

# The Almanac

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

APRIL 8, 2022 | VOL. 57 NO. 31



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

## Three vaccine shots later

Being part of Pfizer's trial means my son is one of the few toddlers protected against COVID-19

By Angela Swartz

It was just before New Year's when I learned that someone my toddler Theo and I had spent time with had been exposed to COVID-19. We'd spent time indoors together, sharing a meal and watching a Spider-Man movie.

Rapid tests were short supply, but I had some. So I met my mom in front of a COVID-19 testing site, where I had an appointment for a PCR test, to give her two home test kits. The person we'd eaten with tested positive.

It was possible that Theo, a participant in Pfizer's pediatric COVID-19 vaccine trial, was already inoculated against the virus. Or he might have gotten a placebo shot — participants wouldn't find out until enough data had been collected to "unblind" the study.

Two years into the pandemic, around 19.6 million children in the U.S. are still too young to be

eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. There was no way for us to know if Theo was one of them.

At this point in December, with the omicron variant rapidly spreading, it seemed like everyone was getting a COVID-19 exposure notice, so I felt relatively calm. My husband and I anticipated a potential holiday surge, and had stocked up on at-home rapid tests and gotten our booster shots.

We walked through the possible scenarios if Theo and I tested positive. We agreed that with Theo's general level of exuberance, even while sick, my husband would isolate in the house with us and risk getting exposed; I would need the help if Theo and I both got sick.

We waited five days for our PCR tests, took rapid tests in the meantime and followed up with more PCRs, all negative. Not one of the five other people at the dinner tested positive or



Angela Swartz

Theo holds his vaccine card during a visit to get his blood drawn at Stanford University School of Medicine's COVID-19 vaccine trial for Pfizer on March 16.

See **VACCINE**, page 16

## Commission wants to go bigger on housing at SRI campus

Lane Partners mixed-use project with 400 units got initial nod of approval from Menlo Park Planning Commission

By Lloyd Lee

Discussing the project for the first time last Monday, the Menlo Park Planning Commission gave an initial nod of approval to developer Lane Partners' vision for transforming SRI International's aging research campus at 333 Ravenswood Ave.

The Parkline proposal at the 63.2-acre site envisions a more accessible neighborhood centerpiece, where cyclists and pedestrians can weave through the campus on new pathways, turning more than 25 acres into publicly accessible open space, a community sports field, retail shops and housing.

Currently, the plan calls for adding 400 residential units to the campus, with 381 apartments and 19 townhomes. The structures would be designed in the Mission architectural style, taking inspiration from the Allied Arts Guild and as well as buildings in Palo Alto.

"You probably can't go wrong with the approach that you've taken," said Commissioner Henry Riggs, who is also an architect. "I think it shows just simple wisdom."

But the project still has a way to go before approval. And while commissioners were supportive of the development, most stressed at the March 28 meeting that they'd

like to see Lane Partners add more residential units, underscoring the view that the large SRI campus is a rare opportunity for Menlo Park to aim high on housing as it updates its 2023-31 housing plans.

"There is absolutely no way that we can stick our heads in the ground and think that we're not going to build as much housing as we possibly can across all affordabilities," said Commissioner Camille Kennedy.

As it stands, the Parkline project proposes a mix of apartments, three- to five-stories high with one parking space per unit, and 19 two-story townhomes with attached two-car garages.

At least 60 of the 400 total units will be offered as affordable housing. Details about how affordable they will be were not yet determined.

**'My biggest concern about this project is that it's not enough housing.'**

PLANNING COMMISSIONER  
MICHELE TATE

Kalisha Webster, a housing coordinator at Housing Choices, a nonprofit organization in San Jose, floated the idea during

public comment to donate one acre of the land to an affordable housing developer — a proposal that several commissioners were open to considering.

"My biggest concern about this project is that it's not enough housing," Commissioner Michele Tate said. "I do like the idea, if possible, about donating a couple acres, not just one, for a nonprofit or low-income housing developers."

Commissioners Cynthia Harris and Andrew Barnes also supported the idea of parceling out land for an affordable housing project.

Barnes said it could be an

See **SRI CAMPUS**, page 9

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Read up-to-the-minute news on [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com)

# Thank you to all our health care **heroes**

We admire your strength of purpose and resilience.  
In extraordinary circumstances, you went above and  
beyond to help your colleagues and our community.

You took on extra shifts, learned new jobs,  
and filled in for each other when no one else could.

You kept our operations running, answered the calls,  
and worked to keep everyone safe.

You held patients' hands, listened to families,  
vaccinated thousands, tested more than one million,  
and so much more.

It was challenging, but you adapted. And you continue to bring  
our shared mission to life. Pulling together. Working hard.

Reinventing as needed. You inspire us all.

**Thank you for everything because that's what you give.**



**Stanford**  
MEDICINE

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Cupertino

7EDU's summer program provides a great summer learning, fun and effective experience for your kids from K-12. For lower grades, 7EDU offers critical reading and writing with PBL hands-on STEM exploration and performance arts. For upper grades, 7EDU offers: unique Individual Research with university professors; Entrepreneur Summer Camp in real Silicon Valley startup companies, and Academic Boost under top college counselors' guidance to have a jumpstart in the fall. Multiple sessions, flexible online/on-site options. \$50 special discount for Camp Connection.

[7edu.org](http://7edu.org)

(408) 216-9109

### Athena Academy

Palo Alto

Athena Academy is proud to offer two, week-long academic skills programs for dyslexic and twice exceptional students entering grades 1-8. This program uses our unique strengths-based teaching approach to help our students build foundational skills for learning. June 20-24, July 18-22. Join us for one week or two!

[athenaacademy.org/summer](http://athenaacademy.org/summer)

(650) 543-4560

### Early Learning Institute

Palo Alto, Pleasanton

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[headsup.org](http://headsup.org)

Emerson: (650) 424-1267  
Hacienda: (925) 485-5750

### Harker Summer Programs

San Jose

Harker summer programs for preschool - grade 12 children include opportunities for academics, arts, athletics and activities. Taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff, our programs offer something for everyone in a safe and supportive environment.

[harker.org/summer](http://harker.org/summer)

(408) 553-5737

### Pinewood School

#### Summer Festival of Learning

Los Altos

Pinewood's two- or four-week program offers half-day or full-day options in both academic and enrichment classes. Specialized teachers and small academic classes maximize the summer school experience for grades K-8. Our curriculum emphasizes academic achievement as well as participation in the arts, technology, and athletics.

[pinewood.edu/summerprograms](http://pinewood.edu/summerprograms)

### STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research

Stanford

Explore biomedical science at Stanford through lectures from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science including bioengineering, neuroscience, immunology and other topics.

[explore.stanford.edu](http://explore.stanford.edu)

[explore-series@stanford.edu](mailto:explore-series@stanford.edu)

### Summer at Sand Hill School

Palo Alto

Our program balances fun group activities that promote social growth with academic remediation and a focus on student interests and talents. Appropriate for students who have completed Grade 2, 3, 4 or 5 and who have language-based learning differences, attention challenges and/or school-based anxiety. Learn to love school again. Camp dates: June 14-June 30.

[sandhillschool.org/summer](http://sandhillschool.org/summer)

(650) 688-3605

### Summer@Stratford

Palo Alto/Bay Area

Stratford infuses its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) curriculum into an innovative and enriching summer camp experience. Younger campers engage in hands-on learning projects, while elementary-age students collaborate to tackle real-world problems. At the middle school level, individual subject-based enrichment classes are offered and tailored for each grade level.

[stratfordschools.com/summer](http://stratfordschools.com/summer)

[pa@stratfordschools.com](mailto:pa@stratfordschools.com)

(650) 493-1151

## ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

### Camp Integem

Palo Alto

Camp Integem is the #1 AR camp for kids and teens (ages 5-18). It is a magical and unique experience for K-12 students who love STEM, Art, Coding, AI, Design, 3D Fashion, Animation, or Game Design to turn your imagination into cutting-edge designs.

[camp.integem.com](http://camp.integem.com)

(408) 459-0657

### Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls

Palo Alto

Casti Camp offers girls entering grades 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music. Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9.

[castilleja.org/summercamp](http://castilleja.org/summercamp)

(650) 470-7833

### City of Sunnyvale Recreation

Sunnyvale

Offering 80+ camps for ages 3-17 featuring traditional camps, art camps, dance camps, theater camps, sports camps and STEM camps. Camps begin June 6 - Aug. 12. Check out swim lessons and recreation swim at three aquatic facilities with lessons opening early May.

[sunnyvale.ca.gov/activities](http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/activities)

(408) 730-7350

### Community School of Music & Arts

Mountain View

50+ creative camps for grades K-12! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, Summer Music Workshops and more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Financial aid offered.

[arts4all.org](http://arts4all.org)

(650) 917-6800 ext. 0

### Hope Musical Theatre

Palo Alto

1 WEEK FULL DAY CAMPS: June 6 - July 29. This summer camp is an intensive musical theatre program where students, ranging in age from 6 - 15 years old, put on a Broadway style musical with high caliber sets, props, costumes, a professional choreographer, a director and a live band.

[hopemusicaltheatre.com](http://hopemusicaltheatre.com)

(650) 568-3332

### Midpen Media

Palo Alto

Midpen Media Center is hosting a series of media-making summer camps, including Studio Television Production, News & Journalism, Sports Broadcasting, Filmmaking, and Acting for the Camera.

[midpenmedia.org/summercamp](http://midpenmedia.org/summercamp)

(650) 494-8686

### Oshman Family JCC Camps

Palo Alto

At J-Camp, we build a spirited community where campers are immersed in joyful camp activities and develop meaningful relationships with others while engaging in individual personal growth. Our exciting day camp offers programming for incoming grades K-10.

[ofjcc-jcamp.com](http://ofjcc-jcamp.com)

(650) 223-8622

### Riekes Center

Bay Area

Explore all your interests with the Riekes Center this summer! Enrolling now for programs in Creative Arts, Nature, and multifaceted AFCANA including Athletic Fitness. For ages 5-18 with locations across the Peninsula.

[rieakes.org/summercamps2022](http://rieakes.org/summercamps2022)

(650) 364-2509

### Stanford Jazz Workshop

Stanford

Stanford Jazz Workshop on campus of Stanford University. Week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (Giant Steps Day Camp, starts July 5), high school (Jazz Camp, July 10 and July 17), and adults/advanced teens (Jazz Institute, July 24). All instruments and vocals. Jazz Camp tuition reduced by 1/3 for our 50th Anniversary Season!

[stanfordjazz.org](http://stanfordjazz.org)

(650) 736-0324

### TheatreWorks Silicon Valley

Atherton, Palo Alto

Campers bring their plays to life, make new friends and practice collaboration skills at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's PlayMakers Camp (grades K-5). Campers learn acting, playwriting, movement and stagecraft from professional teaching artists from the Tony Award-winning local company.

[theatreworks.org/education](http://theatreworks.org/education)

(650) 463-7146

## ATHLETICS

### Bald Eagle Sports Camps

Bay Area

The first camp ever approved by *The Positive Coaching Alliance* for message and *Development Zone* programming. We offer 4 camps: Non-Traditional MultiSports (TK-5th), Sports Leadership & Field Trips (6th-8th), Basketball Camp (3rd-8th) and Coach In Training (free, 9th-10th). Healthy lunch included for all. Extended Care 7:30 am - 6 pm.

