

The Almanac

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

SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 | VOL. 58 NO. 3



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New Menlo College residence hall opens its doors to students

Dorm will house nearly 300 in the school's first major facilities expansion in decades

By Angela Swartz

Although a little behind schedule, students began to move into a new, \$20 million residence hall on the Menlo College campus on Friday, Sept. 16.

The dorms, dubbed John Arrillaga Hall, is the Atherton private college's first new building at the 1000 El Camino Real campus in more than 45 years. School officials, who previously said the project was funded by anonymous donors, are now acknowledging Arrillaga helped fund it. The three-story, 57,267-square-foot hall joins the list of many buildings in the area named after late philanthropist John Arrillaga.

There were two principal donors and a significant number of smaller donors who were also key to assembling the project funding, said Jessica Berger, the school's director of communications, in an email.

The second principal donor chooses to remain anonymous, she said.

"It is with students' futures in mind that the college, with extensive donor partnership, begins moving students into this new residence hall. We are thrilled that more students will reap the benefits of the residential college experience," said Menlo College President Steven Weiner in a statement.

The school broke ground on its sixth residence hall in May 2021 and anticipated they'd be completed by April 2022. The delays were due to supply chain challenges and unanticipated complications securing utility hookups, Berger said.

The T-shaped hall has 141 double-occupancy rooms, along with six single-occupancy rooms for resident advisers for a total of 288 beds. The building includes shared



Magali Gauthier

Senior Caden Mink puts away clothes in his room in Menlo College's new dormitory, John Arrillaga Residence Hall, in Atherton on Sept. 20.

See **MENLO COLLEGE**, page 17

Menlo Balance switches up messaging, calls Measure V a 'pro-teacher' ballot initiative as election approaches

By Cameron Rebosio

Nicole Chessari and Tim Yaeger, co-founders of Menlo Balance, are changing up their campaigning in order to fight what they see as misconceptions surrounding Measure V.

Measure V is a citizen-sponsored initiative on the November ballot that aims to restrict the Menlo Park City Council's ability to rezone single-family lots to higher density. If it passes, the city will have to put any rezoning of lots zoned "R1" to a vote on a regularly scheduled election. Proponents of the ballot measure say that this will give residents a voice in what

happens to their neighborhoods, as opposed to letting the City Council make decisions. Opponents warn it will block future development, particularly of low-income housing.

The site of the former James Flood Magnet School has become the focal point of the debate between both sides. Ravenswood City School District, which owns the property, wants to build a 90-unit affordable housing complex that would give priority to Ravenswood teachers and staff. However, this lot is currently zoned for single-family housing. Proponents of Measure V have fought for fewer units on the property and a second access

road to decrease traffic.

R1 zoning restricts land uses to single-family homes. While the Flood School site used to house a school, residents of Flood Park and Lorelai Manor approached the City Council in 1985 and requested the property be zoned R1 to protect the neighborhood against future uses of the site. The school closed down in 2011 and the site has been vacant since, but the founders of Menlo Balance say the issue is much bigger than a single lot.

"This is a measure about zoning, and people having a choice about and a vote about what's going to happen where they live," Chessari said. "... At the

end of the day, it's very limited in that all it does is it allows people to vote if there is going to be change of single family, residential neighborhoods zoning."

To Chessari, the measure is about giving voting power back to the residents of Menlo Park instead of the City Council. She said that she believes that residents will vote in the best interest of the city in ways the council won't because residents don't have personal relationships with developers.

"I trust our neighbors," Chessari said. "I trust that people in Menlo Park are really smart and sophisticated, and knowledgeable of the fact that we do need more housing as well. And so I

just, I trust that they're going to make the right decisions."

In the last month, the Menlo Balance campaign has revamped its website, flyers and released a new campaign video for the Yes on V campaign. The campaign's new message is clear: they believe that they are fighting for teachers, housing and residents, even though the measure itself could block or reduce housing proposed by Ravenswood.

The change runs in parallel to their opposition, Menlo Park Neighbors for Affordable Homes (MPNAH) who have made their campaign "Protect Teacher Housing." Both

See **MEASURE V**, page 17

INSIDE

VIEWPOINT 19 | ARTS 20 | FOOD 22

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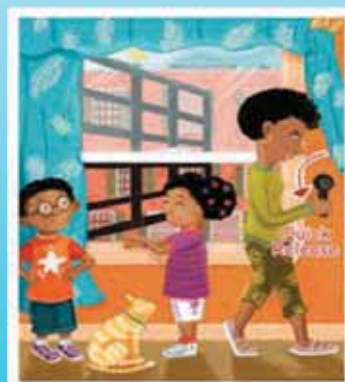
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Local News

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Courtesy Joel Wade Photography

Traditional German folk music and dancing takes place at Redwood City's annual Oktoberfest.

Giant gourds and Oktoberfest pours: 15 events we're excited about this autumn

Keep your calendar full through November
with these Peninsula happenings

By Julia Brown

Fall always has big shoes to fill. Coming in on the heels of a season synonymous with sunshine, vacations and outdoor activities, autumn signals the start of the school year and days that are increasingly shorter and colder.

But longtime locals know fall

is one of the best times of year on the Peninsula, filled with clear, warm days and the intermingling of end-of-summer traditions with autumn ones. Here are 15 autumn events we're looking forward to in 2022, from the return of the Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival to the bevy of fall food events around the 650.

Redwood City Oktoberfest Sept. 21-25: Get a taste of Munich's Oktoberfest without leaving the Peninsula by heading to Redwood City for its eighth annual celebration. With bench seating in an 1,100-square-foot tent mirroring the traditional beer tents

See **AUTUMN EVENTS**, page 16

Three Ravenswood candidates running as a slate

'Ready Set Ravenswood' is made up of two current trustees and one newcomer

By Angela Swartz

Three Ravenswood City School District governing board candidates are running as a slate called "Ready Set Ravenswood" this fall.

Current trustees Mele Latu and Tamara Sobomehin are joining former candidate Laura Nuñez as a slate in the upcoming Nov. 8 election, according to a campaign committee filing from Aug. 12. The trio is endorsed by the Ravenswood Teachers Association and San Mateo County Latinx Democratic Club and running to bring their shared experience in the community to the board, according to their website. There are three open spots on the board this fall.

They face off against newcomer Manuel López, an aerospace engineer who's lived in East Palo Alto for nine years and has become concerned that public school options in the area are not very competitive, according to his website.

The slate's treasurer is Carolyn Bowsher, board chair of the Ravenswood Education Foundation.

Nuñez, an East Palo Alto Academy High School teacher, previously ran on the "Recharge Ravenswood" reform slate with Sobomehin in 2018. The pair

aimed to convey their "goal to inspire and facilitate renewed energy around the participants and policies of the Ravenswood district" while also acknowledging the ongoing, "often unseen" work of teachers and staff. Nuñez, who grew up in East Palo Alto, lost by a small margin when she ran in 2018.

She is an alumna of the Ravenswood City School District, Eastside College Preparatory School and Stanford University.

Latu was appointed to the board two years ago.

Longtime trustee Ana Maria Pulido is not seeking reelection.

Challenger outside of the slate

López was raised in Bogotá, Colombia. He moved to the Bay Area to study at Stanford University, where he earned master's and doctoral degrees in the aeronautics and astronautics department. He has a 2-year-old child.

"While I could buy property elsewhere or send my child to a private school, I'd like to leverage my experience with high academic achievement to push the bounds of the possible for children in East Palo Alto," he said on his website.

See **RAVENSWOOD**, page 18

Lawsuit, possible license suspension loom for Tesla over alleged autonomous-vehicle deceptions

Complaint, investigations by state and federal agencies allege company misled consumers over self-driving tech

By Sue Dremann

Tesla Inc. has found itself on a collision course with state and federal agencies — plus a customer who initiated a class-action lawsuit — over allegations of misleading the public regarding its cars' self-driving capabilities.

The legal actions could result in hefty fines, reimbursements and

suspension of the company's California manufacturing license, which could impact its Fremont plant and retail stores.

On Sept. 14, attorneys for Burlingame-based Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP filed the class-action lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in San Francisco on behalf of consumer Briggs Matsko of Rancho Murieta, a community about 25 miles east

of Sacramento. Matski bought a Tesla Model X compact SUV and additionally paid about \$15,000 for Tesla's "Enhanced Autopilot" option.

The lawsuit and the California Department of Motor Vehicles in separate actions accuse Tesla of pushing forth systems that don't perform as advertised and assert the company is aware of the systems' limitations and

even dangers they could pose. The automaker continued a false narrative that full autonomy was just around the corner through system updates.

Tesla's practice in essence made consumers the test subjects of its software, the 84-page class action lawsuit claims.

The allegations concern Tesla's Autopilot, Enhanced Autopilot and Full Self-Driving Capability

("FSD") technology, which the class-action complaint alleges was deceptively marketed as either already fully functional or near to be fully functioning since at least 2016, according to attorneys for the plaintiff.

"Tesla has deceived and misled consumers regarding the current abilities of its ... technology and

See **TESLA**, page 8

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every Friday at
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The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370)
is published every Friday by Embarcadero
Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park,
CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at
Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices.
Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation
for San Mateo County. The Almanac is delivered
to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley
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Atherton plans for new housing at Menlo College, but building it will cost \$20 million

By Angela Swartz

Menlo College, like many schools on the Peninsula, could use more housing for its faculty and staff, but without millions of dollars in extra funds, that's not going to happen, said Menlo College President Steve Weiner.

The town of Atherton is including some 40 units of new housing at the private four-year college over the next eight years to meet its state mandated housing requirements. The town must plan for the development of 348 new housing units from 2023 to 2031, a large jump from its designation of 93 units during the previous housing element cycle.

There is demand for more housing on the college's 95-year-old campus. Its existing units are almost always 100% occupied, and that shortage of affordable housing is a barrier to hiring, Weiner said.

Based on recent construction experience on the campus, the likely expense for housing and parking would be \$20 million to pay for 40 units. Menlo College is committed to working with the Atherton community to support such an endeavor, said Weiner.

College officials suggested that the town could support the cost of constructing housing and parking on campus through a new source of funding, possibly by issuing bonds. City Manager George Rodericks said in an email that while "no solutions are off the table," the town is not actively considering a public bond issue in support of



Magali Gauthier

Keith Lambert, Menlo College's men's soccer coach, far right, sits with his wife Kimberly Lambert, far left, and their children Logan, 4, center left, and Collette, 6, center right, in their on-campus staff housing in Atherton on Sept. 20.

affordable housing.

"The town has encouraged Menlo College to reach out to interested groups in the community that expressed a desire to partner with the college to identify funding sources in support of their housing needs," Rodericks said.

Weiner said a donor could come along and provide the funding, but raising funds for housing isn't the school's highest priority. Fundraising is targeted at student scholarships, new classroom buildings and a new library, he said.

"If the town is looking for a solution (to its housing mandates) and could find a means to bring resources, I have the land to make it happen," he said. "Even in the absence of a bond issue, we remain ready to partner with the town to

leverage any opportunity that might allow us to build housing units on our campus that would also serve to address the town's goals."

