

# The Almanac

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

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## Fall arts scene is ready to rock

Actors, from left, Hailey Matta, Adeline Anderson, Jomar Martinez, Alex Pease and Rafael 'Rafi' Frans are ready to jam in the musical "School of Rock," which opens the season at the Palo Alto Players, Aug. 27-Sept. 11. Read more about the production and see what's in the lineup for local galleries, concerts, theater companies and author events in our Fall Arts preview on page 20.



Courtesy Scott Lasky

## Bigger gains for Belle Haven at a smaller price tag for Meta

Menlo Park council likes revised \$170M community benefits package

By Cameron Rebosio

Meta's package of community benefits for its Willow Village development in Menlo Park has dropped in value from over a quarter-billion dollars down to \$170 million, but the city sees the smaller investment as better tailored to nearby residents.

Meta, formerly known as Facebook, has plans to build an ambitious development including housing, a hotel, 1.6 million square feet of offices, a 4.6-acre retail campus, a town square and a publicly accessible park

in the Belle Haven neighborhood. The main development would be built along Willow Road between Hamilton Avenue and Ivy Drive across 59 acres, according to the application.

While there has been some scrutiny of the plans to build over the site of a buried Native American village, the project is moving forward with proposals for community amenities for Belle Haven.

The prior proposed package, valued at \$295 million by Meta and \$267 million by the city, was rejected because the Menlo Park City Council thought that the

**'I'm excited about this, I think there's going to be a lot of great things.'**

JEN WOLOSIN,  
MENLO PARK COUNCIL MEMBER

amenities favored Meta's future employees too greatly.

The new plan is valued at \$184 million by Meta and \$172 million by the city. Despite the decreased dollar amount, a City Council subcommittee made up of Council member Cecilia Taylor and Mayor Betsy Nash

recommended that the council move forward with the community amenities plan as revised.

"I'm excited about this, I think there's going to be a lot of great things," Council member Jen Wolosin said at an Aug. 23 study session meeting. "... This could add a lot of wonderful vibrancy to our town with these amenities."

The proposal includes 1,730 residential units, of which 15% will be offered at below market rate, and a 193-room hotel. The plans also include a grocery store, bank and credit union, dining venues, job training

programs, teacher housing, and publicly accessible open space.

Removed from the previous plan was a public bike and pedestrian tunnel under Willow Road, which Meta valued at \$35 million and the city valued at \$22 million. The tunnel was seen as offering a minimal benefit to current residents of the Belle Haven neighborhood and the subcommittee approved its removal from the plan.

The proposed mobile market and dog park were also removed from the list of community

See **WILLOW VILLAGE**, page 18

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All four bedrooms are en suite, including the sensational primary bedroom with three walk-in closets, balcony, gym, and sublime bathroom finished with Carrara and Thassos marble.

Other rooms include an entryway with 23-foot-high ceiling, executive office, den, craft and laundry room, two powder rooms, and wine storage.

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Magali Gauthier

Jeanne Loh, right, drops off her twins, Pascal and Fibonacci, at the start of the first day of school for transitional kindergarten at Laurel School's lower campus in Menlo Park on Aug. 18.

## Menlo Park students embark on their first day in new transitional kindergarten program

By Angela Swartz

Mixing colors, cooking up pretend gourmet meals in the play kitchen and learning each other's names in circle time were all parts of the first day experience for 4-year-olds at Laurel School's new transitional kindergarten (TK) program on Aug. 18.

"It was a wonderful first day," said Chana Stewart, the program's head, on Aug. 19.

The Menlo Park City

School District is rolling out the new program this year at one centralized location, Laurel School's lower campus in Atherton. The campus is also home to the Early Learning Center preschool, which Stewart directs. "It was so great to welcome the children to campus and see their excitement as they entered the classrooms," she said.

Families of the 40 students, enrolled across three classrooms tucked in the back left corner of the campus, mingled

during an open house last Wednesday. They brought family photos to post in classrooms and kids got a peek at what TK would be like, Stewart said.

This fall, public schools across the state are required to add free programs for children who turn 5 between Sept. 2 and Feb. 2 next year.

TK is aimed at easing the transition from preschool to kindergarten. Although families are not required to enroll

See **TK PROGRAM**, page 13

## Murdered teen's friends, family remember a vibrant soul

Accused murderer's arrest has opened old wounds, Karen Stitt's loved ones say

By Sue Dremann

*Editor's note: Descriptions of crime in this article may be disturbing to some readers.*

Karen Stitt was just 15 years old when the Palo Alto High School student was brutally raped and murdered in 1982. Her body was found with 59 stab wounds, yards from the Sunnyvale bus stop where she was awaiting a ride home after visiting with her boyfriend, according to police.

Her alleged killer, Gary Ramirez, now 75, was arrested on Aug. 2, 40 years after her death, which had baffled investigators for years. Ramirez has been transported from Maui, Hawaii, where he lived, to Santa Clara County to face murder, rape and kidnapping charges.

The sudden but long-awaited break in Karen's decades-old murder brought surprise and relief to her friends and family. But Ramirez's arrest also has opened old wounds, long locked away, they said.

Karen hadn't lived in Palo Alto for very long before her death. A Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania transplant, she had moved to the Bay Area just a few months before with her brother and father. Still, she had a big impact on her classmates.

"Karen was not like any other



Courtesy Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office

Karen Stitt, 15, of Palo Alto, was last seen alive on Sept. 2, 1982 in Sunnyvale. Her body was found the next day near a bus stop.

girl I had met before. When she transferred from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Palo Alto, California, to live with her father during the second half of my sophomore year in high school, the first time I set eyes on her, I knew she was special — someone I wanted to get to know," Michael Calhoun, a former boyfriend, said in an Aug. 10 email. "Her smile could light up the darkest of rooms; her beautiful feathered blonde hair, and the way she spoke. I won't say it was an accent per se, but it was different than any other girl I knew."

See **KAREN STITT**, page 14

## 73-year-old Woodside Road fire station is knocked down as work begins on its bigger replacement

By Angela Swartz

A construction crew knocked down the 73-year-old Woodside Fire Protection District's Station 7 at 3111 Woodside Road on Aug. 15 to make room for a new, larger station.

The new Woodside facility will be nearly twice as big as the former station and is expected to be completed in fall 2023. The idea of a new station was first discussed by the fire district's

board over a decade ago. Station 8 in Portola Valley is also getting a facelift.

The Station 7 upgrades include eight apparatus bays for storing firefighting and emergency response vehicles, up from three at the existing site. State-of-the-art emergency alerting technology, seismic safety and contamination isolation will also provide a safer working environment for firefighters, according to fire district officials.

"It's long overdue," said Chief

Rob Lindner in a statement. "This project has been in the planning phase for several years. Thanks to the Arrillaga Family and the Arrillaga Foundation, we are thrilled to see the construction work begin on these critical improvements that will equip our community with 21st century facilities."

The Arrillaga Foundation donated \$10 million to help fund the \$45 million in updates to fire district facilities. The fire district, which serves the

towns of Woodside and Portola Valley, and the communities of Emerald Hills, Ladera, Los Trancos and Vista Verde, is contributing \$15 million. The remaining funds will be raised through a capital campaign led by the Woodside-Portola Valley Fire Protection Foundation, a nonprofit organization.

Station 7 fire services were moved to Interim Fire Station 7 at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) site on Sand Hill Road in June. This facility

will not be open to the public. Access will be through a secure automated gate at the Sand Hill Road and Whiskey Hill Road intersection.

### Portola Valley's Station 8 remodel

The fire district began modernizing its Station 8 at 135 Portola Road in Portola Valley at the same time Station 7 came down

See **FIRE STATION**, page 15

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The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027,  
94028 and the Woodside portion of  
94062, call 854-2626.**CRIME BRIEFS****Two men arrested for sexual assault of teen  
in Menlo Park**

Two men have been arrested in connection to a sexual assault of a 16-year-old victim in Menlo Park on April 6, according to a statement by Menlo Park police.

Officers arrested the first of the two suspects, 27-year-old Sergio Caudillo Leon of Menlo Park, on May 12, followed by the arrest of East Palo Alto resident Kevin Cruz, 24, on Aug. 17.

The police department worked with the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office to obtain a \$1,000,000 arrest warrant for each suspect, police said. The two men were booked in the San Mateo County Jail.

During the monthlong investigation, one of the suspects was allegedly in possession of child pornography, according to police.

The investigation is ongoing, and anyone with additional information on the incident is asked to reach out to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office at 650-363-4677.

—Cameron Rebosio

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS****Free home composting workshop on Aug. 27**

San Mateo County's Sustainability Academy will be hosting a two-hour workshop on composting at home on Saturday, Aug. 27, at 10 a.m.

Attendees will learn how to turn their food scraps, leaves and plant cuttings into compost that helps your garden retain moisture, reduce weeds, and prevent erosion, while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Admission is free. RSVP at [tinyurl.com/smccompostevent](http://tinyurl.com/smccompostevent).

**Upcoming ADU workshops in Woodside**

The town of Woodside will host workshops on accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on five consecutive Thursdays at 6 p.m. in Independence Hall, located at 2955 Woodside Road, in September and October. Each event will be held for residents based on their voting district.

At the ADU workshops, the town will review recent town code updates compliant with new state laws (such as reduced setbacks and increased site coverage allowances) and property owners will receive individual attention on ADU planning.

The workshop for District 1 will be on Sept. 15, followed by District 2 on Sept. 22; District 3 on Sept. 29; District 4 on Oct. 6; and District 5 on Oct. 13.

Register at [surveymonkey.com/r/TOWADUWorkshop](http://surveymonkey.com/r/TOWADUWorkshop).

**Zotts to Tots volunteers sought**

Portola Valley is seeking volunteers for its Zotts to Tots family fun run on Sept. 17 to help block the intersections onto the race route, answer questions to drivers and assist in reopening cross street as soon as the race passes.

Volunteering will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Sign up to volunteer by emailing Ed Holland at [edward.holland1@btinternet.com](mailto:edward.holland1@btinternet.com).

**Local school districts hiring**

The Portola Valley School District is looking to hire substitute teachers, a paraeducator, a night custodian, an office staff substitute and a fulltime roving substitute teacher. Those interested in applying can find listings at [edjoin.org/pvpsd](http://edjoin.org/pvpsd).

The Menlo Park City School District is hiring playground supervisors at Hillview Middle School and Encinal School, a crossing guard, a preschool aid, an instructional aide, a transitional kindergarten extended care provider and more roles. Apply at [edjoin.org/mpcsd](http://edjoin.org/mpcsd).

The Ravenswood City School District is hiring substitute teachers, a substitute administrator, paraeducators and a child nutrition and education worker and more. Apply at [edjoin.org/ravenswoodschools](http://edjoin.org/ravenswoodschools).

The Las Lomitas and Woodside elementary school districts are hiring substitute teachers. Apply at [edjoin.org/llesd](http://edjoin.org/llesd) and [edjoin.org/woodsideschool](http://edjoin.org/woodsideschool).

—Angela Swartz

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 7

# Who's running for office this November?

The final list of Midpeninsula candidates is here

By Angela Swartz and Cameron Rebosio

Who's going to be on your ballot this fall? We've got the final list of ballot measures and candidates running in Midpeninsula races in the Nov. 8 General Election.

The roster of candidates became final when the extended nomination period closed on Aug. 17.

The Almanac plans to host election forums with candidates in several races this fall (stayed tuned for details). We also will provide coverage of the candidates, their positions on key issues, and campaign spending leading up to the election.

This year, mail-in ballots should be arriving the week of Oct. 10.

There are uncontested school board races in the Las Lomas, Menlo Park and Portola Valley school districts. Two of three Woodside Town Council districts are uncontested and two of three Menlo Park City Council district races are uncontested as well.

Here's a list of who's running this fall in The Almanac's coverage area.