[baldeaglecamps.com](http://baldeaglecamps.com)

(888) 505-BALD

### Dance Connection Palo Alto

Palo Alto

Share the joy of dance with us! Our studio is an extended family and a "home away from home" for our community of children and teens. At Dance Connection, we value the positive energy and atmosphere that we continuously strive to provide. Summer Dance Camps include all styles of dance for ages 4 and up including Teen Jazz, TikTok, and Hip Hop Camps. A summer session for ages 3 to adults will be offered from June 13-July 30.

[danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps](http://danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps)

(650) 322-7032

### Decathlon Sports Club

Los Altos

Decathlon Sports Club's environment we have created and fostered feels a lot like that "old neighborhood". Games and socializing, in combination with structured sports and instruction, creates the simultaneously relaxed, crazy, fun and educational feel of our program. Children play, get tons of exercise, and develop socially, physically, and athletically.

[dsclosaltos.com](http://dsclosaltos.com)

Text or Call: (650) 314-9775

### Kim Grant Tennis Summer Camps

Palo Alto  
Monterey Bay

Fun and specialized Junior Camps for Mini (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, High Performance and Elite tennis levels. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant improve player technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around game. Weekly camps in Palo Alto and Sleep-Away Camps in Monterey Bay.

[KimGrantTennis.com](http://KimGrantTennis.com)

Text: (650) 690-0678  
Call: (650) 752-8061

### Maccabi Sports Camp

Atherton

Maccabi Sports Camp is an overnight Jewish sports camp. We welcome campers entering grades 3-11 with programs dedicated to building strong character and Jewish community through sports.

[maccabisportscamp.org/wp](http://maccabisportscamp.org/wp)

(415) 997-8844

### Camp Cardinal

Stanford

We hope you're ready for engaged and safety-focused staff, phenomenal facilities, and innovative programs. Our camps will empower your camper's physical, and mental skills in a social environment. Our main camper program is for kids 5 years old to 6th grade. Our Counselor-in-Training Program for kids 7th-10th grade for aspiring camp counselors.

[campcardinal.org](http://campcardinal.org)

[campcardinal@stanford.edu](mailto:campcardinal@stanford.edu)

### Stanford Baseball Camps

Stanford

At Sunken Diamond on the campus of Stanford University. A variety of camps are offered to benefit a wide range of age groups and skill sets. Campers will gain instruction in several baseball skills, fundamentals, team concepts, and game play.

[stanfordbaseballcamp.com](http://stanfordbaseballcamp.com)

(650) 725-2054

### Stanford Water Polo Camps

Stanford

Whether you're new to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or full day options for boys and girls ages 7 and up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games.

[stanfordwaterpolocamps.com](http://stanfordwaterpolocamps.com)

(650) 725-9016

Please check directly with camps for updates and remote offerings. To advertise in print and online, call (650) 326-8210.

# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Courtesy Kirsten Cahill

Alpine Little League Thunder Sisters teammates, left to right, Lola Montoy-Wilson, Nora McDonough, Katie Hintz and Piper Cahill on opening day, March 12, in Nealon Park in Menlo Park.

## A softball league of her own

Parents start an all-girls softball league to combat a drop in baseball participation

By Angela Swartz

Noticing a dramatic drop off in the number of girls who play baseball as they get older, Portola Valley resident Cal Thomas said he decided to create an all-girls softball league to keep them playing.

The new league, which kicked off its first season on March 12, is part of Alpine Little League, which serves Menlo Park and the

surrounding area. There are 145 girls enrolled in the new league, forming 11 teams of girls ages 7 to 12, and about 30 coaches.

Thomas' younger daughter played on the only all-girls team — called the Thunder Sisters — in the Alpine league last summer.

“At the end of the year the girls said they all wanted to play again,” he said. Parents began meeting in October 2021 to quickly form a girls

league. “Logistically to get it going, it was a lot of paperwork. ... It was not the traditional run up in practices and exposure that kids would generally get. The No. 1 goal and priority (for the league) is for fun and engagement.”

Girls' participation in baseball is nearly on par with boys during the tee-ball season for ages 5 to 6, but dramatically drops off by the time girls

See **SOFTBALL**, page 9

## Report: How the Stanford Wedge project will impact Portola Valley

By Angela Swartz

The much anticipated draft environmental impact report for Stanford University's proposed 39-unit housing development in Portola Valley finds that the project, known as the “Stanford Wedge,” won't have any major impacts that can't be mitigated. The report is available for public review and comments through May 13.

The project would not result in any significant impacts on the town or site with proper

mitigation measures in place, according to the report.

Stanford has proposed building 27 single-family homes and 12 affordable multifamily units made up of two-story fourplexes, as well as a picnic and play area, and stormwater detention and bioretention treatment facilities, on 7.4 acres of a 75.4-acre parcel at 3530 Alpine Road, according to the 340-page report.

The analysis is prepared by consultants from Lamphier-Gregory, an East Bay-based

professional services firm specializing in environmental analysis, urban planning and project management. EIR consultants are hired by the town but the cost of the contract is passed through to the developer, in this case Stanford University.

The consulting group has also worked with local agencies like Menlo School, Menlo College and the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, its website states.

The site of the project has

See **STANFORD WEDGE**, page 10

## Popular pop-up Little Sky Bakery opens permanent shop in Menlo Park

Owner also has plans to open a cafe at the former Borrone MarketBar space

By Lloyd Lee

Little Sky Bakery, a haven of naturally leavened artisanal loaves, giant cookies and other freshly baked savory and sweet goods, now has a physical location in Menlo Park at 506 Santa Cruz Ave.

Just across the Caltrain station, next to Philz Coffee, a brick-and-mortar store is a much anticipated next step in the bakery's evolution for owner Tian Mayimin, who started her business out of her Menlo Park home in 2017.

In addition to the Santa Cruz shop, which quietly opened early March, Mayimin also secured a lease at 1010 El Camino Real, formerly the Borrone MarketBar, and expects to open a cafe, Little Sky Kitchen, to serve prepared foods around the summer. Mayimin emphasized that the start date is tentative.

“This was always the plan,” she said. “It just took me a while to get to it.”

Little Sky Bakery previously operated out of a rented shared bakery in Redwood City to stock its farmers market stands and delivery operations across the Peninsula.

With a physical location that holds two deck ovens,

industrial walk-in ovens and about a dozen bakers, Mayimin said she hopes to double Little Sky's baking capacity and greatly expand her menu.

“One of the things I realized was that I was only introducing people to about a third or a quarter of what I want to make,” she said.

A former criminal defense attorney, Mayimin started her business out of the kitchen of her Menlo Park home with a single, red Le Creuset Dutch oven — a hand-me-down from her mother-in-law who received the pot as a wedding gift from her parents, she said.

“It's totally unexpected for me that I am now a baker,” Mayimin told the Almanac in 2017. “I couldn't have imagined it even several months ago.”

Mayimin started out by delivering baked goods to people's homes for free and spread the word through postcards distributed around the neighborhood and word-of-mouth. In a few months, she began hosting a stand in downtown Palo Alto before it proliferated into 10 other farmers markets across the Peninsula, including Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Los Altos and Mountain View.

Some of her staple items

See **BAKERY**, page 16



Courtesy Stanford University

The Portola Terrace project that's on the Stanford Wedge property in Portola Valley is shown in this rendering.



## NOTICE INVITING BIDS

TOWN OF ATHERTON, CA

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

### 2022 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT

Performing of Type II micro-surfacing per Town specifications on the listed streets, which includes notifications, traffic control, prep work, oil and chip installation, compaction, sweeping, and re-stripping/pavement markings (as needed) with a 1-year guarantee.

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 Tuesday, April 26, 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 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT", along with date and time of bid opening.



## Las Lomitas Elementary School District

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OF PROPOSAL FOR INCREASING SCHOOL FACILITIES FEES AS AUTHORIZED BY EDUCATION CODE SECTION 17620 AND GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65995

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that immediately following a public hearing on the matter, a resolution will be considered by the Board of Trustees of the Las Lomitas Elementary School District at its regular meeting on April 13, 2022 which, if adopted by the Board, will increase development fees established by the District against residential construction and reconstruction to \$4.79 per square foot and against new commercial or industrial construction to \$0.78 per square foot. The proposed fees are authorized by Education Code Section 17620 and Government Code Section 65995. Data pertaining to the cost of school facilities is available for inspection during regular business hours at the District's administrative offices at 1011 Altschul Avenue in Menlo Park. The increased fees, if approved by the Board of Trustees, will become effective on June 13, 2022 which is 60 days after the proposed adoption by the Board of the resolution levying such fee.



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

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Embarcadero Media is seeking a full-time reporter with a passion for local journalism. We are an award-winning online news service covering the vibrant city of Mountain View, the home of Google and NASA Ames Research Center, in the heart of Silicon Valley. We're looking for someone with excellent writing and reporting skills, who is self-motivated and eager to learn, and is familiar with the Mountain View area. Being bilingual in Spanish is a plus.

The Mountain View Voice Online is part of Embarcadero Media, which includes the Palo Alto Weekly and The Almanac. To apply, send a resume, cover letter and three news clips to Editor Andrea Gemmet at [editor@mv-voice.com](mailto:editor@mv-voice.com).



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Established 1965

# The Almanac

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

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#### CRIME BRIEFS

### Burglaries in Atherton, Ladera and Woodside

There were three burglaries reported in Woodside, Ladera and Atherton over the last two weeks.

The most recent took place in Atherton on Saturday, April 2, when someone broke into a home on Alta Vista Drive, according to police. It was the ninth reported burglary of the year, police said.

Someone smashed windows at the back of the house sometime between 8 and 9 p.m., a police news bulletin states. A security alarm was activated and police arrived on the scene. It's unclear what was taken at this time, but there was an unsuccessful attempt at removing an empty safe, said Sgt. Daniel Larsen.

On March 25 at around 9 p.m. someone smashed a glass door at the back of a home on the first block of Lerida Court in Ladera, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. The burglar then left the home through the front door. Nothing appears to have been taken.

There is a security camera video, said Javier Acosta, the Sheriff's Office public information officer, in an email.

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 15

#### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Portola Valley hosts music festival

Portola Valley will host its first annual PV Palooza, an all-day music festival, on Saturday, June 12.

Organized by the Portola Valley Cultural Arts Committee, the event will feature 12 local bands on two stages. Bands like Windy Hill, Ginger + Bandits and christopher normann feature residents of Portola Valley, Woodside, Kings Mountain and La Honda.

The event will be funded by local businesses and private donors.

Kids interested in performing at the event should contact Simon Scott, who is coordinating the children's performances.

The festival will run from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Portola Valley Town Center, 765 Portola Road.

To see the full list of bands and get more information, go to [pvpalooza.com](http://pvpalooza.com).

### Menlo Park district administrators win awards

Menlo Park City School District Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Jammie Behrendt and Executive Director of Student Services Stephanie Sheridan were both selected by Region 5 of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) as leaders of the year in the categories of curriculum and instruction and special education, respectively, according to a district press release.

Region 5 includes San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, with over 300 schools serving 158,000 students.

### Talk on teaching children self regulation

Dr. Lauren Allerhand, a therapist with the Child Mind Institute, will host a talk on teaching children how to regulate their emotions at Hillview Middle School on Wednesday, April 13.

