating someone to have power of attorney — applies not just to solo agers but to all older adults, too.

For those without children, including Geber, "ties with friends, siblings, nieces and nephews and even community tend to be (and should be) more prominent," she said.

For more information or to register for the "Meeting the Challenges of Solo Aging" event, go to avenidas.org. ■

Email Contributing Writer
Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

Kensington Senior Living is proud to sponsor HFC's 2nd Annual CareCon

A FREE, virtual event designed to educate, inspire and empower
Alzheimer's and dementia family caregivers by offering support, knowledge and community



Join Us on National Caregivers Day Fri, Feb 18, 2022 • 12:00pm PST

A learning & support event hosted by
Lauren Miller Rogen of HFC

CareCon is back! Join us for a free, live-streamed event that's packed with celebrity-hosted, expert-led panels and workshops for the comedy-loving caregiver. Connect with others around the globe as you learn tools for resilience and best practices to help ease the stressors that often come with the caregiving experience.

This year, Kensington Senior Living is proud to sponsor The Scotty, an award in honor of Scott Miller, who was the caregiver for Lauren Miller Rogen's late mother Adele. Be sure to nominate an extraordinary unpaid caregiver you know, in recognition of their loving support during a challenging time, their patience and perseverance, and their creativity.

We also encourage you to get acquainted with Kensington Place, where we make every effort to improve your loved one's quality of life to the greatest extent possible. And, we do the same for you. Your caregiving commitment is an extraordinary gesture of devotion, yet it is a demanding responsibility. So we offer support that gives you time to catch your breath, recharge without guilt and freely enjoy the pleasure of togetherness with your loved one.

To register, go to bit.ly/hfccarecon



HFC

KENSINGTON PLACE
A Memory Care Community
REDWOOD CITY
— North Atherton —



RCFE License
415600964

— We promise to love and care for your family as we do our own —

(650) 363-9200 | 2800 El Camino Real | Redwood City, CA 94061 | www.KensingtonPlaceRedwoodCity.com

Restoration underway on Bedwell Bayfront Park levee

By Kate Daly
Special to the Almanac

At first you might think, what strange bedfellows: West Bay Sanitary District land at the end of Marsh Road being used to grow native plants to promote habitat restoration along the Bay in Menlo Park.

But then again it makes sense when you realize starting plants nearby gives them a healthy leg up on transplantation because they are already acclimated to local conditions.

Last month, a year or so later than expected due to construction and COVID delays, staff from the nonprofit Save the Bay took sod-like chunks of creeping wildrye, salt grass, alkali heath, western ragweed and other natives from the 82-raised beds they built in an outdoor nursery at the sanitation complex, and trucked the established plants a short distance to the southeast side of Bedwell Bayfront Park.

There the group turned to third-generation farmer Frank Imhof for his expertise, who used a tractor to till the soil and disk the plants into a sloping



Courtesy Save the Bay

levee covering 9.6 acres. Save the Bay staff later spread about 100 pounds of seeds of 17 additional native plants gathered from various places around the Bay.

The hope is by late next year, the levee will be successfully revegetated and stabilized, ready for a planned breach that will allow the Bay to flow back into the area. The end goal, according to Jessie Olson, head of Save the

Bay's Habitat restoration team, is to convert the existing salt ponds into a transitional zone that can support "high marsh species" of plants and animals and act as a spongelike buffer to future sea level rise and erosion.

Plans are for another 16-acre site in the Ravenswood area, the All-American Canal levee, to be transformed next year using the same methods and plant material

to prep for another breach.

Unwanted non-native invasive plants and weeds always pose a challenge on land. Olson said depending on COVID restrictions, volunteers could sign up to help maintain the revegetated levees next year. Some of Save the Bay's educational programs might start up again, as well.

A million dollars in grants and partnerships between the

Native plants grown in raised beds are being transplanted into Bedwell Bayfront Park in Menlo Park by Save the Bay staff.

California Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, the City of Menlo Park, West Bay Sanitary District and Save the Bay are driving the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project.

The project is one example of a larger ongoing effort to restore wetlands around the Bay. It's estimated that 80% of the region's 200,000 acres of wetlands have been lost due to centuries of human development in the area. Since wetlands are known to help filter pollution, sequester carbon, and modify flooding, climate change has created a renewed interest in bringing them back.

Imagine upon completion, decades after a mountainous landfill was capped off in the 1980s to create what is now Bedwell Bayfront Park, there will be a scenic recreational pathway overlooking the Bay, teeming with wildlife, just around the bend from one of the project's key contributors — a sewage treatment plant. ■

Email Contributor Kate Daly at katherinemunroedaly@gmail.com.

FILOLI

continued from page 1

attends will end up on TV — producers edit down the 150 segments they film, there's a "100% chance" you'll have your items appraised, Bemko said.

"Most of us don't understand everything we own," Bemko said. "It's a chance to learn about what you own from the

country's top experts. You get an answer to a question you can't search on the internet."

Bemko noted that she feels like she has "one of the best jobs in America" as a producer on the show. Because of her travels with the show, she's been to every U.S. state.

"I love learning with the audience," she said. "I love it (that the items) takes us further

into subjects."

She said her favorite item from over the years with the show is a label for a 1918, World War I-era can of peaches and a letter from a soldier, worth about \$550 to \$600. Although not worth as much as diamond rings she's coveted in the past, she likes the sentiment of the soldier writing home that "peaches are worth fighting for."

Past filming at Filoli

Filoli is no stranger to film and TV productions. Most notably, parts of the soap opera "Dynasty" were filmed on the estate's property in the 1980s.

The first movie to be filmed at Filoli was "Heaven Can Wait" in 1978, which starred Warren Beatty. During the 1990s, casts of "George of the Jungle" and "The Joy Luck Club" filmed scenes in Filoli's mansion.

Filoli stood in as a possible wedding location in Napa in the 2001 movie "The Wedding Planner" with Jennifer Lopez and Matthew McConaughey.

Information on the show

The Antiques Roadshow will also make stops in Nashville, Tennessee; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Boise, Idaho; and Shelburne, Vermont.

The ticket drawing will be conducted in April. After the drawing, around April 11, ticket winners will be notified if they were chosen. All guests must be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Enter the drawing at pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/tickets by March 21. ■

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

TOWN OF WOODSIDE 2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062 PLANNING COMMISSION FEBRUARY 16, 2022 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 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.

Join Zoom Meeting:

One tap mobile

+16699009128,86068472736
+12532158782,86068472736

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128
+1 253 215 8782
+1 346 248 7799
+1 301 715 8592
+1 312 626 6799
+1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 860 6847 2736

Weblink: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736>

Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: sharper@woodsidetown.org

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Town-wide

Town of Woodside

Planner: Jackie Young, Planning Director

Housing Study Session to address the impacts of recent State law and the Town's responsive zoning code changes; and continued discussion of the Cycle 6 Housing Element Update. This is a continuation of the Study Sessions held on January 12, 2022, and February 2, 2022.

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING JACKIE YOUNG AT JYOUNG@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG



Courtesy Gretchine Wilson

The Filoli estate in Woodside will be featured on Antiques Roadshow this summer.



18 STOCKBRIDGE AVENUE
ATHERTON



TREMENDOUS FLEXIBILITY IN PRIME ATHERTON

Set on a bucolic 2/3 of an acre in prime West Atherton, this one-of-a-kind property with over 3,100 square feet of total living area offers tremendous flexibility and exquisite detail with three homes for the price of one. Whether you are looking for a family compound, home you can grow into, or investment opportunity, the options are endless.

MAIN HOUSE

This home includes a stately office, dining room with a chandelier and coved ceiling, eat-in chef's kitchen, three large bedrooms, two bathrooms, two fireplaces and a laundry room. The primary suite includes an incredible Jacuzzi tub and shower combination with two shower-heads, eight body jets, and even speakers!

GUEST HOUSE & ADU

With its own separate address and gated entrance off of Stockbridge Avenue, the guest house includes a paver parking area, stunning landscaping, two bedrooms, one bathroom, eat-in kitchen, a fireplace, and its own separate washer and dryer. An additional unit directly behind the main house is perfect for extended-stay guests or for additional income and features one bedroom, one bathroom, a kitchenette, and yet another washer and dryer.

The charm and flexibility of this property cannot be overstated, but must be experienced in person.

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

www.18Stockbridge.com

Offered at \$4,988,000

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

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula is changing lives

By Elizabeth Harris

When Ian M. was a sophomore in high school, he excelled academically and looked forward to coming to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula's (BGCP) Teen Clubhouse

in Redwood City every day after-school.