"The barriers of entry to the Bay Area housing market are well established. The Silicon Valley population has grown substantially since the latest recession, and multifamily developments are struggling to keep up," Weiner wrote to the town in a July letter. "The job growth and attractiveness of being close to the burgeoning tech markets in the area have helped fuel the population growth, which, in turn, has driven up housing costs throughout the Bay Area."

Weiner noted that Menlo College hasn't been able to provide salary increases sufficient to keep up with the cost of housing

in the surrounding neighborhoods, something that will only be exacerbated with expected increases in local housing costs in the coming years.

Through its master plan, the college is exploring several concepts for faculty and staff housing on the campus including:

- Construction of new library and dining hall buildings (separate buildings) with parking at ground level, one or two levels for the library and dining hall, and one or two stories of housing above (maximum three stories over parking). The majority of the housing units would be set aside for low- and moderate-income faculty and staff households.

- Construction of a multifamily housing project on the site of the O'Brian Parking Lot at the corner of El Camino Real and Alejandra Avenue. The building could have podium parking at ground level and three stories of housing above. Most of the housing units would be set aside for low- and moderate-income faculty and staff households.

- Construction of a new classroom building on the site of the existing Florence Moore Building with podium parking at ground level and two stories of classrooms above and one story of housing on top. Most of the housing units would be set-aside for low- and moderate income faculty and staff households.

- Conversion of student dorm housing to new apartments for faculty. This is anticipated to result in three to five new housing units.

See **ATHERTON HOUSING**, page 14

CRIME BRIEFS

Men arrested for illegally hunting deer in Portola Valley

San Mateo County Sheriff's deputies arrested two men early Wednesday, Sept. 21, morning for illegally hunting around Los Trancos Road and Alpine Road in Portola Valley according to a press release.

Around 12:45 a.m., deputies heard a gun shot and saw a car speed off near the Portola Valley Garage, an auto repair shop. When the pulled over the car, they saw a rifle in plain sight. They then arrested the two men, who they allege were hunting deer.

The Sheriff's Office contacted the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to assist with the investigation.

The suspects were booked at Maguire Correctional Facility in Redwood City on suspicion of negligent discharge of a firearm, hunting during darkness, discharge of a firearm on a public road, use of artificial light while hunting and conspiracy to

commit a crime.

The Sheriff's Office asks that anyone with information regarding this incident call its anonymous tip line at 800-547-2700.

—Angela Swartz

Man convicted of murder for 2011 East Palo Alto shooting

A 31-year-old man has been convicted of first-degree murder for a fatal shooting in East Palo Alto in 2011, San Mateo County prosecutors said on Sept. 14.

Christian Fuentes was accused of the killing of 19-year-old Catherine Fisher, who was sitting in a parked vehicle with two other people on Annapolis Street on July 13, 2011, when two suspects approached and opened fire, according to the District Attorney's Office.

Fisher was struck multiple times in the shooting, which prosecutors said had targeted one of the other people in the vehicle.

Authorities identified Fuentes, Jaime Cardenas and Fidel Silva as the two shooters and driver in the case and learned that the trio after the shooting had gone to Grand Junction, Colorado, where Fuentes committed another fatal shooting on July 16, 2011.

Fuentes then returned to the Bay Area and was arrested three days later, East Palo Alto police said. Cardenas and Silva remain at large.

Fuentes was convicted for the Colorado killing and then was extradited to San Mateo County, where a jury convicted him of first-degree murder with the special circumstances of lying in wait and use of a firearm, as well as attempted premeditated murder, prosecutors said.

Fuentes is set for sentencing on Jan. 12, 2023, and had already been sentenced to about 84 years in prison for the Colorado killing, according to the District Attorney's Office.

—Bay City News Service

Redwood City's State of Mind pizzeria to highlight restaurant's 'Almost Famous' fried chicken sandwich

By Kate Bradshaw

When Lars Smith and his family opened the first State of Mind Public House and Pizzeria in Los Altos in 2018, the restaurant quickly became busier than the Peninsula family that founded it had expected.

So when they realized they didn't have enough room in their fryers to keep up with demand, one of the menu items they'd carefully developed was written off the menu. The "Almost Famous" fried chicken sandwich became just that — a cult favorite now served only during less busy hours at lunchtime and on Mondays.

Now in preparation for a third location in Redwood City's Marsh Manor shopping center, they're adding extra fryers to better keep up with demand and keep the fried chicken sandwiches as a permanent menu staple. They're developing a menu that includes four or five different types of chicken sandwiches, including a plant-based option, says Smith, State of Mind's co-owner and executive chef.

"The goal is to have it available all the time in Redwood City," he says.

They're well into construction and hoping to begin the soft-opening process around Nov. 1, barring any major



Courtesy State of Mind Public House and Pizzeria

The "Almost Famous" fried chicken sandwich is made with gluten-free flour for the breading on the chicken and comes with pickled Fresno peppers and black garlic coleslaw.

supply chain problems.

One of the obstacles the team has faced in opening the new location has been major backups with getting key pieces of kitchen equipment. At one point in their search, they were told there was an extensive 47-week back order for the fryers they wanted, but they've since sourced the equipment they need, according to Smith.

The original fried chicken recipe is a buttermilk-marinated chicken breast, dredged with cup4cup gluten-free flour. This flour blend gives the finished product a crisp texture and light

brown color — being gluten-free is a bonus, Smith says.

The fried chicken is then topped with black garlic coleslaw and Fresno peppers pickled in pale ale and served on a potato bun from Kelly's French Bakery in Santa Cruz.

The new location will be where the former Squeeze In diner was at the Marsh Manor shopping center in Redwood City, near Menlo Park's Suburban Park neighborhood. The diner, where Smith's brother Andrew had been a regular, had long been closed before the business team considered opening a new

location in the space, he says.

The State of Mind team includes Lars' brother Andrew, wife Cristina and father Jim, as well as business partners Amy Alcantar and Victor Beccera. They've also got credentials as bona fide locals: the brothers grew up in Palo Alto, and Cristina attended Menlo-Atherton High School.

State of Mind opened its Public House and Pizzeria in Los Altos in 2018 and the Slice House in Palo Alto in 2020. The Redwood City location is intended to be more similar in concept to the Los Altos location, with full pizzas (rather than slices) available alongside salads, wings and appetizers. There will also be pinball.

They won't be selling burgers out of support for a neighboring business, though.

"Our buddies at Freewheel do a great burger," Smith says.

In addition, they don't have the room to have as many draft beers available as the Los Altos location, but they are planning to offer a curated canned beer selection, wine and a low-proof cocktail menu.

"We're really excited," Smith says. "We are very thankful for the community that we grew up in coming out to support us the way they have in the last five years."

Coming soon: State of Mind Public House and Pizzeria, 3710 Florence St., Redwood City, stateofmindpublichouse.com. Instagram: @stateofmindpub. ■

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Driving instructor faces allegedly coerced teen girls to produce explicit content

Man falsely claimed to be in law enforcement and threatened to leak videos, according to indictment

By Olivia Wynkoop/
Bay City News Service

A driving school instructor in San Mateo County faces federal charges relating to child pornography after allegedly coercing and enticing teenage girls, some his students, to produce explicit content, announced U.S. Attorney Stephanie Hinds on Sept. 15.

According to the indictment, 39-year-old Jonnatan Zelaya Izaguirre of Redwood City allegedly offered teenage girls monetary rewards and bought them sex toys to encourage them to film child pornography, both for his own use and for sale. He also offered to manage their sales of explicit content, reads the indictment.

He faces two counts of coercion and enticement of a minor,

one count of receiving child pornography and one count of possessing child pornography.

Zelaya Izaguirre is a graduate of a local police academy and owner of a driving school in San Mateo County. Prosecutors allege he persuaded girls to create explicit videos by posing as a "position of authority" on social media and falsely claiming he was in law enforcement, though he never joined a police department.

Court documents allege Zelaya groomed his victims and developed "sexualized friendships" with them. He allegedly listed off amounts of money that victims could make off of videos based on how explicit the content was.

He also threatened to leak videos of a victim to everyone she knew if she stopped making videos, allege the court documents.

He was arrested on Jan. 4 after an undercover police officer posed as a 17-year-old driving student.

"The government's court filings describe multiple communications between the undercover officer, who had posed as a driving student, and Zelaya Izaguirre that included highly sexualized conversations with instructions on how to masturbate, discussions of future interactions in which he would orally copulate and have sexual intercourse with her, and a request to have the officer perform a photo shoot with him," reads a press release from Hinds' office.

Zelaya is detained until further proceedings, as ordered by Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph Spero. He is scheduled to appear before a district court on Oct. 6. ■

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TESLA*continued from page 5*

by representing that it was perpetually on the cusp of perfecting that technology and finally fulfilling its promise of producing a fully self-driving car," the suit claims. "Although these promises have proven false time and time again, Tesla and Musk have continued making them to generate media attention, to deceive consumers into believing it has unrivaled cutting-edge technology, and to establish itself as a leading player in the fast-growing electric vehicle market," the lawsuit alleges.

They noted a video published on its website in October 2016 purporting to show a Tesla car autonomously driving.

The video opens with the message, "The person in the driver's seat is only there for legal reasons. He is not driving anything. The car is driving itself."

But Tesla employees who created the video would later reveal that the car in the video had significant assistance from commercial mapping software that was not available to Tesla customers. The car still performed poorly and even ran into a fence during filming, the complaint states.

"With the assistance of a large team of Tesla engineers, the car had to run the same route over and over again before Tesla got acceptable video that appeared to show a car capable of driving itself. Even though the video was debunked as deceptive and misleading years ago, Tesla continues to prominently feature it on its website."

The lawsuit alleges Tesla hasn't produced a fully self-driving car; instead, owners receive "updates" of Tesla's Autopilot software and Full Self-Driving Capability beta software.

Owners reported problems that have included the cars having difficulty making routine turns, running red lights and steering into oncoming traffic. Collisions involving Tesla's software have included vehicles crashing at high speeds into large stationary objects such as emergency vehicles and an overturned box truck, according to the complaint.

The software has also been tied to deaths, including that of Apple engineer Walter Huang, who was killed in March 2018 when the Autopilot technology on his Tesla Model X became confused at a fork on the highway and caused the car to veer sharply and crash into a concrete barrier in Mountain View, the complaint noted.

"People have suffered fatal and other serious injuries as a result of the Tesla's autopilot and self-driving technology, triggering investigations by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the National

Transportation Safety Board, and other regulators," the law firm said in a statement.

Tesla continued to push the narrative of a safe, autonomous-capable vehicle from 2017 to 2019 through its advertising:

"All you will need to do is get in and tell your car where to go. If you don't say anything, the car will look at your calendar and take you there as the assumed destination or just home if nothing is on the calendar. Your Tesla will figure out the optimal route, navigate urban streets (even without lane markings), manage complex intersections with traffic lights, stop signs and roundabouts, and handle densely packed (sic) freeways with cars moving at high speed."

Yet its upgraded software continued to be implicated in crashes and consumer complaints. In October 2021, an update to the full self-driving beta software caused a major increase in "phantom braking" incidents, where the software identifies a nonexistent threat that triggers the vehicle's emergency braking system. Tesla vehicles, traveling at various speeds, suddenly slammed on the brakes for no apparent reason, according to the lawsuit.