According to the event description, regulating emotions is one of the most critical — yet hard to develop — skills people need in school, relationships and life. There will be practical advice, scientific research and a Q&A. It will cover how to better understand your children's emotional experience and skills that can be used in the moment to manage uncomfortable or intense emotions.

The event takes place at 6:30 p.m. at 1100 Elder Ave. in Menlo Park.

For more information, go to [mpcsdspeakersseries.com](http://mpcsdspeakersseries.com).

— Angela Swartz

#### CORRECTION

The Feb. 25 story "Massive' public records request escalates battle over Portola Valley's housing element" misspelled the name of the Nathorst Triangle neighborhood. The street is Nathorst Avenue, but the neighborhood is spelled Nathhorst.

# New research building could bring 650 employees to Menlo Park

An environmental report details impact of project at 1350 Adams Court

By Lloyd Lee

A research and development building proposal at 1350 Adams Court could bring up to 650 employees to Menlo Park, according to a draft environmental impact report that was released for the project on Monday, April 4.

Tarlton Properties has aimed to bring a new life sciences building to an undeveloped area of an 11.2-acre site since 2018. Currently, there's one other building on the site leased by Pacific Biosciences, but the overall parcel is part of the larger Menlo Park Labs campus, which spans more than 50 acres and 18 buildings, according to the company's website.

The developer plans to construct a 255,000-square-foot, five-story research and development building that will be, at its maximum, 92 feet high. A partially underground parking garage with about 706 parking spaces would be included to accommodate more employees.

In addition to the building, Tarlton proposes 48,000 square feet of public open space on the corner of Adams Court and Adams Drive. This would connect to a "innovation science walk" that spans along Adams Drive and O'Brien Drive and is dotted with sculptures.

The Menlo Park Planning Commission in 2019 raised concerns about the open space, arguing that it won't be frequently used by the public.

The scope of the project



Courtesy City of Menlo Park

A new research and development building proposed by Tarlton Properties could bring 650 employees with its five-story, 260,000 square-foot footprint.

requires the developer to provide a community amenity, such as creating publicly accessible open space, in addition to the proposed 48,000 square feet of open space at the corner. Tarlton has opted to pay the city an in-lieu fee to meet that requirement.

The draft environmental impact report indicates that the project will "not result in any significant and unavoidable impact."

"All potentially significant project impacts would either be less than significant or would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of identified mitigation measures," the report stated.

The report does highlight a few so called areas of controversy: transportation, greenhouse gas emissions, population and housing, and other areas including pollution and

population growth that may affect local schools.

The report estimates that the building can accommodate approximately 650 employees.

During a study session in April 2019, some planning commissioners expressed concern that there wasn't proper transportation infrastructure in place to allow more development in the area.

The report is now open for public review before it heads to the planning commission for approval. There's a 45-day window from the report's initial release date to review and comment on it.

Read the full report at bit.ly/3uZEpFB. Hard copies of the draft report are also available at Menlo Park Library at 800 Alma St. and Belle Haven Library at 413 Ivy Drive.

Comments can be sent to the city's senior planner Tom

Smith, addressed to the Community Development Department, Planning Division, 701 Laurel St, Menlo Park, CA 94025. The public can also email comments, which is preferred, to [tasmith@menlopark.org](mailto:tasmith@menlopark.org).

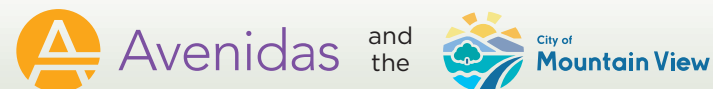
There will be a public hearing for oral comments at the planning commission meeting set for May 2. ■

Email Lloyd Lee at [llee@almanacnews.com](mailto:llee@almanacnews.com).

## OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Helen Sartoris**, 101, a Menlo Park resident of 43 years, on March 23; and **Florence "Phoebe" Rowles**, 98, an Atherton resident, on April 3.

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



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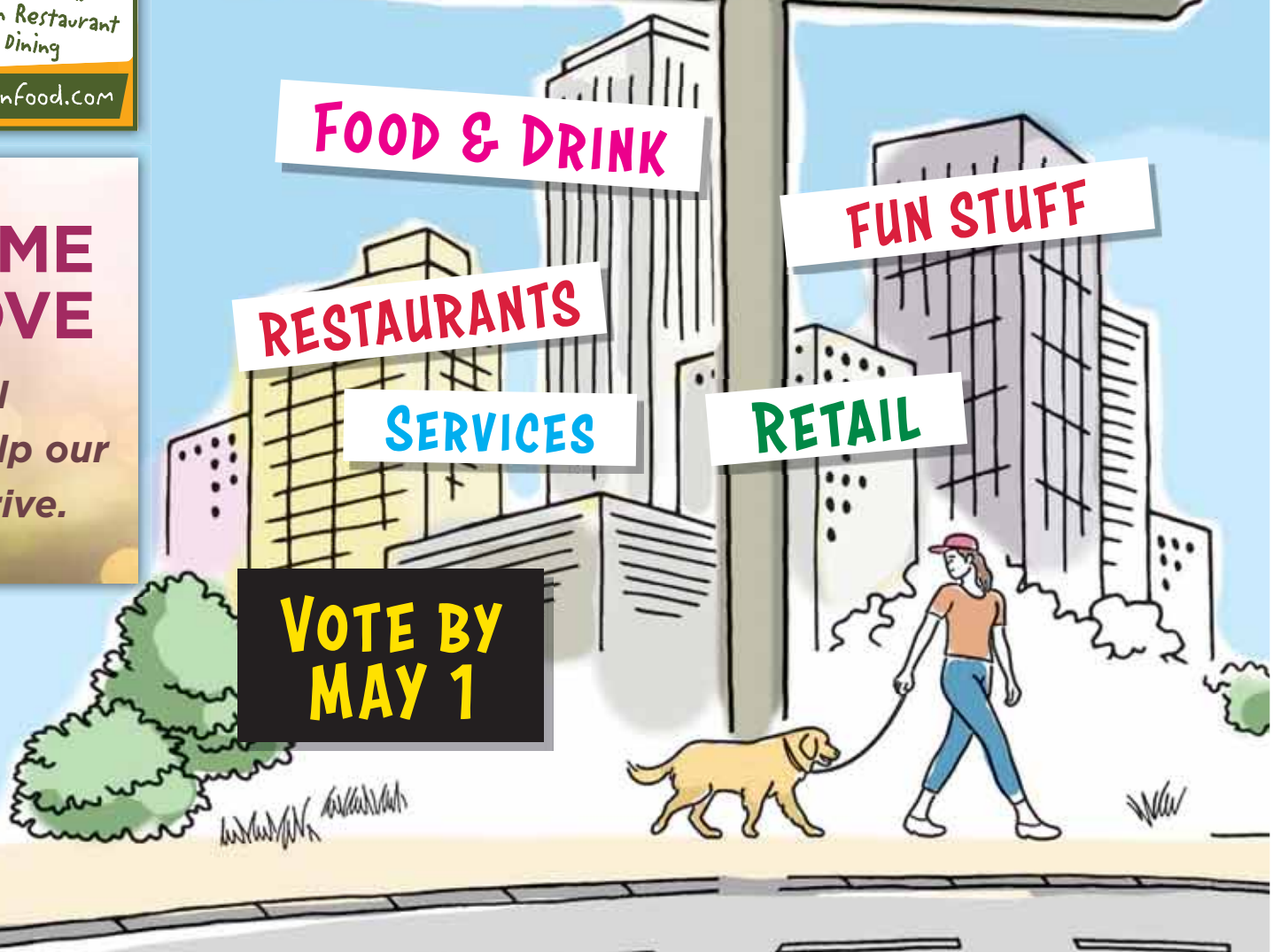
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**SOFTBALL**

*continued from page 5*

reach AA baseball (ages 6-11) and plummets to nearly zero in the majors division (ages 9-12), league organizers said.

Girls were more likely to have never played sports (43.1% girls vs. 34.5% boys) and less likely to be currently playing sports (36.4% girls vs 45.6% boys), according to a 2020 U.S. study by the Women's Sports Foundation.

Kristi Cannon, a mother of three Alpine league players and a former Santa Clara University softball pitcher, said Menlo-Atherton High School's head girls softball coach told her only half of the girls on their team had ever played softball before trying out at the Atherton school.

"It's pretty shocking and eye-opening to see we don't have a lot of softball opportunities for girls," said Cannon, one of the lead coaches in Alpine's girls league.

Thomas' daughter Catherine, 12, is in the league and said she's excited she no longer has to drive all the way to Palo Alto to play softball. She enjoys playing the catcher position and getting to spend time with her friends.

Softball is in her blood. Back in the day, Catherine's great-grandfather created an all girls

league in San Bernardino so her great grandmother, Carol, could play.

"It shows sometimes we haven't come as far as we need to," Thomas said.

Kristen Cahill, a parent volunteer with the league, said baseball teaches kids to work through adversity as a team, which is a valuable skill for girls to have access to.

"You hear baseball is a sport of failure; you hit the ball 30% (or less) of the time," she said. Cannon noted playing sports teaches girls how to work through things that are hard and work on a team.

League teams are playing games at Las Lomitas Elementary School in Atherton, Nealon Park in Menlo Park, Oak Knoll School in Menlo Park and at the Portola Valley Town Center. Girls on the four teams in the older division will play 18 games, while girls in the seven teams in the younger division will play 15.

It costs \$175 to play in the younger division and \$200 to play in the older division and some scholarships are available.

The softball season runs through May 21. ■

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

**SRI CAMPUS**

*continued from page 1*

opportunity for "deeply" affordable housing and that the city's below market rate program, which stipulates a minimum number of affordable units for each development, won't be sufficient. He added that the program is "effectively a tax on the other renters who are working hard to pay their rent in the same building."

Mark Murray, a principal at Lane Partners who gave a presentation at the meeting, said they've spoken with various groups and residents in the city, including Menlo Together, and were open to the idea of donating land.

Vice Chair Chris DeCardy noted that the developer was off to a great start for the project but the "two core things" that concern him are the number of affordable housing units and having a viable solution for potential traffic congestion.

DeCardy said 60 units for affordable housing is too low and threw out numbers from 200 to 500 units.

With that amount of housing, DeCardy said the project was also an opportunity to think creatively about getting people out of their cars and perhaps to work with the City Council to build connectivity from the



*Courtesy Lane Partners*

An illustration of the residential entry on Laurel Street for SRI International's proposal to transform the research and development campus in Menlo Park. Developer Lane Partners proposes adding at least 400 residential units as part of the mixed-use project.

Bayfront to downtown Menlo Park.

"We are not going to parking-garage our way out of the congestion. ... I think this is one of those go-big moments," he said.

More than 25 members of the public also tuned in to the meeting, giving a preview of some of the support and objections surrounding the project.

A few residents from the Classics of Burgess Park development, adjacent to SRI and across from Burgess Park, raised concerns about homeless people camping out in the public open space.

One of its residents, Steve Pang, said that there's already an issue with homeless people camping near the area and that SRI has

been unresponsive to the issue.

When Tate asked about potentially having security work in the evening, Murray said that SRI and Lane Partners have "every incentive" for securing the campus and that the city won't be responsible for it since the land is privately owned.

The developer will have to request several entitlements and go through an environmental review process to get the project approved.