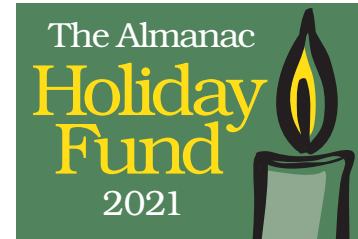
He was always eager to play basketball, get homework support and spend more time breaking out the creative process in the audio booth. "The Boys and Girls Clubhouse felt comfortable and welcoming and conversations with staff made me want to come back even without my friends."

Unfortunately, a routine medical procedure turned into a series of surgeries and affected Ian's life over the next two years in ways he could never have imagined. When he began his senior year at Redwood High School last fall, Ian had missed a lot of school, was failing some classes, and discouraged about his future. "I was lost. I didn't know who to talk with or be with," he

said. "My road had shifted."

This year, BGCP launched a new partnership with Redwood High School, as part of our strategic plan to reach a broader range of students. Redwood High serves students who have been failed by traditional schools and need different pathways to graduate high school. David G., BGCP's Student Pathways Advisor, works full-time on campus and has built strong connections with Ian and other students.

With David's guidance and encouragement, Ian and some peers agreed to check out BGCP's Redwood City Teen Clubhouse; they were enticed by the possibility of paid Teen Staff jobs and access to a broad range of activities: academic support, mentoring, social-emotional learning,



career opportunities, mental health services and enrichment classes, such as technology, athletics, art, leadership, and culinary, that help students discover their talents and passions.

Each year, over 2,500 students from kindergarten through postsecondary join BGCP's year-round after-school programs at 14 school sites and three clubhouses in the low-income historically marginalized neighborhoods

of East Palo Alto, eastern Menlo Park, and North Fair Oaks in Redwood City. Youth in the neighborhoods served by BGCP face significant challenges and it is easy for our students to become overwhelmed and want to give up. Across all our sites, students form positive relationships with caring adults, role models who help them feel a sense of belonging, develop a sense of possibility and set goals for their future.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula is one of the beneficiaries of this winter's Almanac Holiday Fund, which just had a record year for donations. Because The Almanac and its partner the Silicon Valley Community Foundation cover all the administrative

See **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**, page 17

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Richard (Dick) John Bonino**, 80, a Menlo Park resident, on Jan. 26; and **Laurence Latta**, 85, a Portola Valley resident, on Jan. 31.

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

Richard John Bonino

March 29, 1941 – January 26, 2022

Richard "Dick" Bonino passed away unexpectedly on January 26, 2022. He will be remembered as a devoted family man, business leader, expert handyman and car enthusiast. Dick was greatly admired, loved, and respected by his friends, colleagues, and family. He was known for his integrity and his ability to solve problems. He enjoyed sharing his knowledge and expertise to help others and will be forever missed by family and friends.

Nothing was more important to Dick than his family.

Dick was born on March 29, 1941 in San Francisco to Richard Teresio Bonino and Doris Marie Johnson Bonino. The family relocated to Redwood City and then to Menlo Park, where Dick lived since the age of ten with his parents and brother, Steve. Dick attended Menlo-Atherton High School, where he met his future wife of 58 years, Pam.

The proud son of an Italian immigrant, Dick was a hard worker, starting in the swimming pool business at the age of 13, moving onto the All-American Market in Menlo Park during his high school years where he became the assistant manager. In his early 20's, Dick worked for Hiller Aircraft, and later embarked on a career as a Manufacturing Manager, Operations Manager and Chief Operating Officer at various local companies, including Varian, Benson, Schlumberger, Phoenix Precision Graphics and Precision Image. He became an expert in computer-controlled high-end printer-plotters and received a patent for his innovative ideas.

Dick was a skilled craftsman, earning his contractor's license in his spare time and using his considerable talents to remodel his Menlo Park home. In his retirement years, Dick was the



'go-to-guy' for repairs for his neighbors in the Allied Arts area. He also enjoyed woodworking and made beautiful gifts for his family.

Dick was a lifelong car enthusiast. In his teen years, he saved up for his first car, a '49 red Mercury convertible. He enjoyed restoring cars and driving up and down the California coast in their 1990 red Corvette with Pam. Their favorite destination was Mendocino. Dick had nearly completed the restoration of a 1959 Corvette, which his family hopes to complete in his honor. One of the highlights of his life was attending the Indianapolis 500 with his brother, Steve.

Another of Dick's passions was his love of the beautiful coastal redwoods. He purchased a 40-acre parcel of land off Skyline Blvd in his 30's, and absolutely loved camping with his family there. He personified what was so special about the Portola Heights community by his involvement with road maintenance and property upkeep, even building his own bridge over Slate Creek. He made many friends among the resident neighbors.

Dick was predeceased by his parents, Richard and Doris, and his beloved granddaughter, Tatum. He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Pamela Nelson Bonino; his daughters Annette Jackson of Kennewick, WA, and Lisa Mitchell of Menlo Park; her husband Mark, and grandchildren Cason, Riggins and Landry Mitchell of Menlo Park; his brother, Steve Bonino, of King's Mountain, North Carolina, and his family.

Dick was laid to rest at Alta Mesa Memorial Park, in Palo Alto. A memorial service was held at Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park, CA.

PAID OBITUARY

MASKS

continued from page 5

also allow our case rates to continue to drop quickly."

The county previously announced its metrics for lifting local masking requirements in October, which were adopted when the delta variant was circulating in the community. On Wednesday, Feb. 9, the Public Health Department said it had updated its prior metrics, based on the lesser risks of the current omicron variant, which has a lower chance of severe illness and hospitalization than delta, they said.

Santa Clara County has already met one of the three metrics for lifting the indoor masking requirement: 80% of all county residents are fully vaccinated. The local indoor masking requirement will be lifted when the remaining two metrics are met: COVID-19 hospitalizations in the county are low and stable, in the judgment of the health officer; and the seven-day average of new cases per day is at or below 550 for at least a week.

"While overall case rates have declined significantly since their January peak, COVID-19 continues to circulate widely, and case rates are still higher than at any other time in the pandemic prior to the January omicron peak," the county said in its announcement. The seven-day average of new cases is currently 1,922 cases per day, which falls under the highest level of community transmission under federal guidelines from the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention. Hospitalization rates also remain high and have not fallen, the county said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday the state's universal indoor masking requirement will be allowed to expire on Feb. 15. State health orders will continue to require universal indoor masking in many settings, however, including all K-12 schools, child care facilities, public transit, health care facilities, shelters, jails and long-term care facilities.

"(California's) case rate has decreased by 65% since our omicron peak," Newsom said. "Our hospitalizations have stabilized across the state."

As of Monday, Feb. 7, California is reporting an average of 103.7 new cases per day per 100,000 residents, according to data from the California Department of Public Health.

At the peak of the omicron surge, the state was reporting nearly 300 new cases per 100,000 residents. That figure was also likely an undercount, public health officials have argued, because of the availability of at-home tests — results of which are not included among official case counts.

Unvaccinated residents will still be required to wear a mask indoors at all times, as they have been since the state lifted most of its COVID-19-related restrictions last June. ■

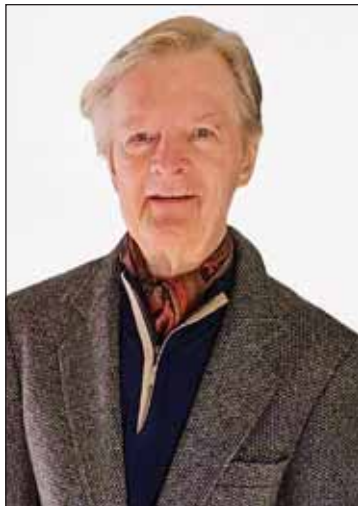
Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

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

Laurence Latta

June 13, 1936 – January 31, 2022

On January 31, 2022, Laurence Latta Jr., of Portola Valley, California and Boothbay, Maine passed easily and peacefully at his California home, at age 85. He is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Catherine Evans Latta, whom he met while ice-skating when both were students at Cornell University. He is also survived by his daughter, Chris, son-in-law Kermit Claytor, and granddaughters, Katherine, Emma, and Lauren Claytor.



Larry was born in Wyandotte, Michigan, June 13, 1936, and was especially close to his mother, Helen. Helen later remarried to John Devlin, of Massachusetts, with whom Larry also had a long and loving relationship.

Larry obtained his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Mechanical Engineering, and an MBA in Finance, from Cornell University. He was an entrepreneur, who built successful business interests throughout the Middle East during the 1960s and 1970s. He held three United States Patents for petrochemical compounds that greatly simplified construction processes in that arid region. A 14-year expatriate resident of Cairo, Egypt, and Beirut, Lebanon, Larry returned to the United States with his family in 1976, splitting his time between California and Maine. He continued to pursue his overseas business interests while launching a second career working for himself as well as a European-based family office, as a highly-successful economist and investor. As an economist, his quarterly and annual U.S. and international forecasts were astoundingly accurate. Larry was an early adopter of using hedge funds and alternative investment vehicles. In the 1980s, he became a pioneer of the "fund of funds" concept of hedge fund investing. He remained active in hedge fund investing after retiring in 2010.

