

The Almanac

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

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LifeMoves wants to replicate its interim shelter model across the region, but is it working?

Client testimony and county data show that its Mountain View site is falling short of its lofty promises

By Magali Gauthier and Malea Martin

On a sunny summer day, 61-year-old Brigitte Barron parked her Toyota 4Runner under a tree at Greer Park in Palo Alto. The trunk is packed to the brim with Barron's belongings. Her two service dogs, Dolce and Gabana, let out shrill yips anytime another creature strolls by.

Just five months earlier, she was living in a coveted unit at LifeMoves Mountain View, an interim shelter program that aims to get clients housed in three to four months. But Barron never found stable housing while staying at LifeMoves. She eventually left the program and went back to sleeping in her car.

When LifeMoves Mountain View opened in 2021, it was a monumental milestone for the Menlo Park-based nonprofit: The site's 100 modular units were built from the ground up and launched in less than a year. The program has the capacity to serve 124 people, making it one of LifeMoves' largest shelters. The nonprofit operates more than a dozen programs across Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, including Haven Family House in Menlo Park, the Opportunity Services Center in Palo Alto and the Redwood Family House in Redwood City.

"I would say that there's a lot of excitement and pride within the city about how quickly this was rolled out," former Mountain View City Council member Sally Lieber told this news organization.

The speed at which the modular project got people off the street and into shelter beds caught Gov. Gavin Newsom's eye: He called for the model to

be replicated across the state. In addition to the interim shelter, the LifeMoves Mountain View model promises its residents case management and customized support to find housing.

But after interviewing more than 15 former and current residents, as well as reviewing Mountain View city staff emails, court documents, police reports and program exit data, this news organization found that LifeMoves Mountain View struggles to keep its promises. Former staff and homeless residents, referred to as clients, say the program's opening was rushed, with LifeMoves opening before a director was in place and failing to hire enough case managers. Multiple clients said they never received specialized support in their search for housing, their grievances went unheard, and that conflict was mishandled by both program directors and staff.

LifeMoves has partnered with the cities of Palo Alto and San Jose to build two more sites emulating Mountain View's. Yet, according to county data, the program is far from living up to the expectations heralded at its opening: LifeMoves Mountain View places clients in permanent housing at a significantly lower rate than other interim shelter programs in the county, ranking close to the bottom.

'Housing is a partnership'

The majority of LifeMoves' shelters along the Peninsula and in the South Bay cater to specific populations, like veterans or single women. But the Mountain View program serves a range of clients with unique needs, from seniors living on fixed incomes and teenagers in high school, to single parents



Magali Gauthier

Former LifeMoves client Brigitte Barron pets her dog, Dolce, at Greer Park in Palo Alto on Aug. 16, 2022. After leaving LifeMoves Mountain View, she went back to sleeping in her car.

with young children, domestic violence survivors and adult couples who have lost their jobs and homes.

Located at 2566 Leghorn St., the site was made possible by a \$14.4 million Homekey grant, a state program launched during the COVID-19 pandemic that provides funds to local public agencies to buy hotels and other properties to house people experiencing homelessness. Between land acquisition and construction, the project cost \$25 million. The Mountain View program offers clients a private room and supportive services to help them secure permanent housing in just three to four months. LifeMoves said there's an option for residents to extend their stay by two weeks at a time if they don't find housing after four months.

A key piece of the model is



Magali Gauthier

Most of the units at LifeMoves Mountain View are for single people, with just enough room for a bed and a desk.

meeting with a housing specialist provided by LifeMoves, who has the training and resources to help clients find homes. But out of the 18 clients this news organization interviewed, the

majority said they did not meet with a housing specialist and most did not find housing with the help of the program.

See **LIFEMOVES**, page 14

INSIDE

VIEWPOINT 20 | ARTS 21 | FOOD 22

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MedakaNoGakko.org
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SpartansSportsCamp.com **(650) 479-5906**

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Courtesy Caltrans

March rainfall led to a 250-foot-wide landslide on Highway 84 at Portola Road near Woodside.