To provide feedback about the project, go to [menloparkline.com/survey](http://menloparkline.com/survey). To view project plans, go to [bit.ly/3r86iRA](http://bit.ly/3r86iRA). ■

*Email Lloyd Lee at [llee@almanacnews.com](mailto:llee@almanacnews.com).*

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## MENLO PARK BRIEFS

**Nonprofit to host climate change awareness festival**

350 Silicon Valley, a Los Altos-based nonprofit, will be hosting the “We Love Earth” festival at Flood Park on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The free event aims to raise awareness to climate change and introduce several actions people can take to create a more “climate-friendly home,” from

sustainable eating to using electric transportation.

The festival will also have a marketplace hosted by Acterra, the Palo Alto-based nonprofit, where attendants will find live plant-based cooking demonstrations using induction cooktops, musical performances and food vendors.

Speakers at the event include Menlo Park Mayor Betsy Nash, East Palo Alto Mayor Ruben Abrica, state Sen. Josh Becker and other city and state officials.

Flood Park is located at 215 Bay Road, Menlo Park. To register for the event, go to bit.ly/3NPMxrH.

**Burgess Pool closed for maintenance**

Burgess Pool will be closed on Tuesday, April 12, for maintenance in its pump rooms.

The performance pool will be closed from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the instructional pool will be closed from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To see facility hours, visit [menloswim.com/pool-schedule](http://menloswim.com/pool-schedule).

**Menlo Park celebrates Arbor Day**

The city will be planting four trees at Hamilton Park to observe Arbor Day at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. It will also be celebrating its 23rd year as a member of Tree City USA, a program facilitated by the Arbor Day Foundation nonprofit.

City Council member Cecilia

Taylor, Interim City Manager Justin Murphy, members of the environmental quality commission and other city staff are set to attend.

The four trees are part of a city plan that was approved in 2019 to replant 76 trees throughout Menlo Park in exchange for removing seven heritage redwood trees at 1000 El Camino Real. Three valley oaks and one western redbud will be planted at the park. ■

—Lloyd Lee

## STANFORD WEDGE

continued from page 5

been zoned for residential use since the 1960s, according to Stanford. Stanford submitted a formal application for development in September 2019 and has revised its plans several times.

The single-family home portion of the property would include 13 three-bedroom units, eight four-bedroom units and six three-bedroom “duet” units (two individually occupied homes in one building structure), according to the report.

The single-family homes would be constructed on lots between 3,300 to 4,800 square feet, with private fenced rear yards and attached one-car garages. The duet units would range from approximately 2,200 square feet to 2,500 square feet in size, and each would be two stories high.

For the below-market rate units, at least six of would be set aside for low-income households. The parcels would range from approximately 6,200 to 8,300 square feet, and each of the two-story multifamily buildings would contain two studios (about 475 square feet each), one 1-bedroom (about 600 square feet), and one two-bedroom unit (about 975 square feet).

The architectural style of the development would be a mix

of traditional and modern, according to the report. Simple gable roof forms, two-story bays, and covered entries would be clad in painted cement fiber siding with wood accents, standing seam metal roofs, and large metal-clad wood windows with narrow trim and crisp detailing. Colors would be muted — gray to gray-blue tones.

The project includes the removal of the existing horse ranch, Alpine Rock Ranch, and 114 trees on the property.

The roughly 68 acres of the property not included in the project is sloped and heavily wooded, and would remain in the university’s ownership and preserved as open space through an enforceable covenant.

Within the approximately 68-acre open space hillside area, the project would implement an ongoing vegetation management plan (VMP) to reduce and manage wildfire risk on the property. As a part of these efforts, the project proposes a permanent fire access road, which would be used for vegetation management and fire access. A looped public trail is also proposed on this open space hillside, connecting to the existing Alpine Road Trail along the site’s frontage. The existing horse trail along Alpine Road frontage would remain.

All buildings would be set

back at least 75 feet from Alpine Road to maintain the Alpine Scenic Corridor, according to the report. All buildings would be set back from the rear property line of existing residences along Westridge Drive by at least 33 feet to give privacy to existing residences.

The project would provide parking in 60 garage and driveway spaces, 24 standard onsite spaces, and five accessible onsite spaces, for a total of 89 vehicle parking spaces.

**Fire hazards**

Portola Valley residents opposed to the proposed project have voiced wildfire risk as be one of their biggest concerns. But, according to the report, the proposed vegetation management activities would substantially lower wildfire risk at the project site. The additional human activity creates a greater likelihood of ignition at the site if not mitigated, the report found, but wildfire risk would still be less than significant with mitigation measures.

Suggested improvements to Stanford’s vegetation plan outlined in the report include:

- Considering thinning the oak woodland canopy cover by less than the 40% proposed. This level of canopy opening can promote growth of understory shrubs and small trees, both of which contribute to tree torching and ember production.

- Considering how to remove over-abundant fuels in riparian forests and creekbeds.

Consultants also suggest other ways to reduce fire risk, including annual third-party inspection and certification of defensible space in HOA-property. Stanford’s plan includes construction methods for exterior wildfire exposure and following the town’s home hardening ordinance.

Each single-family home’s garage would come with one electric vehicle charging station. All 39 units would be all-electric with no natural gas connections.

As part of the construction, Stanford will also underground the existing PG&E overhead power line that runs along the Alpine Road.

**Evacuations and earthquakes**

Based on modeling of emergency evacuation traffic, the addition of cars leaving from Portola Terrace would not make a statistically significant difference in evacuation times, according to the report.

With proper safety measures put in place, earthquakes will have a less than significant impact, consultants found.

**Cultural artifacts**

While not considered likely due to the types of soil at the project site, it is possible that previously unidentified cultural and tribal cultural artifacts could be uncovered and disturbed, according to the report. This impact is less than significant with mitigation such as having an archaeological consultant to observe all ground disturbing activities.

**Alternatives proposed**

One alternative studied in the environmental impact report would shift the project a little farther to the south, away from neighbors but into a less flat area requiring more disturbance of the hillside, according to the report.

The fire access road and trails would be developed the same as they would with the proposed project and a vegetation management plan would be implemented.

The report also reviewed an alternative in which the project is built with just single family homes, each on its own lot, rather than a clustered development that includes multifamily homes and duet units. The alternative could capitalize on recent changes in state law to add accessory dwelling units.

“This would eliminate the need for a planned unit

development approval and more closely follow the adjacent lotting pattern,” according to the report. “Consistent with underlying zoning, each lot would be at least 3.5 acres in size, which would total 21 lots that could be developed on the site. Given the larger lot sizes and new state laws promoting accessory dwelling unit (ADU) and junior accessory dwelling unit (JADU) construction, 21 additional ADU/JADUs are also assumed for this alternative, bringing the total number of units to 42.”

The trade off for the alternative is that construction activities would be increased to account for a greater development footprint, including the hillside, and the need for longer driveways to reach the larger, separate lots. With this plan, no trails or fire access road would be developed and no comprehensive vegetation management plan would be implemented.

**Comment period**

Written comments on the project can be submitted by email to [stanfordeir@portolavalley.net](mailto:stanfordeir@portolavalley.net) or mailed to Town of Portola Valley, Planning Dept. DEIR -- Stanford Wedge Housing Project 765 Portola Rd. Portola Valley, CA 94028. The last day to submit comments is May 13.

Members of the public can also speak about the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) at a May 4 Planning Commission meeting.

Responses to the comments will be included in the final environmental impact report.

All documents about the project, the DEIR, and the online comment page can be found on the town’s planning and building projects page at [portolavalley.net](http://portolavalley.net).

The development is expected to take about 24 to 30 months to build, and could be completed as soon as spring 2023. ■

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



# Menlo Park's award-winning superintendent to resign his post by year's end

By Angela Swartz

**M**enlo Park City School District Superintendent Erik Burmeister will resign his position by Dec. 31 to "pursue other opportunities," according to a Monday, April 4, press release.

Burmeister, who first joined the district in 2012 as Hillview Middle School's principal, served as assistant superintendent before taking on MPCSD's top leadership role in July 2017.

Burmeister has not spent a great deal of time looking for another job, said Parke Treadway, the district's public information officer, in an email.



Erik Burmeister

"He knows that it's time to take a break from the 24/7 demands of being a superintendent when he has two young kids still at home," she said. "He also knows that there are a myriad of opportunities available for him and it will be a matter of deciding what will allow him the personal and professional fulfillment he and his family desire."

Burmeister, who has 7- and 12-year-old sons, along with an adopted adult child, said heading the district during a pandemic has been "super rewarding," and "super exhausting." He said the stress may have accelerated his decision to leave, but it isn't the reason for his departure.

"Change is often good for people and organizations," he said. "After all we have accomplished since I joined the team 10 years ago, it's time for a new perspective to take our learner-centered work forward. I am personally eager to find a work-life balance that allows me to be more fully present with my children, who are still young."

Burmeister plans to pursue roles that are in the realm of education and leadership.

"I am not closing the door on returning to a superintendency in the future; I just want to flex new intellectual and creative muscles in my next professional step," he said on Tuesday, April 5. His second grade son asked him what he was going to do for work if he's not going to be the superintendent, Burmeister said.

"I told him I didn't quite know, but whatever it is it will mean I get to spend more time with him. To which he replied, 'I think you should go work at the Jelly Belly Factory!'" Burmeister said. "These are the moments I want to spend more time enjoying."

The board will discuss how to replace Burmeister at its April 14 board meeting. It has the option of either selecting an internal candidate or conducting a national search, according to the Menlo Park City School District (MPCSD).

"Today's announcement offers the school board a long runway to choose the right path forward for MPCSD and the opportunity for Burmeister to stay in the role to help with a smooth transition," the release states. "The district is confident that its elected school board members will continue to do what is right for MPCSD and keep the supportive culture and noteworthy success of the district alive and well throughout this transition."

Burmeister initially contact to serve as superintendent of the district beginning in 2017, with an annual salary of \$223,000.

In 2020, the school board unanimously approved a new contract for Burmeister, which included a 5% raise during the 2019-20 school year, retroactive to July 1, boosting his salary up to \$258,151.

It also voted to extend his contract by three years to June 30, 2023, with an automatic 2% pay hike and a retention bonus at the end of each of the three years.

The bonuses would be 5% of his annual salary at the end of the 2020-21 school year; 7.5% at the end of the 2021-22 school year; and 10% at the end of the 2022-23 school year, according to a staff report.

During his tenure, the district passed two parcel taxes, Measures X and B. MPCSD was the first in the state to reopen to in-person learning amid the COVID-19 pandemic in September 2020 and "its practices have been followed by countless other districts across the country as a model of keeping schools open and staff and students safe," according to the release.

In 2021, the Association of California School Administrators named Burmeister the Superintendent of the Year for Region 5. The association

previously awarded Burmeister the Region 8 principal of the year award, as well as state principal of the year.

"Superintendent Burmeister is recognized as a pioneer in bringing design mindsets to education and is frequently sought as a speaker and collaborator when educators want to build a learner-centered

culture, improve outcomes for all students, and offer successful paths for students to succeed in the higher education and workplaces of the 21st century," the release states. "A believer in strong teamwork, Burmeister has built a leadership team within MPCSD that will continue to serve the staff, students and community

and allow students to engage, achieve, and thrive."