Larry was an active sportsman, and had a lifelong love of skiing. On the Cornell Ski Team, he was a ski jumper and cross-country skier. He and Cathy enjoyed many ski trips throughout the U.S. and Europe. He loved playing tennis, and was a member of the Alpine Hills Tennis and Swimming Club in Portola Valley, and of the Boothbay Harbor Country Club in Maine. Larry especially loved sailing, and was a decades-long member of the Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club. As an avid sailor, he and his wife, Cathy, cruised the Coast of Maine aboard their yacht "Allegro". Their sailing adventures also included San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay, various ports on the East and West Coasts, and throughout the Caribbean and Mediterranean Seas. Larry held a Black Belt in Karate. Late in life he took up kick boxing, working with individual trainers both in California and in Maine.

Larry was a highly accomplished musician, having taken up the piano at a young age. He played in many styles, such as jazz, and standards, but his favorite style was classical - especially Chopin. He played in many informal groups with friends, and often entertained his party guests for hours with his virtuosity and talent.

Those close to Larry will particularly remember him as a gentle natured man with ingenious humor. The world has lost a true gentleman, and a kind soul.

Memorial plans for both the East and West coasts are pending. His family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to one of the following organizations dear to his heart:

The DaPonte String Quartet
<https://daponte.org/support/>

The Stanford Movement Disorder Center
<https://give.stanford.edu/stanford-medicine/?olc=06421>

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
<https://www.michaeljfox.org/donate>

PAID OBITUARY

Bliss Carnochan

December 20, 1930 – January 24, 2022

Bliss Carnochan, Richard W. Lyman Professor Emeritus of the Humanities at Stanford University, died of congestive heart failure on January 24th, 2022 at his home in Portola Valley, CA.

Bliss grew up in Manhattan, where he went to Buckley School and then entered St. Paul's school in Concord, NH. He lived for the summers, which he spent at his grandparents' farm in Bernardsville, New Jersey. There he loved to roam the property, climb its many trees, and help to bring in the hay—as well as read books.

He went on to Harvard, as his grandfather, father, and brother had done. There he earned his BA, MA, and PhD degrees. After his BA he "passed an idle year at New College, Oxford, where I spent much of my time rowing on the college crew, not because I had a special aptitude but because a 6'2" American had an initial advantage that reality never quite dissipated."

He was a young man from the East Coast with roots deep in American history. His family traced its life in America to Colonial times, and it included Gouverneur Morris, who had written the preamble to the U.S. Constitution. Bliss wrote that his family had prospered in the 19th century and had managed to keep some "though by no means all" of its wealth in the Great Depression. He counted the deaths of his father and older brother in WWII as "an unlucky beginning," but noted that it was followed by "a run of good luck" during a lifetime he said he sometimes found hard to believe.

That "good luck" certainly included his move in 1960 to Stanford as an assistant professor, in his first time west of Pittsburgh. As an academic, he focused his teaching and writing on the literature of the British eighteenth century, with the work of Jonathan Swift at its center. Not very fond of lecturing, he preferred the seminar format and the give-and-take of a lively discussion. He also served as Chairman of the English Department; Dean of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost of the university. He considered 1986-1991 as the most personally rewarding years of his academic career, when he served as the second Director of The Stanford Humanities Center—having helped to conceive the idea of the Center itself. There, he modestly said, he learned a great deal from the Center's community of intellectually engaged scholars.

Bliss Carnochan's publications include some twenty books, among them Lemuel Gulliver's *Mirror for Man*, *Confinement and Flight*, *Gibbon's Solitude*, and *The Battleground of the Curriculum*; dozens of articles and monographs; and scores of reviews. After his retirement, he turned to address contemporary issues. "The Death Penalty and Prison Reform" was the product of several visits to the Louisiana State Prison at Angola and a years-long correspondence with the editor of "The Angolite," the inmate publication. His books about African explorers were written after visits to Tanzania looking for elusive traces of his uncle, who had studied zoology at Harvard and then collected snakes for the Washington Zoo, spending the better part of a decade in what was then the colony of Tanganyika as chief assistant to Kalola, head of the powerful snake guild.

An abiding interest in education and society produced other thoughtful essays, among them "On the 'Purposes' of Liberal Education"; "Where Did Great Books Come From, Anyway?"; "The English Curriculum: Past and Present"; and "English at Stanford, 1891-2000: A Brief History."

"Art, Constraint and Memory: Egon Schiele in Prison" married two of his deep interests, as

did "Art, Transgression, Shock and the First Amendment." The latter, written with wit and insight, showed a non-academic familiarity with popular figures such as Ice-T and Jenny Holzer as he probed the challenges of our rapidly changing society.

A trustee of Mills College and the Berkeley Art Museum, he chaired the board of the Athenian School in Danville. He also served on the Overseers Committee to Visit Harvard College.

After retirement, when he relished being freed from the "tedium of the footnote," he wrote a modest but engaging memoir, *Momentary Bliss*.

In *Confessions of a Dodger Fan* he described the mixed blessings of being passionate about baseball; and, with his own Scottish origins keenly in mind, he wrote *Scotland the Brave*, about Scotland's national identity and some of its manifestations in America.

Bliss Carnochan's always lively and intimate sense of our national past helped to create the core of who he was as a scholar, writer, husband, father, friend, and man of broad interests. Those interests in-

cluded expertly collecting memorable American folk art, riding horses (whether in the eastern Sierra or in Ireland, Spain, and France), and playing tennis (mostly doubles) with Stanford colleagues. As a fan, he attended the French, British, and US Open tournaments. As a transplant to California he remained a Dodger fan and also became a Sharks and a Warriors fan. His children remember he was a lover of Bob Marley's music, which once led him to sweep up the entire family for a trip to San Diego to hear Marley in concert. For about 20 years from the early 80s Bliss and Brigitte spent much of their summers in Martha's Vineyard, where they built a house, made friends, and enjoyed their children and grandchildren on the Vineyard's beautiful South Beach.

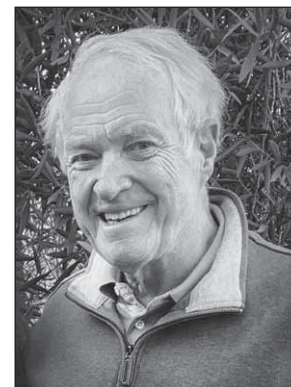
Essential to his character and personality was Bliss' sense that moving to California proved to be a "liberation" of sorts. Never one to trade on lineage, his view of his distinguished ancestry was one of slight bemusement. Gouverneur Morris was a family name preserved through the generations—but one which Bliss also bestowed on his last and beloved Labrador, who answered happily to "Morris" and lounged at his feet as he wrote in his study.

Late in life, Bliss wrote, "It has been not just a fortunate life, but a rich one." His friends remember many things: his generosity, wit, erudition, wide-ranging conversation, and humility, as well as his deep, rich, contagious laughter. His children remember that he was present: every graduation, athletic event, birthday party, grandparents day or theater performance: He Showed Up.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of forty-two years, Brigitte Carnochan; four children from his first marriage to Nancy Carter Edebo: Lisa Carnochan (Frank Yu), Sarah Carnochan (Michael Myers), Gouverneur Morris Peter Carnochan, Sibyll Carnochan Catalan (Rodrigo Catalan), a step-daughter, Erika Jurney (the late Craig Jurney), and seven grandchildren (Kate Carroll, Patrick Carroll, Anna Myers, Gouverneur Morris Bodhi Carnochan, Nicholas Catalan, Sophia Catalan, Thomas Catalan), and three step-grandchildren (Henry Jurney, Edward Jurney, Charlie Jurney).

A celebration of life is being planned at the Stanford Humanities Center for a later, safer time.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a memorial donation to save and protect the Ethiopian wolves, one of Bliss's favorite causes: wildnet.org/ewcp.



PAID OBITUARY

MOUNTAIN LION

continued from page 1

views of the Town Council.

"The town of Woodside has consistently exceeded state mandated low- and moderate-income housing commitments, and the town council remained focused on doing its part to alleviate the regional shortfall in affordable housing," he said.