## Menlo Park City Council, District 1: One seat

- Cecilia Taylor, incumbent

## Menlo Park City Council, District 2: One seat

- Drew Combs, incumbent

## Menlo Park City Council, District 4: One seat

- Betsy Nash, incumbent
- Peter Ohtaki, former council member

## Portola Valley Town Council: Three seats

- Judith Hasko, planning commissioner/attorney
- Mary Hufty, retired physician
- Craig Hughes, incumbent
- Dale Pfau, consultant
- Craig Taylor, planning commissioner

## Atherton City Council: Three seats

- Greg Conlon, CPA
- Rick DeGolia, incumbent
- Stacy Miles Holland, business owner
- Bill Widmer, incumbent

## Woodside Town Council, District 2: One seat

- Brian Dombkowski, incumbent/CEO
- Elizabeth Kaske, business executive/mother
- Steve Lubin, architect

## Woodside Town Council, District 3: One seat

- Dick Brown, incumbent

## Woodside Town Council, District 4: One seat

- Paul Goeld, former council member

## Ravenswood City School District: Three seats

- Mele Kasavu Latu, incumbent
- Manuel R. López, aerospace engineer
- Laura Nunez, educator
- Tamara Sobomehin, incumbent

## Las Lomas Elementary School District (full term): Three seats

- Gautam Nadella, incumbent/venture operating partner

- Heather Hopkins, appointed incumbent
- Brian Ross, municipal financial advisor

## Las Lomas Elementary School District (short term): One seat

- Paige Winikoff, attorney/parent

## Menlo Park City School District: Three seats

- Sherwin Chen, incumbent
- Scott Saywell, incumbent
- Jed Scolnick, school volunteer

## Woodside Elementary School District: Three seats

- William Dunn, USAF Officer/pilot
- Jenny Hayden, incumbent
- Amanda Peiffer, community volunteer
- Brett Westervelt, design director/parent
- Ricky Yost, program manager/father

## Sequoia Union High School District, Trustee Area A: One seat

- Suvara Bhopale, Belmont-Redwood Shores School District Trustee
- Amy Koo, Belmont-Redwood Shores School District Trustee

## Sequoia Union High School District, Trustee Area D: One seat

- Sathvik Nori, juvenile justice commissioner
- Jo-Ann Byrne Sockolov, nonprofit consultant/mother

## Menlo Park Fire Protection District: Three seats

- Chuck Bernstein, incumbent



Magali Gauthier

Workers in the vote center at Onetta Harris Community Center in Menlo Park on Nov. 3, 2020.

- Gary L. Bloom, community volunteer
- Robert Jones, incumbent
- Dionis Papavramidis, software engineer

## Woodside Fire Protection District Member, Board of Directors (short term): One seat

- Randy Holthaus, appointed incumbent

## Woodside Fire Protection District Member, Board of Directors (full term): One seat

- Rusty Day, safety advocate/author
- Matt Miller, incumbent

## Midpeninsula Open Space District, District 5: One seat

- Karen Holman, incumbent

## Midpeninsula Open Space District, District 6: One seat

- Margaret Macniven, incumbent/environmentalist/business owner

## San Mateo County Supervisor, District 3: One seat

- Ray Mueller, Menlo Park City Council member
- Laura Parmer-Lohan, San Carlos City Council member

## State Assembly, District 21: One seat

- Diane Papan, San Mateo deputy mayor

## State Assembly, District 23: One seat

- Marc Berman, incumbent
- Tim Dec, businessman/environmental advocate

## U.S. Congress, 16th District: One seat

- Anna Eshoo, incumbent
- Rishi Kumar, council member/high-tech executive

## U.S. Congress, 15th District: One seat

- David Canepa, San Mateo County supervisor
- Kevin Mullin, California state assembly member

In addition, the Sequoia Union High School District is seeking to pass a \$591 million bond measure. Menlo Park voters will decide on a ballot initiative that would take away the City Council's ability to make changes to single-family zoning and require popular vote. ■

*Email Staff Writers Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com) and Cameron Rebosio at [crebosio@almanacnews.com](mailto:crebosio@almanacnews.com).*

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

### Road repairs in San Mateo County to cause delays

San Mateo County is embarking on a series of road repairs to fix cracked and rough pavement between state Highways 1 and 35.

The work began on Monday, Aug. 22.

The project will ultimately improve road surfaces, but will cause short-term delays and inconvenience especially to cyclists.

Michelle Durand, a county spokesperson, said this is the 15th consecutive year of

the county's "chip seal" road maintenance program, a proven and cost-effective method that both improves surfaces and causes less disruption to the traveling public than other treatments.

The project involves 50 miles of county-maintained roads. On Aug. 22, the work began on Sunshine Valley Road, then moved to Higgins Canyon Road and Purisima Creek Road.

The road work is expected to last through the week of Sept. 23.

—Bay City News Service

## Man shot multiple times in Menlo Park drive-by attack Sunday afternoon

By Cameron Rebosio

A man suffered multiple gunshot wounds in a drive-by shooting incident on Oak Grove Avenue and Alma Street in Menlo Park on Aug. 21, around 1:20 p.m.

The Menlo Park Police Department was on the scene in two minutes following a 911 call, according to a press release. One male

victim had multiple gunshot wounds which appeared not to be life-threatening. He was transported to the nearest hospital, and no update on his condition was available.

Police are calling the shooting an isolated incident, and believe four people in a car in the area were the target. The suspects left the scene immediately and police say there was no

active threat to the area, which is near the Menlo Park Caltrain station and Saint Frank cafe, on the same block as the 7-Eleven convenience store.

The investigation is ongoing and police ask that anyone with information call department's Detective unit at 650-330-6300. ■

*Email Cameron Rebosio at [crebosio@almanacnews.com](mailto:crebosio@almanacnews.com).*

# Meta service workers rally to protest layoffs and alleged union-busting

By Cameron Rebosio

Over 100 service workers from various unions gathered on Aug. 18 to march on the Meta campus demanding for responsible contracting amid layoffs of service workers.

Led in chants in both English and Spanish, representatives of various union organizations gathered across the street from Meta's headquarters on the corner of Willow Road and Bayfront Expressway. The demonstration brought together cafeteria workers, janitors, shuttle drivers and more to fight for the rights of workers deemed essential in a post-pandemic environment.

Workers demanded fair contracts from Meta — formerly known as Facebook — and its

subcontractor, Canon Business, with job security and the ability to organize. Protesters objected to recent and anticipated layoffs from Meta and claimed that Canon Business had pushed back against workers unionizing.

"Over the last several years, and let's be true about this, forever, tech has been thriving on the backs of all of us," said Maria Noel Fernandez, campaign director of Silicon Valley Rising.

Organizations attending the event included Teamsters Joint Council 7, a conjoined effort of several local unions, and the South Bay Labor Council, which represents 101 unions in Santa Clara and San Benito counties. Also present was the Service Employees International Union, United Service Workers West (SEIU-USWW), representing

property service workers in California, including janitorial staff, and Silicon Valley Rising, a coalition of several of the present unions.

"It is the least ... that Facebook can do to make sure that they come to the table to bargain fairly, to make sure that everybody is treated with respect and dignity and has a voice on the job," said South Bay Labor Council Executive Officer Jean Cohen. "... We will not leave you during this fight, and we will bring every ounce of our power, our relationships to the table and make sure that we win. Because when we fight, we win."

After two years of being treated as essential employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, service workers at Meta have been notified of layoffs. The company has



Cameron Rebosio

Protestors march down Willow Road to Meta's campus on Aug. 18.

faced losses that Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has said are the product of an economic downturn.

Meta stated their support for unions in a statement by spokesperson Tracy Clayton.

"Meta has a demonstrated history of supporting unions and their members. We fully recognize the right of employees to organize and encourage vendors to continue to work collaboratively," Clayton said in the statement. "Many of our vendors' employees are represented by organized labor. We're proud that we've partnered with vendors to create and maintain thousands of good-paying, union jobs with industry-leading compensation packages and will continue to do so."

Teresa Barrios, a janitor at Meta for 10 years, was among the speakers at the demonstration. She said she works two jobs as the sole provider for her family and commutes over two hours to work from Modesto. She implored Meta to listen to its workers as many facing layoffs need the support of Meta to support others in their lives.

Olga Miranda, a worker leader who organizes janitors with SEIU local 87, emphasized that she

believes the layoffs undercut other messages that Meta has sent out. She said that the benefits the company offered to its essential workers aren't what they truly need.

"If you're willing to spend this much on a PR campaign that says Black Lives Matter, don't choke my family by saying there is nothing left for you ... Don't call me essential, don't give me a ... pizza, don't give me a goddamn certificate. Pay me what I'm worth."

Miranda also said that Meta had added extra security to the campus in anticipation of the protest.

Jason Rabinowitz, president of Teamsters Joint Council 7, said employees can organize and fight for fair wages, retirement benefit and medical coverage to support themselves and their families, and against "poverty" jobs that tear communities down.

"There shouldn't be a single worker on that campus that doesn't have fair pay, the right to a job protection, retirement with dignity, and medical care for their family," Rabinowitz said. ■

Email Staff Writer Cameron Rebosio at crebosio@almanacnews.com.

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## WOODSIDE COUNCIL

continued from page 9

serving on the Planning Commission, the Architectural Site Review Board and several town center committees. He's said he is not satisfied with the council's update to the housing element, and that he would have liked to see sites picked at the center of town rather than on the periphery.

"It's backwards," he said. "If we're putting things on edges it's just going to cause more traffic. We have to think of what causes the traffic."

He acknowledged that the rapidly changing world will not pass by Woodside.

"We must envision a future which mitigates climate change, housing inequities and increasing traffic or we will be overrun by changes beyond our control," he said.

He disagrees with the council's decision to designate a

portion of Barkley Field for housing and said he'd like the town to have a more active role in preserving it as open space.

Lubin said he wants planning around the town center to be more pedestrian friendly. Measure A, which was passed last fall, opened the door for more outdoor social spaces, which he would support. He'd like to make roads safe and attractive for pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians, he said.

He's also critical of the shift from seven to five council members.

"I think that really dilutes the voices that are heard in town," he said. "We should try to get the (U.S.) Census Bureau to have census blocks that make more sense with Woodside's population as we look ahead 10 years." ■

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

# Two newcomers seek to unseat Woodside council incumbent

By Angela Swartz

Although two out of three district Woodside Town Council races are uncontested this coming fall, three people are seeking the District 2 seat, which represents parts of Emerald Hills east of Interstate Highway 280 and borders Huddart Park.

Newcomers Elizabeth Kaske, a business executive, and Steve Lubin, an architect, are challenging council member Brian Dombkowski, who is running for his second term on the government body.

The Town Council, which is currently a seven-member body, will downsize to five members when it switches from the “from-district” to a “by-district” elections system beginning on Nov. 8.

The switch means only two council members will be elected for new four-year terms this year, even though the terms for council members Dick Brown, Dombkowski and Sean Scott are all expiring. Scott now lives in District 1, which will be on the ballot in 2024. He could choose to run then but is not eligible for any of the seats on the ballot this

November, according to Town Manager Kevin Bryant.

There will also be a special election for a two-year term this fall to replace the vacancy in District 4 left by council member John Carvell, who resigned on July 1. Paul Goeld, a former Town Council member, is the only person who filed papers to run for that seat.

The Almanac previously interviewed Dombkowski, who made his decision to run earlier this summer. Dombkowski said he’s willing to work hard and bring his institutional knowledge to the council during a transformational time for the town, which faces increased state housing mandates.

Kaske and Lubin, who more recently filed candidate papers, spoke to The Almanac.

## Elizabeth Kaske

Elizabeth Kaske, a partner at the company Ernst and Young, is new to Woodside. She moved to town in 2021 from Menlo Park with her five sons and husband, seeking more space as the family worked and attended school from home during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Kaske said she wants to bring a fresh perspective to the Town Council. She doesn’t feel that current council members listen to constituents’ concerns. She’s also embarrassed by the national attention the town received earlier this year when it declared itself a mountain lion habitat in an attempt to evade a new state housing mandate to allow lot splits.



Elizabeth Kaske

“The current council doesn’t sound like or look like our community,” she said, noting she’d like to see more women on the council. Six of its seven current members are men.

In particular, she said she was not pleased with Dombkowski’s environmental record. For example, she disagreed with his decision in 2019 to vote against funding the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency Agency until the budget was cut to \$15,000.

Originally from a small town in Minnesota, Kaske said she loves Woodside’s rural characteristics.

In regard to planning for state housing mandates, Kaske said the town can’t shirk its duties. The town is required to plan for 328 units over the next eight years for its 2023-31 housing element. She would have liked a more detailed housing element plan than the draft the Town Council sent the state this summer, she said. For example, she would like to see housing designated for teachers and seniors.

Like many other residents who spoke out earlier this year, Kaske was opposed to the plan to drop from seven to five council members.

“I don’t think the research and plan was transparent and thought through enough; a lot of constituents were frustrated with that,” she said.

If elected to the council, she said she would focus on improving pedestrian safety and prioritize climate change policy. Kaske, who evacuated her home during the Edgewood Fire in June, said she’d also like to see more leadership around fire mitigation in town.

Kaske currently serves as vice president of the Woodside Elementary School’s PTA. She holds an accounting degree

from the University of Minnesota and an MBA from Northwestern University.

