

# The Almanac

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

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## East Palo Alto's first permanent dance studio opens its doors

Mannakin Theater and Dance follows equity mission while enriching local community

By Jonas Pao

Behind the doors of a former East Palo Alto church at 1841 Bay Road, three rows of young dancers in yellow leotards and skirts, their hair loosely pulled up in buns or pig-tails, jump across the dance floor while mimicking the instructor's every move. The room rings with the occasional sound of music, punctuated by the instructor's directions and reminders to keep quiet, as the children concentrate on honing their ballet skills.

This is a scene repeated almost daily at Mannakin Theater and Dance company's new En Avant School of Dance, which opened its doors as the first permanent ballet studio in East Palo Alto's history in March after operating in various makeshift studio spaces in the city for nearly five years.

Dancer-choreographer Nathan Cottam, who founded Mannakin Theater and Dance in San

Francisco in 2013 to expand the world of performing arts to new demographics, said he wants to plant permanent roots in East Palo Alto because he recognizes a strong demand for dance in a place where there has been virtually no opportunity for ballet.

"Since the moment that we opened the (new) school, the parents are like, 'OK, well, are we going to be here next month?'" Cottam said. "I'm like, 'Yeah, we're gonna be here from now on. We're here. This is our place.'"

Cottam hopes the dance school will be a cultural hub for many years to come, just as the Baptist church that formerly occupied the site served as a gathering place for the community for more than two decades.

The new center for dance is already home to around 100 youth, and Cottam expects that



Magali Gauthier

Ballet students line up against the wall in a class for 6- to 8-year-olds at Mannakin Theater and Dance company's new En Avant School of Dance in East Palo Alto on Sept. 7.

See **DANCE STUDIO**, page 17

## Menlo Park school board declines to oppose Measure V

Initiative aims to preserve single-family zoning by stripping City Council of authority

By Angela Swartz

In a divided decision, the Menlo Park City School District Board of Trustees will not stake out a position against a citizen-sponsored ballot initiative that seeks to take away the Menlo Park City Council's authority to rezone any properties that are currently zoned for single-family housing.

Measure V, also known as the Menlo Balance initiative, is on the Nov. 8 ballot. Proponents of the bill say that it will keep streets safer from increased traffic and force developers to work with residents.

Critics say the bill could heavily delay the development of affordable housing and prevent Menlo Park from reaching its

state-mandated housing goals. It would put up roadblocks to future projects, specifically renovations to the Menlo Park Fire Protection District's Station 1 on Middlefield Road and developing the vacant Flood School campus for teacher and staff housing.

The majority of trustees said they worried about alienating community members over the controversial measure, even if they are personally against the initiative. Board President Scott Saywell said there is "politicization of school boards across this country and it's not good." With three out of the five board members clearly against the idea of formally opposing Measure V, Trustee Francesca Segrè withdrew a resolution that would

have taken a stance against the initiative.

Trustee Stacey Jones said Measure V is "thorny and complicated" and the resolution risks "serious damage to our relationship with the community," and "pitting parent against parent." Trustee Sherwin Chen agreed.

The proposed resolution urged Menlo Park voters "to reject any measure that would seek to limit the ability of city planners and elected leaders to expand access to affordable housing, thereby allowing Menlo Park to be a place where all members of our community are valued and may live, work, and thrive."

Trustee Dave Ackerman supported the resolution and said it's important to remember that based on the Tinsley program,

the district is obligated, under a court order, to take reasonable, feasible measures to remove the effects of segregation.

**'We missed a chance to be courageous and show our children the difference between upstanders and bystanders.'**

FRANCESCA SEGRÈ,  
MPCSD BOARD MEMBER

The Tinsley program came as the result of a lawsuit filed in 1976 by parents in the Ravenswood City School District and neighboring districts. The suit

was settled in 1985 by requiring Peninsula school districts to transfer some minority students from the Ravenswood district into their districts each year. The Peninsula districts include Menlo Park, Las Lomitas, Woodside, Portola Valley, Palo Alto, Belmont-Redwood Shores and San Carlos.

A July report from the city says that if it passes, the ballot measure will put the largest number of units in the most marginalized communities.

"The single-family districts are predominantly white, with the exception of the Belle Haven neighborhood," according to the July report. "The ballot measure would effectively prohibit

See **MEASURE V**, page 10

INSIDE

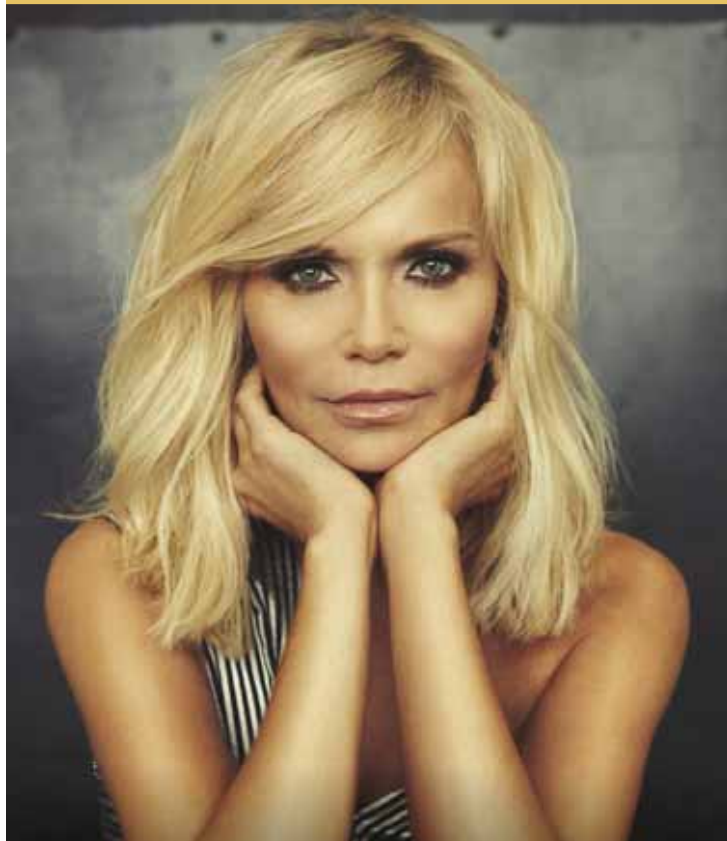
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# Local News

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Courtesy Devin Roberts

## Are you my mother?

It's feeding time for baby birds that are under the care of wildlife rescuers. Looking after everything from injured skunks to orphaned ducks takes a lot of work. Go behind the scenes with the staff at the Wildlife Care Center at the Peninsula Humane Society in Burlingame and the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley in San Jose to hear about their efforts to help all manner of furred and feathered critters in the story that starts on page 12.

## Prosecutors: Samurai sword likely used in 'shocking' killing of San Carlos woman

Karina Castro was a former Menlo-Atherton student and mother of two

By Michelle Iracheta

A young mother who was nearly decapitated on the street in front of her San Carlos apartment Sept. 8 was likely killed with a samurai sword, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

Authorities alleged that Karina Castro, 27, died after 33-year-old Jose Raphael Solano Landaeta, who is Castro's ex-boyfriend, used the sword, "slashing numerous times causing the victim's head to be almost severed."

Castro attended Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton between 2009 and 2011 before getting a GED.

The attack occurred around 11:40 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 8, in the area of Magnolia Avenue and Laurel Street near downtown San Carlos in front of multiple witnesses on the street.

Landaeta of Hayward is alleged to have then walked away from

the scene and placed the bloody sword in his car, which was parked two blocks away, according to the district attorney's office.

When San Mateo County Sheriff's Office deputies arrived, they found Castro dead on the street and arrested Landaeta, who is said to have returned to the scene shortly afterward. He has been charged with murder.

In a press conference Sept. 8, Sheriff's Office Lt. Eamonn Allen said that investigators had confirmed that a "stabbing instrument" had been the weapon that was used in the killing. That "stabbing instrument" has now been identified as a samurai sword.

Allen said that due to the "shocking nature" of the scene, deputies who first arrived "were a little beset by it." He added that the county would be providing them and witnesses at the scene with counseling services.

Landaeta, who has a history of

mental illness, was supposed to be arraigned in court on Monday, Sept. 12, but his defense attorney asked a judge to allow a doctor to examine his client's mental fitness and whether he was competent to stand trial. Criminal proceedings have been suspended, and a pair of doctors were appointed to report on Landaeta's competency, which could take up to 10 weeks, according to the district attorney's office. Landaeta's case has been continued to Nov. 14.

In the meantime, the court has issued a protective order against Landaeta to have no contact with Castro's two children, ages 7 and 18 months.

On Friday, Sept. 9, San Carlos Mayor Sara McDowell was joined by the City Council to express their "deepest condolences" to the two young children.

"Yesterday, our community was shocked by the tragic murder of a

## Sheriff's lawyer calls Batmobile probe 'a waste of taxpayers' money'

County is investigating raid on custom car builder following complaint by Atherton resident

By Leah Worthington

As the investigation continues into the now notorious "Batmobile" case, the attorney hired to represent outgoing Sheriff Carlos Bolanos is alleging that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has interfered with the legal authority of its district attorney's and sheriff's offices.

The board last month contracted with former Alameda County Superior Court Judge Winifred Smith to conduct an independent probe into Bolanos's sanctioned raid of an Indiana businessman who makes and sells 1966-era Batmobiles, and the subsequent criminal charges brought by District Attorney Stephen Wagstaffe's office.

The board also asked the State Attorney General to begin an inquiry into the criminal investigation and prosecution of the car-maker.

James Touchstone, a lawyer representing Bolanos, called the county's investigation "politically minded" and "a waste of taxpayer money."

"I question the timing of the so-called investigation into the sheriff's activities when we still have a pending investigation," he said. "To me, it appears to be designed to back the sheriff and the DA off from this case, which is improper."