Tesla initially claimed it had identified the source of the problem and fixed it with a software update released on Oct. 25, 2021, but the company issued a formal recall for more than 11,000 cars using the software, according to the complaint.

"Tesla's claims of having fixed the problem, however, turned out to be false, as driver complaints about 'phantom braking' issues soared to 107 NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) complaints in the three-month period of November 2021 through January 2022 (compared with only 34 such complaints in the preceding 22 months)," the complaint said.

Tesla is also facing scrutiny by federal and state regulators.

Federal investigations

In June 2021, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued an order requiring automobile manufacturers to report any crash involving an injury, fatality or property damage that occurred while or immediately after a vehicle is using some automated driving tasks.

The NHTSA opened an investigation into Tesla's Autopilot technology in August 2021, which could affect an estimated 830,000 Tesla vehicles from 2014-2022, including models Y, X, S and 3.

Two U.S. senators called for the Federal Trade Commission to investigate Tesla's potentially deceptive marketing practices surrounding its full self-driving technology.

DMV seeks to suspend Tesla's license

On July 28 of this year, the California Department of Motor Vehicles, which licenses motor vehicle manufacturers and dealerships in the state, including Tesla's Fremont factory and Tesla retail stores, brought two administrative enforcement actions against Tesla. The complaints allege the company engaged in deceptive advertising regarding its advanced driver assistance systems on at least five dates from May 28, 2021 through July 12, 2022.

The Tesla cars "equipped with those ADAS (advanced driver assistance systems) features could not at the time of those advertisements, and cannot now, operate as autonomous vehicles," the DMV complaint alleges.

The complaint asks the DMV's Office of Administrative Hearings to suspend or revoke Tesla's manufacturer license and to cause the company to owe restitution to the persons or institutions who have suffered financial loss or damage due to the alleged deceptions.

Tesla has not returned requests for comment regarding these allegations, but the company's attorneys stated to the DMV on multiple occasions that its technology wasn't fully autonomous, according to the class-action lawsuit and the DMV complaint.

On Dec. 28, 2020, in a letter to the California DMV, Tesla's legal counsel admitted the limitations of Tesla's full self-driving technology, saying it is "an additional optional suite of features that builds from Autopilot." Features include Navigate on Autopilot, Auto Lane Change, Autopark, Summon, Smart Summon, Traffic and Stop Sign Control, and, the upcoming Autosteer on City Streets (City Streets).

"While we designed these features to become more capable over time through over-the-air software updates, currently neither Autopilot nor FSD Capability is an autonomous system, and currently no comprising feature, whether singularly or collectively, is autonomous or makes our vehicles autonomous. This includes the limited pilot release of City Streets," the company said.

Tesla has published disclaimers, including one from June 28, 2022, which stated in part: "The currently enabled features require active driver supervision and do not make the vehicle autonomous," the DMV complaint noted, but they are not enough.

"However, the disclaimer contradicts the original untrue or misleading labels and claims, which is misleading, and does not cure the violation," DMV said.

Tesla moved its headquarters from Palo Alto to Austin in December 2021. ■

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Courtesy Silicon Valley International School

Families gather for the Silicon Valley International School's annual Moon Festival on Sept. 16.

Silicon Valley International School hosts annual Moon Festival

Silicon Valley International School students stargazed, listened to stories, ate mooncakes and carried lanterns during the school's annual Moon Festival on Friday, Sept. 16, at its Willows neighborhood campus.

The autumn festival, which marks the fall harvest when it is believed the moon is at its fullest and brightest in the sky, brought about 300 to 400 people to the school. The school has been celebrating the event since 1996.

"The Moon Festival is an integral part of the international and multicultural education at INTL (Silicon Valley International School), as students benefit from Chinese (Mandarin), French, and German programs," according to a press release.

The school, also known as INTL, hosts preschool through 12th grade students on two campuses. It rents the Ravenswood City School District's former Willows Oak School in Menlo Park. Its main campus is in Palo Alto near the Baylands Nature Preserve.

The high school opened in 2021 and offers an international baccalaureate diploma program as well as learning opportunities in the three languages.

For more information on the school, go to its website siliconvalleyinternational.org.

Portola Valley 'star party'

Portola Valley's Nature and Science Committee is hosting an evening of star watching on Friday, Sept. 30, from 8 to 10 p.m. at the Town Center fields, 765 Portola Road.

You'll be able to view the moon and Saturn through telescopes and participate in other night sky activities.

Portola Valley neighborhood clean-up day is Oct. 1

Portola Valley will host a free neighborhood clean-up day on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 8 to 11 a.m.

Bring a copy of your GreenWaste garbage bill or the mailer insert as proof of residency.

For more information, go to the town's website, portolavalley.net.

Talk on helping kids develop emotional vocabulary

The Parent Venture and Sequoia Union High School District will host a talk on helping kids build a vocabulary around their feelings with Deborah Farmer Kris, an author and child developmental expert from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 29, online.

Register at tinyurl.com/feelingstalk.

Woodside Elementary Garden Fest on Oct. 18

Woodside Elementary School will host its 2022 Garden Fest on Tuesday, Oct. 18. Proceeds from the annual PTA fundraiser will go toward new picnic tables in the school garden.

For more information to woodsideschool.us. ■

—Angela Swartz

The holidays are coming to town

Menlo Park reinstates several holiday traditions post-pandemic

By Cameron Rebosio

Menlo Park's well-loved holiday traditions are returning for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began, with several council members making efforts to reinstate more community events at a Sept. 20 council meeting.

While smaller-scale city events made a return over the summer, Menlo Park has been slow to return to pre-pandemic levels of service. Despite the city hosting the Summer Concert Series, many council members pointed to the lack of a Summer Festival — something several nearby cities have brought back — as an indication of Menlo Park's sluggish approach to recovery.

"The overall theme that I've gotten is that the city has been incredibly slow to come back when it comes to community programming and engagement," Council Member Drew Combs said.

During the peak of the pandemic, all city events were canceled due to the risk of viral transmission and the steep economic downturn. In April 2021,

Menlo Park sought to turn the corner, creating a plan to slowly phase events and city services back in. Large events were planned to be the last to return, due to their risk of transmission, costs, and lack of staffing.

Cherished events are now slated to return to Menlo Park, and the City Council is taking this opportunity to explore the inclusivity of religious holiday celebrations hosted by the city.

Menlo Park is partnering with San Mateo County Parks in order to host the Halloween Hoopla at Burgess Park this year. While city staff originally planned for the event to not include the parade as it has in past years, Council member Ray Mueller led the push to reinstate it.

Mueller said his goal is to return to pre-pandemic conditions in Menlo Park, though city officials cautioned that the city remains short-staffed. Sean Reinhart, director of library and community services, said that staffing has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels.

"What I'm really focused on right now is (that) I want to get back to where we were," Mueller

said. "So I want the city open for business again. I want to be providing the same level of services."

The council recommended to staff that the Halloween parade be an element of the event, as well as other services such as trick or treating at local businesses downtown.

"We're talking about the things that I think a small community in your city (does)," Combs said. "It's a core value you provide to residents ... I do think to sort of lose that ... or discount the value of that is to not understand what that community event was all about."

Council member Cecilia Taylor advised staff to advertise the city's existing shuttle service to make events more accessible to the entire community.

The city is also restoring its Light of the Season tree-lighting event, lighting trees at both Fremont Park and the Willow and Newbridge intersection. The Fremont Park tree lighting will also include a larger community event to signify the start of the holiday shopping season and initiate patronage to Downtown Menlo Park stores

— aimed at assisting businesses in their post-pandemic economic recovery.

City officials initially excluded Menlo Park's Breakfast with Santa event, which was reinstated at the Sept. 20 meeting after pushback from council members. Combs encouraged the city to bring back the event as part of Menlo Park's Winter holiday festivities, which was last hosted in December 2019 at the Arrillaga Family Gymnasium with several hundred attendees.

Council members acknowledged the lack of staffing as a hurdle in bringing back citywide festivities, and said they would support additional efforts to find ways to host the events.

"I'm trying to figure out what we need to do to empower you and to empower city staff because we need them back," Mueller said. "The community really needs them back."

During the COVID hiatus from large blockbuster events, the city has considered new ways to be more inclusive in its religious events. City staff suggested that children from different faiths come together at the tree lighting celebration to talk about how their family celebrates and what the holiday season means to them.

Another tradition being

revisited for inclusion is the Easter Egg hunt hosted by the city. As Easter is also a religious holiday, the city wants to preserve a tradition without excluding other members of the community. The city is also partnering with San Mateo County Parks for the egg hunt.

Vice Mayor Jen Wolosin said that she would like to see the city eventually establish individual events for various faiths, instead of conglomerating them with preexisting religious celebrations. She suggested that city staff pursue events with Dia de los Muertos, Divali, and Chinese New Year. The events could be organized by residents who celebrate the holiday, creating community-driven events. While she acknowledged it could take some time for staff to establish a framework, she said that now was an opportunity to reevaluate.

"I think that we're at a point where we've kind of been always doing what we've been doing," Wolosin said. "And it's a moment to kind of evaluate who we're serving. ... I'd feel much more comfortable if the city were supporting these (diverse) types of events, and providing some funding for the events, providing space for the events, but not

See **HOLIDAYS**, page 18

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Stanford wants 'educational' tax exemption for faculty homes

Millions potentially at stake for local schools if the university prevails, county administrators say

By Sue Dremann

Stanford University is seeking to reduce its tax burden on two faculty houses by claiming they are used for educational purposes.

If successful, additional exemptions the university might seek could result in millions of dollars of lost revenue for local schools and governments, particularly the Palo Alto Unified School District, according to Santa Clara County administrators.

Stanford filed an application for a tax refund on the two properties, whose addresses have been redacted from documents, in 2021. The university claimed the educational-use exemption under provisions of the California Constitution and the Revenue and Taxation code. The total request for the property tax excusal is \$20,657 in the first year for the two properties and would apply in every subsequent year, the county stated in an email to the Palo Alto Weekly.

If the university pursues additional refunds based on the same claims, the county and

local jurisdictions could potentially lose nearly \$5 million annually, including \$2.3 million each year to the Palo Alto Unified School District. These losses would hurt K-12 students, teachers, and the local economy, Santa Clara County Counsel James Williams said.

The properties are currently being taxed based on their current market value, as is the case with all properties in California. Stanford wants a tax discount of 25% on the land value beneath the properties, which it owns and leases to faculty members. The university claims that it has an "interest" in the properties and that they are exempt from taxation as an educational use. Stanford is not making an exemption claim for taxes paid by the faculty members who own the homes located on the leased land.

But the county has flatly rejected the claims. An Assessment and Appeals Board notified the university in October 2021 that it had no jurisdiction to grant or deny exemptions, nor to consider allegations that claims for exemptions from

property tax have been improperly denied, according to a letter to the university.

The university then filed a claim with the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in February 2022 for the refund, and Stanford has now designated hired attorneys as their Power of Attorney to deal further with the matter, according to Stanford's claim letter.