## Steve Lubin

Steve Lubin is a lifelong Woodside resident. He’s spent most of his life in town, aside from a stint studying architecture at the University of Oregon and a few years in San Francisco.

Lubin, who lives in Emerald Hills, would like to bring his historical knowledge of town to the council.



Steve Lubin

He and his wife Thalia were the architects of the Woodside Community Museum and many new houses and remodels in town.

“Many times council and staff have not been aware of events that happened in the past,” he said. “I can fill in that gap. ... The town hasn’t been very good at doing planning.”

Lubin has been involved in Woodside planning since 1975,

See **WOODSIDE COUNCIL**, page 8

# BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY DRIVE CAREFULLY



SCAN ME



## Meta Summer Academy leads local teens to tech jobs

By Cameron Rebosio

The 2022 class of the Meta Summer Academy, formerly known as Facebook Academy, graduated last month, a program that aims to give local youth a pathway to careers in tech.

The six-week program teaches 150 high school externs, where they learn tools for their careers such as networking and coding skills. The program is tailored for teens in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Redwood City and North Fair Oaks. The career exploration program allows students to learn soft and hard skills that train them for careers in tech, helping participants find a way into the tech industry.

Yasmeen Magaña of Menlo Park was a student in the Meta Summer Academy, and she's since returned to Meta on its Policy and Community Engagement Team. Magaña grew up in Belle Haven and entered the Meta Summer Academy as a sophomore in high school, and said she found the networking particularly helpful. She said finding people of similar backgrounds to her own who had navigated college and careers was vital to her success, and she went on to be a first-generation college student at the University of California at Berkeley.



Courtesy Meta

Participants in the Meta Summer Academy, a career exploration program for teens in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Redwood City and North Fair Oaks, poses with Mark Zuckerberg.

"I was also the only Latina in my high school in my current grade, so it was difficult for me to kind of envision careers post high school and post college," said Magaña. "The idea of going to college seemed a bit beyond that because I didn't see that around me and my family."

Enrique Avina of Redwood City, another participant, said he found the coding aspect of the course helpful enough that he went on to build his own app, Eraverse. Eraverse is currently created for his school, MIT, to help bridge a gap between online and in-person communication through its platform. He credits Meta Summer Academy with both

piquing his interest in software development as well as giving him the technical skills to get started.

Avina said he also appreciates the network of not just Meta employees, but his peers that the program has given him.

"I think the program as a whole is a huge social mobility tool. That's kind of a generational thing, right? It really does open doors for you and gives you a huge network and community of supporters," Avina said. "I think this cohort element is very underrated because you get to go through college and the rest of your life with a fan club, essentially, where you're all pretty much

supporting each other."

Agustin Torres Jr., a representative of Meta, considers the program to be in its third iteration. It began in 2012 solely focused on career exploration and connecting local high school students with Facebook workers to understand a potential career and gain a support network. The second iteration introduced coding classes, which helped to further lead students to tech, and the current program has replaced the app coding classes with VR coding taught by a UC Berkeley professor.

"It's great to see Meta connecting with the local community and providing you with these tools for them to be able to also participate in this industry and the tech industry," Magaña said. "And being able to provide you with tools that will enable them to not just the consumers of these apps and but also being creators, like developing new apps, new ideas, new perspective."

The program also allows students to meet one-on-one with someone in a field that they're interested in to further encourage students in their careers. Mixers and career panels are also available to students for further immersion into the company. This continued through the COVID-19

pandemic, even though it was all done virtually in 2020 and 2021. The most recent cohort was in-person once again.

Students also use art and design to "amplify their voices" according to Torres. At the end of the session, students submit an art piece and a book is made of the students' designs.

While the program teaches skills directly related to tech, Avina says that students have found messages that go beyond their careers.

"I think the overall message and kind of what the program provides us (with) is that ability to take giant leaps and have confidence in yourself, especially because a lot of us come from, or most of us come from, underrepresented backgrounds, and many of us don't have people in our families or role models or people in our life that we can point to and follow their path," Avina said. "So if you want to do something incredible, you really have to get a network of people who really believe in you people that you respect, and that give you that platform to be able to launch off of, and I think that's what Meta did for me." ■

Email Cameron Rebosio at [crebosio@almanacnews.com](mailto:crebosio@almanacnews.com).

## Accused killer in cold-case murder of Palo Alto teen arrives at Santa Clara County jail

By Sue Dremann

The Maui man charged with the cold-case murder of 15-year-old Karen Stitt of Palo Alto has been flown from Hawaii to Santa Clara County and is now being held in the county jail in San Jose.

Gary Gene Ramirez, 75, a former Fresno resident, was to appear in Santa Clara County Superior Court on Monday afternoon for arraignment; however, the court appearance was postponed until Aug. 29 due to a medical issue. Judge Hector Ramon ordered Ramirez to be held on a no-bail status.

Stitt, a Palo Alto High School student, in 1982 had recently moved to the Bay Area from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She had taken a bus from her home in Palo Alto to Sunnyvale to visit her 17-year-old boyfriend on

Sept. 2, 1982. The two met at a 7-Eleven convenience store near the intersection of El Camino Real and Wolfe Road, across the street from the Woolworth Garden Center at 861 E. El Camino Real, at around 8 p.m. or 9 p.m. and purchased drinks, according to a court complaint filed in Santa Clara County Superior Court.

They walked north to the Golfand miniature golf course and then several blocks northeast to Ponderosa Elementary School.

The boyfriend walked her back toward the bus stop, but he left because he was afraid he would be grounded by his parents if he wasn't home before midnight, according to police. He last saw her walking toward the bus stop.

The next morning her body was found behind a blood-stained cinder block wall. She had been sexually assaulted and stabbed 59 times, according to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office.

The identity of Karen's alleged

killer eluded police for 40 years. But Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety Detective Matthew Hutchison tracked down Ramirez through a tip about the possible involvement of one of four brothers and by using DNA evidence. Using newspaper notices of family obituaries, databases and social media posts, Hutchison located the family members. He identified a grandchild of one of the brothers, Gary Ramirez, and on April 8 of this year, Hutchison obtained a sample of the grandchild's DNA, according to a complaint filed in the court.

Ramirez was identified as the likely source of blood and bodily fluid left at the crime scene, which was confirmed by the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Crime Lab earlier this month.

He was arrested at his home in Makawao, Maui, Hawaii on Aug. 2, and he waived extradition back to the Bay Area.

Ramirez faces murder, kidnapping and rape charges. Police



Courtesy Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office

Karen Stitt, a 15-year-old Palo Alto resident, was stabbed to death in 1982. Her alleged killer was identified through DNA evidence decades later.

and the DA's Office are looking into any other possible similar crimes that might be connected to Ramirez.

His brother, Rudy Ramirez, said by phone after the arrest that he was stunned that Gary Ramirez had been charged with

the violent crimes. He said they had not been in contact for some time. ■

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at [sdremann@paweekly.com](mailto:sdremann@paweekly.com).

# Meet the candidates running for Menlo Park Fire Protection District's board

By Cameron Rebosio

With priorities ranging from ambulance response time to upgraded equipment and closer fiscal management, four candidates are running for three seats on the Menlo Park Fire Protection District Board of Directors this November.

The board oversees the district that encompasses Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto and surrounding unincorporated communities and provides fire and paramedic services. Here's a roundup of who's seeking residents' votes in November.

## Gary Bloom

Gary Bloom is one of two newcomers seeking a seat on the board. He said he wants to transition his experience in relief services and administration to the fire district.

Bloom has volunteered for San Mateo County Sheriff Search and Rescue, Rock Medicine, which provides medical services at concert venues, and California Task Force 3 search and rescue, as well as serving as CEO of the company MarkLogic. He said that he brings a combination of hands-on experience and business knowledge to the table.

One issue driven by Bloom's experience on rescue teams is the availability of ambulances. If elected, he aims to have ambulance service provided from within the fire district in hopes of decreasing response time. He proposes that the Menlo Park Fire Protection District replicate the process of Palo Alto or South San Francisco and integrate ambulances into the fire service's paramedic response.

"The community still sees some relatively long ambulance delays, and being a hands-on medical person, I've kind of felt what it's like when you're with your patient and you get a very long response time from the ambulance service," Bloom said.

Bloom said one of his areas of focus on the board would be fiscal management, pointing to his experience in the corporate world. Another priority would be to make sure that residents' voices are heard in the fire district, and that their concerns are taken into account.

"I think it's important that

the community members in Atherton and Menlo Park and East Palo Alto really have a voice at the table," Bloom said. "... So my ability to build relationships and communicate with people and learning what their needs are, and representing those in front of the board, I think will be critical to success."

Bloom's other goals include navigating the idea of forming a countywide fire organization and improving emergency preparedness for what he calls an "inevitable" natural disaster due to climate change.

"I like to give back to the community," Bloom said. "... And I think I can add value to the board and add value to the community and make sure the community is represented within the board."

## Chuck Bernstein

Financial literacy and disaster preparedness are the cornerstones of incumbent Chuck Bernstein's goals on the Menlo Park Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

Bernstein has served on the board of directors since 2013 and is currently serving as president of the board. He has earned a doctoral degree in languages and literature from Stanford and an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Bernstein represents special districts on the Countywide Oversight Board of the Former Redevelopment Agencies, which controls over \$400 million in former redevelopment agency properties.

"It takes a long time to kind of master these things, to understand what the criteria are when you're buying equipment or when you're buying facilities, and I feel like I have that experience now and knowledge," Bernstein said. "And I just hope to have the opportunity to apply it for another four years."

Bernstein has a long history in administrative work as president and founder of Early Learning Institute, an educational organization based in Palo Alto, and as a business consultant. He believes that his background makes him particularly well suited for the board, where he emphasizes their annual budget of \$75 million is higher than that of the cities of Menlo Park or East Palo Alto.

One project Bernstein has focused on while on the board is creating a civilian disaster response group, a community network to come together and support each other. He's also focused on financial reform within the board, changing the way that supplies are ordered and bringing in someone for professional financial organization.

He stated that the position on the board has made him better suited to planning for large-scale disasters, as he hopes to do in creating the civilian organization, since the district often only has 35 firefighters on active duty at any given time, and needs a system in place.

"Professionals are good at what they do, which is those everyday emergencies. But I don't think the professionals are very good at preparing for the kinds of things where you really can't practice because you don't know what you're faced with."

If elected for another term, Bernstein will look to reflecting the demographics of the community more closely in the fire department. Namely, he wants

to hire firefighters who choose to live locally for a quicker response time, stating that most district firefighters can afford to live in the area but choose not to.

He is proud of the board's increased involvement in the financial operations of the district. In 2022, with Bernstein serving as the president of the board of directors, the board reviewed the budget in full for the first time in its history, according to Bernstein. In the past, the board had only reviewed a summary. The board also purchased six new fire engines and put the district on a new fleet program where they could improve the equipment again in 10 years. This came about after hearing advice from a fire captain, and Bernstein also said he is proud of improved communication between the different levels of the organization.

"I'm a proponent of really good government, it bothers me when when government pays too much for things or does things in the most awkward or least efficient manner, and this happens in a way because the

management of the fire district, by and large, have been people who were firefighters who then moved up, and then they were put in charge of something for which they had no training, no background, no experience," Bernstein said. "And when you manage a small business, you learn about facilities, you learn about equipment, you learn about financing, you learn about accounting, you have to kind of know a little bit about everything."

## Robert Jones

Incumbent Robert Jones is aiming to bring diversity and community to the fire district.

Jones has a rich history involved in the development of affordable housing as a founder of EPA CAN DO, a Community Housing and Development Organization, and has served on its board for nine years. He has also served on the board of Jobtrain (previously OICW) and project developer for Eden Housing, Inc. Jones was the recipient of a fellowship



Robert Jones

See FIRE DISTRICT, page 13



Gary Bloom



Chuck Bernstein



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PALO ALTO



\$2,488,000 | 3 Bd | 2 Bth  
785Wildwood.com

755 DARTMOUTH AVENUE  
SAN CARLOS



\$2,300,000 | 3 Bd | 2 Bth  
755Dartmouth.com

1520 TIPTOE LANE  
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\$4,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
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750 LINCOLN AVENUE  
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\$4,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth  
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1820 CHANNING AVENUE  
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\$3,488,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth  
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941 ADDISON AVENUE  
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\$4,198,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth  
941Addison.com

531 THAIN WAY  
PALO ALTO



\$1,988,000 | 3 Bd | 2 Bth  
531Thain.com

1600 CORTE VIA  
LOS ALTOS



\$3,488,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth  
1600CorteVia.com

990 BERKELEY AVENUE  
MENLO PARK



\$4,820,000 | 4 Bd+ADU | 3.5 Bth  
990Berkeley.com

625 AND 635 HALE STREET  
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\$11,988,000 | 7 Bd | 5 Bth  
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**TK PROGRAM**

*continued from page 5*

their children, it is available to students who meet the age requirements, according to the district website.