The district said it would announce "additional administrative adjustments" to support a new leader later this week, the release said. ■

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

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Across a bridge traversing a peaceful creek lies this exquisite 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom home nestled on over four-tenths of an acre amongst the verdant beauty of Woodside. Nearly 1,800 square feet of sun-drenched living space exemplifies the principles of indoor/outdoor living, as multiple skylights and wide windows fill the home with natural light, and numerous glass doors open to a striking, lanai-inspired deck. Beautiful French oak floors extend throughout the open floorplan that features a large living room with a built-in entertainment center, as well as the chef's kitchen with Thermador appliances. A gas fire pit as well as an outdoor kitchen highlight the incredible grounds that invite entertaining on a grand scale, while the detached garage includes 385 additional square feet of flexible-use space ideal for an office or fitness center. Find yourself just around the corner from Cañada Road, which is a local haven for bicyclists, as well as a short drive from Edgewood Park, the iconic Roberts Market, and Interstate 280. Plus, children may attend renowned Woodside Elementary (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

[www.810Glencrag.com](http://www.810Glencrag.com)

Listed at \$3,488,000

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

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138 CERVANTES ROAD  
PORTOLA VALLEY



## BRIGHT AND LUXURIOUS ON OVER 2.5 ACRES

The boundless natural beauty of Portola Valley envelops this inviting home set on a private lot of over 2.5 acres. Blooming flowers and colorful foliage encircle the grounds, while over 6,000 square feet of living space takes many cues from its beautiful surroundings, with soaring ceilings and walls of windows crafting a bright, fresh ambiance. Both the living room and family room are centered by a gas fireplace, the chef's kitchen features top-of-the-line appliances, and the handsomely appointed office provides excellent work-from-home space. The primary suite is a retreat in and of itself, with its own gas fireplace and luxurious bathroom featuring a Jacuzzi tub. Enjoy a true indoor/outdoor lifestyle as multiple points throughout open to the harmonious grounds featuring a sprawling, multi-level deck, a sparkling pool and spa, and pathways that meander through verdant canopies of towering oak trees. And though you will feel a sense of all-encompassing privacy, you will still be just moments to nature trails and preserves, 1.5 miles to the shops of Ladera Country Shopper, and approximately a 5-minute drive to Interstate 280. Plus, children may attend top-ranked Ormondale Elementary and Corte Madera Middle (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

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## Helen Sartoris

(1920 – 2022)

HELEN SARTORIS left our world peacefully on March 23, 2022, just five days short of her 102nd birthday. Born in Virden, IL, raised in Auburn, IL, she lovingly parented four children in Chicago, IL, before coming to Menlo Park, CA, in 1979, where she had been a resident for 43 years.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 67 years, Cornelius Sartoris, and by one of her sons, Dr. David John Sartoris.

She was the Tree of Life to her four children, eight grandchildren, and sixteen great-grandchildren. She is survived by sons: Frank Sartoris of Brisbane, CA, and Nelson Sartoris of Biltmore Lake, NC, and daughter: Nella Maria Nemeth of Crete, IL, grandchildren: Cheryl Parkhurst, Jeaneen Deas, Michelle Maranta, Lisa Arcuri, Nanette Hansel, Tim Sartoris, Kathleen Sartoris, and David Paul Sartoris, and the sixteen great-grandchildren: Joshua, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel, Caleb, Brendan, Evan, Keane, Meghan, Dominic, Sarah, Michael, Frank, Vince, Sofie, and Peter.

A bright, strong, opinionated, optimistic, compassionate, fun-loving woman, she was happiest surrounded by her large extended multigenerational family and a row of Scrabble tiles in front of her. She will be missed dearly – but her family will not grieve deeply for long as she would not allow it. Nevertheless, the world is an emptier place without her.

The family wishes to extend thanks and gratitude to all her friends, too numerous to name, who enriched her life, and to two special angels disguised as nurses who lovingly oversaw Helen's in-home care the last fifteen months of her life, Irene Escusa and Pin Tecson.



PAID OBITUARY

## Redwood City's new storefront retail to end 'cannabis desert' in San Mateo County

By Leah Worthington

In a city first, people will be soon able to shop for cannabis at retail stores in downtown Redwood City, where four local businesses received storefront licenses last week.

Concluding a year-long application and review process, the city awarded cannabis permits to Juva Retail RWC Inc at 2301 Broadway, Responsible and Compliant Retail Redwood City LLC at 1870 Broadway, Runway Services Inc at 928 Whipple Ave and MMD Redwood City Inc at 1764 Broadway, which hope to begin selling products to in-store customers later this year.

Sean Kali-rai, founder and president of the Silicon Valley Cannabis Alliance, called the decision “a great step forward.”

“There really was no retail cannabis between San Francisco and San Jose along the 101,” Kali-rai said. “California is littered with cannabis deserts — areas that voted for cannabis but for some reason or another don't have it. I think it's really meaningful that in San Mateo County, it's not a desert anymore.”

In October 2020, the city council approved zoning amendments that would allow up to six cannabis businesses to offer storefront retail in Redwood City. Twenty-eight businesses that were already offering non-storefront, delivery retail submitted applications in early 2021 and underwent a phased review process. Of those, City Manager Melissa Stevenson Diaz selected four finalists and may award up to two additional permits at a later date under the city's program.

“After meticulous review of all 28 applications received, these top candidates satisfy the established criteria to operate storefront retail cannabis businesses in Redwood City,” said Stevenson Diaz in a press release. “I believe these businesses will be assets to the Redwood City business community.”

Doug Chloupek, CEO of Juva, said he's excited about what this decision means for his business and its relationship with the community.

“We've operated in Redwood City for a couple of years now,” he said. “We're excited to expand our footprint, operating right opposite of Courthouse Square in the heart of downtown Redwood City.”

In evaluating the applications, each business was scored on a variety of criteria including safety, business and security plans, neighborhood compatibility and proposed community benefits.

Applicants were asked to

describe how their business would benefit the local community and align with the council's strategic priorities, including housing, transportation and children and youth. According to the city, all four selected cannabis retailers must also offer a “Community Benefits” package, which will annually total more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service and roughly \$600,000 in monetary contributions to Redwood City groups, nonprofits and community-based organizations.

In addition to filling a local need, Kali-rai said that opening brick-and-mortar cannabis shops in Redwood City sets a meaningful precedent by showing other communities that the cannabis industry can survive outside of big cities. On top of which, he said, the city will now be able to reap the benefits of cannabis profits.

“You will capture that economic leakage that has been going to those areas,” like San Francisco and San Jose, he said.

In the first year of operations, cannabis storefront retail is expected to bring in \$500,000 to \$750,000 in revenue, which will go towards the city's general fund and provide “much-needed additional revenue,” according to the city. On top of the state's 15% tax and the city's 10% sales tax, all four businesses will fund a 4% general tax on gross receipts paid directly to the city.

With plans to open 12 hours per day, seven days a week, Juva COO Neil Ruditsky said the new storefront will also create jobs for full and part-time workers. He expects Juva will hire 20-25 workers in the first round, eventually ramping up to 40, and said they will “source from and reach out to the local community.”

Over the course of 2021, the city hosted discussions with various stakeholders — including the fire and police departments, school boards and local community members — and sent out surveys to gauge public support.

“The city carefully designed the cannabis program to incorporate best practices and community feedback,” said Stevenson Diaz in the press release. “We have seen strong community support through the voter approval of cannabis-related tax measures, a citywide survey, and public input as we developed the program.”

In 2016, over 66% of Redwood City voters approved Prop 64 (the Adult Use of Marijuana Act) and over 78% supported the 2018 Cannabis Business Tax ballot measure. A 2020 survey found that more than 60% of respondents supported cannabis storefronts

retailers in Redwood City, according to the city.

Kali-rai said he was impressed by the amount of consideration put in by the city.

“Redwood City has always been very aware that they are one of the first communities in San Mateo County that is going to be allowing retail cannabis storefront,” he said. “I started talking with Redwood City back in 2017 and met with the mayor and council. I met with city staff. I took them on tours of legal cannabis dispensaries ... It was an exhaustive process.”

Still, the decision to support walk-in cannabis retail is not without its critics. A spokesperson for the city said that some residents expressed concern about the safety of opening cannabis retail shops in their neighborhoods.

Other residents voiced fears about the health effects of using cannabis. At the November 2020 council meeting, during which the council approved the ordinance permitting storefront cannabis retail, three people shared their concerns.

Isabella Chu, chair of the Friendly Acres Neighborhood Association and a data researcher at the Stanford Center for Population Health Sciences, said that legalization was important to prevent the consequences of criminalization. However, she noted that the health risks of cannabis consumption are still unknown.

“Already, emerging evidence shows that when you legalize it, there are health consequences,” she said, urging the council to limit the locations where cannabis is available and to regulate sales with careful pricing and taxation.

In a letter sent to the council, Chu cited a study in World Psychiatry that looked at the public health impacts of legalizing recreational cannabis use in the U.S. With lower prices and easier access, the authors warned that legalization could potentially result in higher cannabis usage and more potent strains. However, they acknowledged that current research is limited and inconclusive, and recommended continued monitoring of impacts on impaired driving, mental health disorders and the criminal justice system.

Stella Chau, a drug prevention coordinator with the county Behavioral Health And Recovery Services, echoed the call for close oversight. She read from a report from the Office of Policy and Planning in the San Francisco Department of Public Health that recommended careful

See **CANNABIS**, page 15

 embarcadero media

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

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To apply, please email your resume, cover letter and three news clips to Editorial Director Jocelyn Dong at [jdong@paweb.com](mailto:jdong@paweb.com), with “Editorial Assistant” in the subject line. No phone calls, please.







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**CANNABIS**

*continued from page 14*

advertising, public education and stringent regulation.

The city said it has taken the necessary steps to ensure the safety of residents and customers alike. All cannabis retailers will be required to check IDs and confirm that customers are over 21 — or over 18 with a medical prescription. In addition, dispensaries must be located at least 600 feet from schools, childcare facilities, youth centers, public parks and libraries.

“All cannabis operators are subject to inspections, audits, and oversight from the city, police department, state, and special consultants all working together to safeguard the community where these operators are established,” the city told the Pulse.

Improving access to legal cannabis is a matter of public safety, according to Kali-rai. Currently, two-thirds of California’s municipalities have banned cannabis retail, forcing their residents to travel or rely on illicit markets.

“There is a problem with illegal cannabis,” Kali-rai said, emphasizing the dangers of buying untested, unregulated products. “It is being sold to children through Instagram, TikTok, Craigslist,” he said. “One of the ways to combat that is to have legal ways to purchase cannabis.”

But legalization isn’t a panacea, he said. Tamping down on the illegal market is as important as providing people safe, legal access to controlled cannabis, he said, adding that he hopes revenue from new retail will support enforcement efforts by local and state police.

Walk-in shopping won’t be happening immediately, the city said. Before opening their storefront operations, all selected cannabis businesses will have to satisfy state and city requirements, including completing necessary building permits and inspections. Chloupek said he’s hoping to begin construction on Juva’s space soon, with a goal of opening their doors to patrons in the next five to seven months.

All applicants not approved for walk-in retail will be able to continue operating non-storefront delivery sales.