Williams said the county has denied the claim. He noted the county is not denying the educational status of on-campus properties such as student dormitories. The two residential properties, which are long-term leaseholds to faculty members, are not the same as libraries, academic buildings and other facilities that are everyday uses for education on the campus. They are also not located in the core academic campus with these other educational buildings, Williams said, disputing Stanford's definition of "on campus."

Stanford owns 8,180 acres of land in Santa Clara and San Mateo County. The university was not required to pay taxes

on more than \$15.9 billion of its holdings during the 2021 fiscal year, the largest tax exemption in Santa Clara County, according to the Santa Clara County Assessor's Office, Williams noted.

Stanford's residential portfolio

More than 1,200 single-family residences are among its holdings. Those homes have a value of almost \$1.1 billion, according to the county.

Increasingly, the university has also been buying up single-family homes in the cities of Menlo Park, Palo Alto and surrounding communities to meet the needs of professors the university has said it wants to attract.

Stanford owns the ground lease for its properties. Faculty members lease the ground, often for decades, until they are no longer affiliated with the university. The faculty member purchases the home that is on the land. The faculty member agrees to a value cap of 2% a year, which keeps the home's

value down for the next buyer who takes possession, according to the university's residential ground lease.

The properties can also be transferred to the surviving spouse of an active faculty member who has died, even if the spouse serves no educational connection to the university. Williams noted this would seem to belie an educational use.

The issue emerged after the Santa Clara County Tax Assessor's Office began reassessing property values in 2018 for home purchases that occurred in 2017 and thereafter.

In 2019, about 50 Stanford University faculty members who purchased their homes through ground leases in the prior three years had their properties reassessed by the county. Using a little-known rule for homes owned under ground leases, the county valued some single-family homes 12% to 48% higher. The new assessments were based on open-market purchase prices of nearby homes.

Stanford's stated reason for

See **TAX EXEMPTION**, page 17

Portola Valley Town Council Candidates Debate

Thursday, September 29 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. via Zoom

Featuring the five candidates running for three seats on the Portola Valley Town Council:



Judith
Hasko



Mary
Hufty



Craig
Hughes



Dale
Pfau



Craig
Taylor

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DULCY FREEMAN
650.804.8884 LICENSE# 01342352



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JESSICA EVA
650.704.5483 LICENSE# 01210450



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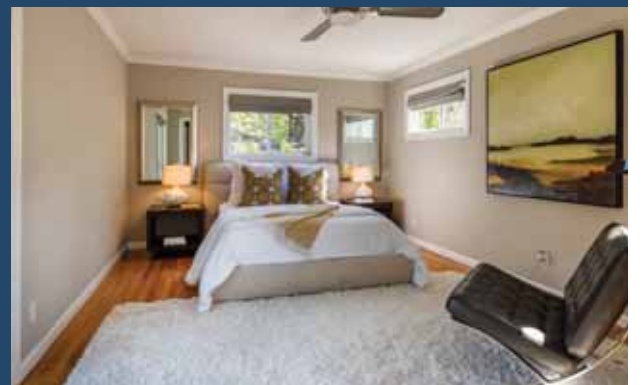
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ATHERTON HOUSING

continued from page 6

Current and future faculty housing

Menlo College currently has 21 apartments and four freestanding houses for faculty and staff. Most of those units are rented at rates affordable to low- and moderate income households.

Keith Lambert, the school's head men's soccer coach, has been living in a duplex on campus with his wife, two kids and dog for four years. He said he would welcome even more housing on campus since having more people on campus helps create a better sense of community. Having staffers live onsite puts fewer cars on the road.

"In addition to the rental price being affordable within our budget, it allows me to be a good employee for the college, it lets me be a better dad and

husband," he said. The family moved from Redwood City to the Atherton campus. "I don't have to commute. I can run home and start dinner to put something on the Crock-Pot."

Living locally also has an economic impact. He and his kids bike or walk to Santa Cruz Avenue to shop at Cheeky Monkey Toys.

There are several potential building sites on campus, any one of which could be developed to provide a mix of studio, and one-, two-, and three-bedroom units for faculty and staff rentals in order to expand the capability to offer below market rate apartments exclusively to Menlo College employees.

"Occupancy has consistently been 100% — a direct reflection of the high cost of living in Atherton and the immediately adjacent areas," Weiner said of the current units.

Any new building would, however, also need to address

the associated increased in parking demand on campus, which will likely be addressed through a free-standing parking facility elsewhere on campus. To indicate the likely demand for the new apartments, a survey of full-time faculty and staff was conducted several years ago.

Staff survey results

A recent survey of 47 faculty and staff (accounting for about 45% of employees) indicated strong likely demand for new apartment rentals, according to the letter to the town.

Of those not living on campus at the time, 74% responded "yes" and another 15% responded "maybe" when asked if they would be interested in moving into a college-owned apartment building.

Reflecting the fact that most faculty and staff live more than 30 miles from campus, 66%

of respondents indicated they would be willing to pay more than their current rents for the convenience of living on campus.

Recent residence hall

Donors are funding the college's sixth residence hall, according to a school blog post. Students moved into the 288-bed, three-story dormitory, dubbed John Arrillaga Hall, last week.

The college broke ground on the \$20 million residence hall in May 2021, which was originally expected to be done in April this year. Room and board is \$8,125 for a double-occupancy dorm room this school year, according to the school's website. Double-occupancy dorms in other residence halls on campus is \$6,750 per year.

Incoming freshmen will live primarily in the new residence hall, according to the school

website. The 100-bed O'Brien Hall will be closed for the full school year for maintenance and repairs.

Dorms do not count toward the town's housing production because they are not considered permanent housing, Atherton Town Planner Lisa Costa Sanders said last year. ■

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

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Gene Straube**, 94, an Atherton resident, on Sept. 4; and **Sally Collins Young**, 86, a Menlo Park resident, on Sept. 2.

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

Judith Amsbaugh

February 3, 1933 – June 30, 2022

Judith Amsbaugh, nee Drew, died on June 30, 2022 at age 89 in Santa Maria, CA. She is survived by her two children, Marian Amsbaugh and Gordon Amsbaugh (Teresa), and grandchildren Genaro and Joaquim Lozano of Santa Maria/UCSC and Sam Amsbaugh of Helena, Montana. She was preceded in death by her husband Allen Amsbaugh.

Judy was born in Upland, California on February 3, 1933, the only surviving child of Edred Warren Drew and Blanche Gertrude Drew (Mollard). Judy grew up in Ontario, California where her extended families were pioneers. She graduated from Chaffey High School at age 17, and later from Chaffey Community College.

She graduated from the University of Arizona in 1954 with a BA in History and a minor in Anthropology. She was a proud member of the Alpha Phi Sorority. She had many interests, including opera, classical music, art and art history.

After college, she and her longtime friend Melina Iest traveled to Europe for three months. During her travels, Judy enjoyed art and art history, the theatre, many operas, and the food.

In 1956, she married Allen, whom she met years earlier in an English class at the community college. He was by then a Lieutenant in the US Marine Corps. When it was decided that she would have a wedding bouquet of magnolia blossoms, Judy's father and his friend took shotguns to a majestic magnolia tree and shot down blossoms in various states of maturity.

While Al attended Stanford University, Judy worked first as a dental technician. Later, Judy worked as a technical librarian with a Top Secret clearance at the Atomic Energy Division

of Advanced Technology Laboratories (ATL). After the birth of their first child, she left the workforce to focus on her family.

In 1966 the family resettled in Menlo Park, as Al left Philco and began a career as a pilot with American Airlines. They purchased their home in the Menlo Oaks area, where Judy lived there for the next 50 years, until 2016, Al having died in 2010.



In 1969, Judy began volunteering at the Stanford Museum. She and her good friend Boots Liddle were in the Museum's first docent class. She was fortunate to work with professors Al Elsen and Lawrence Eitner of the Stanford Art Department, and was honored to be chosen

as one of Elsen's editors, an acknowledgment of her intellectual and writing skills. During her 30 plus years, she was the Chair of the Rodin Docents, and, along with Bev Balanis, Co-Chair of the Native American section.

Judy's humorous side showed in subtle ways, as with her famous 'Christmas Broccoli' recipe: Take two bunches of broccoli, wash, cut up into smaller pieces and put down the garbage disposal. Regarding religion, she explained: "I try to remember to be tolerant of the views of the religious, but I find it very difficult. They seem to be needing closed-ended answers, and I am more interested in open-ended questions."

A special thank you to those of who were able to visit Judy in Santa Maria. Your visits were the highlights of her final days.

There will be a gathering of friends and family on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at The Little House in Menlo Park from 2-4pm. Please contact Marian for more details/RSVP at 805-863-6633 (call or text). Visit obituaries.neptunesociety.com to leave a condolence or memory for the family.

PAID OBITUARY

Dawn Yates Black

July 30, 1930 – August 29, 2022

Dawn Yates Black, a longtime resident of Palo Alto, passed away unexpectedly on August 29th surrounded by her family. Dawn will be remembered as the matriarch of her large and extended family. She was a loving wife to Alden Perry Yates (d. 1989) mother of six, grandmother of sixteen and great-grandmother of 9. She was also a loving wife, stepmom and grandmother to Peter Harrell Black (d. 2006), his four children, their spouses and 6 grandchildren.

Dawn was born and raised in Palo Alto by her parents, Carroll and Cloriene Blacker. She had 2 sisters, Phyllis (d. 1978) and Sandy. Dawn attended Palo Alto High School and graduated from Sequoia High School in 1948. In her first week at Stanford, Dawn met Alden on a blind date. They married at Stanford Chapel in 1950, graduated in 1952 and built a beautiful life and family together. They traveled and moved all over the world, following Alden's job with Bechtel.

Dawn loved life and particularly time with her family. She made many friends playing tennis, golf and bridge. Dawn was proud of becoming a Bridge Life Master in 2015. She loved Bay Area sports. Dawn lived a full life that included many adventures, opportunities and service on numerous boards and organizations such as The San Francisco Opera, The California Pacific Medical Center, and Menlo School. Dawn will be missed by all who knew her.

Dawn leaves behind her sister Sandy Blacker, six children, Steve (Stephanie), Mike (Lynn), Karen Weiss (Van), Jeff, Russ (Barbara), and Trish Mitchell (Mark), 16 grandchildren and their spouses, Whitney (Ryan), Mary (Todd), Jennifer, Stephen, Patrick (Katie), Parker (Lauren), Carson (Alex), Miles, Ryan (Tara), Perry (Andrea), Julie (Howie), William, Morgan, Sedona, Alden, Flint and 9 great-grandchildren, Hannah, Lillian, Colton, Reese, Bryton, Summit, Jack, Johnny and Josie.

In honor of Dawn's life, donations may be made to the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, designated for the Alden P. Yates Colon Cancer Fund, the San Francisco Opera, or Guide Dogs for the Blind.