Hands-on, play-based lessons focus on language, literacy and pre-math skills, along with social and emotional development.

At Laurel, TK instructors lead classes from 8:15 to 11:15 a.m., while Early Learning Center staff teach the afternoon session, which ends at 5:30 p.m. Afternoon activities include outdoor play, reading, painting, yoga and mindfulness time, according to the district website.

Thirty of the 40 students are taking part in the full-day

program.

The district also offers early care from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. for \$200 a month and again from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. for \$500 per month. Full-day care from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. costs \$1,000 a month. Morning care takes place at the Early Learning Center, which is at the front of the Lower Laurel campus.

Stewart, who started her role at the Early Learning Center this school year (she previously served as Oak Knoll School's assistant principal), said she worked to create a learning environment that would give TK students a sense of belonging. She collaborated with teachers to set up spaces inside and outside of classrooms.

**TK in nearby school districts**

The Woodside, Ravenswood and Portola Valley school districts have offered TK in years past, but are expanding their programs this school year.

The Las Lomas Elementary School District is also launching its TK program this school year, which begins Thursday, Aug. 24.

As of Aug. 19, the Las Lomas district is expecting three TK classrooms, said Superintendent Beth Polito in an email. So far 47 students have enrolled in the program, she said.

For more information on the MPCSD TK program, go to the district website, [district.mpcsd.org](http://district.mpcsd.org). ■



Magali Gauthier

Marius Andrie plays with his son, Sebastian, before the start of the transitional kindergarten school day.

**FIRE DISTRICT**

*continued from page 11*

from the Housing Association of Northern California to learn the technical aspect of affordable housing development for 18 months.

"I do believe that when we have a difference of backgrounds on the board, different experiences on the board, it can blend into a unique experience," Jones said. He added that a difference of backgrounds can lead to a "rich

environment."

Jones was the first Black man to be elected to the Menlo Park Fire Protection District Board of Directors in 2018, and was the first East Palo Alto resident to serve as president of the board in 2020.

He said he is proud of the processes put in place at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to keep first responders as safe as possible from the virus. He said that it involved a heavy amount of collaboration with the city

councils in the fire district to deal with the needs of various communities in the pandemic.

Looking forward, Jones said he aims to provide firefighters with better equipment and training within the district. He also wants to bring diverse perspectives to the team of firefighters, and look in his own community in East Palo Alto for candidates.

If reelected, Jones said he wants to push for the board to have an operating plan, which he said is sorely lacking.

"Even though the board has the ultimate responsibility to ensure the lawful and efficient operators of the fire district ... the board has no operating and strategic operating plan," Jones said.

**Dionis Papavramidis**

Candidate Dionis Papavramidis, a software engineer at IBM who graduated from college in Athens, could not be reached by The Almanac by its Wednesday press deadline.

**Register to Vote**

San Mateo County residents can check their voter registration by calling 650-312-5222 or going to [smacre.org/elections](http://smacre.org/elections). Voter registration forms can be found at all U.S. Post Office branches, city halls, most public libraries, Department of Motor Vehicles and most governmental agencies. ■

*Email Cameron Rebosio at [crebosio@almanacnews.com](mailto:crebosio@almanacnews.com).*



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## Peter Kump

October 24, 1942 – July 28, 2022

Peter Edwin Kump was born at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley, California and raised in Palo Alto and Menlo Park where his father, Peter Kump Sr. established an architectural practice following World War II. Peter's mother, Edwina Breen Kump, was raised on the Topo Ranch in King City, California. Peter and his two sisters grew up in a home full of art, adventure, and stories of the early days of the Salinas Rodeo and ranch life. They carried forward these stories and memories for future generations of the family.



"The little left-hander from Menlo Park" played Babe Ruth Baseball on a team sponsored by his father, not surprisingly called the "AIA". In high school Peter continued to pursue his passion for sports at Bellarmine College Preparatory where he was a quarterback on the football team, the Bellarmine Bells.

At the age of 17, Peter headed off to South Bend, Indiana where he attended, and graduated, from Notre Dame University. This was followed by a combat tour in Vietnam with the United States Marine Corps. Peter was a dedicated Marine; a Captain at the end of active service and a recipient of the Purple Heart for wounds he sustained while in service. His years at Notre Dame and serving in the Marine Corps were the most formative experiences of his life. He ultimately dedicated an incredible amount of time and energy promoting and supporting both.

Peter had an adventurous beginning to his business career, relocating from California to the Philippines with his first wife Frankie. Shortly thereafter they welcomed their first son, James (Jake). They subsequently moved from Manila to New York, where their second son Alex was born, and then to England with Chevron International. He would spend nearly forty years working for the company. During his time in Manila, Peter fell in love with the sport of rugby and added tennis when he moved to New York. Ever the sportsman, Peter made lifelong friends and memories from these experiences.

Peter eventually returned to the USA later in his career. He had postings in Houston, then Atlanta, and ultimately back to the Bay Area. Though he is known to have said "Big Oil Never Sleeps," Peter managed to find some waking hours for his hobbies. Somewhere along the way, his rugby and tennis life transitioned to a full-blown love affair with golf. He maintained a membership at the Olympic Club in San Francisco and utilized opportunities to play the finest courses in the world, including St. Andrews and Augusta.

Peter was an avid traveler because of his devotion to his friends. He returned to Europe countless times for visits with those friends dearest to him. Peter – also known as "Kumpie," "Big Pete," "Pedro," "Papa Peter," "PEK" – cleverly founded an international golf tournament for his comrades, aptly named "The Hunt Challenge Cup" after his dear British friend Peter Hunt. This annual tournament alternated between the US and UK and regularly reunited friends from all parts of his life. These friends and this annual tournament brought him some of his greatest post-retirement joys.

In retirement, Peter also worked tirelessly to establish and serve as a board member of the Marine Corps Memorial Foundation in Quantico, Virginia. In addition, he established the Kump Family Endowment for Excellence for Academic Services for Student-Athletics at Notre Dame.

Peter formally retired with his wife Lindy to La Quinta, California in 2013. There they enjoyed fine weather, golf, friendship and their three adoring cats Ricky, Lucy, and Freddy.

Peter is survived by his devoted wife Lindy, son Jake; son Alex and wife, Dani; two grandchildren: Mack (15) and Noa (13); two sisters: Vicki Englert and Mary Byrnes; and many nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

Semper Fidelis. Rest in Peace, Peter!

PAID OBITUARY

### KAREN STITT

continued from page 5

Calhoun was not the boyfriend who police said walked Karen toward the bus stop the night she died. Calhoun said he lived around the corner from her in Palo Alto. She had been dating one of his best friends, so he initially stayed clear of dating her, he recalled. But he was smitten.

"(It was) kind of like that Rick Springfield song 'Jessie's girl,' except I was singing, 'I want Jimmy's girl.' When they broke up, I did the cardinal sin amongst friends. I started dating her myself, but I did ask my friend first if it was okay. He didn't have a problem with it. I really fell hard for her. I'd say she was my first 'true' love," he said.

Karen and Calhoun took a break from their relationship during the summer, but she did want to explore getting back together once they returned to school.

"As a token of this, she let me keep a ring of hers she gave me when we were together — a copper ring with her name on it, which I still have to this day," he said.

Getting back together never happened, however.

"She was violently stolen from everyone. My first day back to school as a junior was the day of her funeral," he said.

Calhoun never gave up hope that Karen's killer would be identified and captured.

"It was because of losing her that I became interested in becoming a police officer — not that I thought I could actually help in her case — but to be able to help someone else," Calhoun said. "I even stayed in contact with the cold-case detective in Sunnyvale after I moved to Las Vegas. He told me he was fairly new on the force when this happened. He even told me he was on the scene that fateful night, so he was very familiar with the case."

Since Calhoun had been in law enforcement, the detective was a bit more open discussing the case with him, but when the detective retired and the new investigator took over, Calhoun wasn't met with the

same level of openness. He was shut down from getting any information, he said.

Still, he didn't forget Karen. "When Facebook became a thing, I would post in her memory every September to keep her memory alive and (in) the hope that somehow her killer would be found and brought to justice," he said.

On Aug. 9, he learned that Ramirez had been arrested.

"Scrolling through Facebook, seeing her picture next to some guy and reading the headline that an arrest had been made, the wave of emotions that ran through me was overwhelming. Chills, tears, joy to know they have a named suspect, anger at the perpetrator. Just about any emotion you can think of, I felt it. I couldn't believe what I was seeing ... 39 years and 11 months later, FINALLY, a named suspect," he wrote.

Identifying Ramirez also rekindled strong emotions for other friends and for Karen's family.

Maureen Larsson, a friend, said when she saw the headline about the arrest of the cold-case-murder suspect she knew it was about Karen.

"As I read the story it was hard to believe an arrest had been made, and then a wave of relief washed over me, and memories of her, her school friends, her funeral, all came rushing back," Larsson said.

"Karen was a friendly, upbeat girl with a big smile who quickly got to know her new schoolmates and was quite social. I was impressed with how this East Coast transplant was adjusting to her new life here."

But Larsson said she is now thinking of the impact Karen's murder and wondering about the history of her friend's alleged killer.

"I'm thinking of her family and other loved ones as they navigate these legal proceedings. One person can do a tremendous amount of damage. Aside from my concern about Karen, I'm looking forward to knowing more about Ramirez and his life," she said.

Robin Stitt Morris, Karen's aunt, said she was "absolutely floored" when Detective Matt Hutchison told her Karen's killer had been found.

"Forty years melted away, and the emotions that had been buried all came back. A wound was reopened, but somehow I felt relief and peace. Soon, we will be able to write the end to this painful chapter of our lives," she said in a text message shortly after the arrest was announced.

Morris and Calhoun said

they plan to be at court during the trial or when the verdict is read.

"He stole so much from my family. Karen's death left an indelible scar on our hearts," Morris said.

Calhoun said he knows the journey to a conviction and sentence — if Ramirez is found guilty — could be long. There's his extradition from Hawaii (which Ramirez has waived), his return to Santa Clara County, an arraignment, the plea, a preliminary hearing, a long period of back-and-forth hearings and motions between prosecutors and defense attorneys, jury selection, a trial, a verdict — and a sentencing if Ramirez is convicted. It's not quite closure yet, he said.

"The finish line is in sight, but we're still in the final turn from the backstretch. I just hope there's no plea deal and he is sentenced with the maximum penalty allowed by California law. Though nothing will bring Karen back to us, he doesn't deserve to have the sun shine on his face, hear birds sing, or the fresh air in his lungs," Calhoun said.

"I've carried Karen in my heart and soul for over 40 years," he said. "I will continue to carry Karen in my heart and soul until my last breath on this earth. I'm just glad we (her family and friends) can now breathe a sigh of relief that her killer has been named and caught. I hope Karen is resting in peace now." ■

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at [sdremann@paweekly.com](mailto:sdremann@paweekly.com).

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### OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Peter Edwin Kump**, 79, a former Menlo Park resident, on July 28.

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

# State bill on police radio encryption dies in committee

Assembly Appropriations Committee moves to 'hold' SB 1000, denying its passage

By Gennady Sheyner

A proposal to require California law enforcement agencies to find alternatives to full encryption of radio communications fizzled on Aug. 11, when the state Assembly Appropriations Committee declined to advance the bill for a full Assembly vote.

By agreeing to "hold the bill," the powerful committee effectively killed SB 1000 for this year. The legislation from state Sen. Josh Becker had cleared the state Senate in May and was on its penultimate step in the state Assembly when it became one of dozens of bills at the committee's "suspense file" that failed to advance.

Becker, D-Menlo Park, said in an interview after the vote that he plans to bring the bill back next year. He said many of bill's supporters, including media organizations and nonprofit groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Electronic Frontier Foundation, became aware of the encryption issue fairly recently and that there was a flurry of activity at the end of the legislative process.

"I like to think we can keep the momentum going into next year," he said. "I do plan to bring it back."

## FIRE STATION

continued from page 5

for a complete rebuild.

The department will add a third apparatus bay, contamination isolation, an additional training room area, offices and another bedroom. The existing station will be renovated to meet current seismic and accessibility codes.