Stretch of Highway 84 remains closed because of landslide

By Angela Swartz

A 250-foot-wide slide caused by recent heavy rains continues to shut down a stretch of road in both directions on Highway 84 between Portola Road and Fox Fill Road near Woodside. The public is advised to avoid the area and use alternate routes, according to notice from Caltrans on Friday, March 24.

The roadway fell in on March 9, according to Caltrans, and crews are working to fix the roadway, which is “not safe for

motorists to travel at this time.” Workers are clearing the site of trees, performing geotechnical borings (excavating the ground), repairing the slope and constructing a retaining structure.

There is no estimated timeline for repairs since the area continues to be impacted by storms, according to the Caltrans website.

“As the saturation levels decrease and the stability improves, crews can safely implement repairs,” according to Caltrans. “Caltrans would

like to thank the public for their continued patience and support as we work to repair the roadway.”

For updates and more information, go to dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me and click on District 4 current projects.

The most recent storm to impact the Peninsula earlier this week brought periods of heavy rain and gusty winds. ■

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

Menlo Church leadership acknowledges abuse from decades ago

A wave of abuse reports have come to light since 2020, according to board chair

By Angela Swartz

Menlo Park megachurch is apologizing for several instances of abuse from decades ago that “had not been addressed in a way that honored the survivors at the time” after information about them was unearthed in recent years.

Menlo Church, a Reformed Presbyterian faith community, serves about 3,800 registered members across campuses in Menlo Park, San Mateo, Mountain View, Saratoga and San Jose. It is part of the denomination ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.

Menlo Church governing board Chair Jennifer Blatnik said that people have come forward over the last few years sharing abuse that occurred within the church that goes back as far as 30 years.

“While staff members were removed from ministerial and other roles at the time, there are still hurts and wounds that remain open and need healing,” said senior pastor Phil EuBank in a March 17 letter to its members. EuBank stepped into the role in January. “I hope that this note serves as a way for our whole community to grieve and pray for this group of survivors who have been brave enough to come forward.”

A wave of abuse reporting in the church began over three years ago, after Menlo Church suspended its senior pastor, John Ortberg. Church leaders were alerted that Ortberg had offered “prayers and referrals for counseling” to a volunteer who admitted having obsessive sexual feelings about young children, but didn’t prevent him from working with minors at the Menlo Park campus at 950 Santa Cruz Ave., according to a January 2020 email that church officials sent members.

An October 2021 investigation by Zero Abuse Project, a nonprofit aimed at eliminating child sexual abuse, states that the volunteer was one of Ortberg’s sons.

Before joining Menlo Church, EuBank was most recently lead pastor at Eastern Hills Community Church in Aurora, Colorado, according to his LinkedIn page. Before that, he was executive pastor of operations and teaching at Westminster Chapel in Bellevue, Washington.

In February 2020, Ortberg’s other son, Slate.com columnist Daniel Lavery, posted a widely read tweet stating that he was the person who alerted church officials about his father’s

See **ABUSE**, page 18

Neighbors call on Stanford to remove trees on its land after van driver died on Alpine Road

Jesus Ivan Cruz Diaz was killed by a falling eucalyptus on Alpine Road on March 21

By Angela Swartz

Ladera and Portola Valley residents are asking Stanford University to better manage its eucalyptus trees along Alpine Road near Highway 280 after a San Jose man was killed last week when one of the trees fell on his work van.

Another tree fell on the same stretch of roadway on Monday, March 27, according to photos

sent from Ladera residents, shutting down Alpine Road while it was removed. Resident Carol Espinosa said she wants to reduce the chance of another death or property damage caused by unstable trees along Los Trancos Creek.

The Almanac has reached out to the CHP for more details on the incident on Monday.

“Another high risk period is tonight when a storm hits,”

Espinosa, who’s lived in Ladera for about 50 years, said Monday afternoon. “It’s not something that is going to stop soon.”