PAID OBITUARY

Sally Collins Young

October 25, 1935 – September 2, 2022

Sally Collins Young passed away on September 2, 2022 at Stanford Hospital at the age of 86. She was born on October 25, 1935 in Hammond, Indiana, the third child of Edward Durbin Collins and Kathryn Huchel Collins. Her father worked in the limestone and lumber businesses. Her mother managed a family-owned bookstore. Early in life, she grew up on a working farm in Wayne, Illinois, where she attended a one room school-house. She had many stories and fond memories of life on the farm, especially with her grandmother whom she called 'Nonny.'



Her family moved to Joliet, Illinois, where she attended Joliet Township High School. She was active in the performing arts, including theater, choir, and musicals. She had lead roles in "Dear Ruth" and "HMS Pinafore" and was the sponsor of her high school's marching band which represented Illinois in the inauguration of President Eisenhower. She also had a rich social life and her dance card was always full!

In 1953, Sally moved out west to matriculate at Mills College in Oakland, California. She majored in history and government, graduating in 1957. Her studies at Mills instilled in her lifelong passions for art, music and literature. After college, she moved to San Francisco, delighting in the city's cultural offerings while working in the travel industry. She met her husband, John Van Winkle Young, a fellow member of the Bach Choir, in San Francisco, and they married in 1961 and began a loving and adventurous union.

Sally and John lived in Menlo Park where they raised their two children, John and Susan. Sally was a homemaker and piano teacher. She was a part of many different social communities, including those connected to her neighborhood, her churches, and the Palo Alto Medical Clinic, where her husband John was an internist. She and John took advantage of sabbaticals and vacations to indulge their curiosity about other countries and cultures, returning with rich stories, always told with her trademark vivacity and wit. An excellent cook, Sally frequently entertained, and she used her gifts of hospitality and service as a deacon at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church. In her later years, she worshiped at Trinity Church in Menlo Park and supported various of their ministries. In 2019, she moved to the Vi at Palo Alto.

Sally is most remembered for how she made others feel special and 'seen.' She was warm, welcoming, compassionate, and vivacious. She was known for her wholehearted authenticity, which engaged people and at times even got her into a little bit of trouble. She delighted in her children and grandchildren, celebrating their unique interests and capabilities, and in turn, passing on to them some of her own passions. She instilled in those around her a deep appreciation for natural beauty. Her home was graced with flowers, color, and light, and gatherings there were marked by liveliness and laughter. She created annual family rituals of camping and hiking in the mountains (especially the Tahoe Basin area) that became sacred time for the family and created deep, life-long bonds for all who participated.

Sally was predeceased by her husband John in 2013, and by her parents and brother, Lou. She is survived by her sister, Ann Teachout; her son John Q. (Jennifer) Young; her daughter Susan (Roderick) MacLeod, and her five grandchildren (Hannah, Naomi, Matt, Abbie and Alex) who knew her as 'Nonny.' In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Trinity Church in Menlo Park (<https://www.trinitymenlopark.org/>), or to KQED Public Radio (KQED.org). A memorial service at Trinity Church will be held on January 21, 2023 at 2:00 PM. Notes of remembrance are cherished and can be sent to Trinity Church, attn: Susan MacLeod, 330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park, CA, 94025.

PAID OBITUARY

Gene F. Straube

August 29, 1928 – September 4, 2022

Gene was born at home in a brownstone on 86th Street in Manhattan 94 years ago to Eugene and Agnes Kramer Straube, young immigrants from Germany. As their fourth child, arriving 15-20 years after his 3 sisters, and the only boy in the family, he was raised and pampered by 4 mothers rather than just one.

He attended Stuyvesant High School in New York City followed by Columbia University, where he earned both a Bachelor of Arts and a BS in Electrical Engineering and was awarded membership in both Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi honorary fraternities.

At Columbia the 6 foot 3 inch freshman rowed Varsity crew and joined the newly-formed Naval ROTC. His leadership skills quickly made him Battalion Commander and he was presented with a sword and achievement award from the President of Columbia at that time, Dwight D. Eisenhower, honoring his outstanding scholastic and military proficiency. The photo from the front page of the New York Times of this event remained among his most treasured possessions.



In the Navy he served as Lieutenant Commander aboard the USS Gayot in the Mediterranean theatre during the Korean War and received the Navy's Distinguished Service Award and European Occupation Ribbon of Honor. He was stationed off Cannes, which had barbed wire on the beach at that time, and he was quite proud that the French Riviera never came under attack, other than by the sailors from his ship!

His years at Columbia and in the Navy remained significant to him throughout his life. He established the Gene F. Straube scholarship fund for students in the School of Engineering and was a staunch supporter of Columbia athletics. He loved returning to the campus for football games and reunions whenever possible, rain or shine, and wearing black Hefty bags to stay dry!

After completing his Navy service In 1953 his engineering career got off to an adventurous start as he moved to California to work with Howard Hughes at Hughes Semiconductor. He chose to live in Manhattan Beach because it sounded like Manhattan. There he and his first wife raised three children.

In 1960 he relocated to Mountain View where he founded Straube Associates Inc. to broker electronic components between the manufacturers and the newly-developing computer industry in what would become known as Silicon Valley.

Gene remained active in his company for more than 50 years as President and later as Chairman of the Board and truly lived his motto that "if you do something you love you will never work a day in your life." Today his son Chris continues the corporation and the tradition.

In 1993 he married the love of his life, Marie, in a story-book weekend wedding

at Meadowood in Napa Valley. There Gene, always competitive, took first place in the croquet tournament he organized for the wedding guests! Their romance continued for more than 30 years of fun, work, adventures and travels together, including China, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Africa, Europe, Scandinavia, Dubai, South America, Russia, Malta and Cuba.

The ever-gregarious Gene made friends wherever they went and in many different circles, including Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club in Menlo Park and Bighorn Golf Club in Palm Desert, the Knights of St. John in San Francisco, Chaine des Rotisseurs International, and at Lake Tahoe where he and Marie loved to spend time at their "Little Bear Lodge" in Rubicon.

In addition to his love of travel, he also loved art, theatre, opera, tennis, hiking, skiing, golf, bridge, his employees, and people from all walks of life. He asked everyone he encountered what their name was and then went on to talk with them, sometimes attempting to do so in Italian, Japanese, or Spanish, or some Gino-combination of all three!

He had boundless energy, and channeled it to served on the boards of several corporations as well as President of the Electronic Representatives Association. He was an early member of the Band of Angels in Silicon Valley, mentoring start-up electronic firms in the early days of tech.

Gene had a kind, caring, and trusting nature, and served on the boards of Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco when Cecil Williams was pastor, the University of San Francisco School of Education, the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, and Miramonte Mental Health Services, among others.

Gene was passionate about everything he did, and gave his all to every endeavor. He never wanted to waste a moment of life or learning, and always had a book with him in case there was a quiet moment that needed filling. He spent his last evening at home playing bridge on the computer with Marie.

Gene passed away just one week after his 94th birthday party, where he was thrilled to meet his first great-grandchild who was just 21 days old. The photo of the four generations became an immediate family treasure.

Upon his passing, a friend described him as an American gentleman, the kind we no longer produce. He will be remembered by those who were fortunate to know him for his big smile, his energy, his charm, his love of life, and his love of people.

A private family service will be held.

Donations in Gene's honor may be made to the charity of your choice or you may mail a check to Columbia University Gift System, PO Box 1523, New York NY 10008 and note it is for the Gene F. Straube Scholarship in the School of Engineering in honor of Gene Straube.

PAID OBITUARY

AUTUMN EVENTS

continued from page 5

in Munich, the festival features cold beer, pretzels, bratwurst and other German fare, plus traditional folk music, dancing and a stein-holding competition.

Redwood City Oktoberfest, Sept. 21-25 at Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. Hours are 5-9 p.m. Sept. 21-22, 5-10 p.m. Sept. 23, noon to 4 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. Sept. 24 and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4-8 p.m. Sept. 25. Ticket prices range from \$10-\$17 for all ages and \$16-\$27 for people 21 and over, plus VIP six-person table seatings for \$255. redwoodcity.org/residents/redwood-city-events/oktoberfest

San Mateo Firefighters' Association's Chili Cook Off Sept. 24: The 13th annual Chili Cook Off returns to Central Park in San Mateo. Taste as many chili entries as you want and get a bowl of your favorite along with cold beer. Listen to live music and peruse the car show while you're there. All proceeds from the event benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

San Mateo Firefighters' Association's Chili Cook Off, Sept. 24 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Central Park, 50 E 5th Ave., San Mateo. Entry is \$10/person. twitter.com/SMCFireDept

Pacific Coast Fog Fest Sept. 24-25: Ironically, the 35th annual Pacific Coast Fog Fest takes place during one of the most fog-free times of year on the Coastsides. The festivities kick off with a parade and marching band competition Saturday, with lots of food offerings, arts and craft vendors, kids' activities and live music throughout the weekend.

Pacific Coast Fog Fest, Sept. 24-25 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Palmetto Avenue in Pacifica. Admission is free. pacificcoastfogfest.com

Harvest History Festival Sept. 24: Mountain View's Heritage Park hosts this celebration of Silicon Valley's agricultural history as "The Valley of Heart's Delight." Tour the park's gardens while listening to live music by the Stragglers and sample harvested produce. Tours of the historic Immigrant House, garden demos and children's activities including a puppet show and bubble entertainment round out the morning's activities.

Harvest History Festival, Sept. 24 from 9 a.m. to noon at Heritage Park, 711 N Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. The event is free. eventbrite.com.

Taste of the County Oct. 1: The second annual Taste of the County was inspired by the restaurants that donated meals to families and frontline workers during the pandemic. Taste food from San Mateo County restaurants and sip on drink pours from



Courtesy Igor Porton

The World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off kicks off Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival week on the Coastsides.

local wineries and breweries. There will also be live music and a children's area with games and activities. A VIP Plus pass gets you access to the VIP Lounge with an upgraded bar.

Taste of the County, Oct. 1 from noon to 4 p.m. at the San Mateo County Event Center, 2495 South Delaware St., San Mateo. Tickets start at \$25 per person, and kids up to 14 years old get in free with a paid adult ticket. smchf.org/toc

Great Glass Pumpkin Patch Oct. 1-2: The Palo Alto Art Center hosts the 27th annual Great Glass Pumpkin Patch, which brings 5,000 people to the art center's grounds to browse more than 10,000 one-of-a-kind glass pumpkins, gourds and autumnal keepsakes for sale. The glass pumpkins come in all colors and sizes, ranging in height from 1 inch to 2 feet. There will also be glass-blowing demonstrations throughout the weekend.

Great Glass Pumpkin Patch, Oct. 1-2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Admission is free. greatglasspumpkinpatch.com

Bay Area Diwali Festival Oct. 8: The Hindu festival of Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by millions of people every year. Join the Cupertino festivities for Indian food, arts and crafts booths, music and dancing featuring classical Kathak and Bharatanatyam to popular Bollywood.

Bay Area Diwali Festival, Oct. 8 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Memorial Park, 10185 N. Stelling Road in Cupertino. Admission is free. eventbrite.com

San Carlos Art & Wine Faire Oct. 8-9: Besides a variety of food, wine and craft brew, the 30th annual San Carlos Art & Wine Faire features over 150 artists selling ceramics, photography and more, live bands and

a family fun zone.