Touchstone said Bolanos had been "very forthcoming" and cited an Aug. 8 letter Bolanos

sent to the entire sheriff's office detailing his involvement in and reasons for pursuing the case.

In contrast, he accused the county of ignoring his request for information and cited a Sept. 1 letter sent to County Attorney John Nibbelin, in which Touchstone wrote that the "legal basis for such an investigation has not been disclosed to Sheriff Bolanos."

Nibbelin disagreed with Touchstone's characterization.

"There's nothing the investigation would do that would result in any kind of interference with the sheriff's investigatory authority under California law," he said, adding that state law permits some oversight of law enforcement activity. "We're not trying to undo or derail or shape the investigation but to understand how we got to where we are."

ABC7's I-Team broke the story in late July, reporting that Atherton realtor Sam Anagnostou had recruited the sheriff to investigate an alleged "theft by false pretense" after delivery of the \$210,000 Batmobile that he ordered was delayed. Mark Racop, the Batmobile maker and owner of Fiberglass Freaks, in Logansport, Indiana, said that Anagnostou did not complete a payment and stopped communicating for several months.

In August, facing an investigation led by Judge Smith, Bolanos sought permission from the

See **BATMOBILE**, page 16



Courtesy Fiberglass Freaks

A dispute over an order for a replica of a vintage Batmobile led San Mateo County Sheriff's deputies to raid an Indiana business.

See **KILLING**, page 11



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#### CRIME BRIEFS

### Firearms, drugs seized in search of EPA home

Menlo Park police took four people into custody Monday, Sept. 12, following a search of an East Palo Alto home that allegedly had firearms, narcotics, marijuana, counterfeit currency and fireworks.

Police said in a statement that officers spotted a “person of interest” — currently on parole and known from prior law enforcement action — sitting in a vehicle outside of a house on the 100 block of Donohoe Street on the morning of Sept. 12. Police said they were aware that one person in the home had an outstanding arrest warrant for weapons and narcotics-related offenses.

After the occupant of the vehicle entered the home, officers searched the residence and found firearms, narcotics, marijuana, counterfeit currency and fireworks, according to police. The person of interest was found hiding in the basement, and a “female juvenile runaway” in the home was found and reunited with her mother, police said.

Two East Palo Alto residents, ages 25 and 20, were arrested and booked into San Mateo County jail on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance for sale; possession of marijuana for sale; possession of dangerous fireworks; possession of counterfeit items and conspiracy to commit a crime. A third resident, 29, was issued a citation for unlawful storage of firearms.

A 19-year-old transient was also arrested and booked into county jail for an outstanding warrant.

The 25-year-old man arrested in the incident is also facing seven outstanding arrest warrants, police said.

### Motorcyclist hospitalized following accident in La Honda

A motorcycle accident in La Honda on Highway 84 and Hildebrand Road on Saturday, Sept. 10 sent a motorcyclist over the hillside, falling 100 feet down into a creek before rescue efforts began. The San Mateo County Fire Department and Cal Fire CZU used a rope rescue system to bring the victim up the hill.

The victim was airlifted to a hospital with life-threatening injuries, and no updates were available on their condition.

### Menlo Park resident arrested for child pornography

Menlo Park Police arrested 77-year-old Dennis Davis Terry in connection with an ongoing child pornography case.

In July, the Menlo Park Police Department Investigations Division received a tip from the Silicon Valley Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force that led them to view Terry as a suspect. Terry was taken into custody Sept. 14 and served with three search warrants that led to the recovery of evidence, police said.

He was booked into San Mateo County Main Jail on suspicion of felony possession of obscene matter. Police said they are working to identify other individuals involved.

—Cameron Rebosio

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 11

#### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Caltrain boosts weekday evening service to meet higher demand

In an effort to meet the riding demand of commuters using public transit, Caltrain switched to a new schedule on Sept. 12 that decreases the wait times for riders transferring from BART.

Announced on Sept. 7, BART riders transferring in Millbrae will soon only have to wait nine to 16 minutes to hop on Caltrain. Trains running after 7 p.m. will have a longer travel time by 13 minutes as crews work to electrify the rail service.

The schedule also ensures that two trains stop at the South San Francisco Station every hour during peak commute times, as the station has seen the highest rates of ridership growth since the pandemic.

More trains will also stop at San Francisco's 22nd Street Station during morning and evening commute times.

More information on Caltrain's train service times can be found at [caltrain.com](http://caltrain.com).

—Bay City News Service

## Menlo Park council: Remove street parking along Middle Avenue

A pilot project would also add a new four-way stop and close Middle's Blake Street intersection

By Cameron Rebosio

The Menlo Park City Council, at its Sept. 13 meeting, signaled it wants to remove street parking from both sides of Middle Avenue.

Amid increased worry about the safety of bicyclists, Menlo Park city staff proposed making changes to Middle Avenue to prevent accidents, including those caused by people in parked cars suddenly opening their doors. Staff asked the council for direction on adding several safety measures for bikers and pedestrians to Middle Avenue, and to adopt a resolution that would remove parking from one side of Middle Avenue, install a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Middle Avenue and San Mateo Drive and temporarily close Blake Street to vehicle traffic at Middle Avenue.

The council elected not to pass the resolution and instead directed city staff to return with a new resolution that creates a pilot program removing parking from both sides of the entire length of Middle Avenue, with the exception of some parallel parking in front of Nealon Park.

Maia Wolff, a resident of Middle Avenue, voiced concerns that residents weren't being listened to.

"Only three people who actually live on (Middle Avenue) were aware enough to get involved in the discussion, and everybody who lives on the street who commented is very clearly against elimination of parking," Wolff said. "(This) tells you that there's some sort of mismatch of desires here. It would affect us greatly... Essentially making us bear the brunt of the rest of this project is probably worth considering."

Council member Drew Combs shared the concerns about hearing from residents, suggesting that staff could go door-to-door on Middle Avenue to ask their opinions.

Council member Jen Wolosin said she went out and took pictures of children on bikes down Middle Avenue and the way that car doors and oncoming traffic posed a threat to kids riding to school, especially those who ride side-by-side.

In the end, the council opted for a pilot program, giving the city the opportunity to gauge the effect on residents and on bicyclists before making any

permanent changes.

"There should be opportunities for observation and measurement of what's going on on the side streets, the people living on Middle (Avenue), if it's really and going from an inconvenience to a hardship," Wolosin said.

City staff was directed to return with a new resolution that would authorize a pilot program removing parking from both sides of Middle Avenue, except for parallel parking in the area in front of Nealon Park. The new resolution would also close Blake Street at Middle Avenue, add a four-way stop sign at Middle Avenue and San Mateo Drive, and put adding a sidewalk on the south of Middle Avenue into the city's five-year Capital Improvement Program.

The new bike lanes on Middle Avenue are expected to be wider, with buffer zones separating them from traffic. Details about the bike lanes and pilot program won't be available until city staff returns with a resolution. A date for that has not yet been set. ■

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

## Details emerge on Menlo Park council's failed attempt to keep Measure V off the ballot

A compromise deal on the former Flood School site was discussed

By Cameron Rebosio

The Menlo Park City Council failed to reach a compromise on a teacher housing proposal at the former Flood School site at a closed session meeting on Aug. 4. As a result, backers did not agree to pull a contentious citywide initiative from the Nov. 8 ballot.

The meeting agenda said the council met privately, rather than during a public meeting, to discuss threats of litigation. Sources confirmed to The Almanac that the meeting included a discussion of the compromise.

Central to the deal was the Ravenswood City School District's proposal to redevelop its vacant 2.6-acre school campus with up to 90 units of affordable workforce housing.

The former school property, which is zoned for single-family housing, has been met with a wave of objections by residents

of the surrounding neighborhood. Suburban Park residents created the group Menlo Balance and spearheaded a ballot measure to take away the City Council's ability to allow anything denser than single family homes on the Flood campus, or on any other lot with single-family zoning in Menlo Park.

Council member Drew Combs confirmed that he had worked to reach a compromise with interested parties, with the goal of getting Menlo Balance to pull its ballot initiative, Measure V.

Nicole Chessari of Menlo Balance said she never saw a formal version of the compromise plan from Combs.

Chessari said that any proposal she would've agreed to would have capped the Flood project at a maximum of 60 units and added a secondary access road on the Flood School lot — the single access point and number of units have been a cornerstone of the neighborhood

objections. According to Chessari, the compromise also would require single-family lots that don't already have a home on them, identified on the City Council's list of so-called non-residential parcels suitable for development, be put to a city-wide popular vote in order to be rezoned. Those 53 lots identified as having development potential would have to be reevaluated, and the revised list would only include those that do not already have single-family homes or sit in the middle of single-family neighborhoods.

A caveat that was important to Menlo Balance was also making at least 50% of the units guaranteed for teachers at the old Flood School lot. Currently, no developer has signed on, but Ravenswood officials have stated their intent to give school district staff priority for the affordable housing units.

See **FLOOD SCHOOL**, page 14

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Depositing Funds Into Escrow

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Francis B.

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# A master 'turn'

Cuban choreographer Osnel Delgado premieres a new work with Smuin Ballet

By Heather Zimmerman

The past couple years may have often felt like life was going in circles, but “The Turntable,” a new work making its world premiere with Smuin Contemporary Ballet, is quite the opposite, spinning into new territory for the company

The piece, created for the company by Cuban dancer and choreographer Osnel Delgado, comes to the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts Sept. 16-18 as part of Smuin’s fall program, “Dance Series 1.” The program also includes the spirited Smuin favorite “Take Five” set to the music of Dave Brubeck and choreographed by former company member Rex Wheeler, and the heartfelt “Requiem for

a Rose” by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, set to Schubert’s string adagio from the Quintet in C.