In November 2016, California voters passed Prop 64 legalizing the use of cannabis by persons over the age of 21. The Medicinal and Adult Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA), which was enacted in June 2017, established a basic framework for licensing, oversight and enforcement of cannabis businesses. California began issuing state licenses to businesses selling cannabis products to adults over the age of 21 or over the age of 18 with a medical recommendation. ■

**CRIME BRIEFS**

*continued from page 6*

On the same day, between 9:37 and 9:43 p.m., three people broke into a home on the first block of Quail Meadows Drive in Woodside by smashing a glass side door, according to the Sheriff’s Office. They stole several thousands of dollars worth of jewelry and miscellaneous items, Acosta said.

There is security camera footage but limited suspect information at this time, he said.

— *Angela Swartz*

**Four teens arrested in attempted carjacking**

Palo Alto police arrested four teenagers on Monday evening, April 4, after they allegedly robbed a woman at Stanford Shopping Center and attempted to take her car, the department said in a press release issued Tuesday.

The woman was sitting in her parked car at about 6 p.m. when one of the teens reportedly entered her passenger door and demanded her purse and keys. A second youth opened her driver’s side door and also demanded her purse.

The woman relinquished her belongings and fled on foot. She saw that a total of four people were

now inside her car, police said. The victim and a good Samaritan returned and saw the teens unsuccessfully attempt to start the car. The group of four fled on foot toward El Camino Real after noticing they were being watched, she told police. The woman was not injured.

A police sergeant spotted four males matching the description of the alleged carjackers at the downtown Palo Alto Caltrain station and detained them. One of the teens had the woman’s stolen property in his possession, police said.

Three of the boys are 16 years old and one is 14 years old. All are Oakland residents, police said. They were booked into Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall on suspicion of robbery, attempted carjacking and conspiracy, which are all felonies. Their names and booking photos are not being released because of their ages, police said.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Palo Alto Police Department’s 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413. Anonymous tips can be emailed to paloalto@tipnow.org or sent by text message or voicemail to 650-383-8984.

— *Sue Dremann*



**WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the District Board of West Bay Sanitary District will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday evening, April 27, 2022 in conjunction with its regularly scheduled meeting which commences at 7:00 p.m. The location of the meeting is at the District’s offices, 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California 94025 or by Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87293196887?pwd=eVhJclByK254czFyUUFpcnJYMWUzdz09>

Meeting ID: 872 9319 6887 Passcode: 980806 or telephone 669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 872 9319 6887 Passcode: 980806

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider a proposed increase in Sewer Connection Fees for all new connections or expanded connections in the District. The proposed rates are as follows:

Connection Fee Dollars	District
Residential Unit (includes 30 gpd lateral I/I) Minimum per EDU 200 Gallons Per Day (GPD)	\$8,608.00
Supplementary Connection Fee (a) (equivalent to 30 gpd lateral I/I)	\$1,291.20
Non-Residential Use (b) Equal or Less than 300 mg/l Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) or Suspended Solids (SS) *per supplementary connection (a)	\$43.04/gpd +\$1,291.20*
Greater than 300 mg/l BOD or SS *per supplementary connection (a)	\$36.28/gpd + \$6.76/gpd x strength ratio (c) + \$1,291.20*

- (a) \* The connection fee for a supplementary connection(s) to the same building shall be \$1,291.20 per connection. [Amended by General Regulation No.2022-02]
- (b) Non-Residential Use connection fees are calculated using average daily flow in gpd. Minimum Non-Residential Use is based on 300 gpd of average daily flow. In no event shall the Non-Residential Use connection fee be less than the Residential connection fee of \$8,608.00.  
Example: A Non-Residential Use connection with 300 gpd of average daily flow and 300 mg/l of BOD or SS would pay the following:  
\$43.04/gpd x 300 gpd = \$12,912.00
- (c) The strength ratio component for Non-Residential Use with BOD and/or SS concentrations greater than 300 mg/l, is calculated by the ratio of the highest of the BOD or SS concentrations to 300 mg/l.  
Example: A Non-Residential Use connection with 300 gpd of average daily flow and 400 mg/l of BOD and 350 mg/l of SS would pay the following:  
\$36.28/gpd x 300 gpd + (\$6.76/gpd x 300 gpd x (400 mg/l ÷ 300 mg/l)) = \$13,588.00

Connection fees will be adjusted annually, July 1 of each year, by the Annual Percentage Change of the Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index for San Francisco. The Annual Percentage Change shall be calculated as: the December Value for the current fiscal year, minus the December Value for the prior fiscal year, and the result of which shall be divided by the December Value for the prior fiscal year.

**Accessory Dwelling Unit**

Pursuant to Section 65852.2 of the California Government Code the District will charge an Accessory Dwelling Unit Connection Fee based on the number of plumbing fixture units (FU). District establishes 20 FU’s per EDU (equivalent dwelling unit) as the basis for charging accessory dwellings for an existing customer. The connection fee would be \$430.40 multiplied times the number of fixture units in the accessory dwelling unit to charge a connection for the accessory dwelling unit.

**Formula Assumptions:**

#1 - District Connection Fee charge per EDU = \$8,608.00, the charge per fixture unit would be \$430.40 per FU (\$8,608.00 divided by 20 FU).

#2 - \$430.40 per FU per FU (\$8,608.00 divided by 20 FU).

Example: An accessory dwelling for an existing customer with 15 fixture units would be charged a connection fee of \$6,456.00 (15 x \$430.40).

The proposed connection fee increase is based on the Sewer Connection Fee Study dated April 1, 2022, Prepared by HF&H Consultants, LLC (the “Fee Study”), and reviewed by the Board of Directors at its March 23, 2022 regular meeting. An electronic copy of the Fee Study is available on request to any member of the public, and a paper copy will be provided on request upon payment of the direct cost of duplication. To request a copy, please contact West Bay Sanitary District at (650)321-0384 or email [info@westbaysanitary.org](mailto:info@westbaysanitary.org).

**Government Code § 66016. Public meeting; Procedure for levying new fee or increasing existing fee**

(a) Notice of the time and place of the meeting, including a general explanation of the matter to be considered, and a statement that the data required by this section is available, shall be mailed at least 14 days prior to the meeting to any interested party who files a written request with the local agency for mailed notice of the meeting on new or increased fees or service charges. Any written request for mailed notices shall be valid for one year from the date on which it is filed unless a renewal request is filed. At least 10 days prior to the meeting, the local agency shall make available to the public data indicating the amount of cost, or estimated cost, required to provide the service for which the fee or service charge is levied and the revenue sources anticipated to provide the service, including General Fund revenues.

Any interested person may address the District Board at the Public Hearing. Written comments may be submitted at or before the Public Hearing by addressing them to the District Board. Mail comments to 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California 94025.

/s/ Sergio Ramirez

District Manager

Dated: April 5, 2022

## BAKERY

continued from page 5

became the country bread, artisan sourdough baguette, an assortment of giant cookies, gluten-free breakfast bars and a cinnamon pain de mie, which Mayimin described as a “lighter cousin of brioche.”

Opening a brick-and-mortar store was a plan that felt “immediately right” for the baker since she started her business five years ago, but getting the capital was just one of many challenges that slowed the process. Mayimin has since had two children, the youngest a four-month-old, and experienced the loss of her father.

“It’s just life,” she quipped.

Despite the new location and an upcoming cafe, Mayimin said she plans to continue her farmers market operations and hopes to expand the delivery service, which stretches along the Peninsula from San Mateo to Sunnyvale.

“We’re really thankful to our farmers markets, they’re really our bread and butter,”



Courtesy Tian Mayimin

Manuel Fajardo pulls out sesame date bread and black & white sesame bread out of the oven.

she said. “And then during the pandemic, our delivery business really stepped up and supported us.”

There’s no signage yet for the store, but customers will be able to buy baked goods right outside the entrance of the new location from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. More information is

online at [littleskybakery.com](http://littleskybakery.com).

While anticipating a new menu and increased production, Mayimin does ask her customers to give her bakery some time.

“We like the idea of a slow, organic start,” she said. ■

Email Lloyd Lee at [llee@almanacnews.com](mailto:llee@almanacnews.com).



Michelle Le

Little Sky Bakery founder Tian Mayimin slices her walnut raisin bread.

## VACCINE

continued from page 1

became sick. All of us but Theo were boosted. My sister was convinced this meant Theo had received the vaccine, but we still had a month to go before we would know if her hunch was correct.

I had documented for The Almanac how Theo received his first shot in mid-July in Stanford University School of Medicine’s COVID-19 vaccine trial for Pfizer, and another one three weeks later, when he was about 14 months old.

Over the holidays it felt like a race against time. Theo’s unblinding wasn’t set until late January. And even if he had been vaccinated over the summer, his immunity would be waning.

## The unblinding

With the contagiousness of the omicron variant, the vaccine trial’s investigators decided to cut out unnecessary in-person visits and said they’d tell us over the phone if Theo had gotten the vaccine.

Since he seemed not to have any side effects from the shots (aside from a very slight fever the night of his second jab), I was surprised to learn on Jan. 27 that he in fact received active doses, not the placebo.

They offered participants who decided to continue participating in the study a third dose as a booster to protect

against omicron.

Pfizer also had another reason for offering a third shot. In mid-December the company revealed that, compared to the vaccine’s high efficacy in 16- to 25-year-olds, it wasn’t proving as effective for 2- to 5-year-olds in its study. (The 3-microgram dose does appear to be effective for Theo’s age group, ages six to 24 months.) It would evaluate a third dose of 3 micrograms for children between 6 months and 5 years old.

“These updates were informed by the effectiveness data for three doses of the vaccine for people 16 years and older, and the early laboratory data observed with delta and other variants of concern, including omicron, which suggest that people vaccinated with three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine may have a higher degree of protection,” Pfizer said in a press release.

On Feb. 16, Theo got his booster. This time, he certainly was more aware that he was about to receive a shot than he was in the summer, and more squirmy as a result. We knew exactly what he was getting because we had already signed a contract stipulating that they’d unblind the study after six months.

After his third shot, again he had seemingly no side effects. We came back a month after the booster for a blood draw from his arm to check for antibodies, and are scheduled to come back again for another blood draw.

## A long waiting game for parents of young children

The FDA approved Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine for 5- to 11-year-olds in late October 2021, which meant kids in that age group could be vaccinated in time for Thanksgiving.

Things weren’t looking as rosy for families with children under 5, but health officials were still hopeful shots could be in their arms (or thighs, for babies) by February. In mid-February, the FDA was set to review the Pfizer vaccine trial, but announced a week beforehand that it would postpone its review and wait until data on a third dose of the drug becomes available in early April. This was crushing news to many parents of toddlers.

“It is frustrating that we have nearly reached an endemic phase of this virus and don’t have a vaccine for our littlest ones, but it is essential that time be taken to ensure the vaccine is safe and effective,” said research nurse Jamie Saxena, one of the investigators in the Stanford pediatric study.

A glimmer of hope came last week, when Moderna announced it will submit a request to the FDA “in the coming weeks” for authorization for a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series for children under 6.

But the efficacy of Moderna’s vaccine was about 40% in children under 6, compared to over 90% in the adult study.

There have been other bumps in the road. Last summer, Pfizer

put the study on hold while clinicians rewrote the consent form with a warning that myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle, and pericarditis, an inflammation of the lining outside the heart, have occurred with some younger people who’ve received mRNA vaccines. Both Pfizer and Moderna’s vaccines use a copy of an mRNA molecule to produce an immune response.