San Carlos Art & Wine Faire, Oct. 8-9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at San Carlos Avenue and Laurel Street in San Carlos. Admission is free. sancarlosartandwinefaire.com

Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival Oct. 15-16: One of the Bay Area's favorite fall traditions is back for its 50th year. Beat the traffic and head to the Coastsides early for the pancake breakfast at 7 a.m. either day. The costume contest and Great Pumpkin Parade are Saturday, and the 44th annual Pumpkin Run (a kids' fun run, 5K, 10K and half-marathon) is Sunday morning. Peruse pumpkin patches, sip on Half Moon Bay Brewing Company's Pumpkin Harvest Ale and enjoy pumpkin-infused foods including chili, smoothies and several desserts. Don't forget about the World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off, which is held at the beginning of the week on Oct. 10 starting at 7 a.m.

Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival, Oct. 15-16, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Main Street in Half Moon Bay. Admission is free. Pumpkin Run registration ranges from \$25-\$55. pumpkinfest.miramarevents.com

Halloween at Hiller Aviation Museum Oct. 22-31: Visit the Hiller Aviation Museum in October as it's transformed into the Haunted Hangar with spooky decorations. Come for the Halloween Kids Carnival Oct. 22-23, where kids can paint a plane, and for the Halloween Kids Festival Oct. 29-30 featuring the helicopter pumpkin drop.

Halloween at Hiller Aviation Museum, Haunted Hangar display Oct. 22-31 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (open until 8 p.m. Oct. 28-30), Halloween Kids Carnival and Paint-A-Plane Oct. 22-23 from 10 a.m. to noon, Halloween

Kids Festival Oct. 29-30 from 10 a.m. to noon (pumpkin drop at noon). Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Road, San Carlos. Museum admission is \$19 per adult, \$12 per senior (65 and up) and child ages 5 to 17, free for kids 4 and under. hiller.org/event/halloween-haunted-hangar-2/

Mountain View Monster Bash Oct. 29: Don your Halloween costumes for spooky games, a twisty maze, stilt walkers, a Día de los Muertos celebration and more in Mountain View. Attendees are encouraged to walk or bike to the family-friendly fall festival.

Monster Bash, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Rengstorff Park, 201 S Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. The event is free. mountainview.gov/depts/cs/events/halloween.asp

Art & Lit Fest Nov. 5: This inaugural event will showcase local poets, authors, artists, musicians and crafters to promote the rise of Daly City's art community. Shop artisan vendors, listen to author talks and live music, browse the art gallery and take part in a community mural.

Art & Lit Fest, Nov. 5 from

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Serramonte Center, 3 Serramonte Center, Daly City. Admission is free. dcpla.org/artfest-about

Día de los Muertos Celebration Nov. 7: Celebrate the Day of the Dead with music, traditional food and a procession at Courthouse Square in Redwood City. The San Mateo County History Museum will also host activities, and the Festival of the Altar will be on display Nov. 2-7.

Día de los Muertos Celebration, Nov. 7 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the San Mateo County History Museum and Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. Courthouse Square activities begin at 4 p.m., with the procession starting at 6:30 p.m. historysmc.org/dia-de-los-muertos

Pigeon Point Lighthouse's 150th Anniversary Celebration Nov. 12: Celebrate the 150th anniversary of a Coastsides landmark. First lit on Nov. 15, 1872, the 115-foot beacon is tied for the tallest tower on the West Coast. The event will include guided tours, music, children's activities and a local maritime author. The tower's original first order Fresnel lens will be lit from the Fog Signal Building from 5-7 p.m.

Pigeon Point Lighthouse's 150th Anniversary Celebration, Nov. 12 from 1-7 p.m. at Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park on Pigeon Point Road in Pescadero. The event is free. visithalfmoonbay.org

Spartan Turkey Trot Nov. 24: Burn off some calories before the big Thanksgiving dinner at the 13th annual Turkey Trot at Mountain View High. Take part in a 5K walk or run, a kids' run or the Spartan Mile. All proceeds benefit the school's athletic department.

Spartan Turkey Trot, Nov. 24 at 8:30 a.m. at Mountain View High School, 3535 Truman Ave., Mountain View. Visit the website closer to the event for fee information. spartanturkeytrot.com ■

Julia Brown is the editor of *TheSixFifty.com*, a sister publication of *The Almanac*.



Courtesy Great Glass Pumpkin Patch

More than 10,000 one-of-a-kind glass pumpkins are on sale during the Great Glass Pumpkin Patch in Palo Alto.

TAX EXEMPTION

continued from page 10

requesting the exemption is to alleviate cost-of-housing hardships for faculty.

In a written statement, Stanford said: “Homes in the faculty subdivision on Stanford’s campus have traditionally been assessed property taxes based on the faculty’s purchase price of the property, like other residential properties in Santa Clara County. In recent years, the County Assessor has increased the assessed value of some newly purchased faculty homes on Stanford’s campus to levels above the faculty purchase prices.

“The Assessor’s re-assessment of properties at levels beyond faculty purchase prices has created unexpected and substantial financial hardship for some faculty homeowners and does not reflect Stanford’s restrictions on faculty sales, ownership and use of these properties. It is important to note that faculty homes are on ground leases, so homeowners do not own the full property interest in these homes. Stanford is seeking a partial property tax exemption for some of the affected homes based on the value of the interest in the property retained by Stanford as the underlying property owner.”

The university stressed that it is critical to Stanford’s

educational mission to provide housing that is affordable for faculty.

“Stanford’s retained interests and restrictions in the homes are designed to achieve this objective of affordable faculty housing,” the university stated.

Williams said the faculty homes are “functionally not distinguishable from private residences. Nobody would conflate them with a student dorm. The houses are the same as every other private family house. The difference is that Stanford subsidizes the purchases.”

Stanford’s claim to the board of supervisors said that high Bay Area housing prices make it impossible for many faculty members to afford homes in surrounding neighborhoods off campus.

Similar concerns and claims were raised in a lawsuit against Orange County regarding land leases and faculty housing at the University of California, Irvine. University administrators also argued it needed the exemption to attract quality faculty.

A lower court sided with the plaintiffs against the county, ruling that a provision of the state constitution that excludes from taxation a property that is “used exclusively for public schools, community colleges, state colleges (or) state universities,” applied in the Orange

County case. The state Court of Appeal and California Supreme Court overturned that ruling, however.

In 1992, the state Supreme Court unanimously ruled that faculty and staff who lease campus houses must continue to pay property taxes. About 200 U.C. Irvine faculty and staff had sought exemptions.

The Supreme Court found that leased housing on land owned by a tax-exempt institution may be tax exempt only if the housing is essential to the purpose of the institution.

“If their leasehold interest in the property on which the homes are situated is entitled to an exemption because the property is being used for faculty housing, then it is difficult to understand on what basis an exemption could be denied to the faculty members’ property interest in the homes themselves,” the Supreme Court stated.

If the use of property for faculty housing is an exclusive use of property for university purposes under state provisions, then a faculty member who bought a home on private property and used it as his or her family residence also could claim an entitlement to an exemption because that property too would be property used for faculty housing, the court noted.

“As these examples

demonstrate, plaintiffs proposed interpretation ... proves too much,” the court said.

“The leasehold interests of (U.C. Irvine), which are privately owned interests used for the private owner’s residences, are not property used exclusively for university purposes within the meaning of section 3(d). Plaintiffs are not entitled to the exemption they seek,” the court reasoned.

The Palo Alto Unified School District, in an amicus brief supporting Orange County, stated the harm that a tax exemption would cause. Citing tax revenues it receives from Stanford, the school district noted a significant part of its funding is derived from taxes from Stanford University employees who lease their land from the university.

The Stanford Campus Residential Leaseholders’ Association in 1991 had filed a claim for an exemption for its individual leaseholders, but it was not part of the lawsuit in Orange County. The claim was contingent on the Supreme Court’s Orange County ruling and it wasn’t pursued, the university noted in a public statement after the high court’s decision.

In its current claims, Stanford has cited some of the same tax code and state constitution sections as were used by plaintiffs in the Orange

County case. It’s unclear what new arguments Stanford would bring that were not already decided by the high court in the Orange County case.

Williams wasn’t surprised by the university’s efforts, however.

“What’s not new is Stanford’s pushing the boundaries” regarding its attempts to garner tax exemptions, he said.

He noted the university’s successful win in 1978 of a tax exemption for the Stanford Golf Course on 166 acres.

The county claimed in a lawsuit that the golf course didn’t qualify for the exemption because it wasn’t exclusively used for educational purposes within the meaning of the state constitution.

The Santa Clara County Superior Court and the state Appeals Court ruled in favor of Stanford, however, since the university used the golf course for golf class instruction of students, intercollegiate and intramural college competition by students and university team varsity long-distance running. Stanford students, faculty and staff also use the course for recreational golf play. The court said that even if the majority of the use is for paid members, they are still alumni. ■

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

MEASURE V

continued from page 1

campaigns are advocating themselves as pro-teachers and pro-housing.

The change in campaign messaging, according to Chessari, comes after learning more from supporters and residents on what elements of the measure mattered most. Neither she nor Yaeger have campaign experience, so she aims to reflect the concerns of residents in their messaging. While Chessari and Yaeger said they stand by their

earlier messaging and that it hasn’t gone away, the new messaging addresses issues that they believe are commonly misunderstood.

Specifically, Chessari said that she does not believe MPNAH to be anti-housing, but rather that Menlo Balance has been painted unfairly as against affordable housing.

“I grew up in affordable housing,” Chessari said. “I am the furthest thing you can find from anti-affordable housing. It was very beneficial to me in my life, and I see

how it can be very beneficial to others.”

She claims that the measure doesn’t block any housing projects and that it promotes the responsible building of high-density housing in high-resource areas near transit.

Chessari also believes that Menlo Balance is pro-teachers in ways that MPNAH isn’t. She alleges that the Flood School site would not be reserved for teachers, and that most teachers in the Ravenswood City School District make too much to qualify for the low-income

housing. Menlo Balance is advocating for the project to require 50% of its units house district employees, rather than the district’s current approach of prioritizing all units for district staff. The text of the measure does not address teaching housing requirements for the Ravenswood proposal.

However, according to Will Eger, Chief Business Officer of Ravenswood City School District, a survey of school staff found that 81% of Ravenswood Teachers Association members would be eligible

for affordable housing, based on self-reported household income levels.

Still, Chessari and Yaeger believe that Measure V can force developers to build in responsible ways and require community participation and buy-in.

“Our measure doesn’t actually prevent anything from going in at (Flood School),” Chessari said. “It allows a vote of the people, period.” ■

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

MENLO COLLEGE

continued from page 1

kitchens, game rooms and lounges on each floor, Weiner said. The hall is also fully ADA compliant.

The new hall will be gender-inclusive on all three floors. There will be single gender hall bathrooms on each floor. Incoming freshmen are primarily living in the new residence hall, according to the school’s website.

The building does not replace any existing

infrastructure at Menlo, which was established in 1927, but takes advantage of available space in the middle area of campus where the residence halls are housed.