Lawsuit and state attorney general's message

Matthew Gelfand, legal counsel for Californians for Homeownership, emailed the town on Feb. 2, threatening a lawsuit and called staff's finding "absurd" that every single residential parcel in the town qualifies as mountain lion habitat. He wrote that it also violated SB 330, which prohibits local governments from putting up new barriers to housing production.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta warned town officials on Feb. 6, that the effort to declare the town a mountain lion habitat is an attempt to avoid complying with state law.

"There is no valid basis to claim that the entirety of Woodside is a habitat for mountain lions," his office wrote to the town. "Habitat is land that has the capacity to support that species, including providing food and shelter. Land that is already developed — with, for example, a single-family home — is not, by definition, habitat."

In a press release, the Attorney General's office said the mountain lion habitat claim is contrary to the law and contrary to efforts to alleviate the state's affordable housing issues.

In Woodside, small homes are currently listed for sale on Zillow at \$1 million and up; a 1-bedroom apartment rent is about \$2,500 a month.

Swift response and national scrutiny

The council's decision garnered national and international attention, with The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times and Guardian jumping on the story after The Almanac published it.

State Sen. Scott Wiener, known for his housing advocacy, weighed in on Twitter, saying: "Can't wait for the lawsuit against Woodside for this brazen violation of state law."

Former Woodside mayor Daniel Yost, who served on the council from 2015 to 2020 and has lived in town for 19 years, told The Almanac "no one should believe for a second this (decision) is driven by mountain lion concerns."

"In my years in that I served on council, I never heard even a slight mention of preserving the mountain lion habitat," he said. "I heard about a fair share of concerns about housing; that's what is driving this. ... What I love about Woodside is we're creative problem solvers. We haven't hid behind cats as an excuse to take away residents' rights to modify or expand their housing (in the past)."

Yost noted that the "excellent" Woodside Elementary School's enrollment figures are declining because families can't afford to move to town.

The TK-8 grade public school has 365 students. Enrollment is down almost 11% from the



Courtesy Mathieu Mills

A mountain lion drinks from a backyard pool in Portola Valley in August 2021.

2018-19 school year, according to Almanac reporting this past fall.

"We trust that communities will find a way to balance protecting sensitive habitat with providing needed housing," said Cydney Bieber, a public affairs specialist for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, which has acquired and preserved more than 65,000 acres of open space in the region, in an email last week.

Last week, two residents in neighboring Portola Valley asked the Town Council to take similar action as Woodside in a Feb. 1 letter to town officials.

Los Altos Hills Mayor George Tyson said in an email that he has not heard from any residents wishing to emulate Woodside's action, and the council has not met to discuss it.

Debate over local land use control initiative

At the January meeting when the mountain lion clause was discussed, Town Council members also considered supporting a ballot initiative that calls for more control over local land use.

The proposed constitutional amendment, from a group called Our Neighborhood Voices, noted

that the majority of the state's land planning efforts "take away the authority of local jurisdictions to determine for themselves the land use policies and practices that best suit each city and instead imposes 'one-size fits-all' mandates that do not take into account the unique needs and challenges faced by local jurisdictions."

'Land that is already developed — with, for example, a single-family home — is not, by definition, habitat.'

ATTORNEY GENERAL ROB BONTA

"What state laws are going to be preempted by this initiative?" Councilman Ned Fluet asked of staff and the rest of the council. After the meeting, he said that he is concerned the initiative could have environmental and civil rights implications if towns became exempt from laws like the California Environmental Quality Act, the Fair Employment and Housing Act, or local safety elements.

"Before we say as a council we

support something, we should at least have an idea of what this initiative would do and not do," he said. "I would hate not to know the full effect. The biggest take-away is there are a lot of questions out there on this initiative."

Town Manager Kevin Bryant acknowledged that language for a proposed town resolution was pulled from Our Neighborhood Voices' website. Fluet noted that "it's inappropriate to not tell the public language is from the group that is proposing the initiative."

Mayor Dick Brown, who said he has been gathering signatures for the initiative, pulled the item from the agenda after Fluet's comments.

Three residents submitted letters in support of the measure.

The town is in the midst of updating its housing element, a mandatory statewide process to accommodate housing growth, and is being asked to zone for a significant number of new units. Woodside is tasked with zoning for 328 units between 2023 and 2031 under the state's Regional Housing Needs Allocation, up from 62 during the previous cycle.

The housing element has prompted pushback from some residents and town officials, who object to changes to the "rural character" of their towns and fear that building more homes could increase wildfire risk in a region that is already at a heightened risk for fires.

Green Foothills, a nonprofit organization that works to protect open space, farmland and natural resources in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, warned the council that the ballot initiative could result in "rampant environmentally harmful development across the state of California — a result directly contrary to the spirit of this initiative."

"The 'Our Neighborhood Voices' initiative could be a blank check to developers," wrote Alice Kaufman, legislative advocacy director for Green Foothills, in a Jan. 25 letter to the town.

"This initiative, while intended to establish local control over land use and planning matters, unfortunately contains extremely broad and vague language that could be interpreted by courts to allow preemption of every single state law that restricts development for purposes of environmental protection or health and safety. ... In addition, giving a city council the ability to override state laws restricting development would give a wealthy developer a powerful incentive to pour money into local elections in order to get a pro-development city council." ■ Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

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

TOWN OF WOODSIDE
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Annual Reporting for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2021

Development of the Town of Woodside Climate Action Plan (CAP) was required as mitigation in conjunction with adoption of the Town of Woodside's General Plan Mitigated Negative Declaration in 2012. The CAP outlines a program to achieve targeted greenhouse gas emission reductions. The Annual Report for the CAP documents the Town's progress in implementing the measures identified in the CAP, and highlights measures still requiring attention.

This notice advises members of the public that the Town's sixth Annual Report was accepted by the Town Council on January 25, 2022, and is available for a 30-day Public Review Period between February 5, 2022 and March 7, 2022. The Annual Report is available for public review by appointment at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall. The Annual Report is also available on the Town website at: <https://www.woodsidetown.org/planning/climate-action-plan>. For more information, contact Jackie Young, AICP CEP, Planning Director, at (650) 851-6790.

Written comments may be submitted during the Public Review Period at the address indicated below:

Town of Woodside
 P.O. Box 620005
 2955 Woodside Road
 Woodside, CA 94062

Or to Jackie Young at: JYoung@woodsidetown.org



**Woodside Elementary
 School District
 Invitation for Bid
 Vended Meals for Child
 Nutrition Programs**

Woodside Elementary School District is soliciting bids for the provision of vended meals for the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs. Bids will be accepted until Friday, March 18, 2022 at 1:00 P.M. at the District Office, located at 3195 Woodside Road, Woodside, California, 94062 Tel: 650-851-1571. Visit the district website at <http://woodsideschool.us/rfp> to view the full Bid document

COVID - SCHOOLS

continued from page 5

the number of cases it saw the week prior.

There were just eight cases at Sacred Heart Schools in Ather-ton, which has 1,195 students in preschool through 12th grade.

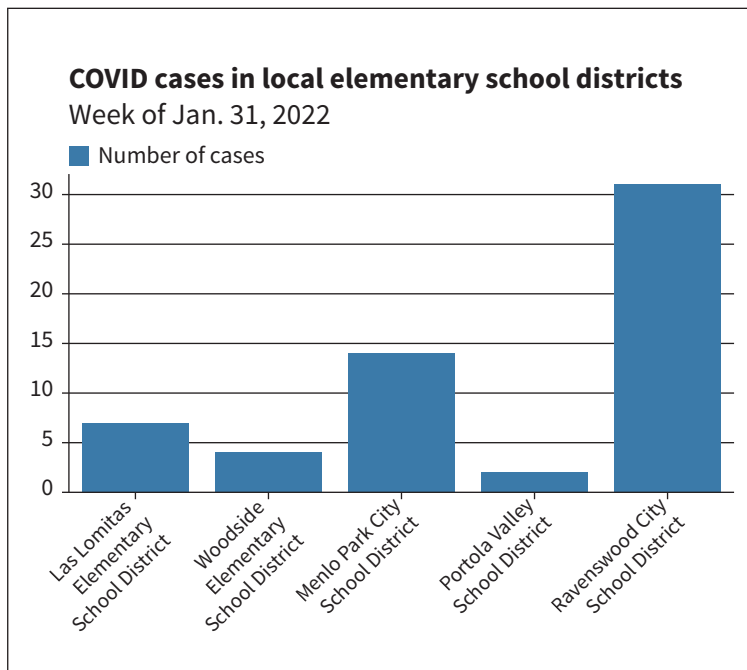
Upcoming state COVID guideline changes

Although California is lifting its mask mandate in indoor public settings on Feb. 15 as cases continue to fall, it's unclear if this change will apply to schools. Updates on the school masking policy are expected in the coming weeks, according to a Feb. 7 press release from the California Department of Public Health.