A major theme of “The Turntable” is highlighting connections, Delgado said in an interview. “This work, for me, connects people — not only in the audience but also with dancers,” he said, noting that his work with the Smuin company dancers, sharing experiences in rehearsal, is built into the piece.

“So ‘The Turntable’ is like the search for let’s say, the love or character or person that takes you out of your comfort area, to find new things. Each (music) track is like a situation and each dancer goes through different things trying to reconnect themselves during the journey,” he said.

Delgado’s style meshes well with the company’s ethos, established by late founder Michael Smuin, whose choreography incorporated diverse styles with classical ballet, noted Smuin Artistic Director Celia Fushille.

“My dancers are classically trained and so although Osnel has a ballet background as well, this piece is quite contemporary. And then there are also some Afro Cuban rhythms, some salsa rhythms, rumba and a little bit of social dances, which was also something consistent with Smuin Ballet: Michael loved to draw on many different dance styles in his choreography. But this work is much more contemporary,” she said.

Fushille said that physically, the dancers must move and hold themselves very differently in performing “The Turntable.”

“They have to be much more grounded and use the pliÉ quite a bit. It’s different than in ballet, where everything is very often



Courtesy Chris Hardy

Choreographer Osnel Delgado is based in Havana, Cuba, where he is founder and artistic director of Malpaso Dance Company.

held up. And this is much more relaxed — the upper body is much more relaxed — and yet it takes a critical core strength to do this kind of dancing,” she said.

The piece draws on a wide range of music and highlights some Cuban composers and musicians. The soundtrack features two very different works by Kronos Quartet, the tense, haunting “Tashweesh” — a collaboration with Ramallah Underground — and the bass-heavy, Latin-inflected “El Sinaloense;” as well as the moody, mysterious “Los pasos perdidos, II: Largo viaje hacia la noche” by

Cuban composer and classical guitarist Leo Brouwer; the free-spirited jazz of saxophonist Kenny Garrett’s “Wayne’s Thang” arranged and performed by Cuban violinist William Roblejo and the big band sound of Alfredo Gil’s “En las Tinieblas (Bolero)” arranged and recorded by Miguel de Gonzalo & Aldeamaro Romero Y Su Orquesta.

Delgado also recorded some voiceovers and Daniela Miralles, one of the dancers from Delgado’s own company, recorded a cappella vocals for the soundtrack.

See **SMUIN BALLET**, page 17

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## 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)

BELLA'S GLASS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292106  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Bella's Glass, located at 261 Chestnut Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306, Santa Clara County.  
Registered owner(s):  
RAMON MAZA  
261 Chestnut Ave.  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
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 September 8, 2022.  
(ALM Sep. 16, 23, 30; Oct. 7, 2022)

MAMI CHELI'S TACOS & PUPUSAS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292102  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Mami Cheli's Tacos & Pupusas, located at 991 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
MAMI CHELI'S TACOS & PUPUSAS LLC  
989 El Camino Real #2  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
CA  
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/07/2022. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 7, 2022.  
(ALM Sep. 16, 23, 30; Oct. 7, 2022)

SIGMA STONE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292096  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Sigma Stone, located at 2370 Cooley Ave., Apt. 36, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
MIGUEL ANGEL PADRON  
2370 Cooley Ave., Apt. 36  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 7, 2022.  
(ALM Sep. 16, 23, 30; Oct. 7, 2022)

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



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**MEASURE V**

*continued from page 1*

new affordable housing units in single-family areas. Affordable units will then have to be located elsewhere in the city including in the bayfront area near Belle Haven which has the most capacity for affordable units because of higher existing densities.

“The ballot measure can then be seen to continue the same cycle of putting the highest densities and most affordable units in the area of the community that is predominately lower income, marginalized, and communities of color,” the report said.

Segrè said the board “had a real opportunity in front of it last night — to make good on our prior (anti-racist resolution) that said we wanted to take action to undo structural inequalities.”

“It’s unfortunate, that together

we were not able to convert our own words into meaningful action,” she said in a Friday, Sept. 9, email. “We missed a chance to be courageous and show our children the difference between upstanders and bystanders.”

Ackerman was more blunt: “The first time we had to stand up to something about race, we (the board) couldn’t do it,” he said.

**Divisive response to the resolution**

District community members passionately for and against the resolution spoke at the meeting.

As of Wednesday, 232 MPCSD parents, students and constituents have signed an online letter urging the MPCSD board to take a position opposing Measure V.

Jennifer Schindler, a district parent and Menlo Park resident, said the board had the chance to be “role models for our children,

not bystanders.”

District reading specialist Jacqui Cebrian told the board to rise above the fray and oppose Measure V.

Melissa Cole, a Suburban Park neighborhood resident, questioned why the district is involving itself in issues other than educating children.

“Is it your role to concern yourself about land use and rezoning?” she asked.

Others urged the board to keep its focus on students and not land use planning.

**Inception of Measure V**

The Flood School site has become a cornerstone of the fight between proponents and opponents of Measure V, despite the bill’s citywide effects. There has been heavy debate over a proposal by the Ravenswood City School District to build 90 units of affordable housing for teachers at the vacant campus,

which is located in an area zoned for single-family homes and would be directly impacted by the measure. The district is looking to lease the site to develop for staff housing.

Opponents of the Flood site project contend that the district has not explicitly spelled out in its request for proposals that the proposed units would be designated for teachers and staff. The district has stated that they have enough teachers and staff members who want it to fill the units, and that it wouldn’t make sense to leave units vacant if they don’t fill homes with district staff.

**Neighboring district’s resolutions**

The Ravenswood City School District governing board passed a resolution in early August opposing Measure V.

“This board believes that this same initiative would run afoul of the district’s anti-racist

commitments because, as the impartial analysis of this initiative notes, the initiative would continue ‘the same cycle of putting the highest densities and most affordable units in the area of the community that is predominately lower income, marginalized, and communities of color,’ specifically in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park,” the resolution states.

A recent district survey showed that just one-third of district staff report having a “safe, secure, and affordable housing option” and 43% are considering leaving district employment due to their housing situation.

The Las Lomitas Elementary School District is set to consider a similar resolution at its Oct. 5 meeting.

At a Wednesday, Sept. 7, Las Lomitas Elementary School District board meeting, trustees Heather Hopkins and Molly Finn expressed strong support for taking a stand against Measure V.

Hopkins said that since the Las Lomitas district falls within Menlo Park, properties in the city that could provide housing for teachers or staffers would be affected by the measure. For example, it could make it much more difficult to develop housing on properties within district boundaries that are zoned for single family housing, like St. Bede’s Episcopal or St. Denis Catholic churches.

“Our No. 1 resource in this school district is our staff and our number one issue is housing,” Hopkins said. “This measure would put another barrier in front of building more multifamily housing. In my mind you can’t decouple housing and our housing shortage and what we’ve heard from our staff. Cost of living is so high staff have to live an hour or more away, oftentimes.”

Trustee Gautam Nadella said it feels a little awkward to take a position on what a church could do with its property.

“There’s just a lot of uncertainty about what we can actually do to benefit (the housing) problems like providing a material amount of housing,” he said.

Hopkins noted that the Ravenswood school board stepped outside of its usual boundaries because members feel this issue is so important.

They directed staff to bring a resolution to the board next month for consideration. Hopkins said that waiting a month gives the community a chance to chime in on if it’s something the board should weigh in on. ■

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



KENSINGTON SENIOR LIVING PRESENTS

**A Conversation with Patti Davis, Daughter of President Ronald Reagan**  
*Reflections & Guidance from a Caregiver’s Journey with Alzheimer’s*  
**Thursday, September 22nd • 3pm-4pm PDT • via Zoom**

**A**t Kensington Senior Living, we promise to “love and care for your family as we do our own.” And that includes you. We remain accessible to residents and their families for information, advice, a compassionate ear, and hugs of comfort if needed. We also partner with others who bring fresh perspective and supportive wisdom about changing family dynamics, navigating transitions, and self-care.

**This September, we are pleased to host an intimate conversation with Patti Davis, the daughter of President Ronald Reagan.** Patti will discuss her ten-year journey as a family caregiver and how it inspired her two most well-known books *Floating in the Deep End: How Caregivers Can See Beyond Alzheimer’s* (2021) and *The Long Goodbye: Memories of My Father* (2004).

Listen in as Patti shares personal insight and advice for fellow caregivers, drawing from her own experiences and from the caregiver support group she founded, Beyond Alzheimer’s. Marianne Sciucco, Founder of AlzAuthors, joins in the conversation as well.

**Please RVSP, and plan on joining us via Zoom.**



**Patti Davis**  
 Actress, author, activist, advocate and daughter of United States President Ronald Reagan



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**KILLING**

*continued from page 5*

young mother in our community. Thanks to the quick reaction by neighbors calling 911, San Carlos deputies were able to quickly respond and immediately take a suspect into custody. It appears the victim and the suspect knew each other.”

The city of San Carlos and the Community Foundation are partnering to accept and hold in trust donations for the future benefit of Castro’s children.

“As we mourn together and process this event as a

community, please remember to take care of yourself, and to check in on your neighbors and loved ones. There is no doubt that the resilience and heart of the City of Good Living will shine through the darkness of this tragedy.”

Anyone with information about the case is asked to contact Det. Brandt at 650-333-8195 or dbrandt@smcgov.org. ■

*Email Editor Michelle Iracheta at miracheta@rwcpulse.com. Staff Writer Leah Worthington and Bay City News Service contributed to this report.*

**CRIME BRIEFS**

*continued from page 6*

**Sheriff’s office investigating armed robbery on Sharon Road**

The San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office is investigating an armed robbery and assault that occurred last week.

On Thursday, Sept. 8, at 8:10 p.m., deputies responded to the 2000 block of Sharon Road in unincorporated San Mateo County on a report of an armed robbery that had just occurred.

Deputies said a man armed with a gun approached the victim, pointed it at the victim and demanded the victim hand over all of his personal belongings.