Upgrades will not go as quickly as at Station 7, since it will stay open and firefighters will continue to live there during the remodeling, said Lorrie Duval,

The legislation was a response to a recent decision by more than 120 law enforcement agencies to fully encrypt radio communications, a move that blocked the ability of media organizations and the general public to track police activities using a scanner. SB 1000 gave agencies until January 2024 to find alternatives, whether by de-encrypting or by creating a way to stream communications online.

Police departments across the state made the switch to encryption after the state Department of Justice issued a directive in October 2020 requiring them to either fully encrypt or to adopt policies that would protect personally identifiable information and criminal records of individuals they encounter. Palo Alto, Mountain View and Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office were among the agencies that went with full encryption.

SB 1000 faced opposition from the California State Sheriffs' Association, which argued that switching to unencrypted communications would represent "a significant burden to agencies that went to tremendous expense to obtain new technology or have previously encrypted their communications." The Appropriations Committee's legislative analyst

an advisor to the Woodside Fire Protection District, in an email. It's expected to be completed sometime in 2024, she said.

The station was built in 1970 and last remodeled in 1994, according to The Almanac's archives.

The fire district operates three fire stations. The third is on Jefferson Avenue in Emerald Hills neighborhood of Redwood City. ■

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

also concluded that some state agencies, including California State University and California State Parks, would have to spend upwards of \$10 million to comply with the bill's requirements.

Despite assertions by the bill's opponents about the high costs of compliance, some agencies have had no problem complying with the DOJ mandate without breaking the bank. Last week, Palo Alto announced that it will soon de-encrypt its main channel and adopt policies for protecting personal information. Under the policy, officers would have three options when transmitting such information: using a cellphone, splitting up individual components of personally identifiable information or only transmitting a person's driver's license over the radio.

Becker had argued at prior hearings on the bill that SB 1000 would not impact law enforcement agencies fiscally or operationally. It includes provisions for encrypted communication for tactical operations, undercover operations and other communications that may place officers or the public at risk if aired through an unencrypted channel. SB 1000, he argued, is necessary to ensure transparency.

Becker told this news organization that the cost argument was in many ways a "red herring" and misleading. The bill, he noted, provides organization various low-cost or no-cost ways to comply.

"I think the fundamental principle is pretty clear," Becker said. "As Palo Alto has shown, this is a civil rights issue. This is a First

Amendment issue. We can provide access and protect people's information. We need to do both. "Now is not the time to decrease transparency in police communication."

In a statement that he tweeted after the vote, Becker said the Legislature "missed a chance to ensure police transparency & accountability."

"Without this fix, many agencies will continue to encrypt vital radio communications, cutting off almost 90 yrs of public & press access to critical public safety info," Becker posted on Twitter. "I'll continue to fight to restore access." ■

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at [gsheyner@paweekly.com](mailto:gsheyner@paweekly.com).



## TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AMENDMENT PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Planning Commission of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing, via teleconference\*, on **Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** on the following:

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (X7D-13) TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CLUB MEMBERSHIPS FROM 700 TO 750; 4139 ALPINE ROAD (ALPINE HILLS TENNIS AND SWIMMING CLUB); APN #079-112-150, #079-112-300 and #079-112-290; FILE #PLN\_USE01-2021; PURSUANT TO PORTOLA VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 18.72 – CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS.

This project has been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 which allows operation of existing public or private structures and facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use; and Section 15323 which allows operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed, where there is a past history (at least three years) of the facility being used for the same or similar purpose.

### HOW TO JOIN MEETING:

VIA ZOOM WEBSITE / APP  
Visit [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) or Zoom app,  
click "Join Meeting"  
Enter Meeting ID: **880 8037 1097**  
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1-669-900-6833 Local  
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\*(star symbol)9 = raise hand function

Public Hearings provide the general public and interested parties an opportunity to provide testimony on these items. If you challenge a proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at a public hearing(s) described above, or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Portola Valley at, or prior to, the public hearing(s).

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. Please send an email to Suzanne Avila, Consultant Planner at [suzannea@csgengr.com](mailto:suzannea@csgengr.com) by 12:00 PM on the day of the meeting. All comments received by that time will be transmitted to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting. All received questions and comments will be included in the public record. Members of the public can ask questions/provide comments using the "raise your hand" feature in the Zoom platform (\*9 for telephone).

For more project information, please visit: <https://www.portolavalley.net/departments/planning-building-department/development-projects>. The agenda and staff report will be posted on the Town's website by 5:00PM the Friday prior to the meeting at: <https://www.portolavalley.net/town-government/planning-commission/minutes-and-agendas>.

Dated: August 26, 2022

Laura Russell, Planning & Building Director

\* **Remote Meeting Covid-19 Advisory:** On September 16, the Governor signed AB 361, amending the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) to allow legislative bodies to continue to meet virtually during the present public health emergency. AB 361 is an urgency bill which goes into effect on October 1, 2021. The bill extends the teleconference procedures authorized in Executive Order N-29-20, which expired on September 30, 2021, during the current COVID-19 pandemic and allows future teleconference procedures under limited circumstances defined in the bill. Portola Valley Town Council and commission and committee public meetings are being conducted electronically to prevent imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. The meeting is not available for in-person attendance. Members of the public may attend the meeting by video or phone linked in this agenda



Courtesy Lorrie Duval

Woodside Fire Station 7 at 3111 Woodside Road was demolished on Aug. 15 to make way for a new fire station.

# Woodside Junior Riders are riding high after 75 years

By Maggie Mah

On Saturday, Aug. 3, excitement was in the air at Kiely Field in Woodside. The equestrian facility, which is home to the Woodside Junior Riders and Woodside Pony Club, was a hive of activity: horses stood patiently as they were bathed, brushed, braided and generally fussed over by swarms of devoted kids. Banners were hung on the arena fence, tents for the bake sale and silent auction popped up nearby and the unmistakable scent of saddle soap wafted from the tack room.

All of this was in preparation for what was to take place the following day: the annual Woodside Junior Riders horse show. The show is the season finale of the historic summer program and a highlight for many in the equestrian community. With the group celebrating its 75th year, this one was special.

The next day brought perfect weather. The kids were outfitted in correct riding attire (Junior Riders maintains a store of outgrown boots, pants and other gear). The horses were tacked up and a rack full of ribbons hung next to a display of gleaming silver perpetual trophies engraved with the names of past winners going back to the 1960s.

At 9 a.m., it was show time. The riders, who can range in age from 6 to 16, compete in classes according to their ability from the more advanced "Equitation over Fences" to "Walk Trot" for beginners.

An important aspect of the program is that students ride several different horses over

the course of the summer and must learn how to work with each one's unique traits. Often, it's not the easiest or nicest ones that are the best teachers. "I enjoy teaching the beginners and can see how much they learn from the different types of horses they ride," said Heather Schilling, barn manager and instructor. "The 'push button' ones give them so much confidence but it is from the difficult ones that they really learn."

That said, every rider hopes to be assigned one of the "push button" horses.

By noon, the morning classes were over and it was time for fun and celebration. This year's special 75th anniversary show was dedicated to Ursula Eisenhower, now 93, who took over the program from founder Myra Duncan and ran it for 40 years until handing the reins to current president Kathi Dancer 20 years ago.

Following the tribute to Eisenhower was an event that created a lot of buzz. Students from past years, as far back as the 1960s, were invited to ride in a special alumni class — all in good fun but also a bit of a test. Seventeen former Junior Riders were each presented with a horse that they had never ridden and given a few minutes to get acquainted before entering the ring.

They were asked to walk, trot and canter and then instructed to ride over poles while holding a glass of bubbly (beer or champagne) in one hand and the reins in the other. Presumably, the point of the exercise was to see who could ride without spilling. All did admirably but it should be noted that some of the riders lowered the level



Courtesy Maggie Mah

The Woodside Junior Riders Color Guard.

of the liquid in their glasses by taking a few sips.

Winners of the coveted perpetual trophies were announced next. The awards recognize students in key aspects of the Junior Riders program, which includes caring for the animals, teamwork and sportsmanship as well as learning how to ride.

As part of the overall 75th anniversary celebration, alumni from past years were invited to contribute their memories of Junior Riders. Clearly, a lot of the lessons have stayed with them.

"I most value how we learned to care for an animal, how to ride, how to follow instructions, have patience while we waited on the benches for our turn, the joy of riding, making friends and sharing a common

interest. I am so pleased that Junior Riders is still going," said Bob Vale (1958-1966).

Jarrold Ristow (1978-1980) remembered being dunked in the horse trough — a Junior Riders birthday tradition — but said that he learned "a lot more than just riding a horse. It gave me a special outlook on life and sharing experiences with others."

Lily Shanahan (1998-2004)

who remembers starting the program when her legs barely reached the saddle flaps said, "I wouldn't have the confidence I have today without Junior Riders. It was an integral part of my growing up. I left the show on Sunday with a massive smile on my face and a heart full of nostalgia."

Woodside Junior Riders

See **JUNIOR RIDERS**, page 18



Courtesy Kathi Dancer

Dr. Elizabeth Schilling (left) and Rick DeBenedetti (right) balancing bubbly beverages in the Alumni Class at the Woodside Junior Riders' 75th anniversary horse show in August.



Courtesy Maggie Mah

Woodside Junior Riders horse, Lily, finds something delicious in the Ambrosia Stewardship Trophy (Best Caregiver to Horses) held by winner Lulu Khiari in August.

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# San Mateo County COVID-19 cases drop to 'low' level

Authorities continue to urge precautions despite encouraging numbers

By Sue Dremann

San Mateo County is emerging from the sixth wave of COVID-19 cases, moving to the "low" or "green" COVID-19 community level, meaning case rates and hospitalizations are falling, county authorities have announced.

The move on Aug. 18 to lower the county's COVID-19 status by the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention, however, does not mean the end of the pandemic, the county health authorities warned. They cautioned that overall COVID-19 cases, fueled by the omicron BA.5 variant, remain high compared with previous periods.

In the Bay Area, Marin, Sonoma, San Francisco and Alameda counties are also in the low or green community level. Santa Clara County remains in

the "yellow" or moderate tier. The CDC lists "Community Levels" for jurisdictions across the country as a way for officials to decide prevention strategies based on the latest information.

To move to the low COVID-19 community level, San Mateo County had to meet metrics set by the CDC, including fewer than 10 new COVID-19 hospital admissions weekly per 100,000 residents. The county's most

recent rate was 8.7.

COVID-19 case rates must also fall below 200 over the past seven days; the most recent case rate is 185.63 in San Mateo County.

County Health still recommends that residents receive all vaccinations and boosters, get tested if one has symptoms, and wear high-quality masks such as N95 or KN95 indoors or where ventilation is poor or

if one is at high risk for severe disease or illness.

Information on COVID-19 prevention strategies, a vaccine clinic calendar, data dashboards and more, is available on the County Health COVID-19 resource page at [smchealth.org](http://smchealth.org). ■

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at [sdremann@paweekly.com](mailto:sdremann@paweekly.com).

## VERY REAL LOCAL NEWS

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### WILLOW VILLAGE

continued from page 1

amenities. While the subcommittee approved of the removal of the dog park as it wouldn't benefit the nearby residents, due to its proposed location off of O'Brien Drive, they said that they were disappointed in the removal of the mobile market and hope that Meta elects to provide the market until a grocery store is created.

The elevated park, the most expensive amenity in the

package of community benefits, was also reevaluated and marked as being half a community amenity, as it benefits both existing residents and future Meta employees.

Twelve residents came out to voice their support of Willow Village and the amenities and asked for the city to push the project forward. One, Jenny Mitchell, said that she came out to speak not just as a resident, but as a recovering homeless resident.

"There is absolutely no doubt

that the applicant is exceeding the statute requirements, and so, yes, we should just keep moving forward with this," Mitchell said. "The scope is very comprehensive, and it will transform our region, and we will become a real leader."

Added to the list of perks is a shuttle service throughout Belle Haven, which Nash requested be changed to be entirely electric vehicles, provide transportation for Belle Haven, Haven Avenue, and a future 432-unit development on Independence

Drive, and provide transportation to the proposed grocery store.

The community benefits package also now includes \$5 million in additional affordable housing funding for the city to develop low-income housing, and Meta will provide one air quality machine and one noise monitoring machine for the Belle Haven neighborhood. ■

Email Staff Writer Cameron Rebosio at [crebosio@almanacnews.com](mailto:crebosio@almanacnews.com).

## THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

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**95 Jennings Lane** **\$10,988,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 6BD/6.5BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

### EMERALD HILLS

**604 Park Road** **\$2,295,000**  
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00 3BD/2.5BA  
Compass 650-400-8424

### LOS ALTOS

**1600 Corte Via** **\$3,488,000**  
Sat 1:30-4:30 3BD/2.5BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

### LOS ALTOS HILLS

**13147 Byrd Lane** **\$3,300,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA  
Midtown Realty 650-492-0088

### MENLO PARK

**1120 May Brown Ave** **\$3,988,000**  
Sat 1:30-4:30 3BD/3BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**532 Placitas Avenue** **\$3,150,000**  
Sat 2:00-4:00 3BD/2.5BA  
Compass 650-400-8424

**990 Berkeley Avenue** **\$4,820,000**  
Sat 1:30-4:30 4BD/3.5BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-785-5822

### MOUNTAIN VIEW

**698 Willowgate Street** **\$2,749,000**  
Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3BA  
Compass 650-740-7954

### PALO ALTO

**852 La Para Avenue** **\$2,098,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:00-5:00 2BD/1BA  
Coldwell Banker Realty 650-224-3670

**274 Tennessee Lane** **\$2,850,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:30 4BD/2BA  
Coldwell Banker Realty 650-380-9898

### PALO ALTO

**320 Victoria Place** **\$2,988,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/2BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**941 Addison Avenue** **\$4,198,000**  
Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**3513 Waverley Street** **\$5,498,000**  
Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/5BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**750 Lincoln Avenue** **\$4,988,000**  
Sat 1:30-4:30 5BD/4.5BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**1005 Parkinson Avenue** **\$6,298,000**  
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00 6BD/4.5BA  
Serenio 650-269-7266

**643 Channing Avenue** **\$5,250,000**  
Sun 2:00-4:00 8BD/7BA  
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 650-485-3476

### PORTOLA VALLEY

**154 Wayside Road** **\$2,695,000**  
Sat 2:00-4:00 2BD/2BA  
Coldwell Banker Realty 650-400-2933

**177 Alamos Road** **\$8,995,000**  
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**141 Santa Maria Avenue** **\$3,558,000**  
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Compass 650-400-8424

### SAN MATEO

**1615 Marina Court (C)** **\$700,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/1BA  
JLee Realty 650-857-1000

**3804 Orinda Drive** **\$1,995,000**  
Sat 2:00-4:00 3BD/2BA  
Compass 650-400-8424

### JUNIOR RIDERS

continued from page 16

was founded in 1947 by Myra Duncan, with the goal of teaching riding and horsemanship to children in the community whose families weren't able to afford lessons. The program is held during the week from mid-June to mid-August.

This year's Perpetual Trophy winners are:

■ "Myra Duncan" (Best Helper) Sisters Ava and Emma Noel Eschelman.

■ "Toy Soldier" (Most Improved Female Rider): Hannah Walker

■ "O'Brian" (Most Improved Male Rider): Quintin Muffly

■ "Neuman" (Sportsmanship): Samantha Ehrlich

■ "Col. VT Milorodovitch" (Horsemanship): Michaela Gazzera

■ "Spirit of Surf Memorial" (Positivity & Work Ethic): Avalyn Pekelsma

■ "Ambrosia Stewardship" (Best Caregiver to Horses): Lulu Khiari. ■



Courtesy Maggie Mah

Celeste Stoker braids Petra while Janelle MacSwain looks on.

Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T). Agents: submit open homes at [AlmanacNews.com/real\\_estate](http://AlmanacNews.com/real_estate)

# Portola Valley Town Council's housing plan ignores fire safety

By Ellen Vernazza

California's Constitution clearly states, "The protection of the public safety is the first responsibility of local government." Sadly, our Town Council is ignoring this fundamental responsibility.

In Portola Valley, we live amidst numerous geologic faults, steep hills and hazardous ravines covered with tinder-dry grasslands, trees and brush. Increasingly hot, dry weather conditions compound our severe fire hazards.

The devastating fires that have plagued California over the past decade underscore the pressing need to address the extreme wildfire risks we all confront. We must promote building and development practices that don't allow wildfires to destroy entire communities. We must organize our residents and schools to evacuate safely when fires do occur. We must improve our evacuation routes and capacity, upgrade our unsafe, unreliable power grid, upgrade our water supply system and fix our erratic communications infrastructure. Urgent, townwide action is needed.

Instead, the current Town Council is rushing to add over 250 new housing units in town with no regard for the impact of

## GUEST OPINION

such massive development on our public safety, fiscal integrity or future town character. How will such dense, new development impact the risk of wildfire spread throughout our neighborhoods? How will it impact our ability to evacuate our homes and schools? What improvements and expansion of existing roads, water supply, sewage, communications and power infrastructure will be needed? What additional school, fire suppression and emergency response resources must be added? Your taxes will likely go up to pay for all of this.

A responsible Town Council must address and answer these fundamental questions first, before rushing ahead to authorize vast new development without regard to its risk, cost and impact.

Our Town Council could have acted to protect us against unsafe development. They could have followed the state's long-standing fire safety mandates and designated the many hazardous areas of town that require minimal development safeguards. They could have listened to the fire-fighting professionals and residents who have long called for a

comprehensive, townwide plan and program to evacuate our schools and our families. And they could have engaged and empowered our Town committees and resident volunteers to prioritize and tackle the extensive infrastructure improvements our Town desperately needs. But our current Town Council has taken none of these critical steps.

We can create safe new housing — affordable housing — without carelessly jeopardizing our safety or destroying the character of our community. We can implement and fulfill our general plan's most important long-term goals and policies without subordinating all of them to increased housing alone. And we can engage and empower our residents to help our town protect public safety while keeping with the foundational principles of our community.

Together, let's elect and empower a new Town Council that will engage our residents constructively, build safe and affordable housing where it makes sense, and uphold the community development principles that have made Portola Valley a wonderful place to live. ■

*Ellen Vernazza is a 35-year Portola Valley resident and a member of the organization Our Future Together.*

## LETTERS

Our readers write

### School start times only one factor in sleep deprivation

Pushing back school start times seems to be a solution to a symptom — sleep deprivation — rather than a solution to a problem, not going to sleep early enough the night before.

Researchers have found the hours of sleep we get before midnight make up the most powerful phase of sleep. During this first phase of sleep the body is replenished and rejuvenated, information we take in during the day gets reorganized, and adrenaline levels and stress are reduced. It is the qualities of our sleep during this early phase that is most important and not necessarily the quantity of sleep.

Why is this an issue now? The physiology of kids hasn't changed, has it? Sure, there are the occasional night owls, but a whole generation of night owls? No, that doesn't seem right. The root cause given in the Almanac article (the Aug. 12 issue story on school start times) is a phenomenon called circadian phase delay. The Mayo clinic defines circadian phase delay as a sleep disorder. Are we

concluding that a whole generation has a sleep disorder? No, that doesn't seem right either. By definition, disorders are not common.

If a whole generation is finding it hard to fall asleep at a decent hour, there must be a ubiquitous cause. Are parents too permissive and not enforcing "bedtime?" Are kids on screens well into the night? Are today's kids not tired because they are generally less active than previous generations? Are kids being given too much homework to do at night? Any or all these causes could lead to sleep deprivation.

Increasing the length of kids' sleep by a few minutes in the morning may provide incremental benefits, but they are no substitute for all the benefits that would come from increasing the quality of their sleep by making lifestyle changes allowing kids to go to bed earlier.

*Geoff Brosseau  
Encina Avenue, Menlo Park*

### How much housing is too much?

Getting away from Bob Dickinson principal arguments about the Menlo Balance initiative (in his Aug. 12 guest opinion of The Almanac), which seem to be compelling on their face, I have

questions: when is appropriate to seriously limit growth? When we need to drastically ration water? When we cannot move about our neighborhoods because of all the added traffic and congestion? When police and fire responders cannot arrive in a timely fashion? When the very reasons why we moved here cease to exist?

I was born in Glendale 81 years ago. To get to the beaches in Southern California then, you drove on roads that wound through orange grooves as there were no freeways. We have lost the reasons why my parents and others moved here, why I remain here, to massive development, to sprawling planned communities which have eliminated farmlands, to commute times which now are measured in hours; more of the same is not the answer.

We should be encouraging businesses to migrate to more remote rural areas, we should remove the tax incentives for homeownership and subsidize other forms of housing, and we must create criteria to be met before we allow more well-intentioned but thoughtless plans for new housing. For every new resident, two must be asked nicely to leave.

*Jeff Colflesh  
North Fair Oaks*

## Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

AMERICA'S ICE CREAM  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-291802

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

America's Ice Cream, located at 2850 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County; Mailing Address: 1344 Windermere Av., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s):  
ANA LAURA CORONADO  
1344 Windermere Av. Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/01/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 3, 2022.  
(ALM Aug. 26; Sep. 2, 9, 16, 2022)

CLINERS SERVICE METAL 3  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 291663  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Cliners Service Metal 3, located at 221 8th Line, South S. F. CA 94080, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):

JOSE DE JESUS LOPEZ SERAFIN

221 8th Line  
South S.F. CA 94080

This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 7/19/22.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 19, 2022.  
(ALM Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022)

BAGS4LAUNDRY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-291811  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Bags4Laundry, located at 10 Bluebell Lane, Hillsborough, CA 94010, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
LET'S BAG IT, LLC  
10 Bluebell Lane  
Hillsborough, CA 94010  
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 4, 2022.  
(ALM Aug. 12, 19, 26; Sep. 2, 2022)

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email [asantillan@pawekly.com](mailto:asantillan@pawekly.com) for assistance with your legal advertising needs. The deadline is Monday at noon.



**Spanish Conversations:** Hola! Join us as we practice Spanish together using common conversational topics.\*

**iPad Essentials:** Learn all about using your Apple iPad in this FREE, 5-week course by Senior Planet from AARP at Avenidas. To register, please email [iduarte@oats.org](mailto:iduarte@oats.org) with your name, email, and phone. First come, first served.

**Stories Behind the Songs:** We'll sing together as we learn about the writers, singers and myths behind some popular Western and Chinese songs. Bi-lingual Zoom class.\*

**Pride Parade:** Avenidas Rainbow Collective will have a table at the Silicon Valley Pride event on Aug. 28, and we'll be marching in the parade, so join us for a fun day! Email [tkingery@avenidas.org](mailto:tkingery@avenidas.org) for more info.

**Plant & Flower Photography Workshop:** Start snapping photos as we visit Gamble Gardens, then gain insights from a productive critique session.\*

\*For more info on dates, prices, and registration, please visit [www.avenidas.org](http://www.avenidas.org).

(650) 289-5400

Avenidas  
Re-Inventing Aging

# A class act

Palo Alto Players turn it up to 11 with season opener 'School of Rock'

By Karla Kane

Summer vacation is over and Palo Alto Players is ready to kick off the school year in lively style with its production of "School of Rock," featuring high-energy classroom antics, a gently rebellious spirit and some talented local youth.

The musical is based on the hit 2003 film of the same title, and follows Dewey Finn, a wannabe rock god who, when desperate for rent money and fired by his band, cons his way into a substitute teaching gig at a posh prep school. While he's originally just phoning it in for the (fraudulently gained) paycheck, Dewey discovers that his straight-laced, overachieving fifth graders are incredibly talented musicians. Soon he hatches a scheme to use them as a means of reaching his own dreams of rock stardom — teaching them rock 'n' roll technique, history and attitude while inevitably learning invaluable life lessons from the precocious kids along the way.

It's a story that resonates with director Doug Santana in part because he's also a teacher himself, currently serving as director of the performing arts at

Archbishop Mitty High School in San Jose.

"The thing that I love about this show is that while Dewey is sort of an unlikely mentor, he ends up becoming a great teacher," Santana said. "He's taught them to express themselves creatively, he's allowed them to break free of the rules and regulations. That sort of theme — of the impact of a great teacher — has been fun. I hope that most people have had a teacher in their life that has been that impactful in some way. I know I have."

The show comes with a prestigious pedigree, with music by British theater icon Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyrics by Glenn Slater, and book by Julian Fellowes, better known for sumptuous period pieces such as "Downton Abbey."

"It has the same spirit the movie had that made it so popular — the kid-at-heart protagonist leading this other group of people who are misunderstood and looking for meaning in their life," Santana said. "That spirit really shines through on stage."

Fourteen original musical numbers join those featured in

the film and — crucially — the children in the band actually play their own instruments live.

"To get to work with kids that have that special skill set is an incredibly unique experience," Santana said, of young musicians Adeline Anderson, Alex Pease, Rafael Frans and CJ Fernando. "We were pretty fortunate that all four of these kids showed up. I was certainly nervous about it because it was really important to all of us on the creative team that the kids play live, and they have to be special," he said. Anderson, who plays the role of bassist Katie, originally auditioned as a guitar player.