While districts can't control state health department guidelines, school administrators are able to decide on the outdoor mask mandate, said Woodside Elementary Superintendent Steve Frank in a Feb. 4 note to families. The TK-8 grade district, which has roughly 360 students, has had fewer than six cases per week since the week of Jan. 24.

"We fully anticipate that things will look much different one month from now," he said.

The district plans to drop the outdoor mask mandate around March 7, the week after



Data from local elementary school districts

COVID case counts returned to the single digits last week at three elementary school districts.

students return from February break, he said. Administrators plan to hand out rapid tests to all students and staff before the break so they can test before returning to campus on Feb. 28.

Frank said he hopes to have parent volunteers back on campus in the next one or two months.

The district's student vaccination rate stands at 68%, a few percentage points above the rest of the county, he noted. Children under 5 are still not eligible for the COVID-19

vaccines, but an FDA advisory panel is set to vote on whether the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risks for the age group next week.

"We are not certain as to how vaccine mandates will play out in schools in the future, but I encourage everyone to get vaccinated, boosted, and turn in proof of vaccination to the school as soon as possible," he advised families. ■

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

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

continued from page 14

costs, every dollar raised goes directly to this year's 10 non-profit organizations.

Today, Ian is a college-bound senior who strolls confidently into the BGCP Clubhouse greeting staff and ready to get going on his homework, start his Teen Staff job in the audio studio or refine his speech for the final rounds of the Youth of the Year selection process. Ian's voice breaks slightly as he recalls his return to the Clubhouse after the first day of school.

"I instantly felt rejuvenated. I had a feeling of nostalgia. I will never forget the feeling when I came back and was welcomed by the staff. I was back at my second home," he said.

Ian has once again immersed himself in the audio studio where he is building his production skills and looking forward to studying music in college. Reflecting on the impact BGCP has made in his life, Ian says, "I am learning new skills every day because I am now an employee of BGCP. Being a teen staff member has

given me a sense of responsibility and ownership. I am so grateful to BGCP, especially the Redwood City Clubhouse, for helping me to become the person I am today."

Stephanie Ogden, the principal at Redwood High School, echoes Ian's sentiments: "What you have done for our school is just amazing. BGCP is an outstanding presence on our campus and it is changing people's lives just in front of us."

BGCP's 2021-22 school year

is off to a strong start and we are excited to be serving a greater number of students than we ever have before. With programs at three new schools and the launch of our new Barry Carr sports leagues, BGCP is eager to welcome many more students and empower them with opportunities to thrive. ■

Elizabeth Harris is the grants manager for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

Employment

The Almanac offers
employment advertising.

To learn more or get a quote,
please call 650.223.6582 or email
digitalads@pawebly.com.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

EPRINTS AND DOCUMENT SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 289862
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
EPrints and Document Services, located at 1120 Broadway Ave., Burlingame, CA 94010, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
F. SHARABIANLOU
1120 Broadway Ave.
Burlingame, CA 94010
S. SHARABIANLOU
1120 Broadway Ave.
Burlingame, CA 94010
This business is conducted by: Married Couple.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/31/2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 31, 2021.
(ALM Jan. 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 2022)

YADIRA'S HOUSEKEEPING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 289947
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Yadira's Housekeeping, located at 1431 Hill Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
YADIRA MAGAÑA GALVAN
1431 Hill 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 1-13-2022.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 13, 2022.
(ALM Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 289976
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Select Physical Therapy, located at 268 Redwood Shores Parkway, Redwood City, CA 94065, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettysburg Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.
Registered owner(s):
SELECT CAL PHYSICAL THERAPY, P.C.
4714 Gettysburg Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 19, 2022.
(ALM Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 289977
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Select Physical Therapy, located at 900 Veterans Blvd, Suite 230, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettysburg Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.
California
Registered owner(s):
SELECT CAL PHYSICAL THERAPY, P.C.
4714 Gettysburg Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 19, 2022.
(ALM Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

Public Hearing Notices Resolutions • Bid Notices
Notices of Petition to Administer Estate
Lien Sale • Trustee's Sale

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email asantillan@pawebly.com for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 289979
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Select Physical Therapy, located at 3532 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettysburg Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.
Registered owner(s):
SELECT CAL PHYSICAL THERAPY, P.C.
4714 Gettysburg Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 19, 2022.
(ALM Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 289978
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Select Physical Therapy, located at 1860 El Camino Real, Suite 201, Burlingame, CA 94010, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettysburg Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.
Registered owner(s):
SELECT CAL PHYSICAL THERAPY, P.C.
4714 Gettysburg Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 19, 2022.
(ALM Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 289980
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Select Physical Therapy, located at 540 Ralston Ave., Suite B, Belmont, CA 94002, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettysburg Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.
Registered owner(s):
SELECT CAL PHYSICAL THERAPY, P.C.
4714 Gettysburg Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 19, 2022.
(ALM Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

eHubLabs
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 290018
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
eHubLabs, located at 866 Douglas Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
EUREKA LEAP LLC
3182 Campus Drive, #405
San Mateo, CA 94403
California
This business is conducted by: An Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on Feb. 1, 2022.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 1, 2022.
(ALM Feb. 11, 18, 25; Mar. 4, 2022)

CRIME

continued from page 5

personnel, which included 10 sworn officers and five professional staff positions, had significant impact to daily operations,” Norris wrote.

It’s difficult to pinpoint causes for the crime reduction in Menlo Park when looking at historic data. Since 2004, the earliest data available on the city’s website, property and violent crimes ebbed and flowed.

The number of violent crimes has swung throughout the years. Between 2004 and 2021, the city reached its peak in 2007 with 78 reported cases.

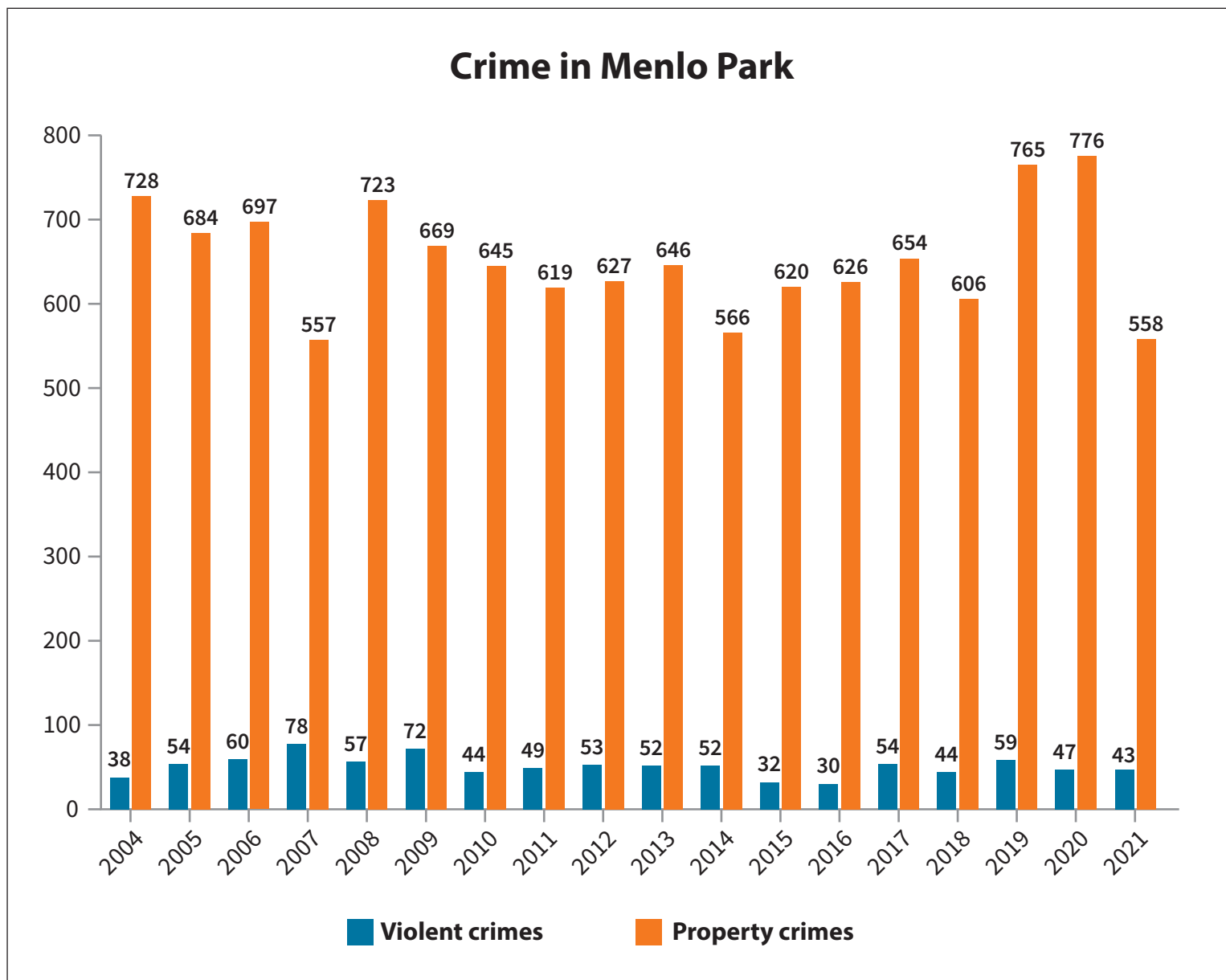
While California recorded a 9% drop in property crimes from 2019 to 2020, reflecting a steady decline since 2000, according to the Public Policy Institute of California study, Menlo Park has seen higher rates in recent years, with the peak of 776 cases in 2020.