The suspect took the victim’s wallet, cellphone, Rolex watch and keys.

The suspect then got into a light-colored SUV with

another suspect inside and fled the scene.

Deputies identified the first suspect as an African American man wearing a red bandanna. There was another man in the vehicle, but no description was available.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office Anonymous Tip Line at 1-800-547-2700.

—Bay City News Service

**OBITUARIES**

Local residents who died recently include **Joan Derry**, 88, a former Menlo Park resident, on Sept. 4; and **Yvonne Lynch**, 85, an Atherton resident, on July 20.

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

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**LOS ALTOS**

**815 Hierra Court \$3,988,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3.5BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**MENLO PARK**

**1326 Hoover Street \$1,988,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 2BD/2BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-785-5822

**1489 Woodland Ave. \$3,995,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/3.5BA  
Compass 650-814-0478

**MOUNTAIN VIEW**

**400 Del Medio Ave. (C) \$1,180,000**  
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JLee Realty 650-857-1000

**1350 Phyllis Avenue \$2,288,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-785-5822

**PALO ALTO**

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Coldwell Banker Realty 650-380-9898

**3773 Redwood Circle \$2,788,000**  
Sat 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA  
Coldwell Banker Realty 650-380-9898

**2160 Newell Road \$3,688,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/2BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

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

**875 Rorke Way \$2,488,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**PORTOLA VALLEY**

**177 Alamos Road \$8,995,000**  
Sun 2:00-4:00 2BD/3BA  
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate  
Sotheby’s International Realty 650-485-3476

**246 La Cuesta Dr. Call for price**  
Sun 1:00-4:00 4BD/3.5BA  
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate  
Sotheby’s International Realty 650-485-3476

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

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**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY NOTICE OF TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** on the following:

APPEAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION DECISION TO DENY AN APPEAL OF AN ARCHITECTURAL AND SITE CONTROL COMMISSION DECISION TO APPROVE AN ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW AND SITE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A NEW RESIDENCE WITH DETACHED GARAGE, DETACHED ADU, POOL AND LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS; 1195 WESTRIDGE DRIVE; FILE #PLN\_ARCH0002-2022; PURSUANT TO PORTOLA VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 18.78.

This project has been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 (a), which exempts the construction of one single family residence in a residential zone.

**This will be a hybrid meeting, held at the Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028, and virtually via Zoom. The Zoom meeting details will be published on the September 28, 2022 agenda.**

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 [planning@portolavalley.net](mailto:planning@portolavalley.net) by 12:00 PM on the day of 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.

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/town-council/minutes-and-agendas>.

Dated: September 8, 2022

Melissa Thurman, MMC  
Town Clerk

**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. The Town Council is conducting hybrid meetings. Members of the public may attend the meeting in person or by video or phone.

# PENINSULA WILDLIFE RESCUE WORKERS HAVE SEEN IT ALL

MEET THE PEOPLE WHO SPECIALIZE  
IN HELPING EVERYTHING FROM  
PARALYZED SEAGULLS TO SKUNKS  
CAUGHT IN BEAR TRAPS

STORY BY KATE BRADSHAW | PHOTOS BY DEVIN ROBERTS



Opossums like this one are among the roughly 1,400 wild animals rescued each year by the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA's Wildlife Care Center in Burlingame.

Orphaned baby songbirds and poisoned seagulls. Small squirrels snapped up by cats. Skunks caught in bear traps. Wild animals in trouble like these throughout the Peninsula may — if they're lucky — eventually find their way to one of a handful of wildlife rescue centers around the region.

Facilities like the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA's Wildlife Care Center in Burlingame and the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley in San Jose are home to a dedicated team of staffers and volunteers who take on the daunting task of nursing these sick, injured and orphaned animals back to health and releasing them back into the wild.

These centers cumulatively serve thousands of wild animals

across dozens of species every year and work to mimic the natural environments these animals are accustomed to. But every year, the organizations also encounter animals that are "over-rescued" by well-meaning residents who mistakenly think they've been abandoned.

This news organization recently went behind the scenes of these wildlife centers to learn more about wild animal caretaking and what these organizations wish people knew about how to coexist with their non-human neighbors.

Burlingame's Wildlife Care Center is housed in a section of the Peninsula Humane Society's animal shelter that's off-limits to the public. Nestled behind the rooms where kittens, dogs, bunnies and reptiles are on display for adoption, the Wildlife

Care Center is home to a rooftop labyrinth of enclosures containing a wide range of wild creatures, all busy recovering or growing and preparing to return to their native habitats throughout the region.

While San Mateo County provides funding for animal rescue, the center's wildlife operations, which serve roughly 1,400 wild animals each year, are privately funded, according to Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA communications manager Buffy Martin-Tarbox.

For wildlife technician Charlotte Patterson, this particular role is a dream job because it lets a zoology major like her both provide care to animals and pay the bills, she said.

While songbirds are among the most common residents at the center, other patients

include opossums, hawks, owls, squirrels, ducks, skunks and raccoons. The center's population throughout the year mirrors animals' life cycles, with the busy season generally lasting through the spring and summer through two birth cycles for squirrels and one for most birds.

Many of the injuries the animals sustain can be cared for with basic support like anti-inflammatory medication, rest and recovery, said Martin-Tarbox.

The center provides time for baby animals that have been abandoned to grow up, stepping in to help feed them and make sure they don't have any diseases before they are released into the wild.

"We are here for wild animals," Martin-Tarbox said.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

Starting out her shift, Patterson expertly navigates the corridors between the animal enclosures, checking in on the worm-eating birds first because they have very fast metabolisms and need to be fed, she explains.

Then she moves on to feeding the squirrels a mix of the more healthy "rodent block" that provides nutrients, and a seed-and-nut mix they favor that's considered their junk food.

Next she checks in on an owl, which is fed mealworms, and confirms it ate the mouse it was fed the previous evening.

She dons special sanitized boots to move on to the mammal enclosures to prevent any cross-contamination, while another colleague cleans the raccoon enclosure where 11 raccoons have been recuperating.

"It's definitely a messy job, but it's a lot of fun," Patterson said.

There are also three different areas for young ducks, where babies to bigger ducks are separated and roam in swimming areas tailored for their varied sizes.

Facing the approach of a particularly bold duckling in the middle enclosure, Patterson clapped to scare it away. "We just don't want them to like humans," she said.

In the third duck enclosure, a young goose sat with some ducks its age, but it was about twice their size and more developed. Unlike in the story of "The Ugly Duckling," though, these ducks seemed unbothered by the goose's presence — they were huddling with it for warmth.

The center also has a nursery where the youngest animals — often with the most frequent needs — are kept. Baby songbirds, for instance, sometimes need to be fed as frequently as every half-hour by syringe. Throughout the nursery, baby birds chirp from under heat lamps, ensconced in handmade crochet bowl liners that function as substitute nests.

There are protocols that limit Patterson's contact with baby animals, however, because the center doesn't want the animals to become too comfortable around humans in order to improve their chances of survival in the wild.

Each animal has a care plan, and over the years the center has assembled binders of instructions that contain guidance for animal care, including which species can be housed together. A large whiteboard outlines the responsibilities that staffers and



This intrepid young duckling was getting too comfortable around humans at the Wildlife Care Center in Burlingame on June 29.



A rescued squirrel climbs the side of its enclosure at the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA's Wildlife Care Center. Generally, staff members at the center try to return animals exactly where they found them. Squirrels, which are hard to tell apart once they're in a cohort, are often released as a group.

volunteers are tasked with and must initial as they complete their assignments.

The center also relies on a supply of donated goods to help the animals, like crocheted nest shapes for the smallest birds, plants to simulate the environment outside of the animals' enclosures, or tree bark for squirrels to gnaw on. Baby ducks take a particular liking to feather dusters and like to huddle around them as a stand-in for their mothers, Patterson said.

As they work their way toward a full recovery and eventual release, the animals progress from smaller to larger enclosures outside, getting used to conditions that increasingly simulate life in the wild.

For instance, birds of prey like red-tailed hawks go through regular weight checks to ensure they are a healthy weight for their age and ready to hunt, and usually spend two weeks in the center's aviary before they are released.

Generally, the wildlife center staff members try to return animals exactly where they found them. However, animals like squirrels, which are hard to tell apart once they've been put together in a cohort, are often released as a group to sites that are considered safe for them.

Later in Patterson's shift, someone brings in a squirrel in a box for evaluation.

Alex Elias, lead wildlife technician at the Wildlife Care Center, said they take pride in the severely injured animals they've

been able to heal and release back into the wild, like a Western screech owl that had come in with a punctured eye. It took administering eye drops three times a day for two months, but eventually the eye healed and the owl went free. "We weren't going to give up," she said.

Another time, a seagull came in with paralysis in its legs, likely from eating something that caused paralysis. Staff gave

it medication and fed it every two hours and after about a month, it recovered.

And recently, her team worked

together to heal a skunk whose paw had gotten caught in a bear trap, she said.

Elias and her colleagues have to use whatever context clues they can to piece together what might have happened to the animal.

"I love being able to help animals in the community," she said. "Everyone here is super dedicated."

#### CARING FOR THE PENINSULA'S PREDATORS

At the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, a small team of staffers and far more volunteers manage to care for upwards of 7,000 animals a year and 170 different species of wildlife, serving the region from roughly Mountain View to San Juan Bautista.

Hospital manager Ashley Kinney began her career with the center as a volunteer about 20 years ago and has been an employee for 16 years.

"One of the really cool things is that there's always something new," she said.

The San Jose rescue center stands out among other rescue agencies because it specializes in supporting predatory species such as coyotes, foxes and bobcats.

"They're not cheap to raise, but they play a vital role in our ecosystems and we want to give them a good shot at a natural, wild life," she said.

The bulk of animals they care for are birds, and many come in because they have been displaced due to tree trimming or attacked by cats, she said.