"What's incredibly impressive about her is, we asked her if she would be willing to learn the bass, basically in a week, for call-backs ... she was able to do that and play it with such confidence and personality, it sold us right away," he said.

Santana is a familiar face on the Bay Area theater scene, having starred in numerous productions as well as being a director — he's also the spouse of Palo Alto Players' Managing Director Elizabeth Santana, herself



Courtesy Scott Lasky

Jomar Martinez plays Dewey Finn, a wannabe rocker turned reluctant private school teacher who ends up bringing out the musical talents of his young students.

no stranger to local stages. But there's another talented member of the Santana clan: 10-year-old daughter Maddie, a South Bay children's theater veteran who's performing in "School of Rock" as student singer Marcy.

Jomar Martinez, one of 16

adult cast members, plays Dewey, a role seemingly tailor-made for the film's star, Jack Black. But it's a character that Martinez (who was recently seen in Palo Alto Players' "Allegiance") said he

See **A CLASS ACT**, page 22

## Live and in person

### Visual Arts

**Pacific Art League:** Robin Scholl Exhibition (opens Sept. 2); Katherine Filice Exhibition (opens Sept. 9); Youth and Teen Expressive Art Open Studio: Drawing Studio (Sept. 23); Valerie Collymore Student Exhibition (Oct. 8); 101st Anniversary Exhibition (opens Nov. 4); pacificartleague.org.

**Palo Alto Art Center:** Fire Transforms (Sept. 17 - Dec. 10); Great Glass Pumpkin Patch (Oct. 1-2). cityofpaloalto.org/.

**Qualia Contemporary Art:** "Transonic," works by Guillermo Galindo (through Sept. 2); "Collision," works by Gregory Rick. (through Sept. 2); group show featuring Zhenchen Liu,

Ruijun Shen and LYU Peng (Sept. 7-Oct. 14); "Fifth Ward/Delray: Greg Edwards and Jen Everett" (Oct. 19-Dec. 2); "Solace" (Dec. 7-Feb. 10); qualiacontemporaryart.com.

**Anderson Collection:** "Richard Diebenkorn: A Centennial Celebration" (through Sept. 4); "Stephanie Syjuco: White Balance/Color Cast" (Sept. 18-March 5); anderson.stanford.edu/programs-exhibitions.

**Cantor Arts Center:** Art/Object: Contemporary Works between Mediums (Oct. 18 - Oct. 31); LJ Roberts: Carry You With Me (through Nov. 27); Yinka Shonibare CBE, RA: The American Library (through June 4, 2023), At Home/On Stage: Asian American Representation in Photography and Film (Aug.



Courtesy Cory Dewald

**SPOTLIGHT:** Grammy-winning jazz vocalist Kurt Elling, pictured, teamed with producer/guitarist Charlie Hunter and drummer Corey Fonville and bassist/keyboardist DJ Harrison, both of the band Butcher Brown, in a long-distance pandemic partnership to record the album "SuperBlue," crafting a free-spirited mashup of jazz and funk, backed by soulful vocals and heavy beats. Now Elling and Hunter are touring behind the album, bringing the unique SuperBlue sound to The Guild on Sept. 27.

## FALL ARTS PREVIEW

31-Jan. 15), “East of the Pacific: Making Histories of Asian American Art” (Sept. 28-Jan. 29); [museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions](http://museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions).

**Los Altos History Museum:** Countywide Children’s Art Contest (Sept. 1 - Oct. 30); [losaltoshistory.org/exhibit/countywide-childrens-art-contest](http://losaltoshistory.org/exhibit/countywide-childrens-art-contest).

**Fung Collaboratives Art Kiosk:** Valerie Mendoza: The Destination Cafe (Aug. 13 - Sept. 25); Ilya & Emilia Kabakov They Are Flying (Oct. 1 - Nov. 13); Wendy Wischer: In Search of New Growth (Nov. 19 - Jan. 2); [fungcollaboratives.org/projects/current/art-kiosk/description](http://fungcollaboratives.org/projects/current/art-kiosk/description).

**Pamela Walsh Gallery:** “Murmurations,” paintings and sculpture by Patricia Rubio (ongoing through Sept. 3); “I May Bury Things in Sand and Snow,” works by Sara Frantz (Sept. 10-Oct. 8); works by sculptor Bruce Beasley (Oct. 15-Nov. 26). [pamelawalshgallery.com](http://pamelawalshgallery.com).

**Silicon Valley Sculpture:** Sculpture festival presented by Art Ventures Gallery. (Sept. 23-25); [siliconvalleysculpture.com](http://siliconvalleysculpture.com).

**Kings Mountain Art Fair:** Sept 3-5. [kingsmountainartfair.org](http://kingsmountainartfair.org).

### Music

**Fox Theatre:** Christopher Duffley (Sept. 11); [foxrwc.com](http://foxrwc.com).

**Stanford Live:** Here and There Festival with Courtney Barnett, Japanese Breakfast, Chicano Batman and Julia Jacklin (Aug. 26); Smithereens Tour presented by Joji (Sept. 1); Goo Goo Dolls (Sept. 4); Madeon With Special Guest San Holo (Sept. 9); Ben Platt: The Reverie Tour (Sept. 11); Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (Sept. 13); Danny Elfman’s



Courtesy Paapa Kwaku Oduru

Musician Oakidja Afroso plays Stanford Live Nov. 11.

Music From the Films of Tim Burton (Sept. 16); Holo Holo Music Festival with Kolohe Kai (Sept. 24); Billy Strings (Sept. 30); Silvana Estrada (Oct. 22); Sundays with the St. Lawrence (Oct. 23); Lyle Lovett and John Hiatt (Nov. 3); Hélène Grimaud (Nov. 6); Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (Nov. 7); Okaidja Afroso (Nov. 11); Meta4 Quartet (Nov. 12); Vienna Boys Choir (Nov. 28); Randall Goosby (Nov. 30); Emerson String Quartet (Dec. 3); “All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914” (Dec. 10); Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale (Dec. 14); A Chanticleer Christmas (Dec. 15); [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu).

**Oshman Family JCC:** Capriccio Chamber Orchestra (Aug. 28); An Evening of Leonard Cohen With Perla Batalla (Sept. 21); The Ultimate Blues & Rock & Roll Party with The Carvin Jones Band (Oct. 6); [paloaltojcc.org](http://paloaltojcc.org).

**Shoreline Amphitheatre:** Kidz Bop Live (Sept. 2); Keith Urban (Sept. 3); El Puro Party (Sept. 4); Alice in Chains & Breaking Benjamin (Sept. 5); Imagine Dragons (Sept. 8); Sammy Hagar and the Circle & George Thorogood (Sept. 9); Morgan Wallen & Hardy (Sept. 16); Dave Matthews Band (Sept. 17); The Doobie Brothers (Sept. 27); Odesza (Sept. 30, Oct. 1); The Black Keys, Band of Horses and The Velvetears (Oct. 5); Rufus Du Sol (Oct. 7); Florence and The Machine (Oct. 9); Outlaw Music Festival: Willie Nelson, The Avett Brothers, Black Pumas and Larkin Poe (Oct. 14); [mountainviewamphitheater.com](http://mountainviewamphitheater.com).

**Earthwise Productions:** Johnny A (Sept. 9); Tammy Hall (Sept. 10); Steve Poltz (Sept. 28); Mads Tolling (Sept. 29); Marley’s Ghost (Oct. 7); [earthwiseproductions.live](http://earthwiseproductions.live).

**Redwood Symphony:** 38th Season Opener (Sept. 24); Halloween Family Concert 2022 (Oct. 30); The Heavenly Life (Nov. 19); Rendering Glass (Nov.



Pamela Walsh Gallery

**SPOTLIGHT:** California sculptor Bruce Beasley’s career spans six decades, and he has shown in more than 200 exhibitions around the globe. But come October, the best place to catch some of his recent work will be right here on the Peninsula, where his work, which explores the intersection of technology and fine art, might seem especially at home. Pamela Walsh Gallery hosts an exhibition of Beasley’s “Aeolis” sculptures and “Aurai” collages, which take inspiration from virtual reality. The exhibition is on view Oct. 15-Nov. 26.

20); [redwoodsymphony.org](http://redwoodsymphony.org).

**The Guild Theatre:** Pride & Joy (Aug. 26); Zepparella (Aug. 27); Riekes at the Guild Benefit Concert (Aug. 28); Yellowood Junction (Sept. 9); Super Diamond - The Neil Diamond Tribute (Sept. 10); Glen Phillips of Toad The Wet Sprocket (Sept. 16); The Blasters (Sept. 17); Adriana Calcanhotto (Sept. 20); Mustache Harbor (Sept. 23); The War and Treaty (Sept. 24); SuperBlue: Kurt Elling featuring Charlie Hunter (Sept. 27); Live Band Karaoke with Hair Supply (Sept. 30); The Wallflowers (Oct. 2-3; both dates sold out, waitlist available); Matt Nathanson (Oct. 6); Joe Pug (Oct. 15); Pink Talking Fish (Oct. 28); The Mother Hips (Oct. 29); Cool Water Canyon (Nov. 4); Lee Rocker of the Stray Cats (Nov. 12); Aaron Lee Tasjan (Nov. 17); Social Distortion (Nov. 18-22; all dates sold out, waitlist available); Terrapin Family Band featuring Eric Krasno and special guest Peter Rowan (Nov. 23) Watkins Family Hour (Dec. 2); Squirrel Nut Zippers Christmas Caravan (Dec. 10); [guildtheatre.com](http://guildtheatre.com).

**Palo Alto Philharmonic:** Baroque Concert (Sept. 10); Festive Dances (Oct. 22); Fall Chamber Concert (Nov. 12); Heinrich Schütz (Dec. 3 - Dec. 5); Glories of Nature (Dec. 10); [paphil.org](http://paphil.org).

**Schola Cantorum:** “Amor! (Nov. 4); A Celebration of Carols (Dec. 11); [schola-cantorum.org](http://schola-cantorum.org).

**Cal Bach Society:** Die Familie Bach (Oct. 8-10) Plaisirs Baroques (Oct. 15); Christmas in the British Isles (Dec. 3); [calbach.org](http://calbach.org).

**San Francisco Early Music Society:** Alkemie (Sept. 30); New Esterhazy Quartet (Nov. 4); [sfems.org](http://sfems.org).

**Music@Menlo:** “The End/So Beautiful and Free” focus residency with pianist Gilles Vonsattel (Dec. 2-3); [musicatmenlo.org](http://musicatmenlo.org).

**Nova Vista Symphony:** “Fate and Redemption” (Sept.

25); holiday concert (Dec. 3); [novavista.org](http://novavista.org).

**Mountain View Center for Performing Arts:** Soaring Dragon Endeavors’ “White Sky, Falling Dragon” (through Sept. 4); [mountainview.gov](http://mountainview.gov).

**Filoli: Sunset Session:** AJ Lee & Blue Summit (Sept. 14); [filoli.org](http://filoli.org).

See **LIVE AND IN PERSON**, page 22



Courtesy Enrico Riley

**SPOTLIGHT:** Created as a response to the murder of Eric Garner, “The Ritual of Breath Is the Rite to Resist” brings together music, imagery and movement in a new opera created in collaboration by Jonathan Berger, a composer and Stanford professor of music, and Enrico Riley, a painter and Dartmouth professor of studio arts, whose paintings are incorporated into the performance. Stanford Live and Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College co-commissioned the piece, which features a libretto by poet Vievee Francis and direction by Niegel Smith. The work takes the stage Oct. 14-15 at Stanford’s Bing Concert Hall.

## FALL ARTS PREVIEW

### A CLASS ACT

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relates to on a personal level.

"We have so much in common. When I was in high school I really had this big dream of becoming a big rock star, similar to Dewey Finn," he said. When that didn't pan out, Martinez found a creative outlet in theater, and then educational theater, including with TheatreWorks Silicon Valley.

While he said he brings a similar energy to the role as Black, "I think this musical does a very good job of adapting a lot of things from the movie but also

separating itself from it. A lot of the stuff that is naturally me comes out as me, rather than me trying to do a version of Jack Black," he said. "For me to just make it my own — a lot of things in the script let me do that."

Martinez admitted that having to play a big guitar solo onstage is "a little bit nerve-wracking," but he's enjoying blending his rock background with his dramatic one. "A lot of the things I've done in theater have been bolstered by the fact that I have this known musicality to me," he said.

He's also enjoying working with the rest of the cast, especially his young co-stars who, he

said, impress him not just with their talent but with their work ethic, patience and respectfulness. "You can trust these kids," he said (even when handing off his most precious guitar to them between scenes).