Since 2004, Menlo Park surpassed 700 cases of property crimes in 2004, 2008 and 2019.

Overall, calls for service have recently declined. The police department received more than 20,000 requests for service last year, following over 21,000 calls in 2020. Both years’ reports attributed the reduction to the pandemic.

“Prepandemic, there were certainly more calls for service as everything was business as usual,” Nicole Acker, the department’s public information officer, wrote in an email. “We were able to have many more opportunities to engage with residents, and we had more staff to do so also along with more community events. The calls for service and public contacts have reduced quite a bit over the years.”

Calls for service do not represent the entirety of the department’s activities. Not every call may result in written reports and citations, and the department also handles “hundreds” of walk-in requests and phone calls to service the public. Throughout 2021, the department conducted over 3,550



Lloyd Lee and Kristin Brown

Since 2004, property and violent crimes have fluctuated, masking any discernible trends. Data source: City of Menlo Park.

traffic stops, over 870 pedestrian and bicycle stops, wrote over 2,200 reports and arrested 560 individuals, the report said.

“Even with less staff, officers and police personnel maintained the high levels of response and professionalism to the community,” Norris wrote. “Officers’ continued visible presence in the community is a deterrent to criminal activity.”

The department also reported that there were six cases investigated by internal affairs in 2021, though it did not disclose what the investigations were about.

Among the six complaints,

two are currently under investigation, one was exonerated, one was “frivolous in nature,” and two were not sustained. “Not sustained” means the investigation failed to find sufficient evidence to “clearly prove or disprove the allegation(s),” the report said.

This police department had also had six complaints in 2020, and 10 complaints in 2019.

“With all this in consideration, six complaints per year is an acceptable number, but we will always strive toward zero,” the report said. ■

Email Lloyd Lee at llee@almanacnews.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Menlo Park holds Housing Element community meeting

The city of Menlo Park will provide an update to its housing plans for the 2023-31 Housing Element on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The meeting will go over land use strategies and present potential options for housing sites to meet the city’s goals.

The community is encouraged to participate. Spanish translation will be available. To join the Zoom conference, go to bit.ly/3J8WGwz.

Joint Venture Silicon Valley hosts State of the Valley conference

Joint Venture Silicon Valley will host its annual State of the Valley conference at 9 a.m. on Feb. 18, during which Bay Area business leaders, public officials, journalists and community members discuss Silicon Valley’s economic health.

The event includes a panel that will discuss Joint Venture’s annual Silicon Valley Index, a data-driven analysis report of the region’s economy. The report will be released on Feb. 16 at 9:30 a.m.

The conference will be held at Stanford University’s Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center. Members of the public can view the event online. Tickets for the virtual viewing costs \$35, and may be purchased online at bit.ly/3sql70E. Learn more about Joint Venture at jointventure.org.

— Lloyd Lee

THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

ATHERTON

18 Stockbridge Avenue **\$4,988,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 6BD/4BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

302 Atherton Avenue **\$9,188,000**
Sat 1:00-5:00/Sun 12:00-4:00 6BD/8BA
Coldwell Banker Realty 650-380-9898

LOS ALTOS

686 Spargur Drive **\$7,600,000**
Sat 12:30-4:00 6BD/6BA
JLee Realty 650-857-1000

MENLO PARK

1236 Hoover Street **\$2,700,000**
Sat 2:00-4:00/Sun 1:00-3:00 3BD/3BA
Compass 650-400-8424

PALO ALTO

2060 Birch Street **\$1,988,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 2BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty 650-459-3888

2365 South Ct **\$4,988,000**
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:30 5BD/4BA
Compass 650-666-5988

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

Agents: submit open homes at AlmanacNews.com/real_estate



Sign up today for the
only food newsletter
on the Peninsula at
[AlmanacNews.com/
express](https://AlmanacNews.com/express)

Woodside's mountain lions prefer duplexes

By Daniel Yost

GUEST OPINION

I read with dismay the recent Almanac article that discussed how the Woodside Town Council (where I was mayor in 2019) decided to block all building applications related to a recently enacted state housing law, Senate Bill 9, based on the “creative” argument that 100% of Woodside should be exempt from housing requirements because of its status as mountain lion habitat.

Apparently, in the council's view, mountain lions prefer to roam among large single-family homes rather than more affordable duplexes. After a letter from Attorney General Rob Bonta and an emergency Town Council meeting on a Sunday, the council backed off of its position.

Although it achieved less publicity, in its Jan. 25 meeting the newly installed mayor, Dick

Brown, pushed a more extreme method to achieve the same goal. In the name of “local control” he wanted to put the Town Council on record supporting the proposed initiative Constitutional Amendment 21-0016 (“Our Neighborhood Voices”) which attempts to preempt any state law (except in three limited areas) that conflicts with a local land use law.

The extent of state laws that could be ignored in favor of local land use initiatives are not named, presumably by design, but the expansive language could be read to cover California's fair housing and anti-discrimination laws, landlord-tenant laws, environmental laws related to oil drilling and mining next to homes, and the list goes on. Fortunately, other members of the Town Council, namely Ned Fluet

and Jenn Wall, both opposed the resolution, and the mayor withdrew the item from the agenda with a vow to bring this bad idea to a future meeting.

Like many Bay Area cities and towns, Woodside is attractive to both long-time homeowners who have already benefited from the California dream and younger families and others looking to make a new home for themselves, some of whom are the sons and daughters of the first group. Also, like other Bay Area towns, Woodside vacillates between welcoming these new folks and pulling up the drawbridge.

If California has learned anything in the past 40 years of “local control” over housing policy, it is that most localities have their own special reasons to limit multi-unit housing growth, but with predictable results. California is among the most expensive states to live in; we

have more homeless residents than any other state and most cities are happy to point the finger at others for not doing enough. Woodside's own local public elementary school has declining enrollment, not because it's not excellent (it most certainly is), but because families can't afford to move here.

I am extremely grateful that the state Legislature is working to remove barriers to housing development and I hope they are not overturned by NIMBY forces hiding behind big cats or, worse, pushing initiatives to gut state civil rights, housing and environmental laws. Housing in our region is tight and expensive; we can all be part of the problem or part of the solution.

Woodside has always met its state housing allocations in the past. If the Town Council applies the same creativity to meeting its state housing

numbers as its attempts to shirk them, I am confident solutions can be found.

For Woodside residents, if you don't want your tax dollars wasted on litigation defending “creative” arguments to avoid housing obligations, you have a remedy. This November, three Town Council seats are on the ballot. Most Woodside Town Council elections are sleepy, frequently unopposed affairs. I would urge residents who prefer Town Council representatives who will not invite unwanted litigation or advocate for issues that would gut important constitutional protections to run for these seats or support the challengers who run.

Daniel Yost has lived in Woodside for 19 years. He served as mayor in 2019 and as a member of the Town Council from 2015 to 2020.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Support for Community Health Fair

Congratulations are in order to Worksite Labs and Belle Haven Action for its Community Health Fair on Feb. 5 at the Boys & Girls Clubs in Menlo Park. It was led by Ms. Cecilia Taylor, who is also a Menlo Park council member. Her election to the City Council is one of beneficial products of the city's decision to change the election of council members from at-large to districts. With this change, more diversity, a la Ms. Taylor, could be realized.

Of primary importance, the health fair is being conducted in a very culturally diverse community. It is such communities that are more seriously impacted by COVID and other medical conditions that were serviced at the fair.

Thanks to all of the sponsors: the Boys & Girls Club of The Peninsula, the Ravenswood Family Health Network, the Sequoia Union High School District (where I once served as a trustee), Umoja Health and the Bay Air Quality Management District.