Possums are also common clients, as each female can have 9 to 13 babies at a time. Their center can see up to 1,400 possums a year.

Her favorite parts of the job are seeing animals released and watching volunteers and interns evolve, sometimes choosing to pursue veterinary careers themselves, she said.

"It can be mentally taxing, but not always. For everyone that doesn't make it, at the end of the day, there are so many releases."

#### WHEN WILD ANIMALS ARE 'OVER-RESCUED'

Both wildlife centers see education as a big part of their missions, teaching people about how they should interact with animals they encounter in the wild that seem like they need help.

Staff at both wildlife centers say that they frequently see animals that are "over-rescued" as one caretaker put it, or "kidnapped" as another described it. These are animals that would be fine on their own but are put in a worse situation when well-meaning people intervene

## Tips for being a good wildlife neighbor

- Call a wildlife center hotline before you act. Most of the time these animals are fine, according to Elias. "Moving the baby animal can be a high-stress experience," she said.
- Keep cats indoors when birds are fledglings. "If we could get everyone to keep their cats inside, that'd be amazing," Elias said. (According to the Audubon Society, fledglings are covered almost entirely in down and feathers and are able to hop.)
- Wait until winter to prune trees. Or at least wait until birds fledge if they are nesting in a tree.
- Avoid using rodenticides. These can cause secondary poisoning in animals further up the food chain.
- Don't try to keep wild animals as pets. No adopting squirrels, please, Martin-Tarbox said.
- Please don't call the hotline every time you see a coyote. "Yes, they live here too," Martin-Tarbox said.
- Recognize that it's a hard world out there for animals. These wildlife centers do their best, but they

can't raise every vulnerable baby animal. "We try to only care for the truly orphaned, sick and injured animals," Elias said.

#### Who to call for help

If you see a wild animal you believe is in distress, the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA recommends that you contact one of the following agencies:

- Palo Alto Animal Control: 3281 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto (650-329-2413). See the Animal Control website at [bit.ly/PAWildlife](http://bit.ly/PAWildlife) for tips on what to do when you see wildlife you believe is injured or abandoned.
- PHS/SPCA Wildlife Care Center: 1450 Rollins Road, Burlingame (650-340-7022)
- Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley: 3027 Penitencia Creek Road, San Jose (408-929-9453)

Note that the Wildlife Rescue Office in Palo Alto is no longer in operation.



Baby birds are kept in a nursery while recuperating at the Wildlife Care Center in Burlingame. Some birds need to be fed as often as every half-hour,

and bring them to the wildlife rescue centers unnecessarily.

One of the most common times this happens is when baby birds are in their fledgling stage. There is a period of a couple of days to a week when baby birds leave their nests and are on the ground before they figure out how to fly. Their parents watch from a distance, but it can look like the babies have been abandoned.

As a result, people sometimes bring in these baby birds, thinking they need to be rescued. This is also the time when young birds are most vulnerable to attacks from other animals, such as cats, and often find themselves captured and injured by neighborhood felines.

But birds aren't the only animals prone to over-rescuing: Mother deer often leave their babies behind while they go out to forage, which can lead people to think they've been abandoned, Elias said.

San Mateo County is unique in that it has mountains, the coast, rural areas and densely populated ones. People may not realize they share their environment with wild animals, and sometimes those wild animals come closer than we'd like, Martin-Tarbox said. For instance, she said, a mama skunk might choose to have her babies in someone's garage. Part of the service the wildlife center provides is to help people find humane ways to coexist with their wild neighbors, she said.

Instead of calling an exterminator, the resident might call the wildlife hotline, which would probably direct the resident to give the skunks some space and wait for them to move on in a week or two, Martin-Tarbox said.

"Any moment can be an education moment here with the public," Patterson said. ■

Email Contributor Kate Bradshaw at [kbradshaw\\_reporter@gmail.com](mailto:kbradshaw_reporter@gmail.com).

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## FLOOD SCHOOL

continued from page 7

Will Eger, the school district's chief business officer, said Menlo Balance is "dishonest" to claim that the proposed Flood School development isn't for teachers. There is a lot of interest in the housing project among school staff, many of them meet the income limits for affordable housing, he said.

"Right now, 85% of our teachers and staff are eligible for affordable housing," Eger said. "We hope to one day get to a point where teachers and our

staff are not eligible for affordable housing. Because of that, we don't want to guarantee a set number of minimum units that could someday require us to leave a large number of affordable units open at a time when 40% of our families are homeless."

This compromise was not approved by the City Council in closed session.

While Chessari says that Menlo Balance has no plans to sue if Measure V does not pass, Eger says that Ravenswood would consider the option.

"We're not sure if this controversial ballot initiative is, in fact, illegal," Eger said. "And should it pass, we would certainly explore every option and every opportunity to have it challenged in court and potentially overturned."

Chessari says that the law is not illegal, as a similar one has been in place in Saratoga for 26

years. She purports that since 56% of the city of Menlo Park is unaffected by the initiative, there should be rezoning done in the Bayfront area or along Highway 101, not in neighborhoods full of single-family homes that she believes would be changed by high-density housing. Chessari also rejects the idea that Measure V would be illegal due to segregatory practices, as opponents have claimed.

"That's the City Council not doing its job," Chessari said. "And if people are concerned about City Council not doing its job, or doing things in a way that's racist, then that's not our measure's fault, but the City Council's fault. And part of our measure is that we are concerned that City Council is not thoughtfully rezoning." ■

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

TOWN OF WOODSIDE  
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062

PLANNING COMMISSION SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 6:00 PM

PURSUANT TO WOODSIDE TOWN RESOLUTION NO. 2022-7494, PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AS HYBRID MEETINGS WITH THE OPTION TO ATTEND BY TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO CONFERENCE OR IN PERSON. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT WISH TO ATTEND AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING MAY DO SO IN PERSON OR BY JOINING THE ZOOM MEETING [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/86068472736](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736) PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED BOTH IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM MEETING. ANY EMAILS SENT TO SHARPER@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION PRIOR TO THE MEETING. IN THE EVENT THAT ANY MEMBER OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION PARTICIPATES IN A MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE OR VIDEO CONFERENCE, PURSUANT TO THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT, GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953, ALL VOTES OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION SHALL BE BY ROLL CALL.

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#### Weblink:

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

#### Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: [sharper@woodsidetown.org](mailto:sharper@woodsidetown.org)

### PUBLIC HEARING

3. 455 Old La Honda Road

ASRB2022-0013; GRAD2022-0001

Humming Bird Hill, LLP

Planner: Sage Schaan, Deputy Planning Director

Continued presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal, requiring Formal Design Review (ASRB2022-0013), to demolish an existing barn and construct a new barn adjacent to the hillside. The barn would not be used for horses, but for smaller livestock, such as sheep and llamas. The proposed basement would include storage for livestock feed and equipment, and a room for emergency generators. The lot is currently developed with a recently completed single-family residence and ADU. The site also includes a pool, pool changing building under construction, and the reconstruction of an existing nonconforming ADU (2nd ADU), and associated site improvements. Due to project changes, this last phase of development will result in project site grading which exceeds 1,500 cubic yards, therefore requiring Planning Commission review of a Grading Exception (GRAD2022-0001).

**This item was continued from July 27, 2022, with direction to the applicant to obtain recommendations from the Livestock and Equestrian Heritage Committee on the functionality of the barn, and to submit clarification on development within slopes >35% and noise attenuation for proposed generators. Review by the Livestock and Equestrian Heritage Committee was completed on September 6, 2022.**

### 4. Town-wide

Town of Woodside

Planner: Jackie Young, Planning Director

Review and discussion of next steps for the draft Cycle 6 (2023-2031) Housing Element for the Town of Woodside currently under a 90-day review (which began on July 18, 2022) by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), including, but not limited to: rezoning of five sites (Cañada College, 773 Cañada Road, Farm Hill Road near Barkley Fields and Park, High Road at Woodside Road, and Runnymede Road at Raymundo Drive) to multi-family, amendments to the General Plan Land Use Element to recognize multi-family zoning, amendments to the Emerald Lake Hills Specific Plan to recognize the proposed multi-family site on Cañada Road, municipal code amendments to include multi-family zoning and improvements for ADU permitting, multi-family objective design standards, CEQA (environmental) review, and an update on Housing Element Program implementation.

The draft Cycle 6 (2023-2031) Housing Element for the Town of Woodside under review by HCD is posted at: <https://www.woodsidetown.org/planning/draft-housing-element-hcd-review>

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

## Sr. Joan Marie Derry, SHF

April 24, 1934 – September 4, 2022

Sr. Joan Marie Derry, a retired Catholic sister in the Sisters of the Holy Family order, passed peacefully into the gates of Heaven. She was 88.

She grew up in Menlo Park, CA, in a large Irish Catholic family. She was the second of six children born to Edward and Helen Derry. The family operated Derry's Feed and Fuel for many years.

Sr. Joan is survived by her brother, Fr. Daniel Joseph Derry, a retired priest. Her brothers Edward Jr. and James predeceased her as did her sisters Nancy Madigan Derry Nejmich and Gail Blach. She is also survived by six nieces and nephews.

Sr. Joan had a keen interest in genealogy and passed on a wealth of research and information to family members. The roots of her family were important to her as were the deep roots in her Catholic faith which were established early on by her parents who loved God and lived by and with their faith, passing those values to her.

Sr. Joan had a vivacious personality. She enjoyed people and celebratory gatherings. She laughed often and, like her mother, loved a good story to tell and one to hear.

She demonstrated her holiness in public service to her order and the Catholic Church but also demonstrated that in many private ways. As she had "God's ear," many people came to her for solace with their difficulties in life. She listened and prayed for many, often asking others to join in her prayers.

An appropriate quote for Sr. Joan Derry is written in Psalm 145:7, "They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness."