The 15 youth performers range in age from 10 to 14 and have been able to combine their musical and theatrical professionalism with good old-fashioned fun, Santana said, noting with a laugh that after a recent rehearsal at Lucie Stern Theater, "they all went to Rinconada Park and just goofed around for an hour on the playset, singing 'Stick it to the Man.'"

"Stick it to the Man," one of Dewey's lessons and one of the show's catchiest songs, is also part of one of Santana's favorite segments of the show, in which the kids and their rule-breaking teacher sneak off to audition for a battle of the bands.

"The joy of that song, the release of it, the sequence where they end up at the competition trying to convince the head of the competition to let them in, right now that's probably my favorite scene," he said. "It's a joy explosion."

And when Martinez was asked about his favorite moment, he named the finale, when Dewey

steps aside and lets the kids take over.

"It really gets me every time because it really is their show," he said, speaking like a true teacher. "Getting to see them do their thing and shine as bright as possible."

"School of Rock" runs Aug. 27 to Sept. 11 at the Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$30-\$60 (pick-your-price \$10-\$40 tickets available for the Aug. 26 preview performance). More information is available at [paplayers.org](http://paplayers.org). ■

Email Contributing Writer Karla Kane at [karlajkane@gmail.com](mailto:karlajkane@gmail.com).

### LIVE AND IN PERSON

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#### Dance

**Peninsula Ballet Theatre:** Gregory Amato's "Carmina Burana" (Sept. 24-25); Hip-Hop Halloween (Oct. 29-30); Nutcracker Sweets, abridged production for young families (Dec. 3-4); Classical Nutcracker (Dec. 16-17); Hip-Hop Nutcracker (Dec. 17-18); [peninsulaballet.org](http://peninsulaballet.org).

**Mountain View Center for Performing Arts:** Smuin Contemporary Ballet Series 1 (Sept. 16-18); Flamenco Society of San Jose's Festival Siempre Flamenco (Sept. 24); [mountainview.gov](http://mountainview.gov).

**Oshman Family JCC:** Bridgman | Packer Dance "Ghost Factory" (Nov. 5); [paloaltojcc.org](http://paloaltojcc.org).

**Stanford Live:** Circa — Leviathan (Sept. 30-Oct. 1); Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan (Oct. 6); Transverse Orientation (Dec. 9-10); [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu).

#### Theater & Opera

**Los Altos Stage Company:** "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" (Sept. 8-Oct. 2); "The Secret Garden" (Dec. 1-23); [losaltosstage.org](http://losaltosstage.org).

**Palo Alto Players:** "School of Rock - The Musical" (Aug. 26-Sept. 11); "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" (Nov. 4-20); [paplayers.org](http://paplayers.org).

**The Pear Theatre:** "Bull in a China Shop" (Sept. 9-Oct. 2) running in repertory with "Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties" (Sept. 9-Oct. 2); Silicon Valley Fringe Festival presented by Harmony Werx (November); "Frankie and Johnny in the



Courtesy Stefan Cohen

**SPOTLIGHT:** Peninsula Ballet Theatre is kicking off its season with a production on a scale that matches the epic quality of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana," with the world premiere Sept. 24-25 of a piece choreographed by artistic director Gregory Amato that was inspired by Orff's dramatic choral work. Lending their voices to the performance will be guest artists Masterworks Chorale, Ragazzi Boys Chorus, Pacific Sticks Percussion Ensemble, soprano Shannette Sulker, tenor Corey Head and conductor Dr. Bryan Baker.

Claire de Lune" (Dec. 1-18); [thepear.org](http://thepear.org).

**Peninsula Youth Theatre - Silicon Valley:** "The SpongeBob Musical" (Nov. 12-20); [pyt.net](http://pyt.net).org.

**Stanford Live:** "The Ritual of Breath Is the Rite to Resist," an opera in seven movements (Oct. 14-15); Why Not Theatre's "Prince Hamlet" (Oct. 27-28); [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu).

**TheatreWorks Silicon Valley:** "Hershey Felder: Chopin in Paris" (through Sept. 11); "Little Shop of Horrors" (Nov. 30-Dec. 24); [theatreworks.org](http://theatreworks.org).

**West Bay Opera:** La traviata (Oct. 14, Oct. 16, Oct. 22-23); [wbopera.org](http://wbopera.org).

**Upstage Theater:** "Lilacs in the Rain" (Oct. 21-23); [upstagetheater.net](http://upstagetheater.net).

#### Author Events

**Books Inc. Mountain View:** Chet Haase, "Androids: The Team that Built the Android Operating System" (Aug. 30); Ellen Barker, "East of Troost" (Sept. 6), Esther Erman, "Rebecca of Salerno" (Sept. 13), Rita Cameron, "The House Party" (Sept. 14); Tim McCanna, "Peach and Plum, Here We Come!" (Sept. 24); Amisha Gurbani, "Mumbai Modern" (Oct. 6); [booksinc.net/Peninsula-Books-Inc.Events](http://booksinc.net/Peninsula-Books-Inc.Events).

**Books Inc. Palo Alto:** Yogesh Soni, "Digital Belonging" (Sept. 22); Peter Gibb, "Mindful Conversation" (Oct. 4); Rick Glaze, "Spanish Pieces of Eight" (Oct. 5), Jennifer Chambliss Bertman and Sally Engelfried, "Sisterhood of Sleuths" (Oct. 8); Robin Chapman, "The Valley of Heart's Delight" (Oct. 15); Lisa L. Lewis and Sarah W. Jaffee, "The Sleep-Deprived Teen" and "Wanting What's Best" (Oct. 17); Bruce Overby "The Cyclone Release" (Nov. 15); [booksinc.net/Peninsula-Books-Inc.Events](http://booksinc.net/Peninsula-Books-Inc.Events).

**Kepler's Books:** Leila Mottley, "Nightcrawling" (Sept. 2); Keely Parrack in conversation with Stephanie Kuehn, "Don't Let in the Cold" (Sept. 6); Kalyn Josephson in conversation with Lisa Moore Ramée, "Ravenfall" (Sept. 8); Kerri Maniscalco, "Kingdom of the Feared" (Sept. 27); Veronica Roth, "Poster Girl" (Oct. 25); [keplers.org](http://keplers.org).

**Oshman Family JCC:** Robert Steinberg, "How Architecture Tells" (Nov. 3); Jodi Kantor, Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist and Author: "She Said" (Dec. 3); [paloaltojcc.org](http://paloaltojcc.org).

**Mountain View Library:** Dr. Michele Borba (Sept. 8); Simon Winchester (Sept. 20); Annalee Newitz (Sept. 22); Hernan Diaz (Sept. 27); Dr. Aziz Gazipura

(Oct. 13); Zain E. Asher (Oct. 18); Kate Quinn (Oct. 24); Lisa Napoli (Nov. 2); Bonnie Garmus (Nov. 10); [mountainview.libcal.com](http://mountainview.libcal.com).

**Palo Alto Library:** Conversation and Q&A with Joanna Ho (Aug. 27); [paloalto.bibliocommons.com](http://paloalto.bibliocommons.com).

#### Comedy

**Stanford Live:** Ana Gasteyer (Dec. 7); [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu).

**Mountain View Center for Performing Arts:** Socially Inept Roast of Silicon Valley (Sept. 9); [mountainview.gov](http://mountainview.gov).

**Fox Theatre:** Anjelah Johnson-Reyes (Aug. 26); [foxrwc.com](http://foxrwc.com).

#### Film

**Doc5 Film Festival** (The Guild Theatre, Menlo Park, Sept. 7); [guildtheatre.com](http://guildtheatre.com)

**Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival** (Held online Oct. 23-Nov. 6); [svjff.org](http://svjff.org).

**United Nations Association Film Festival** (Various venues in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Stanford and San Francisco, Oct. 20-30); [unaff.org](http://unaff.org). ■



Nelson Fitch

Author Veronica Roth discusses her book "Poster Girl" on Oct. 25 at Kepler's Books.

# Food & Drink

## What does the future hold for Manresa?

The local fine-dining scene sees another shake-up as chef David Kinch announces his departure

By Julia Brown

The chef behind one of the most renowned local fine-dining restaurants, David Kinch of the three-Michelin-starred Manresa in Los Gatos, announced in a surprise statement Monday morning that he is leaving his post at the end of 2022 to renew his focus on his more casual Bay Area establishments.

The news of Kinch's Dec. 31 departure comes a month after the restaurant celebrated its 20th anniversary with special tasting menus and a dinner collaboration with the highly acclaimed French chef Anne Sophie-Pic. Manresa is now planning a series of seasonal menus highlighting new dishes and classics from the past two decades leading up to the end of the year.

"I fell in love with cooking, restaurant culture, and the art of hospitality growing up in New Orleans," Kinch said in the statement. "From that point forward, I set my sights on creating a home in this industry, and it has been my sole focus ever since — often at the expense of cultivating other aspects of

my life, both professional and personal. For the past 20 years, Manresa has essentially been my whole life. And like all passion projects, it has been more challenging and more rewarding than I could have imagined.

"A three-Michelin-starred restaurant requires nothing less than your best," he continued. "One could always find me in the kitchen as I prided myself on and loved being a working chef, with our team, behind the stoves. This is back-breaking work that demands you show up at your fullest every day, no excuses. Starting Jan. 1, I hope to establish a new equilibrium, to focus on the next exciting chapter of my life. I'm looking forward to dedicating my professional efforts on The Bywater, Mentone, and Manresa Bread, and having the time and freedom to explore some exciting new pursuits, and revisit long-neglected passions."

Kinch added that he will be fielding offers for the business and the property at 320 Village Lane in Los Gatos, leaving the future of the landmark restaurant uncertain beyond 2022 as the Peninsula fine-dining scene

continues to shift following the onset of the pandemic. He could not immediately be reached for an interview due to travel. In an Instagram post, Manresa said, "We look forward to continuing our collaboration with him as we hope to begin a new chapter for Manresa on Jan. 1 under Partner Jenny Yun."

Kinch's departure to focus on his more casual restaurants follows a trend among Peninsula fine-dining establishments to shift toward casual. Palo Alto's Baumé forfeited two Michelin stars and pivoted to the more relaxed Bistronomie by Baumé earlier this year, and Rasa in Burlingame gave up a Michelin star to reopen as the more casual concept Saffron in June. Both Saffron chef Ajay Walia and Bistronomie by Baumé chef Bruno Chemel said in interviews with the Peninsula Foodist that the luxury and demands affiliated with a Michelin-starred restaurant no longer fit for them, adding that pandemic pressures such as cost hikes also factored into their decisions.

Manresa was among several Peninsula fine-dining restaurants that offered takeout early on in the pandemic, providing patrons with a takeout menu for over a year. Manresa typically



David Kinch

Courtesy Chris Schmauch



Courtesy Crystal Birns

Manresa chef David Kinch is leaving the restaurant at the end of the year to focus on his more casual local restaurants, including Manresa Bread.

offers a nightly seasonal tasting menu priced at \$325 to \$425 a person.

"A lot of our (takeout) menus weren't expensive menus, they were everyday menus for everybody on a Tuesday or Thursday — not just a special occasion," Kinch told the Peninsula Foodist in December 2021. "I think people appreciated that. People were coming on a regular basis."

Asked at the time about the future of fine dining given the upheaval caused by COVID, Kinch said, "I think that what fine dining is truly all about is to offer a truly stellar experience. Fine dining is not going to go away. There's always going to be people who demand this type of experience, but there are things that are going to have to change. We're starting to see that now."

Manresa also experienced adversity pre-pandemic, closing temporarily twice in four years after fires in 2014 and 2018.

Despite the setbacks the restaurant has received a lengthy list of accolades and awards, making it a fine-dining destination for locals and visitors alike. Manresa has received three Michelin stars for six consecutive years, and Kinch has been named James Beard Foundation's Best Chef: Pacific and was recognized by Le Chef as one of the top 10 chefs worldwide.

The Manresa name branched out in recent years as Avery Ruzicka, who took a job at Manresa as a food runner before

becoming head baker after a year, launched the first spinoff bakery Manresa Bread in Los Gatos in 2015. The eatery took off and has since expanded to Los Altos, Campbell and Palo Alto.

Manresa reservations are available through the end of November on Tock, with December spots coming soon.

Manresa, 320 Village Lane, Los Gatos; 408-354-4330. Instagram: @manresarestaurant.

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Courtesy Marc Fiorito

Over its 20-year history, Manresa has become known for its seasonal tasting menus with a focus on fresh local ingredients.

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