But clinicians now agree that the known risks of COVID-19 and its potentially severe complications, such as long-term health problems, hospitalization and even death, far outweigh the potential risks of having a rare adverse reaction to vaccination, including these two heart conditions, according to the CDC.

## Hope for the spring?

Aside from the news from Moderna, Saxena said she hopes the Pfizer vaccine will be approved for under 5-year-olds by the end of April.

Overall, the study participants are doing well, Saxena said.

“I’m looking forward to having COVID-19 vaccines for all ages!” said Dr. Bonnie Maldonado, the lead researcher in the Pfizer study at Stanford, in an email. “Messaging about the safety and importance of these vaccines for children needs to continue.”

I feel like my family has been privileged to have a different experience than most families with babies and toddlers, given Theo’s vaccination status.

I can bring him to visit his great-grandparents with less fear that he might give them the virus.

We felt comfortable attending his friend’s outdoor birthday party. Theo went to Trader Joe’s for the first time ever and was a wonderful assistant, taking items from us and placing them in the cart.

He still gets sick, as a terrible bout of norovirus recently reminded us, but we are comforted that he’s less likely to get COVID-19 and spread it to others, and if he does get it, is less likely to get deathly ill.

We’ve dodged COVID-19 thus far, and as he approaches his second birthday in May, we’re hoping to be able to throw him an outdoor birthday party — if the latest variant doesn’t cause a surge in cases the way delta and omicron did.

That doesn’t mean we should go back to exactly how things were before the novel coronavirus spread across the world.

If there’s anything I have taken away from my experiences these last two years, it’s that we need to take care of each other. If you don’t feel well, stay home. A negative COVID-19 test still doesn’t mean that anyone wants your coughing, runny-nosed self coming to the potluck or to work, especially if you’re around infants or immunocompromised folks. ■

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

## The true health costs of gas-powered leaf blowers

By Dr. David M. Axelrod  
and Dr. Elliot Krane

### GUEST OPINION

As community members and physicians with expertise in child health, we offer our personal views on the health-related hazards of gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLBs) for Menlo Park citizens, especially for our children. While the state of California will enforce a ban on the sale of GPLBs in 2024, this will not prevent citizens from using these engines that can last for 20 years or more.

Decades of rigorous scientific research have taught us that environmental pollution disproportionately affect our children. Our training and current practices in the pediatric intensive care unit and operating rooms provides us a constant reminder of why this is the case: babies and children breathe faster than adults, they inhale a larger volume of air when indexed to their body weight, and they spend more time at ground level

— crawling, walking or sitting — where many environmental toxins settle.

Most importantly, children's developing lungs, hearts, and brains are uniquely sensitive to environmental exposures as they mature. Children's lungs continue to develop and grow alveoli (the gas-exchanging sacs of the lung) at least through the ninth year of life, therefore any toxic exposure experienced today will be amplified on a logarithmic scale in the future.

There are two main drivers of negative health effects from GPLBs: air pollution, both from gaseous chemicals and dust/particulate matter, and noise pollution.

**Air Pollution:** GPLBs, and all two-stroke engines such as lawn mowers, combust a mixture of oil and gasoline. Unlike cars, they have no exhaust filter or catalytic converters. The emissions contain known

and suspected carcinogens such as uncombusted gasoline, benzene, formaldehyde, and ozone. For reference, GPLBs release up to 300 times as much hydrocarbon as most cars and trucks.

**Particulate Air Pollution:** All leaf blowers work by propelling particulate matter into the air. They propel dust from the ground into the air — and into kids' lungs — that contains everything from microscopic particles of soil and brake lining powder settled on road surfaces to ground chemicals such as herbicides and pesticides. This particulate matter damages lungs, it's harmful for everyone today and deleterious for decades to come for the developing lungs of our kids.

**Noise Pollution:** The motors in GPLBs emit up to 100 decibels of low-frequency noise (greater than 85 decibels is considered dangerous). Research demonstrates that this noise increases blood

pressure and the risk of heart attacks and stroke, it impairs development and learning in children, and increases stress hormones like cortisol. It also disrupts critically important sleep as the noise easily passes through windows and walls, even at a distance of 100 feet. You may ask: "Who sleeps at 10 in the morning, as our laws require leaf blowers to be used during daytime?" Our most vulnerable — our babies and small children — rely on this sleep during the day for brain development and growth.

We appreciate that there are important economic, political and societal implications of imposing an immediate ban on GPLB use. We trust the experts in these respective fields to offer a creative and equitable proposal that addresses both the needs of the workforce using the GPLBs and the community who needs their yards and fields kept tidy. While not experts in these areas, we submit that an immediate ban will also help protect the

health of the gardeners, workers and Menlo Park citizens using GPLBs, who now inhale the gas and particulate matter as they work. They, too, deserve protection from these environmental toxins.

It is not only the basic function and duty of government to provide clean air, but we believe there is also a clear mandate for our communities to promote a healthy environment for our children. As parents, physicians and Menlo Park residents, we ask our community leaders to carefully consider this issue.

Please note: these concepts have been well summarized and rigorously researched by Leah Elkins in the Menlo Park Environmental Quality Commission agenda item C-2 document from September 22, 2021.

*David M. Axelrod, MD, and Elliot Krane, MD, are faculty physicians at Stanford Children's Health. The opinions expressed do not represent the views of Stanford.*

## State housing mandates are problematic for Woodside

By Karen Offen

### GUEST OPINION

In response to the Mercury News article in Sunday's paper (April 3) on the reluctance of property owners to split their lots and build more units of housing in their communities, as Senate Bill 9 (SB 9) has offered, it seems important to understand the unintended consequences and the reasons behind this reluctance.

Here I address another situation not addressed in that article: the dramatically increased demands of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) for increasing urbanization of rural California towns. This is closely tied to the SB 9 debate.

Everyone agrees that the Bay Area does need more affordable housing. The question is how best to encourage it, where to build it and whether individual residential property owners want to (or can afford to) build it. SB 9 and its lot-splitting option does not provide an adequate answer.

Meanwhile, the governments of our rural towns face serious obstacles to remaining rural, confronted with much higher quotas for housing development

(especially affordable housing, including multi-unit housing) assigned to them by regional authorities. What is more, local governments are being threatened by legal and financial penalties from the state of California if they do not work up plans that demonstrate how to achieve these quotas, which include significant chunks of "affordable" housing.

My town, Woodside, with a population of approximately 5,500 inhabitants, has been assigned 328 housing units, of which a third are designated to be affordable. To meet such quotas would lead to a potentially significant increase in population without the infrastructure to support it.

In early 2022, our town council appointed a committee to identify all the undeveloped lots in the town and to provide estimates of how many units of affordable housing could be built on each. The process did not take into account any other criteria such as proximity to sewers, services, transportation and general suitability — all factors to be addressed

subsequently. This resulted in some pretty spectacular and inappropriate designations. Here is the most egregious example.

On the north end of Woodside, the committee proposed that a 1.77 acre parcel located at the very northern edge of town could theoretically site 35 units of rental housing, i.e. a multi-story apartment complex with several buildings and not much space for anything else.

This location is highly problematic. Located at the intersection of Runnymede Road and Raymundo Drive, this property has no sewer access and the internet and cell service there is inadequate. There are no street lights, and no sidewalks along Runnymede. Parts of this property are low-lying and can flood when we get rain, and the entire area to the northwest of this proposed complex, which encompasses thousands of acres of fenced-off wildland, is susceptible to wildfires.

The property has only distant access to services, being nearly 3 miles away from Woodside's village center — the closest place where one can buy groceries or gas, or mail a package.

Increased road traffic would become a serious, even dangerous, problem. If ever built, 35 units of apartment-style housing on this small property would create a nightmarish traffic scenario. In case of evacuation for fire or earthquake, there is only one way out (Runnymede) and it would be clogged with cars. There is no public transportation anywhere near; the closest Samtrans bus service is at Cañada College, at least a mile away.

Furthermore, there are health considerations. By being located right next to the freeway, prospective low-income residents would be situated very close to the noise and exhaust fumes from the ever-increasing traffic, which has serious implications for residents' health. This is assuredly not a viable situation!

Finally, this hypothetical designation of a 35-unit enclave in a highly rural and horse-friendly part of our town would be totally out of character with its immediate surroundings and with the town's General Plan commitment to staying rural. Add to that the fact that the high construction costs in this area would probably never be

recouped by the property owner even after years of collecting "affordable" rents.

This urbanizing approach for development in a rural community such as ours, even hypothetically, is unacceptable on all counts.

*Karen Offen is a 54-year Woodside resident.*

### What's on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Almanac aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Questions? Email editor@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6537.



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# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## A rare 'Gem'

TheatreWorks' artistic director steps into the spotlight with a show that has personal ties

by Heather Zimmerman

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Artistic Director Tim Bond has some unique insights into "Gem of the Ocean," the play that marks his directorial debut for the company. He knows the play well, having previously directed a production for Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and has both directed and taught other shows from the cycle of 10 plays by Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning playwright August Wilson, of which "Gem of the Ocean" is a part.

But he also knew Wilson as a friend.

"August was an incredibly powerful and brilliant poet, storyteller, playwright, activist, and human being. Whenever I would see him, I always got chills down my spine like I was seeing an ancient ancestor," Bond said.

Wilson's Century Cycle is made up of 10 plays that explore the experiences of African American people in the United States throughout the 20th century, with each play set in a different decade. He wrote the cycle over several decades, with the first play, "Jitney," debuting in 1982 and the final play, "Radio Golf," premiering in 2005. Wilson died in 2005.

Some of the best known plays in the cycle include "Fences," which won a Pulitzer Prize for drama and a Tony for best play, "The Piano Lesson," which won a Pulitzer Prize for drama, "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and "Joe Turner's Come and Gone."

It's sometimes also called the Pittsburgh Cycle because each play is set in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania — with some characters or relatives of those characters in common.

"Gem of the Ocean" is set in 1904 and focuses on the first decade of the 20th century, but it was the penultimate play that Wilson wrote in the series. It debuted in 2003.

"The last play TheatreWorks did by August Wilson was 'Radio Golf,' which is the last play in the cycle and the last play he wrote in the cycle," Bond said.

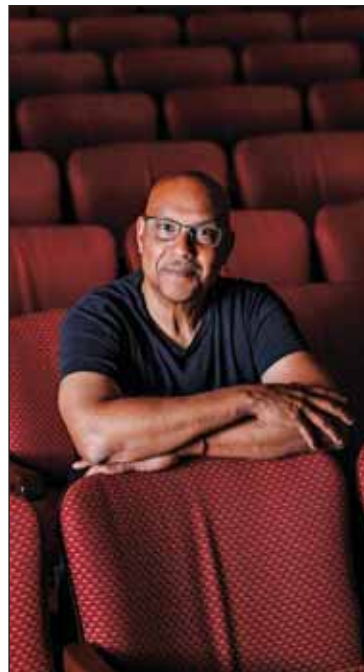
"Interestingly enough, characters from 'Gem of the Ocean,' their offspring, 90 years later, are the characters in 'Radio Golf.'"

Bond took the helm at TheatreWorks in 2020, taking over from founder Robert Kelley. He stepped into the role of artistic director just as the pandemic took hold, which changed the past couple seasons and temporarily shifted some of the company's shows online or delayed their production.