Sister Joan's funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 14 in the Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park, California. Burial will be at Holy Cross Cemetery in Menlo Park following Mass. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Holy Family Day Home at 299 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2279 (2022)**

**RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE**

Lands of Kaveh

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

- A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District’s “Zone Master Annexation Resolution” (“ZOMAR”), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.
- B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the “Parcel”) to the District’s On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the “Zone”). The Parcel is described in Exhibit “A” attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit “B” attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.
- C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes “real property” for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:
- X All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit “B” and are incorporated by reference.
- D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

**IT IS RESOLVED** by the District Board as follows:

- 1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.
- 2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: October 12, 2022  
 Time: 7:00 PM  
 Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices, 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025  
 & via Zoom

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

- 3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i.).
- 4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.
- 5. The General Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

**BATMOBILE**  
*continued from page 5*

county to retain his own legal counsel, at taxpayer expense. Touchstone’s services cost \$255 per hour, for a total amount not to exceed \$25,000, according to a contract between the county and law firm Jones & Mayer.

Though the county could have denied Bolanos’s request and assigned him a lawyer, Nibbelin said he ultimately understood the sheriff’s concerns about conflicts of interest.

“While arguments could be made that he’s incorrect, I determined that it was appropriate to grant him his request in this case,” he said.

Nibbelin said that the sheriff could, in theory, seek a writ in the superior court to try to bar the county’s investigation, though he doubted such action would be successful. Though he said he didn’t have any reason to believe Bolanos would seek legal recourse, he added: “We’d be prepared to deal with it, if it happened.”

Touchstone said he was “not prepared” to discuss whether he and his client would take legal action against the county in light of its investigation.

However, in an extensive five-page California Public Records Act request submitted to the county attorney late last month, Touchstone asked for all documentation of communications among board members, county employees and members of the public regarding the investigation of Bolanos and Wagstaffe. He also requested documents pertaining to the budget and authority of the board to conduct an investigation of the sheriff, as well as any documentation of allegations of misconduct against the county, members of the board and the county manager.

Asked whether his client would continue to cooperate with the investigation in the meantime, Touchstone said that was up to Bolanos.

“That will ultimately be the sheriff’s decision,” he said. “We’ll just have to see.”

Wagstaffe, who has not sought outside legal counsel, said in an email that he requested “four follow-up investigative steps to be completed” before deciding whether to pursue or dismiss the case against Racop. He declined to specify what those steps are.

Wagstaffe said he expected the sheriff’s office investigator to submit the report to his office in the next couple of days, at which point he would discuss the findings and then announce a final decision.

Racop, the Batmobile-maker, is scheduled to appear in court for an arraignment on Sept. 30. ■

**Exhibit A**

**EXHIBIT "A"**  
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

APPROVED  
 SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY  
 FORMATION COMMISSION  
 455 COUNTY CENTER  
 REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

ANNEXATION TO WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT  
 LANDS OF FARROKH KAVEH AND SOHAILA KAVEH  
 1195 WESTRIDGE DRIVE, PORTOLA VALLEY, CA  
 APN 077-022-050

PAGE 1 OF 2

ALL THAT CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY SITUATE IN THE TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA;

BEING ALL OF LOT 1 IN BLOCK 3, AS DESIGNATED ON THE MAP ENTITLED "TRACT NO. 781 ARROWHEAD MEADOWS UNIT NO. 2 BEING A PORTION OF THE RANCHO EL CORTE MADERA SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA," WHICH MAP WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA ON MAY 29, 1958 IN BOOK 48 OF MAPS AT PAGES 48 AND 49, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE MOST EASTERLY CORNER OF LOT 1, ALSO BEING NORTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LOT 5, AND ALSO BEING THE EXISTING WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT BOUNDARY; THENCE ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 1, (1) NORTH 90°00'00" WEST 490.00 FEET TO SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 1;

THENCE LEAVING THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 1 AND ALONG SOUTHWESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT, (2) NORTH 51°00'00" WEST 30.00 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A TANGENT CURVE TO THE RIGHT;

THENCE ALONG SAID TANGENT CURVE (3) HAVING A RADIUS OF 30.00 FEET, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 69°42'07", AN ARC LENGTH OF 38.50 FEET;

THENCE ALONG A CURVE TO THE RIGHT (4) HAVING A RADIUS OF 165.00 FEET, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 38°09'53", AN ARC LENGTH OF 109.91 FEET;

THENCE LEAVING SAID TANGENT CURVE AND ALONG NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 1, (5) NORTH 56°52'00" EAST 54.45 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A TANGENT CURVE TO THE LEFT;

THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE (6) HAVING A RADIUS OF 435.00 FEET, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 21°48'00", AN ARC LENGTH OF 155.51 FEET;

THENCE LEAVING SAID CURVE AND ALONG NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 1, (7) NORTH 35°04'00" EAST 40.00 FEET TO THE MOST NORTHERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT 1;

THENCE LEAVING SAID LINE AND ALONG NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 1, (8) SOUTH 40°41'13" EAST 414.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF POINT OF BEGINNING.

CONTAINING 2.03 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

SEE EXHIBIT "B" FOR THE ACCOMPANYING PLAT, ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF.

PREPARED BY, OR UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF WAAN CHUI.

PREPARED ON JUNE 2, 2022  
 LC ENGINEERING

*Waan Chui*  
 H. W. CHUI RCE NO. 32912  
 EXPIRATION DATE 06/30/2024

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER  
 No. 32912  
 CIVIL  
 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

LC ENGINEERING  
 598 E Santa Clara St, Suite 270, San Jose, CA 95112 SHEET 1 OF 2 P(408) 806-7187

**Exhibit B**

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT  
 EXHIBIT "B"  
 SITE LOCATION  
 1195 WESTRIDGE DRIVE  
 PORTOLA VALLEY, CA  
 STEP SYSTEM

(1) Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) System  
 200 Gallons Per Day (GPD)  
 APN: 077-022-050  
 Lands of Kaveh  
 1195 Westridge Drive  
 Portola Valley, CA  
 Location of System: Front of property

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**DANCE STUDIO**

*continued from page 1*

number to expand now that he is able to confidently tell families that the studio will stay on Bay Road permanently. Prior to the studio's opening, the dance company had to operate its program in temporary locations around the city, such as at Hope Horizons (Formerly Bayshore Christian Ministries) and Seventh-day Adventist Church of EPA, because there were no suitable spaces available to establish a permanent studio, Cottam said.

The brightly painted 720-square-foot studio is now the official home to the company's longstanding ballet outreach program, Cultivating Ballet Culture, which aims to make ballet more accessible and affordable to under-served youth.

Tuition at En Avant School of Dance is about 35% of what other dance studios in the Bay Area charge, according to the company's website, and Mannakin has made sure that the studio is in close proximity to those who use it. The center provides year-round dance training and performance opportunities, as well as reduced-cost rent for other local dance and arts organizations that need a venue.

On Sept. 7, Mannakin kicked off its first fall session at the new studio. The program includes Folklorico and ballet-based classes that incorporate rhythm, tap and storytelling for students



Left: Ballet teacher Traci Finch helps a student learn to leap in a class for children aged 2.5-4 at En Avant School of Dance in East Palo Alto on Sept. 7. Right: Traci Finch helps Luna hold a passéé.



Magali Gauthier

ages 2 to 13 years old. The studio also offers adult workshops.

"They're making ballet feel normal, familiar, local and accessible, bringing in these programs that historically may not have been a part of our cultural fabric or a part of our community," East Palo Alto City Council member Antonio Lopez said. "(The studio) goes beyond ballet. It's about how to collaborate in a way that brings all different cultures and histories together, and that's what they're doing. ... What's awesome is that we're really starting to see it be visible: the ripple effects of changing the lives of young children and their families."

For Mayra Escarcega, whose young daughter has been

enrolled in Mannakin dance classes since before the pandemic in early 2020, the program's benefits expand far beyond dance. She said the program has made her daughter more confident and has even helped her improve her language skills.

"During COVID when they started doing the classes in person, she wasn't going to school and we weren't allowed to go to the parks and other stuff," Escarcega said. "So that was like her first place where she was around people, and she was really happy. She loved it."

"She didn't know any English, so she was learning English at the same time she was learning dance. It helped her a lot

because she likes to talk with people."

Stories like this are exactly what Cottam wants to hear.

The dancer-choreographer, who has performed with the Oakland Ballet, Bay Pointe Ballet, Northern Ballet Theatre and the Serbian National Ballet in Belgrade, said he is continually seeking ways to bring theater and dance to the "broadest swath of people and cultures possible so that new audiences are created, fresh voices are heard and all people are lifted to ever greater heights of human creativity and achievement."

The production credo of Mannakin Theater and Dance, he said, focuses on works that

spontaneously gather a racially and ethnically diverse audience by engaging creators and artists from a wide range of communities, including Hispanic, Chinese, Indian and Black.

Through his dance company, Cottam has created many new works, produced three tours of Serbia and conducted outreach with Syrian and Afghani refugees in Bulgaria.

Lopez said it's his hope that more arts programs like Mannakin will come to East Palo Alto so that the city can continue to thrive. The city historically has not had as many opportunities as surrounding cities, but it's clear that programs like Mannakin's can enrich the community, Lopez said.

"There are a lot of folks who don't come back to East Palo Alto, who go to college, who go to different universities, and they don't believe that their talents can be cultivated here," Lopez said. "I hope that with Mannakin, we can begin to set a trend where we're showing our young people from an early age that you don't have to go to Atherton, you don't have to go across the country to do these programs. You can stay right here in your backyard."

For more information about En Avant School of Dance, go to [epaballet.com](http://epaballet.com). ■

Jonas Pao is a former editorial intern for the Palo Alto Weekly.

**SMUIN BALLE**

*continued from page 8*

"It's a range that allows the company to stretch themselves through all the different music," Delgado said.