*Henry P. Organ
Euclid Avenue, Menlo Park*

Support for SB 917

This past Friday, Feb. 4, was National Transit Equity Day — held in honor of Rosa Parks' birthday. This day served as an excellent reflection of how Bay Area transit is serving and failing us at the same time.

The day prior, State Sen. Josh Becker (D-Menlo Park) introduced SB 917. The bill will seek to streamline fares across the region, create a system of free transfers, and coordinate schedules between all 27 Bay Area transit agencies. This is a wonderful bill, and I'm grateful for the positive press coverage of it across Bay Area media outlets. It is hard to not recognize the policy failures with regards to Bay Area transit when cash-strapped families have to pay a transfer fee just to switch agencies or miss the Caltrain by two minutes due to an untimed SamTrans transfer.

With a more equitable system riders can begin to return to prepandemic levels and beyond, and Bay Area cities can begin working to reduce structural inequality perpetuated by a historical reliance on the automobile and neglect of public transit networks — harmed deeply by funding cuts, labor disputes, and stigmatization.

I encourage all elected officials and city council members to strongly consider the positive merit of the bill and promote

it any way feasible. Viewing it as just another cost concern or insignificant issue goes against all the principles Rosa Parks stood for and would harm thousands of transit-dependent Bay Area residents.

*Davis Turner
Burlingame*

Developer could save trees

In the article in The Almanac (“Redevelopment galvanizes residents to protect neighborhood trees,” Jan. 7), TJ Homes states that their “intentions are simply to address the need for more housing ...” TJ Homes does not provide more housing. However, the company does demolish the most affordable single family homes and replace them with surprisingly large houses, affordable only by the highest income buyers. I'll wager that they have not added one additional housing unit to this area's inventory since descending on the Midpeninsula in 2019. The company's intentions are simply to make money.

As for tree removals in North Fair Oaks, TJ Homes's Jon Tattersall asks: “Do we have to remove trees at times because it does conflict with a new build? We do.” His answer should be no. If TJ Homes were to build a smaller house or design its product around an existing tree, it could save the many trees that now enhance our neighborhoods.

But that conflicts with the company's business model, which is to build houses that reach every limit established by the local zoning: height, lot coverage, setbacks and square footage. The goal is to maximize profit.

If this assault on our neighborhoods is allowed to continue, then cities should take the opportunity to charge fees to fund below market homes. TJ Homes and other industrial scale scrape-and-build residential developers should join the effort to build affordable housing. It's not enough to use the 94025 zip code as a cash register for LLC investors.

*Steve Schmidt
Central Avenue, Menlo Park*

Let's electrify our homes over time

In his guest opinion published in The Almanac, Alexander Cannara points out that much of the electricity we use locally is generated from fossil fuels, mainly natural gas. (“Why electrification, now, is counterproductive,” Dec. 10.) Accordingly, we will not be using cleaner fuels just by switching to electricity. However, as he also says, Menlo Park already has some of the cleanest electricity, and more clean electricity is added to the grid every year. Electrical appliances would replace natural gas appliances as the older appliances wear out. Therefore, electrification would

be implemented over time while the percentage of renewables in the mix will be increasing.

When Mr. Cannara says that wind and solar have low reliabilities, I think he means that these sources are intermittent. Some renewable energy must be stored for when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing.

Much research has been done in the last 20 years on energy storage to address the intermittency of renewable sources. As a result, the cost of storing electricity in batteries has declined significantly. Concentrating solar power plants can store some of their energy by heating molten salts, and then use the heat to generate electricity after the sun sets. As renewables become a larger part of our electricity generation, intermittency will become less of a factor as energy storage technologies advance and become more cost-effective.

A large part of our carbon emissions come from heating our homes and buildings with natural gas. We need to change to electric appliances to take advantage of the growing supply of clean electricity from renewables.

Having said the above, the most effective way to address climate change is carbon pricing. Contact our senators and ask them to include carbon pricing in the pending Build Back Better bill.

*Rob Hogue
Siskiyou Drive, Menlo Park*

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



With unconventional 'Men on Boats,' Palo Alto Players stage a historical tale from a different point of view

By Heather Zimmerman

On the surface, “Men on Boats,” which opened last week at the Palo Alto Players, provides nothing that the title advertises. Onstage, there are neither boats nor men to be found, both of which seem to be essential in a play about a 10-man voyage to chart a river.

But it’s not so much about what’s missing from the title as it is about who’s often missing or overlooked in our understanding of the past. Performed by a female and nonbinary cast, some of whom are also actors of color, the show looks at the question of who shapes history.

“Men on Boats,” written by Jaclyn Backhaus, chronicles an 1869 expedition of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon led by Civil War veteran and geologist John Wesley Powell.

Though clearly a contemporary take on history, the script melds modern language with historical sources.

“(Backhaus) wrote it in the vernacular of today, but also incorporated some of John Wesley Powell’s actual journal entries into the script. And there’s a little bit of iambic pentameter thrown in just to keep it interesting,” said Director Lee Ann Payne.

Though Backhaus drew on Powell’s journal and other historical sources to write “Men on Boats,” the amount of information available about each character (besides Powell) varies, said cast member Melissa Jones.

Jones portrays William Dunn, Powell’s second in command. In

researching Dunn, Jones found information about him was “thin,” so she said she needed to rely more on the script for her characterization. The journey down the river was often perilous and Dunn was willing to challenge Powell, which can lead to seeing him as the antagonist, noted Jones, but “this is really a ‘man versus nature’ instead of ‘man versus man’ show.”

The bulk of the play’s action takes place in small boats on the Colorado River and it’s entirely up to the cast, through choreographed movements, to create the illusion of the river’s rough rapids and swells. Payne drew on her background as a choreographer to create scenes that conveyed the river’s tumultuous waters.

“There’s a huge amount of storytelling that happens on the river and there is some virtuosity in the actors handling the boats and handling the movement,” Payne said, noting that this production forgoes even most props.

“We decided pretty early on we were going to do as much as we could with as little as we could — there’s no ropes, even though (the script) says to throw ropes — we left a lot of it to be physicalized and I think that gave us more freedom. I think it gave us more urgency down the river as well,” she said.

“Men on Boats” is physically demanding for the cast in part because the movements are so tailored to each situation the characters encounter, Jones said.

“The style of movement is different. There’s a lot of tension in

the motion because you’re trying to portray going overboard or grabbing a rope to be pulled across the river so that you don’t go overboard,” she said.

But she said she enjoys the opportunity to do more physical theater and explained that it’s not always easy for female and nonbinary actors to find roles that are both so fully realized and so physical.

“A lot of times female characters are foils for the male characters or their plot devices. It’s not as common that you get to fully embody a nuanced, layered, conflicted character, and particularly one that gets to explore a full range of motion like this,” Jones said.

For “Men on Boats,” Backhaus wrote the characters with women and nonbinary actors in mind, and as Jones points out, encouraged diverse casting in her playwright’s notes at the top of script.

“I’m Chinese and there was a point a while ago where I really felt limited by the visibility of my ethnicity,” Jones said. “And I’ve noticed that in the last maybe like five, six, seven years or so it’s really opened up, but I appreciate playwrights putting specific casting notes in their work to say, ‘please cast diversely: body type, ethnicity, age, gender.’ It’s heartening to see that happening.”

The casting not only serves as a reminder of who does or doesn’t make it into the history books, but hints at the history we might never know, Jones said.

“History is written by the victors and it’s written by the



Top: The cast of “Men on Boats” take in a view of the Grand Canyon.

Above: William Dunn (Melissa Jones, left) drinks with the Howland brothers, O.G. (Jennifer C. Maggio) and Seneca (Naomi Evans), while Hawkins (Katie O’Byron Champlin) cooks. Courtesy Scott Lasky/Palo Alto Players.

people who are in power, and so you have male explorers, and then male biographers and male newspaper writers. That’s the point of view that you get, and it really erases the visibility of women.

“Women were not on this expedition, but that’s not to say that women were not pioneering different achievements and advancements during this time. And a lot of that just gets buried, and so by having women portray these roles, it inserts a level of visibility into the time period artistically,” Jones said.

As it is, Powell is hardly forgotten by history — among other things, he’s credited with giving the Grand Canyon its current name — but not all audiences may know about the expedition, which offers an exciting possibility, Payne said.

“If there’s a person in the audience who’s never heard of the Powell expedition, the first time they hear the story, they’re going to see it through the lens

of female and nonbinary people telling the story,” Payne said. “It does give you a fresh perspective on strength, and on fortitude, and on hubris, and on all those things that we associate a lot of times with the male adventurer.”

Though the casting highlights history’s omissions, the show itself has some unsung players, Jones said. Especially with the pandemic bringing a greater level of uncertainty, the show’s understudies have to be ready to take on one of up to five roles, knowing all the characters’ lines and precise choreography, she said.