She also noted that Alpine Road, which provides access to Highway 280, is a major emergency exit point from Portola Valley and it can take an extra 20 minutes or so to leave town if you can’t use Alpine Road.

Ladera resident Briana Fortnam said in an email that

the trees coming down is frightening because the Alpine corridor is a main thoroughfare for many residents in Portola Valley, Ladera and beyond.

“Stanford should assess the health of each tree on their property along the Alpine corridor,” she said in a March 27 email. “As you can see from the photos, the tree that fell this morning was adjacent to the tree that killed Jesus Cruz last

week. Stanford was asked to assess the health of these trees when the first tree fell and killed a man last Tuesday. We have not yet heard of any action taken to review the danger posed by these trees.”

Jesus Ivan Cruz Diaz, 29, died Tuesday, March 21, had just completed a job for Able Plumbing, Sewer and Drain

See **TREES**, page 17

Notice of Provisional Appointment to the San Mateo County Board of Education Pursuant to Education Code Section 5092

Trustee Joe Ross filed a Notice of Resignation with the San Mateo County Superintendent on January 18, 2023, with his deferred resignation from the San Mateo County Board of Education effective March 16, 2023. The Governing Board determined the vacancy would be filled through a provisional appointment process and on March 16, 2023, the Governing Board provisionally appointed Hugo Torres to fill the vacant seat. Unless a petition calling for a special election, containing a sufficient number of signatures, is filed in the office of the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools within 30 days of the date of the provisional appointment, this shall be an effective appointment.

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CRIME BRIEFS

Domestic violence suspect arrested after barricading himself in apartment

A 27-year-old Menlo Park man was arrested early March 26 for alleged domestic violence, police said in a press release.

Officers responded at 2:02 a.m. to an apartment on Coleman Place on reports of domestic assault. A woman at the scene alleged that the suspect choked her following a verbal altercation between the pair. Police said the woman was able to escape the apartment and called 911.

According to police, the suspect barricaded himself in the apartment and refused to come out until officers talked him into surrendering at 4:27 a.m. The victim was treated for injuries but is expected to survive.

Police said a search of the apartment revealed four guns, several boxes of ammunition and a high-capacity magazine drum which were seized due to the suspect's arrest. The man was arrested on suspicion of domestic violence, false imprisonment and resisting arrest, and was taken into custody without incident and booked into the San Mateo County jail.

—Bay City News Service

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 11

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Menlo Park egg hunt returns

The annual egg hunt is back. Menlo Park, in partnership with San Mateo County Parks, will host an egg hunt at Flood Park on Saturday, April 8.

Activities available include crafts, photos with the Easter Bunny, fire engine rides and the egg hunt. The egg hunt will start at different times for different age groups. At 10:20 a.m., children 2 years and under with a guardian present can begin hunting for eggs; at 10:40 a.m., children 3 to 4 years old can begin with the option for parents to join. Children aged 5 to 6 start looking at 11:20 a.m.; those 7 to 8 years old begin at 11:40 a.m.; and children 9 or over begin at 11:40 a.m.

The egg hunt will take place from 10 a.m. to noon at Flood Park, 215 Bay Road and is free.

East Palo Alto brings back its farmers' market

The East Palo Alto Farmers' Market is returning for the 2023 season on April 19.

The farmers market has been running since 2008 and was taken over by Fresh Approach in 2018. The market offers a "matching program" of up to \$10 for those who are low-income or receiving various types of assistance, essentially doubling a \$10 food budget to \$20, according to Lizette Martinez of Fresh Approach.

The market will be open every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2555 Pulgas Ave., East Palo Alto until mid-November.

—Cameron Rebosio

San Mateo County Large Animal Evacuation Group presentation

The San Mateo County Large Animal Evacuation Group will host a presentation on preparing your facility and animals for emergencies such as fires, floods and earthquakes on Tuesday, April 4, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Woodside Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road in Woodside, and on Zoom.