As with many other performances making their way to the stage in recent months, the piece was set to debut in 2020 and delayed by the pandemic. But the initial inspiration for the collaboration actually goes back about a decade.

Delgado grew up in Cuba, with both of his parents teaching dance. When he was growing up, he was reluctant to go into the family business and spent about five years training in gymnastics before his body type changed too much to continue in the sport. He went to dance school and ultimately pursued dance and choreography as a career, founding his own company, Malpaso Dance Company, in 2012, with fellow creatives Fernando Sáez and Daile Carrazana.

That same year, when Smuin Artistic Director Celia Fushille was in Cuba on a cultural exchange tour, she visited Delgado's father's company.

"At that time, Osnel was dancing with his dad's company. And he was leading the dancers in a warmup. And, I mean, he was immediately riveting as a dancer," she said.

Fushille was interested in a collaboration with Delgado, but it would be a few years before they met again, and since diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba weren't restored until 2015, getting in touch proved a challenge. The collaboration eventually came together with support from the Joyce Theater Foundation in New York City, which provides administrative and production support to dance artists and companies, including Malpaso.

While Malpaso has been touring recently, it's given Delgado the chance to drop by the company to workshop "The Turntable," giving the dancers a chance to learn the different style of movement.

"It's a new vocabulary for (the company), they are trying to absorb as much as they can, the form and the quality. At the same time when that information goes through their bodies, I create something new,

something totally different that is happening. Collaboration is the best way to figure out our assumptions about who we are and learn more about

this beautiful job, to connect with people and to make some friends," Delgado said.

"Dance Series 1" takes place Sept. 16-18 at the Mountain View

Center for the Performing Arts 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Tickets are \$25-\$79. For more information, call 650 903-6000 or visit [smuinballet.org](http://smuinballet.org). ■

**Las Lomitas board member resigns**

By Angela Swartz

Las Lomitas Elementary School District trustee Cynthia Solis Yi has stepped down from the district's governing board.

Superintendent Beth Polito announced at a Wednesday, Sept. 7, board meeting that Solis Yi moved to New York City, where she is from originally. Solis Yi emailed a resignation note to the district on Aug. 26.

The board will not fill Solis Yi's seat, as her term expires in November.

"It was a pleasure serving with you over the last year," said Board President Jason Morimoto during the meeting. He noted that her opinions on inclusivity were always very appreciated.

In her letter to the district,

Solis Yi said it was an honor to serve on the board.

The board appointed Solis Yi to fill a two-year term in December 2020.

Solis Yi lived in Menlo Park with her two children, who attended La Entrada Middle School. She said in her application that she wanted to bring a diverse perspective to the board. Inclusivity, equity and diversity should be considered in decisions as a trustee, particularly now in this polarized political landscape, she said.

She is the director of earned income at La Cocina, a non-profit incubator in San Francisco focused on formalizing



Cynthia Solis Yi

the businesses of female minority entrepreneurs.

Las Lomitas board elections this fall were uncontested.

Trustees Heather Hopkins and Gautam Nadella, who were both appointed to the board in October 2021, will assume four-year terms this fall. The pair filled the openings left by trustees Dana Nunn and John Earnhardt. Newcomer Brian Ross, a municipal financial adviser, will also fill a four-year seat. Paige Winikoff, an attorney and parent, will fill the shorter two-year term.

Neither Solis Yi nor Trustee Molly Finn filed papers to run for reelection.

Solis Yi could not be immediately reached for comment. ■

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

## Sculpture exhibit shows the importance of the arts in higher education

By Steven Weiner

The summer of 2020 brought multiple calamities to the Bay Area: businesses were still shuttered due to the pandemic, a heat wave had prompted rolling blackouts in many parts of the state, and wildfires were rampant.

A bright spot among all those challenges was the launch of the first Silicon Valley Sculpture exhibit on the Menlo College campus. The exhibit was held in September 2020, and it proved to be a welcome respite for the hundreds of people who left their homes to safely explore — and, in some instances, purchase — outdoor sculptures that had been curated from artists around the globe.

Silicon Valley Sculpture was conceived in a partnership between Atherton-based Menlo College and Art Ventures Gallery in Menlo Park. The plan

had been hatched well before COVID-19, but we went forward in no small part due to the recognition that people were hurting for an opportunity to engage, react, and learn with different art forms in the face of social isolation and loss.

The first edition left its impact, as even bigger crowds showed up for the show last year. The striking additions to the campus allow Menlo College to take its place as a cultural destination, where monumental work created by artists coexists with our nature-rich setting.

This year, on September 23-25, we'll offer the third annual Silicon Valley Sculpture (SVS) exhibit on the Menlo College campus.

Each year of the show, the artists are given a theme to consider as they create their sculptures. The theme for SVS 2022 is water, which offers us all the opportunity to find inspiration

### GUEST OPINION

in our most precious resource.

Why does it make sense for a college that is primarily focused on business education to co-sponsor an art show? Engaging with art is essential to the human experience, which underlies our college's core value of developing each person's full potential.

It provides a chance for students and everyone to embrace the unknown, expand one's world view and be inspired. A balanced business education must include an exploration of the arts.

An op-ed recently published by the University of Arizona proffered the view that "each time you look at a piece of art, your brain is working to make sense of the visual information it's receiving ... looking at art stimulates the brain and puts our innate knack for organizing

patterns and making sense of shapes to use."

Art inspires. It also prompts us to think, and this year's theme offers us the opportunity to heighten our awareness of the extent to which water is a resource that is in need of our protection. Inspiration, awareness, and thoughtful reflection - it's fitting that they all are found on the Menlo College campus, a wellspring for connectivity that shapes the ethical leaders of tomorrow.

Menlo College has benefited from the show in unexpected ways, as well. The college has been fortunate to benefit from five permanent installations that were donated to the school in recent years, reflecting the belief of the donors that art creates a harmonious, inspiring environment that unlocks creativity and fosters well-being among a community of diverse voices. The sculptures also serve as a reminder of the college's

devotion to its students.

What's more, the donations yield results that have yet to be seen, as they inspire students to think in new ways that could well lead them to devise innovative solutions for generations to come.

In my role as a college president who is passionate about the value of a college degree, I have yet another motivating consideration: studies have demonstrated that arts learning "positively and significantly affects students' school engagement, college aspirations, and their inclinations to draw upon works of art as a means for empathizing with others."

Simply put, arts education makes our society stronger, and it makes Menlo College stronger as well. ■

*Steven Weiner is the president of Menlo College, joining in 2013 before leading the school in 2018.*

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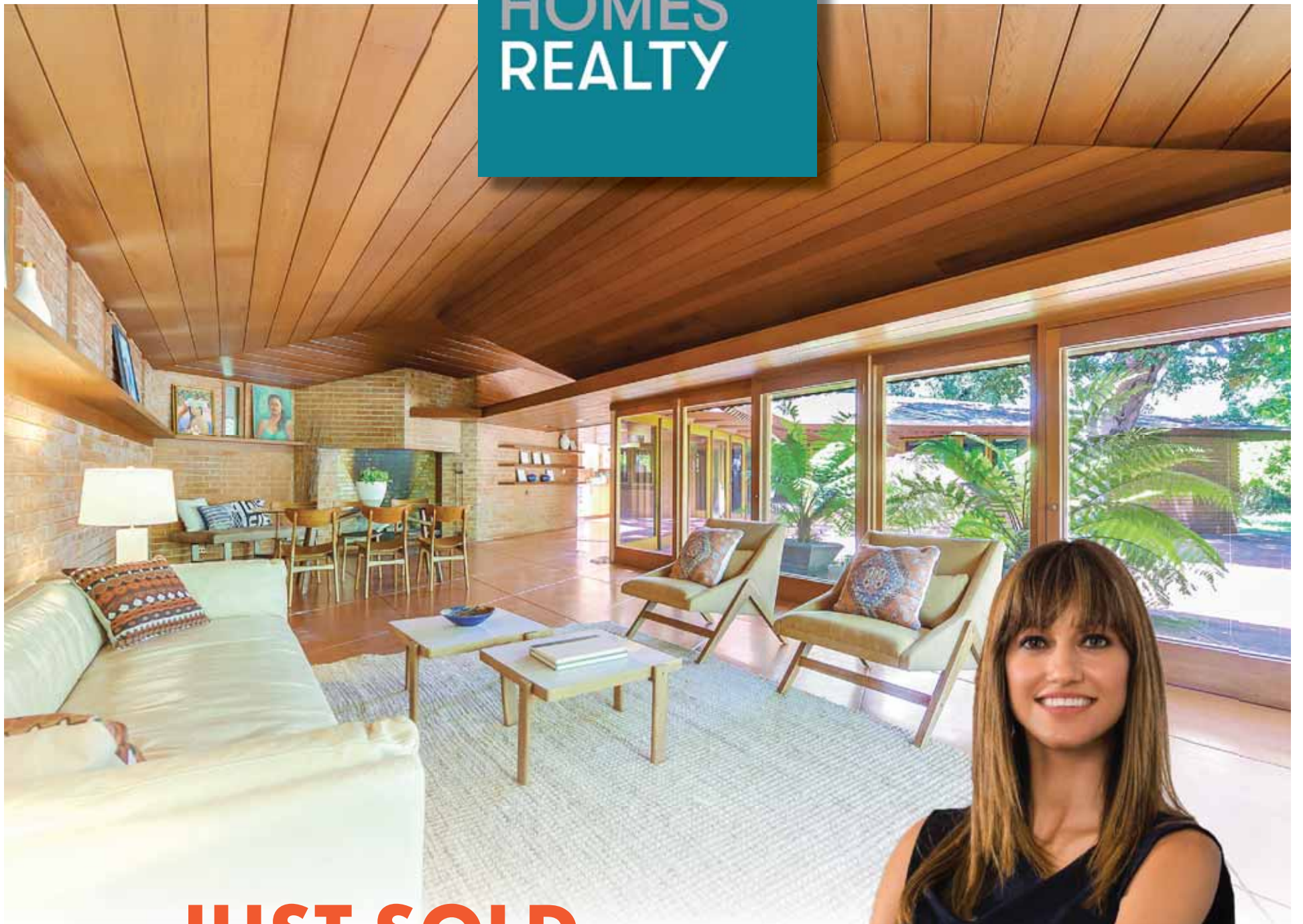
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## GETTING SERIOUS

Fall means more artsy prestige at the movies and from the streamers, too

By Peter Canavese

For those film fans who tire easily of movies chasing youth appeal and catering to the blockbuster mindset, fall can never arrive soon enough. Although we may have already seen some awards-contending films and performances, the lion's share of the year's future Oscar contenders will roll out — as they have for decades — in the last few months of the year.