John Arrillaga Hall is located amidst Kratt, Michael and Howard halls in the center of campus. With its sand-colored exterior, it is similar in style to nearby buildings. According to the school’s 2019 master plan, there were 584 beds in five residence halls and an immediately adjacent building across El

Camino Real available to students.

The roughly 100-bed O’Brien Hall will be closed for the full school year for maintenance and repairs, according to the school website.

Weiner said “Arrillaga bettered so many communities, and one of his final acts of generosity during his lifetime was ensuring that Menlo’s business and psychology students have an affordable place to live in an increasingly expensive surrounding area.”

Room and board is \$8,125

for a double-occupancy dorm room this school year, according to the school’s website. Double-occupancy dorms in other residence halls on campus are \$6,750 per year.

Town housing goals

The housing will not count toward the state’s 2023-31 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) targets for Atherton, Town Planner Lisa Costa Sanders said in a 2021 town meeting.

“Student housing,

specifically dorms, do not count towards the town’s RHNA housing production as it is not considered permanent housing,” Costa Sanders said in a May 2021 email. “To be counted as a housing unit, each unit must contain cooking facilities, a bathroom and a sleeping area. The dorms do not include cooking facilities and a bathroom with each sleeping room.” ■

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

RAVENSWOOD

continued from page 5

In an email, López said of the slate: “The candidates have a very strong background in education, and Sobomehin and Latu have been steering the school district in the right direction regarding

transparency and stewardship. My main concern with their priorities of commitment, experience, and legacy/leadership is that they are not priorities with a definition of success, progress metrics, or timelines, and, more importantly, do not include a specific mention of academic

excellence, a rigorous education, or to high expectations for parents and children.

“Our children, especially those growing in an environment of systemic racism, deserve to be given the tools to succeed financially in life, and those tools involve love for learning,

persistence, perseverance, and focus, which are only fostered when academic excellence is at the core of the decisions made by their educational institution,” he said.

For more on Ready Set Ravenswood, go to readysetravenswood.org.

The Almanac did not receive comments from other candidates regarding the slate as of the paper’s Wednesday press deadline. ■

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

THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

ATHERTON

303 Atherton Avenue **\$16,900,000**
Sat 1:30-4:30 7BD/8.5BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

LOS ALTOS

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

LOS ALTOS HILLS

27340 Julietta Lane **\$5,988,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3.5BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

MENLO PARK

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

1868 Valparaiso Avenue **\$5,988,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/4.5BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

MOUNTAIN VIEW

400 Del Medio Avenue (C) **\$1,180,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 2BD/2BA
JLee Realty 650-857-1000

Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T). Agents: submit open homes at AlmanacNews.com/real_estate

PALO ALTO

2677 Waverley Street **\$2,988,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

1095 McGregor Way **\$2,988,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/2.5BA
DeLeon Realty 650-543-8531

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

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

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

PORTOLA VALLEY

246 La Cuesta Drive **\$3,650,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:00 4BD/3.5BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 650-485-3476

266 Old Spanish Trail **\$2,575,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/2BA
Keller Williams 650-619-8092

40 Tagus Court **\$6,850,000**
Sun 1:30-3:30 4BD/3BA
Compass 650-400-3426

HOLIDAYS

continued from page 9

necessarily being in the driver’s seat.”

Combs said that he believes the city should be “additive” in its approach to various religious holidays. He said that the city should be cautious in having third parties host these city-wide events, but he is in favor of engaging with the community to find who feels unrepresented in holiday celebrations.

“I don’t think that there has to be this separation between the city hosting something because there is some religious origin to it ... I don’t think that (a) government entity hosting these, you know, in some way means that it is being exclusive, or excluding all of the members of the community.”

Mueller voiced his support for Wolosin’s concept of creating a budget to add more events to

the city’s agenda for different cultures, which council member Combs also endorsed.

“I think it’s great to honor traditions, but I think it’s also good to make sure we’re moving in a way to serve all,” Wolosin said.

The City Council recommended city staff go forward with the proposed events and attempt to include as many additional events as possible, such as Breakfast with Santa and the Halloween march downtown. City staff will come back with a budget for additional events, and will take a leadership role if outside groups are included.

This year’s Halloween event will occur at Burgess Park with shuttle service and include the march downtown and trick or treating at local businesses. ■

Email Staff Writer Cameron Reboisio at creboisio@almanacnews.com.

Menlo Balance Initiative: Measure V Forum

Thursday, October 6 7 - 8 p.m. via Zoom

How will Measure V affect the future of housing in Menlo Park?



Hear from Nicole Chessari of Menlo Balance, the group that put the initiative on the ballot, and Evelyn Stivers of Menlo Park Neighbors for Affordable Homes, the grassroots group that formed to oppose it.

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The **Almanac**

Remembering George Mader and the role of outsiders in Portola Valley

By Jon Silver

GUEST OPINION

I was saddened, as were so many, to hear of the recent death of George Mader, Portola Valley's longtime and trailblazing Town Planner.

But more than anything, I cannot help but reflect on George's life with happiness and inspiration.

George lived well into his nineties, had a wonderful family, a distinguished career and contributed immensely to the betterment of the broader community and the world. George's contributions as a land use planner were state-wide, and in fact nation and worldwide, in scope. George served as chair of the California Seismic Safety Commission, and consulted about geologically safe building practices in places as disparate as Italy and China. As a Stanford professor and mentor to many younger planners, his legacy and influence will long outlive him. His was indeed a long life well lived.

In 1975 as a neophyte community activist, I was fortunate to meet and learn from him, and in time came to count him as a friend.

However, there is something occurring now that is heart-breaking. All too many who today claim to venerate the Portola Valley General Plan and its history seem to have so little actual knowledge of the course of that history, the ongoing development of the general plan and the role that professionals such as George Mader played in all of this.

George after all was a hired consultant who did not live in the town of Portola Valley, as were all others in his firm who gave invaluable assistance to our town over many years. The same is true of almost all of our town geologists and other professional experts, who have provided essential knowledge and guidance over the 58 years of our town's existence.

Recently an aspiring candidate for our Town Council, Dale Pfau, was quoted in the Almanac as saying "The general plan was originally written by resident volunteers," whereas now staff and consultants "dominate" our town

process. Another candidate, Mary Hufty, criticized the role played by "non-resident ... town staff." Both of these comments are badly disconnected from the actual reality of both Portola Valley's history and its present.

Probably no one person played a greater role in developing Portola Valley's general plan than George Mader, a paid consultant who did not live in our town.

While it is true that Portola Valley has benefited enormously from 1964 until today from many dedicated and selfless volunteers, what we have accomplished as a community has only been made possible by those volunteers working synergistically with top-flight experts, who were consultants and dedicated town employees, very few of which had the good fortune to live in our town.

Also, contrary to what some seem to believe, Portola Valley's general plan wasn't gifted from on high by a few wise town founders in 1964 in its current form. As laudable as our founders were, our original general plan would have allowed Portola Valley to grow to more than twice its current size. This only changed in stages over many years as our general plan was improved. The work that brought this about was made possible by non-resident consultants like George Mader, without whom our general plan and associated policies and ordinances never would have passed legal muster.

Among the groundbreaking changes developed by George Mader and other experts were slope-density zoning, fault zone setbacks, and avoidance of development on landslide-prone lands. These changes not only protected the public health, safety, and welfare — they also drastically reduced the amount of development allowed in Portola Valley

To hear this history and fine tradition denied by those who weren't here to witness it and haven't bothered to learn about it is sad, and indeed it is a tragedy.

These "outside consultants" and town employees who don't live in Portola Valley are now, as a group, derided for not being home-grown. If we in Portola Valley become so parochial and nativist in our perspective, it not only violates a proud tradition, but it also does not bode well for our future.

At a time when our town is being tested as never before by onerous state requirements to provide affordable housing, we cannot afford to have a "residency" requirement determine which experts we are willing to listen to. We must not shoot the messenger simply because we don't like the news she bears.

We've seen the disastrous consequences of ignoring expert advice on a national and international level with regard to climate change, a pandemic, and wacky conspiracy theories about who won our last presidential election, among so many other things. If we allow this type of narrow and non-fact-based thinking to infect our local democratic process, our future will indeed be bleak. ■

Jon Silver is a former Portola Valley Mayor and San Mateo County Planning Commissioner.

What's on your mind?

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

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

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

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995 Fictitious Name Statement

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Bella's Glass, located at 261 Chestnut Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306, Santa Clara County.
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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.
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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.
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East Palo Alto, CA 94303
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1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501
California
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2995 Woodside Road, Suite 400
Woodside, CA 94062
California
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Artscene

PEOPLE AND **PERFORMANCES** IN **ARTS** AND **ENTERTAINMENT**

Current event

Artists reflect on a precious natural resource at the third annual Silicon Valley Sculpture art fair

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

The Silicon Valley Sculpture fine art fair returns to the campus of Menlo College for a third year, opening this Friday, Sept. 23 and continuing through the weekend. As in past years, outdoor sculptures (a total of 36 pieces by 21 national and international artists) will be installed around the campus, all exploring this year's theme, "Water."

Why would a small, private college that confers degrees in business and psychology open its grounds to a large-scale, temporary art exhibition? Steven Weiner, President of Menlo College approached Dr. Katharina Bernau, owner of Art Ventures Gallery in downtown Menlo Park, when he learned that she was trying to promote public art in the city of Menlo Park. This was in the early pandemic days in 2020, and the idea of holding any sort of art event seemed tenuous. But Bernau and Weiner joined forces and the first iteration of the exhibition was well-received.

Weiner said in an email interview, "Engaging with art is essential to the human experience, which underlies our college's core value of developing each person's

full potential." In addition, he said, "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."

Bernau, who founded a non-profit foundation, Menlo Park Public Art, realized that she needed to organize a significant event in order to raise both public awareness and funding. She oversees the annual Silicon Valley Sculpture exhibition, single-handedly serving as curator, installation manager and publicist. She begins in April, first deciding upon a theme. "I have a theme," she said, "because I don't want to just plop a sculpture down on the ground. I want the artists and the visitors to really think." This year's theme of "Water" might imply water features and fountains, but that is not the case. "It is not about water," she noted, "but the opposite." In our drought-conscious area, this is certainly a relevant and timely notion.

Interested artists submit an image of a sculpture (completed or proposed) and a statement, which are reviewed by Bernau.

"It's very subjective," she acknowledged, "but that's the fun of it." Artists must be willing to absorb the costs of not only creating their work but also the transportation and installation expenses. In exchange, each piece can be for sale, with the artist selling directly to the potential client. Bernau does ask that 10% of sales income be donated to Menlo Park Public Art, and she noted that "all of the artists thus far have done so."

Entering the campus from El Camino, the viewer is immediately greeted by a tall, honey-colored structure made of stacked and laminated pieces of pine entitled "Shifting Perspectives" by artist Foon Sham. Like a construction in a Jenga game, its pieces seem to defy gravity as they are stacked and twist and turn toward an apex. Continue along the path and you encounter a Rube Goldberg-type contraption with a gallon water jug, funnels and canisters that, according to artist Peter Richards, addresses "the concept of flow, the ability to move without resistance." Nearby, a graceful swoop of stainless steel created by James Hill evokes the idea of a waterfall. In his statement, Hill wrote that, "Engaging with a material that is, by nature, cold, rigid and inflexible, challenges my creativity and expands my understanding of the world."