“Men on Boats” will be performed in person through Feb. 20 at Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. The show will also be livestreamed Feb. 17-20. For more information, visit paplayers.org. ■

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



List Your Home with DeLeon Realty

and receive these all-encompassing services at no extra charge

- Dedicated interior designer
- Staging (delivery, set-up, furniture rental, de-staging)



- Property inspection and pest inspection
- In-house contractors and handymen to help prepare your home
- Tax and legal services to review disclosures and provide legal counsel for issues related to the transaction*
- Custom home website with Virtual 3D tour
- Online and social media marketing campaigns

Interested in learning your home worth?
Schedule a complimentary consultation with us.

Contact **650.900.7000** or
michael@deleonrealty.com

- Feature flyers placed at the property
- Professional architectural photography



- Professionally produced and narrated videos
- Custom 12 or 32-page home brochures



- Multiple, full-page newspaper ads
- Ad in *The DeLeon Insight* real estate magazine
- Television commercials for properties with an anticipated sales price over \$5 million
- Open Houses first weekend on the market

* Courtesy of The Law Offices of Michael J. Repka

DELEONREALTY.COM



FREE TAX SEMINAR/WEBINAR

**GETTING AHEAD OF
RISING TAXES AND
INTEREST RATES**

Feb 17, 2022 6 PM - 8 PM

Scan to RSVP



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

Food & Drink

How chocolate experts Sweet55 prepare for Valentine's Day

The Half Moon Bay chocolate shop will open a Palo Alto location in May

By Anthony Shu

This weekend, last-minute romantics will line up outside of Sweet55's tiny Half Moon Bay storefront to purchase colorful heart-shaped chocolates filled with smooth mocha ganache and solid chocolate lollipops covered in Cupid's arrows. A small glass window into the kitchen provides a peek at shining steel German machinery and chief chocolate officer Ursula Schnyder's award-winning team.

Schnyder's path to becoming a chocolatier included a wide range of jobs. She opened a preschool in Switzerland and covered the rise of Californian cuisine as a journalist. Inspired by her time writing about restaurant kitchens, Schnyder underwent culinary training

in both the United States and Switzerland before converting a cottage in her Palo Alto backyard into a professional kitchen.

Sweet55 was born in 2013 and opened its first retail location in Half Moon Bay in 2016 when Schnyder found an affordable location in Shoreline Station (known for housing Dad's Luncheonette) that could hold her equipment in a cool, coastal climate ideal for working with chocolate.

Schnyder's detailed process begins with chocolate callets, wafers made for melting, purchased from a small supplier in Switzerland. They source ingredients from throughout the cacao belt, a band around the equator with the humidity and high rainfall ideal for cacao cultivation.

The shop's signature chocolate is Bolivia 68%, which harnesses

wild cacao harvested by Indigenous peoples in small quantities. A two-time Good Food Awards winner, Sweet55 works with vendors who pay above-average prices to cacao suppliers (exploitative practices remain common in the industry).

These callets are fed into Sweet55's "Rolls-Royce," an automatic tempering and enrobing machine that provides a constant flow of liquid chocolate that can fill molds or envelop ganache fillings. Fans of baking shows will be familiar with chocolate's finicky nature: It must be heated and cooled precisely to ensure a proper snap and sheen.

"Chocolate is very technical. It's not an art," Schnyder says. The Rolls-Royce keeps chocolate in temper and can even recalibrate itself whenever the temperature in the room changes.

Forming a heart-shaped chocolate shell decorated with gold leaf and bright silver sprinkles, Schnyder fills a mold with the machine's stream of chocolate. Then, she empties it out and leaves a thin base layer. If the chocolate sets for too long before it is poured out, the shell will be too thick and crack.

Despite all of the equipment,



Magali Gauthier

Ursula Schnyder is Sweet55's founder and chief chocolate officer. She's preparing to open a new outpost in Palo Alto this spring.

confectionery requires plenty of skill. "It's not something you just get immediately, the feeling for the materials, and all these different technologies," Schnyder says. Temperature control is essential to creating beautiful chocolate, and Sweet55 uses a converted wine fridge for setting the chocolate shell's initial layers and another, cooler set of refrigerators for a final setting.

Many of Sweet55's Valentine's offerings are filled with ganache, rich mixtures of cream and

chocolate. Filled chocolates can be made in two ways. The first method uses the molds, where a bottom layer of set chocolate is piped full of ganache and enrobed again. Alternatively, ganache is spread onto trays, cut into strips, and then passed under the flow of tempered chocolate.

The ganaches are made in another machine displaying the merits of German engineering, "Stephan." Stephan's chamber is equipped with a vacuum that removes oxygen from the



Magali Gauthier

Heart-shaped chocolates at Sweet55.



Magali Gauthier

Ursula Schnyder, Sweet55's founder and chief chocolate officer, pours excess chocolate out of a heart-shaped mold in Sweet55's kitchen in Half Moon Bay on Feb. 8.



Magali Gauthier

A box of chocolates spells out "My Valentine" at Sweet55 in Half Moon Bay.

ganache, which results in a smoother emulsion, a denser product, and improved mouthfeel. According to Schnyder, chocolates need to execute a few basic elements with precision. "A perfect dessert for me is really the mouthfeel, the look, and the flavor ... is it crunchy, is it creamy, is it soft?" she says.

While many of Schnyder's chocolates receive a final layer of decoration, like a logo imprinted with a transfer sheet or Jackson Pollock-like patterns applied

through airbrushing, she considers her style restrained and straightforward. Referring to her shop's tagline, she says, "Enhancing the essence of chocolate" (expresses) exactly how I feel about my work ... the center is the chocolate."

In May, Sweet55 will expand with a storefront in Palo Alto's Town & Country Village. This larger retail space will provide a showcase for pastries, cakes, and baked goods, most of which are only available by special order

due to the limited space at the Half Moon Bay location.

Schnyder expects production to double, and possibly triple or quadruple once the Palo Alto storefront opens. Sweet55 underwent a renovation last November to prepare for the expansion, building a chocolate room where ganache will mature and set.

For now though, Schnyder looks forward to welcoming customers shopping during the Valentine's Day weekend. She says she enjoys selling a small



Magali Gauthier

Chocolates featuring the California flag design are flavored with olive oil, meyer lemon and rosemary. The truffles are made of a Venezuelan chocolate.

box of three chocolates tied up with a ribbon printed with hearts as much as a large box of 25 sweets. "It doesn't matter how big of a gift someone buys if it comes from the heart." ■

Sweet55, 225 CA-1 Suite 104C, Half Moon Bay; 650-440-4330. Instagram: @sweet55swiss. Check the website for special Valentine's Day hours and online orders at sweet55.com.

Email Associate Digital Editor Anthony Shu at peninsulafoodist@embarcaderopublishing.com.

LEHUA GREENMAN



"The Heart that gives, gathers."

Happy Valentine's Day!

650.245.1845 COMPASS

Democracy and journalism go hand in hand.

“Wow, thanks for the insights into how truth is under assault. Keep up the good fight — you have my continued support.”

— Wayne S.

SUPPORT LOCAL
JOURNALISM

The Almanac

Become a subscribing member and support the local reporting you depend on.

JOIN AT: AlmanacNews.com/join/

You can also subscribe for one year by mailing a check for \$144 to us at 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto 94306.



3187 DAVID AVENUE, PALO ALTO



\$5,498,000 • 5 Bed • 3 Bath • 3187davidave.com



Julie Tsai Law
650.799.8888
DRE 01339682

2365 SOUTH COURT, PALO ALTO



\$4,988,000 • 5 Bed • 4 Bath • 2365southcourt.com



Sophia Xu
650.666.5988
DRE 01945147

550 LIVE OAK LANE, EMERALD HILLS



\$3,988,000 • 4 Bed • 4 Bath



Pamela Rummage Culp
415.640.3293
DRE 00896337

Co-listed by
Carole Feldstein
Coldwell Banker
DRE 00911615

2676 COMSTOCK CIRCLE, BELMONT



PENDING

\$2,699,000 • 4 Bed • 2 Bath • 2676comstock.com



Nadr Essabhoy
650.248.5898
DRE 01085354



Sam Essabhoy
650.788.7192
DRE 02139787

530 BARRON AVENUE, PALO ALTO



\$2,298,000 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • 530barron.com



Shari Ornstein
650.814.6682
DRE 01028693

1523 MIRAMONTE AVENUE, MOUNTAIN VIEW



\$2,198,000 • 4 Bed • 2.5 Bath • cuestaparkhomes.com



Denise and Jack Welsh | The Welsh Group
415.999.0727 | 650.823.3180
DRE 00939903 | DRE 02099304

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.