Hollywood darling Steven Spielberg, for example, has “The Fabelmans” (Nov. 23), a highly personal family drama inspired by his upbringing, arriving from Universal Pictures just in time for Thanksgiving. Spielberg shares screenplay credit with Tony Kushner (the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner who recently adapted “West Side Story” for the director) and oversees a top-shelf cast that includes Michelle Williams, Paul Dano and Seth Rogen as fictionalized versions of Spielberg's parents and uncle; Judd Hirsch and Spielberg's fellow film director David Lynch also play supporting roles.

The reliably interesting writer-director James Gray (“The Lost City of Z,” “Ad Astra”) has his own semi-autobiographical film this fall from Focus Features: “Armageddon Time” (Oct. 28)

stars Anne Hathaway and Jeremy Strong (“Succession”) as versions of Gray's parents, with Anthony Hopkins as a fictionalized grandfather and Jessica Chastain making a brief but impactful appearance as Donald Trump's sister Maryanne.

After its recent premiere at the Venice Film Festival, Darren Aronofsky's “The Whale” has instant buzz for the leading performance of Brendan Fraser as a morbidly obese shut-in; it arrives Dec. 9 from A24. Fraser will have to compete with Colin Farrell, who's also sparked early awards buzz for his work opposite his “In Bruges” co-star Brendan Gleeson in writer-director Martin McDonagh's latest, “The Banshees of Inisherin,” which begins its rollout from Searchlight Pictures in late October (both Frances McDormand and Sam Rockwell won Oscars for McDonagh's previous film, “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri,” so don't count out the great Gleeson either).

Also generating heat out of Venice: Cate Blanchett's star turn as a classical composer and orchestra conductor in Focus Features' “Tár” (Oct. 7), from writer-director Todd Field (“In the Bedroom”); Timothée Chalamet's reunion with “Call Me By Your Name” director Luca Guadagnino for the



Courtesy See-Saw Films/Sony Pictures Classics

Hugh Jackman and Zen McGrath star in “The Son,” by writer-director Florian Zeller. The film tells of a dad (Jackman) who's so focused on avoiding his own father's past mistakes that he begins to lose sight of building a meaningful relationship with his son (McGrath).

cannibal-themed drama “Bones & All” (Nov. 23 from MGM); and, to a degree that's beginning to get suspicious, Olivia Wilde's thriller “Don't Worry Darling” (Sept. 23 from Warner). Everyone's talking about the drama surrounding Wilde's sophomore feature, the first of two films this fall to showcase pop star Harry Styles. All press is good press, they say, which may explain why rumors of director and cast in-fighting won't go away. Styles also stars in “My Policeman” (on Prime Video Nov. 4) as a down-low gay cop in 1950s England, where being gay was a crime.

The cinematically adventurous may prefer the toast of this year's Cannes Film Festival, Ruben Östlund's black-comic satire of the uber-rich, “Triangle of Sadness” (Oct. 7 from Neon), which took home the Palme d'Or. Or the latest from Park Chan-wook (“The Handmaiden”), the mystery “Decision to Leave” (Oct. 14 from MUBI); no slouch, Park took home the Best Director prize at this year's Cannes for that one. Sony Pictures Classics is busy

touting “The Son” (local date TBD), reuniting writer-director Florian Zeller with Anthony Hopkins two years after Zeller's “The Father” enabled Hopkins to collect the Best Actor Oscar; Hugh Jackman takes the lead this time, supported by Hopkins, Laura Dern and Vanessa Kirby.

David O. Russell has been known to shepherd actors to Oscar gold with films like “American Hustle” and “Silver Linings Playbook”; he returns Oct. 7 with 20th Century Studios' mystery comedy “Amsterdam” and its star-studded ensemble: Christian Bale, Robert De Niro, Margot Robbie, John David Washington, Chris Rock, Rami Malek and Taylor Swift, among many others. For audiences of a certain age, Universal has a “star power couple” in Julia Roberts and George Clooney; back in comic mode, they play a formerly married pair plotting to warn their daughter against marriage in “Ticket to Paradise” (Oct. 21).

In the category of heavyweight true stories, Universal is touting

“She Said” (Nov. 18) as “Based on the ‘New York Times’ Pulitzer Prize-Winning Investigation” into Hollywood's Harvey Weinstein scandal, the one that helped launch the #MeToo movement; Carey Mulligan (“Promising Young Woman”) and Zoe Kazan (“Ruby Sparks”) star. Meanwhile, Roadside Attractions has Elizabeth Banks and Sigourney Weaver headlining “Call Jane” (Oct. 28), about the underground collective facilitating abortions in a pre-“Roe v. Wade” America. The tragic tale of Emmett Till, the 14-year-old Black boy lynched in 1955 Mississippi powers “Till” (Oct. 14 from United Artists), which centers on his mother Mamie Till-Mobley (Danielle Deadwyler) and her pursuit of justice.

And then there's that spoiler Netflix, the streamer that continues to make plays for Oscar with an aggressive fall slate of over 40 original films, 22 of which will get telltale theatrical releases that conceivably put them in Oscar play. Netflix



Courtesy Focus Features

Cate Blanchett stars as conductor Lydia Tár, who has broken the glass ceiling in classical music but struggles with scandals at the height of her career, in director Todd Field's “Tár.”

See **GETTING SERIOUS**, page 22

## GETTING SERIOUS

continued from page 21

has Ana de Armas as Marilyn Monroe in Andrew Dominik's NC-17-rated "Blonde" (Sept. 28); Noah Baumbach's Don DeLillo adaptation "White Noise" (Dec. 30) with Adam Driver and Greta Gerwig; the latest from Oscar winner Alejandro González Iñárritu, an epic comedy called "Bardo (or False Chronicle of a Handful of Truths)" (Dec. 16). In the more fun-loving category, there's also Rian Johnson's hotly anticipated sequel "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery" (Dec. 23) and Emma Thompson as Miss Trunchbull in the West End/Broadway musical adaptation "Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical" (Dec. 25). Not to be

outdone, Apple TV+ has Ryan Reynolds and Will Ferrell in "Spirited" (date TBA), a modern musical version of "A Christmas Carol."

Lest we kid ourselves, there will also be commercial movies looking to fill cineplexes. Superheroes, you say? But of course. Disney and Marvel have you covered with "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" (Nov. 11), which reunites director Ryan Coogler and actors Letitia Wright, Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurira and Winston Duke; the film will pay tribute to fallen hero T'Challa and the star who played him, Chadwick Boseman, while laying the groundwork for a superheroic successor. There's also Dwayne Johnson's long-gestating star vehicle "Black Adam" (Oct. 21 from Warner), in which he dons a rubber suit as an antiheroic character spun off from the "Shazam" films.

Based on the popular children's books, Sony's live-action "Lyle, Lyle Crocodile" (Oct. 7) is the only film this fall to feature pop star Shawn Mendes as a singing reptile owned by Oscar winner Javier Bardem. On the other side of the spectrum, horror fans will be unable to resist the provocatively titled "Halloween Ends" (Oct. 14), which Universal promises will



Courtesy Marvel Studios

Angela Bassett stars as the Queen Mother of Wakanda, who leads the nation in mourning the loss of their king, T'Challa, in the "Black Panther" sequel, "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

culminate in a "once and for all" showdown between mass murderer Michael Myers and Jamie Lee Curtis' Laurie Strode.

It wouldn't be fall without a musical biopic, and this season it's all about Whitney Houston in Sony's "I Wanna Dance with Somebody" (Dec. 21); Naomi Ackie ("Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker") plays the pop legend with the golden voice and the troubled personal life. For big laughs, there's Billy Eichner in Universal's rom com "Bros"

(Sept. 30), which Eichner co-wrote and populated with an almost entirely LGBTQ cast.

The season's big Disney animated feature is the fantastical adventure "Strange World" (Nov. 23), with a voice cast led by Jake Gyllenhaal and Lucy Liu. And how about James Cameron's 13-years-later sequel "Avatar: The Way of Water" (Dec. 16 from 20th Century Studios)? There may be no bigger question this fall than whether or not anyone still cares about the

blue-skinned Na'vi, to the tune of a budget around \$250 million. As ever, you've got options on screens big and small, but with the change of seasons, they include more for grown-ups. If you like those options, time to get out the vote with your entertainment dollars, or before long it may be nothing but capes and explosions. ■

Email Contributing Writer Peter Canavese at [GrouchoReviews@aol.com](mailto:GrouchoReviews@aol.com).

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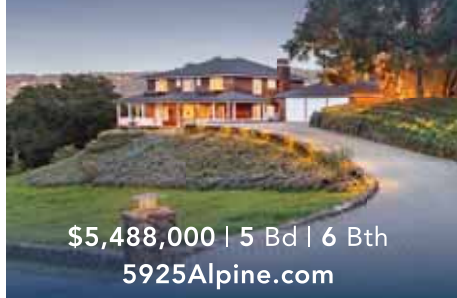
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