First-time visitors may not realize that the 40-acre Menlo College campus extends back a great distance from its frontage on El Camino. A large, grassy common area surrounded by classroom buildings leads back to the student union. Bernau said that, while she has to work with some installation limitations placed by the college, there are excellent areas for siting, especially under the many oak trees that dot the campus. While some of the pieces require some explanation as to how they relate to the theme, there is no mistaking the association in Richard Starks' humorous "Whale Tale" and "Shark Fins," sited in a shady redwood grove. A student walking by stopped and asked, "Why are there shark fins here?" If one intention of art is to make the viewer think, Starks has been successful.



Courtesy Art Ventures Gallery

Chicago artist Ruth Aizuss Migdal's large-scale sculpture "Wave" features overlapping layers of metal that evoke fins.

Bernau said that she likes to select art of varying sizes in order to stimulate sales to not only individuals but also corporations. The scale of "Wave," by Chicago artist Ruth Aizuss Migdal, would certainly suit a corporate lobby. Standing over 8 feet in height and on a tall, square base, the bright red, powder-coated stainless-steel sculpture consists of overlapping layers of metal that look like the fins of a dolphin. Migdal has a second sculpture, installed on the other side of the common area entitled "Whirling Dervish." Bernau said that it was inspired by the power of water and felt that this sculpture's location, in a quiet area away from the bustle of the cafeteria, was perfect for its "overwhelming presence."

What do the students think of the new additions to the campus, especially those that are sited near one of their most visited buildings, the Student Union? Bernau decided to place a figurative piece, Carrie Fischer's "Invertadude" in this busy area, perhaps thinking that a human figure in a headstand might spark some discussion over lunch. According to the artist, her "modern day dude" is acting "as if the world doesn't matter." However, she said that "Our upside-down world is a place to invert our thoughts as we adapt to issues with global warming and rising oceans." When asked his reaction to the sculptures, a student named Christopher said, "I like it because it offers a different look on art and on Menlo as a whole."

Visitors to the exhibition get a walking map and are free to wander around on their own. Sittings change each year, and it's a good idea to look closely under trees and in natural alcoves created by buildings and landscaping. Noted Bernau, "I don't want to place them obviously. I place them so you have to discover them. There is a surprise element."

According to Bernau, revenue from past sales of sculptures has enabled Menlo Park Public Art to purchase one piece of outdoor art that she hopes will be installed somewhere in the city by next summer. Although the idea of public art in Menlo Park seems to be an uphill climb, Bernau maintained that when it has happened, "People were amazed at how sculpture can transform an area." And she promised, "I will continue to work towards public art in Menlo Park."

The sculptures are on display Sept. 23-25 on the Menlo College campus. On Saturday, Sept. 24, visitors can also check out a panel discussion on creating environmentally sustainable sculptures, and a screening of a water-themed documentary at Art Ventures Gallery. Activities on Sunday, Sept. 25 include a silent auction.

Menlo College is located at 1000 El Camino Real, Atherton. Tickets are \$25-\$30. For more information, visit siliconvalleysculpture.com. ■

Email Contributing Writer
Sheryl Nonnenberg at
nonnenberg@aol.com.



Courtesy Art Ventures Gallery

Silicon Valley Sculpture features several pieces by Bay Area-based artist Richard Starks, including "Whale Tail."



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Food & Drink

Off-campus eats

16 budget-friendly eateries near Peninsula college campuses

By Kate Bradshaw

For Peninsula college students, back-to-school season can mean financial pressure to manage tuition, housing and other living expenses in a place with one of the highest costs of living in the country — not to mention the pressure of navigating time-consuming school assignments and projects.

To help ease the transition into a new school year, we've put together a selection of off-campus and budget-friendly bites for students at nearby colleges, many of which also offer quick service for students looking to grab a bite in between classes. Here are places you can get affordable meals near Cañada College, College of San Mateo, De Anza, Foothill, Menlo College, Santa Clara University, Skyline College and Stanford.

**Cañada College,
Redwood City**

Sancho's Taqueria

At Sancho's, there are plenty of hearty meal options under or around \$10, including fish tacos, quesadillas and a \$10.25 breakfast burrito with bacon or chorizo. Delivery and takeout are also available. They also have locations at 491 Lytton Ave. and 2723 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto.

Sancho's Taqueria, 3205 Oak Knoll Drive, Redwood City, 650-364-8226, sanchostaqueria.com. Instagram: @sanchostaqueria.

The Village Hub Coffee Bar and Garden

Hosted as a nonprofit interfaith community hub next to the Woodside Village Church, the cafe offers espresso drinks alongside Swedish and American pastries in a large outdoor courtyard with free Wi-Fi. Bonus: You can study there too.

LEHUA GREENMAN

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The Village Hub Coffee Bar, 3154 Woodside Road, Woodside, 650-851-1588, thevillagehub.org/coffee-bar. Instagram: @the.village.hub.

**College of San Mateo,
San Mateo**

Toa Yuen Restaurant

This Chinese restaurant offers comforting soups for under \$10, tofu and veggie dishes for \$10-\$11; and chicken or beef dishes for a couple of dollars beyond that. Splitting a meal with a group of friends? Order a party tray of cashew chicken, serving six to eight people, for \$40.

Toa Yuen Restaurant, 3170 Campus Drive, San Mateo, 650-349-0414, toayuen.com.

Pho Element

Enjoy Northern Vietnamese cuisine including pho, rice dishes and other soups. Chicken and beef broths are cooked overnight here to highlight the flavors. Order a large pho and have two meals covered or split it with your roommate.

Pho Element, 2216 S El Camino Real, San Mateo, 650-212-1166, phoelement.com. Instagram: @phoelement.

Honorable mention: Hit up the College of San Mateo Farmers Market, which runs Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. year round, for fresh produce, food truck fare and vendors selling tamales, baked goods and more.

**De Anza College,
Cupertino**

The City Fish

This casual restaurant serves a variety of seafood dishes, including clam chowder, smoked salmon paninis, grilled fish and combo plates.

The City Fish, 21678 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, 408-320-1434, thecityfishco.com. Instagram: @thecityfish.

Tasty Pizza

A fusion Indian-Italian restaurant serving pizzas and other Italian dishes with Indian flavor profiles. Menu items include masala knots, lemon pepper wings, spicy butter chicken pizza and a range of other pizza flavors, including several vegetarian options. Personal pizzas are under \$10.

Tasty Pizza, 21000 Stevens Creek

Blvd. Suite 200, Cupertino, 408-816-8800, tastypizzaindianitalian.com. Instagram: @tastypizzaca.

**Foothill College,
Los Altos Hills**

Charley Noodle & Grill

This Asian fusion restaurant offers an assortment of noodle types, including udon, ramen and soba, alongside sushi, katsu and other dishes. Party trays are also available starting at \$48.

Charley Noodle & Grill, 244 State St., Los Altos, 650-948-5700.

Spot – A Pizza Place

A downtown Los Altos staple since 2004, Spot offers garlic bread starting at \$4.50, salads and subs for under \$10 and a variety of pizza combinations, including the "Spot Light," which has artichoke hearts, goat cheese, roasted red peppers, pine nuts and basil.

Spot A Pizza Place, 133 Main St., Los Altos, 650-947-7768, spotapizza.com.

Menlo College, Atherton

California Kahve at Oak + Violet

The Park James Hotel isn't exactly the first spot one would search for a budget meal, but a coffee drink from California Kahve, which opened earlier this year inside the hotel, is a relatively affordable "treat yourself" expense if you want to still leave campus and feel fancy for a bit.

California Kahve, 1400 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, californiakahve.com. Instagram: @california.kahve.

Mami Cheli's Tacos & Pupusas

Mami Cheli's in Menlo Park offers filling pupusas and tacos in a variety of flavor combinations, including vegan and vegetarian-friendly options. The cheesy pupusa is topped with grilled cheese with optional jalapeños. Tortas, quesadillas and burritos are also on the menu.

Mami Cheli's, 989 El Camino Real Suite B, Menlo Park, 650-521-0636. Instagram: @mamichelisofficial.

**Santa Clara University,
Santa Clara**

Sara's Kitchen

This brunch diner has an outdoor patio and offers hearty



Veronica Weber

The vegetarian combo plate at Mediterranean Wraps features hummus, falafel, tabbouleh, baba ghanoush, a Greek-style salad, dolmas and a side of pita bread.

omelets, scrambles and eggs benedict breakfasts, as well as cheesesteaks, sandwiches, milkshakes and mimosas.

Sara's Kitchen, 1595 Franklin St., Santa Clara, 408-247-7272, saraskitchensc.com. Instagram: @saraskitchensc.

Tapsilog Cantina

This Filipino restaurant offers hearty servings of dishes like silog, or garlic fried rice and egg, and lumpia for affordable prices.

Tapsilog Cantina, 1998 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, 408-326-2284. Instagram: @tapsilog_cantina2020.

**Skyline College,
San Bruno**

Taste of Burma

Daly City's Taste of Burma dishes up soups, curries, stir fry and salads at affordable prices. Try chin paung kyaw, a dish with stir-fried roselle leaves for under \$10, or the chicken paratha, a flatbread served with chicken curry.

Taste of Burma, 2025 Gellert Blvd. #200, Daly City, 650-449-1378, ordertasteofburma.com.

Kitten & Pinky

Kitten & Pinky in Pacifica offers affordable bánh mì sandwiches, barbecue pork and chicken over vermicelli noodles and spring rolls, with most items set at \$7-\$8.

Kitten & Pinky, 1715 Palmetto Ave., Pacifica, 650-290-8153.

Honorable mention: Get a

late-night caffeine and sugar fix at Pit Stop Boba Shop, a boba outpost open until 10 p.m. at 2300 Westborough Blvd. in South San Francisco.

**Stanford University,
Stanford**

Mediterranean Wraps

Mediterranean Wraps offers students a quick, filling meal fix and a variety of dishes including shawarma and a mujadara plate, made of lentils and rice with caramelized onions. Try the veggie wrap, which has falafel, hummus, zucchini, cauliflower and tahini for a satisfying vegetarian meal on the go.

Mediterranean Wraps, 433 California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-321-8189, mediterraneanwraps.com. Instagram: @medwraps.

Sushirrito

There are a number of fast-casual options in downtown Palo Alto, but for a full-time student, what sounds better than an affordably priced, burrito-sized sushi roll? A growing local chain, the University Avenue outpost offers a variety of burrito roll options mixing and matching Latin and Japanese flavors and ingredients.

Sushirrito, 448 University Ave., Palo Alto, 650-600-9696, sushiritto.com. Instagram: @sushirrito.

Email Associate Digital Editor Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@embarcaderopublishing.com.



Veronica Weber

The shrimp taco at Sancho's features shrimp, grilled veggies, cabbage and pico de gallo.

The Almanac

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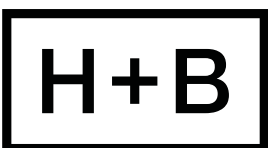
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