The event is co-sponsored by the town of Woodside Livestock and Equestrian Heritage and Woodside Trails committees.

Register at tinyurl.com/animalevac.

Portola Valley Wildfire Preparedness Fair

Learn how to protect your home during the upcoming wildfire season at the Portola Valley Wildfire Preparedness Fair at 10 a.m. on April 22.

The fair will be at Town Center, 765 Portola Road in Portola Valley, and runs until 2 p.m. ■

—Angela Swartz

Seeking a reprieve from loud horns, Menlo Park residents push city for a Caltrain quiet zone

By Cameron Rebosio

Menlo Park residents are fed up with blaring train horns waking babies and rattling their nerves. At a March 24 community meeting, they implored city officials to create a quiet zone along the Caltrain tracks to give them some relief.

It's a topic that's clearly struck a chord in many people. At the city's March 18 priority-setting meeting, 41% of the hundreds of written comments from residents asked the city to establish a quiet zone for train noise.

"(Train horns) continue to be a quality of life issue that's been raised for two years now," resident Daniel Garden wrote.

"The horns wake up my infant children from afternoon naps and is a source of stress. There are clearly less intrusive ways to ensure trains can cross the street safely."

Caltrain engineers have to sound the horn four times every time a train gets within a quarter-mile of its next crossing with a road. Due to the close proximity of Menlo Park's four rail crossings, the horn can blast up to 16 times over a distance of only about 1.1 miles as each train passes through the city. The sound of the horn is required to be between 96 to 110 decibels. For context, 110 decibels is as loud as a jackhammer.

One resident at the meeting said that he measured a level of

120 decibels in his yard, located 100 feet from the train tracks.

Establishing a quiet zone requires that the city introduce new safety measures at railway crossings. City staff at the meeting said that these improvements would require cooperation between Menlo Park, Palo Alto and East Palo Alto. Each crossing has to have gates, flashing lights and warning time devices; the zone must be at least a half-mile long; and it must not have a regular (non-quiet) crossing within a quarter of a mile of the first or last crossing of the zone. With these safety improvements, the engineers would not have to blow the horns at each crossing and could only blow the horn if they encounter a hazard.

A resident at the community meeting who complained about sleepless nights due to train noise said, "So what can we do to get to the next step?"

City staff said that there are several steps that the process needs, starting with approval from multiple committees and City Council approval before city staff can start the design process. This is followed by meetings with Caltrans, Caltrain and other agencies, but the design process could be fast-tracked.

Atherton created a quiet zone in 2016 by installing quad gates with detection loops, which prevent vehicles from driving around lowered crossing gates. The project got widespread support from the community but

pushback from train engineers. Train operators continued to sound horns at crossings until they were threatened with fines from the town.

Grade separation projects are currently being considered for all four Menlo Park train crossings, so vehicles and pedestrians would no longer traverse the tracks. The city plans to make the quiet zone safety improvements in conjunction with these projects. Menlo Park's current plan for grade separation is a hybrid approach in which the roads would be lowered and the train tracks would be raised. ■

Email Staff Writer
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New report reveals Latinos are disproportionately stopped by police in Menlo Park

Police transparency data shows 39.9% of people stopped were perceived to be Hispanic or Latino

By Cameron Rebosio

Police in Menlo Park stopped a disproportionate number of Hispanic or Latino people last year, according to data released by the city's police department and presented at a March 28 Menlo Park City Council meeting.

Of people stopped by police, 39.9% were perceived as Hispanic or Latino, according to the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) data. According to the 2020 census, Hispanic

or Latino people only make up 17.6% of the population of Menlo Park. Only 28.1% of people stopped were perceived as white, though they make up 62.2% of Menlo Park residents.

Police Chief David Norris said that of 27,000 stops made in the past five years, 83% were not residents of Menlo Park. He said that within 1-3 percentage points, the race and ethnicity breakdown of Menlo Park's stops are reflective of the 3.1 million stops reported in 2021 from all of California.