The Almanac spoke with Bond about the show and his friendship with Wilson. This conversation has been edited for clarity and brevity.

**The Almanac:** Why did you choose "Gem of the Ocean" for TheatreWorks' 51st season?

**Tim Bond:** Well, it's one of my favorite plays of all time. It's also



Courtesy Hillary Jeanne Photography/  
TheatreWorks Silicon Valley

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Artistic Director Tim Bond.

a great American play; it's a play that speaks to the times. Actually it was one of the changes I made for this current season after the George Floyd murder, the response in the country and the world to awakening more around the issues of the racial divisions that are part of the history of this country and part of our continued challenges



Courtesy Amira Maxwell/TheatreWorks Silicon Valley

Healer Aunt Ester (Greta Oglesby) washes the soul of a young visitor, taking him on a spiritual journey in TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's production of "Gem of the Ocean."

as a nation. I wanted to pick a piece that I felt was going to be healing, that was going to, from a Black perspective, look at police violence towards Black bodies ... And I could not think of a more apt play than "Gem of the Ocean" to begin that healing. There's an actual spiritual healer in the play, a 285-year-old character, Aunt Ester, who is the repository of history and culture for the Black community in Pittsburgh in 1904. She helps wash the soul of a character that's dealing with some things from his past that he's trying to work through to become whole. And the whole idea of what is the worth of someone who's Black in America. What does freedom mean? How do we become whole people in a society that has denied us full opportunity and rights are still very relevant, important issues that this play deals with and it does it in a loving and community-oriented and ultimately hopeful way.

**Almanac:** Do you have plans to stage more plays from the cycle at TheatreWorks?

**Bond:** Absolutely. I love August's work. I committed to him personally that I was planning to complete his cycle of plays. I've done seven of the 10 plays in the American Century Cycle and my plan over the next five to seven years is to complete all three of those plays somewhere, somehow. It's very mysterious how and when these

plays come into my life. And so I just leave my arms and heart open for possibility regarding finishing August's cycle someday. I'd be privileged to be able to do so. I think TheatreWorks has done five of his plays, so we still have more to explore in the cycle. This is sort of my flag in the sand to say this is one of the playwrights and journeys that I would like to take our audience on during my time here.

**Almanac:** About your friendship with August Wilson — how did you get to know him and what was he like?

**Bond:** I first got to know him back in the '90s at the National Black Theatre Festival that happens in North Carolina ... we're the only two people in this very big room with all these amazing books, dealing with African American history and literature and poetry. I looked over my shoulder and then I realized, "Wait a minute, that's August Wilson." Eventually we ended up side by side and we just started chatting about the different books that we were looking through. Then I met him again at the Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Festival. I had gotten a special grant to go and observe him working on "Seven Guitars." ... And I ran into him a few times during that period and then watched him rehearse "Two Trains Running" at the Seattle Rep. ... and then I spent time with him at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He would

come because I was working with his wife, Constanza Romero, quite a bit as she was doing costume design for me.

I remember a couple times being outside and him just calling me over, "Hey Tim, you got a minute?" and whatever I'm doing, I'd drop all my work and I'd say "Oh yeah, I've got time." An hour and a half later, he would have told me the entire story of "Gem of the Ocean" and talked me through the characters and the time period. But it was all as if it was something he had experienced, like a trip he had been on ... I would kind of come back into my body, as if he had taken me on this amazing journey through 1904 in Pittsburgh. It would just come pouring out of him, verbatim, the monologues, stories and characters and events. And so I was privileged for the last three plays he wrote in the cycle, "Gem of the Ocean," "King Hedley II" and "Radio Golf," that he shared each of those pieces with me in that way.

I miss him every day. I hear his voice in my head when I'm reading the plays and when I'm working on them.

"Gem of the Ocean" runs April 9 through May 1 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. For more information, visit [theatreworks.org](http://theatreworks.org). ■

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

# Public Notices

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

GRACE DENTAL  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 290592  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Grace Dental, located at 90 Middlefield Rd., Ste. 2, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
ERIC SON KWON, DDS, INC.  
90 Middlefield Rd., Ste. 2  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
California  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 3/23/22.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 23, 2022.  
(ALM Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2022)

PLATA'S GARDEN MAINTENANCE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 290587  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Plata's Garden Maintenance, located at 24 Clinton St. #1, Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
ELIZABETH BUENDIA MENDEZ  
24 Clinton St. Apt. #1  
Redwood City, CA 94062  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on March 22-2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 22, 2022.  
(ALM Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2022)

BUBBLES HOUSE CLEANING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 290669  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Bubbles House Cleaning, located at 6500 Pescadero Creek Rd., Pescadero, CA 94060, San Mateo County; Mailing address: P.O. Box 3143 Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.  
Registered owner(s):  
ALMA DELIA MARTINEZ MORALES  
6500 Pescadero Creek Rd.  
Pescadero, CA 94060  
This business is conducted by:  
An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 4, 2022.  
(ALM Apr. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2022)

## 997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
GORDON ROBERT ARMSTRONG AKA  
GORDON R. ARMSTRONG AKA GORDON ARMSTRONG  
CASE NO. 22-PRO-00279  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate,

or both of GORDON ROBERT ARMSTRONG AKA GORDON R. ARMSTRONG AKA GORDON ARMSTRONG.  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by GAYLA ARMSTRONG in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that GAYLA ARMSTRONG be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.  
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 06/21/22 at 9:00AM in Dept. PROBATE/DEPT 11 located at 400 COUNTY CENTER, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063  
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner  
TIMOTHY C. BRUGH - SBN 169609, PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP  
2550 HANOVER ST  
PALO ALTO CA 94304  
4/1, 4/8, 4/15/22  
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MAY 13 - 21

# Food & Drink

## Going global

HalalFest seeks to expand Bay Area's halal foodie movement

By Anthony Shu

Restaurants are open before sunrise and late into the night this month to welcome diners for suhoor and iftar, the pre-dawn and post-sunset meals of Ramadan. Peninsula favorites Zareen's and Arya Steakhouse will hold special events that invite community members to break their fasts together. Behind many of these events are HalalFest and its CEO Ali Malik, who envisions a world where halal choices are available at international chains and Muslim restaurateurs turn mom and pop shops into global businesses. Meaning permissible, halal is often used to refer to foods that one can consume according to Islamic law. It is commonly applied to meat, which must be slaughtered in a specific fashion in order to be certified as halal.

HalalFest was founded by Irfan Rydhan as a Bay Area events company and held its first halal food festival in the East Bay in 2013. Organizers were overwhelmed by a crowd of more than 10,000 guests, as they expected only around 2,000 attendees. One of these vendors was Rydhan's friend Ali Malik, an investment banker who had decided to enter the restaurant business due to his love of food. Inspired by the endless lines of diners at that first festival, Malik joined HalalFest and eventually became the company's CEO. Now, HalalFest offers consulting services to independent restaurants, organizes events like Muslim community nights

in partnership with local sports teams and promotes halal eateries through programming including Bay Area Halal Restaurant Week and this month's Ramadan activities.

Ramadan, a sacred month, involves the fourth pillar of Islam, sawm. Through abstaining from food and drink from dawn to sunset and limiting negative behaviors, Muslims believe they develop a stronger relationship with Allah. Observers start their days with the pre-dawn meal of suhoor, which provides sustenance for a day of fasting, and iftar, the often communal breaking of the fast just after sunset.



Courtesy HalalFest  
CEO Ali Malik

While HalalFest is currently focused on working with small businesses and organizing community events, Malik is confident that the company's work inviting both Muslims and non-Muslims to share meals helps build global awareness around halal. He has seen foods like bubble tea integrate themselves into American diets and culture and believes halal food can become a part of everyday life for an increasing number of Americans. "We have to do grassroots work first ... (halal) will catch on (like) wildfire," he says.

According to Zareen Khan, owner and chef at Zareen's, HalalFest events provide local Muslims with opportunities to educate others about

their diverse cuisines and cultures. The Palo Alto location of Zareen's will host a suhoor night on April 22 that runs until 1 a.m. and will be open until midnight on an ongoing basis.

"Initiatives like HalalFest are important in helping Muslims reach out to the broader community, to our neighbors and friends, and sharing what makes Ramadan special with all of them ... Ramadan is as much a communal experience as an individual commitment," Khan says in an email.

Malik says that digital resources like the HalalFest Ramadan Restaurant Schedule help gather people for intimate meals and cultural exchange, and the number of local halal eateries is rapidly expanding. Back in the 1990s, Malik would go to San Francisco to gather with other Muslims on the weekends. Today, there are halal restaurants serving a number of different cuisines across the Bay Area, some of which are not owned or operated by Muslims. "When people think about halal, they probably automatically think Mediterranean or Arab origins. And it's far from the truth. We have Filipino, we have Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Japanese," he says.

There's also a growing group of foodies obsessed with seeking out the best halal restaurants, as indicated by the Bay Area Halal Foodies Facebook group, which Malik calls an unofficial offshoot of HalalFest (the group's administrator, Abbas Mohamed, is a staff member at HalalFest). The group has around 21,000 members and features discussions about subjects ranging from the Bay Area's best Nashville hot chicken to the opening of a new halal butcher shop.



Veronica Weber

Zareen Khan, owner of Zareen's restaurants in Palo Alto, Mountain View and Redwood City. The Palo Alto location is hosting a suhoor night April 22.

In Malik's view, the rise of halal foodie culture creates new opportunities for intercultural dialogue, as many Muslims are now trying cuisines for the first time. "If you have Korean halal or Chinese halal ... you get to meet a lot of different people and understand their culture and their faith," he says. Malik said that when people share a meal, they let their guards down and can have conversations about difficult topics like religion and politics.

In addition to this opportunity for intercultural exchange, Malik is intrigued by the economic opportunities presented by the increased interest in halal food. A venture capitalist with experience working in mergers and acquisitions pertaining to quick-service restaurants, he's fascinated by Halal Guys, the New York street cart that has become a global franchise with hundreds of locations, many of which are operated by non-Muslims. Malik believes that halal meats are often superior products that consumers will seek out.

Malik hopes that HalalFest can help locally owned restaurants follow this path from street vending to international success. Many of these small

restaurant owners are career cooks or chefs who might be unfamiliar with the marketing and business aspects of running a restaurant. Cultural and language barriers might also mean that restaurateurs are dependent on word-of-mouth marketing.

"Mom and Pop, they have an American dream, they want to start their own business," he says. "And I want to make sure that I see that to fruition for them and with them." ■

*Interested in seeing what restaurants are holding special events for Ramadan? Stay up to date at the HalalFest website and on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok @halalfest.*

*Email Associate Digital Editor Anthony Shu at [peninsulafoodist@embarcaderopublishing.com](mailto:peninsulafoodist@embarcaderopublishing.com). Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram @peninsulafoodist and subscribe to the newsletter at [almanacnews.com/express/foodist](http://almanacnews.com/express/foodist) to get insights on the latest openings and closings, learn what the Foodist is excited about eating, read exclusive interviews and keep up on the trends affecting local restaurants.*



Natalia Nazarova

Mince beef "gola" kebabs with spicy chutney at Zareen's restaurant, which will host a HalalFest Ramadan event later this month.



Courtesy HalalFest

HalalFest held its first halal food festival in the East Bay in 2013 and has held numerous events since, including a 2018 festival at Fremont's Town Fair Plaza.

### LEHUA GREENMAN



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