Council member Maria Doerr said she appreciated the report and the police department's transparency, but flagged that law enforcement agencies across the nine-county Bay Area are disproportionately conducting traffic stops on Latinos. According to the census, 24% of San Mateo County's population identifies as Hispanic or Latino.

"I think that there's so much more we can do, and I know that you are thinking deeply about how these issues are showing

up in our policing," Doerr said. "I appreciate the accountability that you're building with the community as a whole, and I'm excited for those continued conversations."

Menlo Park's Re-Imagining Public Safety Ad Hoc Subcommittee also reported about progress, including transparency through RIPA data, research of alternative response strategies for mental health crisis response and make it easier to track the review, investigation

and disposition of complaints against department personnel.

"Anything like (this data) is a place for us to dig in with our curiosity, and try and see if there are some lessons learned," Norris said. "We're certainly going to be looking into that, and seeing if there (is) ... something about that data that will inform how we police." ■

Email Staff Writer
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GoFundMe set up for man killed by fallen tree in Portola Valley raises \$88K

By Angela Swartz

GoFundMe has been launched for Jesus Ivan Cruz Diaz, 29, the man killed Tuesday, March 21, in a freak accident when a tree fell on his van on Alpine Road in Portola Valley.

Able Plumbing, Sewer and Drain, his employer, created the funeral expense fund. So far, almost 1,000 donations, totaling about \$88,000, have been made.

"Jesus had just completed a job for one of our valued customers when the accident happened," Able wrote in the GoFundMe page. "He was a skilled plumber who took pride in his work and always went above and beyond to ensure customer satisfaction. ... As we mourn the loss of our colleague and friend, we would like

to offer our support to his family by creating this GoFundMe page to help with his funeral expenses."

Cruz Diaz, of San Jose, was driving eastbound on Alpine Road around 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday when high winds knocked down a large tree that fell on his car.

Medics pronounced Cruz Diaz dead at the scene after emergency responders removed large branches from the vehicle to get to him.

While crews were attempting to remove the man from the white van he was driving, three more trees fell in the same area, barely missing emergency crews and vehicles at the scene, according to Woodside Fire Protection District Fire Chief Rob Lindner and CHP Officer David LaRock.

The GoFundMe page can be found at gofundme.com/f/jesus-ivan-cruz-funeral-expenses ■

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

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REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

What Do I Have To Disclose



Dear Monica: I'm about to sell the house that I have owned for many years. How much do I have to disclose about repairs and upgrades I've done? Jeff D.

Dear Jeff: A seller is supposed to disclose all material facts to a buyer. It's not easy to remember everything you have done to your property, but you probably have invoices and other records showing what you have spent during your ownership.

In addition to your own records you will also provide the buyer with professional home and pest inspections, a title report, a natural hazard report, and other mandated items. Disclose any important neighborhood issues. It will serve you and the buyer well to be as thorough as possible.

Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com: Office: 650-465-5971, COMPASS. WSJ Nationally Ranked. Real Trends Bay Area Top 100 Agents

Evacuation advisory still in effect for mudslide in Woodside last week

30 homes on Patrol Road are impacted by the mudslide

By Angela Swartz

It's one week into an evacuation advisory on the 600-800 block of Patrol Road in Woodside due to a mudslide, according to Town Manager Kevin Bryant.

The warning to evacuate went into effect on Wednesday, March 22, and was still affecting 30 homes in the neighborhood as of March 29.

Town Engineer Sean Rose and Town Geologist Andrew Mead visited Patrol Road and determined that debris could be removed without inducing a further slide, according to Town Manager Kevin Bryant. The debris has since been removed, he said in an email.

"The evacuation advisory for the 600-800 block of Patrol Road will remain in effect as the ground remains saturated and additional land movement could occur," he said. "The town will continue to monitor and assess the area over

the next couple of days."

On March 22 around 8 a.m., the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office told residents on the block on Twitter:

"If you live in this area, please pack your 'Go Bag,' with necessary essentials: insurance policy, pets, medications, a change of clothes, and LEAVE NOW."

On March 23, the Sheriff's Office alerted people on Twitter that Woodside Road is closed to through traffic from Tripp Road to Portola Road because of a developing sink hole. There's no estimated time of reopening.

Wunderlich County Park, which is nearby the street closure, was closed while "staff assess damage from heavy rainfall and high winds and determine when parks can safely open," according to San Mateo County Parks. ■

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



A mudslide off Patrol Road in Woodside on March 22.

Courtesy San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

Newsom rolls back water restrictions, but doesn't declare drought over

By Kiley Russell / Bay City News Service

The drought might not be completely done with California, but the state's residents are now free of the strictest water conservation measures put in place by Gov. Gavin Newsom nearly two years ago.

Standing at a podium in front of a storm-soaked agricultural field in Yolo County on Friday, March 24, Newsom stopped short of declaring the end of the punishing three-year drought but said that while he's not rescinding the statewide drought emergency order, he is eliminating many of its provisions.

"To answer the question 'Are we out of the drought?' Mostly but not completely," Newsom said.

After three months of extremely wet weather that lashed the state with nearly 20 major storms, the Sierra Nevada snowpack is now roughly 228% of average and most reservoirs are at or above their historical averages for this time of year.

In response, Newsom signed an executive order eliminating more than 50 of the 81 drought emergency provisions that he enacted in April 2021, including the 15% statewide voluntary water conservation goal and the requirement that roughly 450 local water agencies enact their own drought emergency plans.

"We want to eliminate the stress and anxiety around meeting those voluntary mandates," Newsom said.

While the 15% conservation goal was in place, Californians saved roughly 600,000 acre-feet of water, which is enough to supply water to 1.2 million households for a year.

At the same time, the governor noted that the state's climate is changing and "weather whiplash" is resulting in periods of extremely hot and dry conditions followed by periods of extremely wet conditions, which means water conservation is still key to ensuring reliable long-term water supplies.

Also, the Klamath River Basin in far Northern California and the Colorado River Basin, which supplies water to millions of Southern California residents, remain mired in drought.

"The conditions have radically changed throughout the state, but not enough in places like Klamath and around the Colorado River Basin to call for the end of the drought in California," Newsom said.

With that in mind, many of the drought rules will remain in effect, including a provision that requires large institutions and businesses to refrain from watering ornamental lawns, as well as a prohibition on using water to clean sidewalks and driveways.

Also, the rules allowing California water managers to more easily release water from reservoirs for the purpose of recharging the state's severely over-pumped and depleted groundwater basins were not eliminated.

"So this is a good news moment," said California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot, who also attended Friday's news conference.

"Those storms have brought record amounts of water into our state in the form of rain and snow and that means we are in much better condition with our water supply than we were in the fall," Crowfoot said.

Crowfoot also announced that the state Department of Water Resources (DWR) on Friday increased the amount of water allocations coming out of the State Water Project from 35%

of requested supplies — set in February — to 75%.

The allocations will bring an additional 1.7 million acre feet to the 29 public water agencies that draw from the State Water Project to serve 27 million people and 750,000 acres of farmland in the Bay Area, Central Valley, Northern California and the Central Coast.

DWR will also release water from the San Luis Reservoir in Merced County to any water contractor that has the ability to store it, since that reservoir is now nearly entirely full.

"California continues to

experience weather whiplash, going from extreme drought to at least 19 atmospheric rivers since late December," DWR director Karla Nemeth said in a news release. "It really demonstrates that in times of plenty, we need to move as much water into storage as is feasible."

In addition to the State Water Project allocation increases, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation increased deliveries in February to 75% of historical usage, up from just 25% last year, from the Central Valley Project, the state's other water storage and delivery backbone. ■



Flooding closed Middlefield Road between Ravenswood and Oak Grove Avenues on March 12.

Courtesy Jan Weber

Gordon Moore, co-founder of Intel and a philanthropist who donated billions, dies at 94

Colleagues remember him as a brilliant scientist, an astute businessman and a visionary

By Jocelyn Dong

Gordon Moore, a pioneering Silicon Valley scientist and leading philanthropist, died on Friday, March 24, at his home in Hawaii, Intel Corporation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation jointly announced. He was 94.

The co-founder of Fairchild Semiconductor and Intel, Moore's seminal contributions to the early technology industry included helping to create and manufacture silicon transistors and then produce a complete circuit of planar transistors on a single piece of silicon, the world's first microchip.

During his lifetime, he was hailed by colleagues as a brilliant scientist, an astute businessman and a visionary. Famously, his prediction in 1965 about the speed of technological progress — that the number of transistors on a microchip would double every year — proved accurate and became known as Moore's Law. (The timeframe later was recast as every two years and then as every 18 months.) The idea of chip technology growing at an exponential rate, continually making electronics faster, smaller and cheaper, became the driving force behind the semiconductor industry and paved the way for the ubiquitous use of chips in millions of everyday products, according to the Intel press release.

"All I was trying to do was get that message across, that by putting more and more stuff on a chip we were going to make all electronics cheaper," Moore said in a 2008 interview.

Gordon Earle Moore was born in San Francisco on Jan. 3, 1929, to Walter Harold and Florence Almira "Mira" (Williamson) Moore. Moore was educated at San Jose State University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the California Institute of Technology, where he was awarded his doctorate in chemistry in 1954, according to Intel.

He started his research career at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland. He returned to California in 1956 to join Shockley Semiconductor in Palo Alto, which was the first semiconductor company established in what would become Silicon Valley.

In 1957, Moore co-founded Fairchild Semiconductor, a division of Fairchild Camera and Instrument, along with Robert Noyce and six

other colleagues from Shockley Semiconductor.

Moore and Noyce played central roles in the first commercial production of diffused silicon transistors and later the world's first commercially viable integrated circuits, according to Intel.

In 1968, Moore and Noyce co-founded Intel and hired future Intel CEO Andy Grove as the third employee, and the three of them built Intel into one of the world's great companies. Together they became known as the "Intel Trinity," the Intel press release stated.

With Fairchild and Intel came financial success, which enabled Moore, together with his wife, Betty, to become a titan in another field: philanthropy. Beginning with individual gifts, many of them anonymous, then forming the Moore Family Foundation, and eventually, in 2000, creating the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation in Palo Alto, the Moores sought through philanthropy to make the world a better place for future generations. The foundation has donated more than \$5.1 billion to charitable causes, focusing in particular on environmental conservation, science and patient care improvements, the press release stated.

The Moores made a gift of \$50 million to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford in 2017, the largest received since the hospital's founding, to support patient care and advance research for children with heart disease, after one of their grandchildren received care there.

Also in 2017, the Moores were awarded the Palo Alto Tall Tree Global Impact Award for their charitable giving.

A childhood in Pescadero

Moore's local roots ran deep. A fifth generation Californian, he was the son of a chief deputy sheriff and grew up in Pescadero, along the San Mateo County coast, which had been home to his family since the mid-19th century, according to a memorial posted on the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation website.

He loved to fish in his neighborhood creek and to experiment with chemicals and "make explosives on a small production basis" behind the house, the foundation obituary stated. From an early age, he had a passion for the natural world, science and experimentation,

and he pursued that with a bright inquisitiveness, appreciation and sense of gratitude that would last a lifetime and become guideposts for his philanthropy.

Fishing and exploring Pescadero's untrammelled wilds as a child and venturing to Baja and Costa Rica and even farther afield in later years offered a baseline that illustrated environmental changes brought by development and mass tourism, too often not for the better, the foundation stated.

Always an acute observer, this helped instill in Moore a concern and abiding interest in conserving nature for future generations, in the Bay Area and around the world.

"We see the wild places of only decades ago being changed to golf courses and resort hotels, and do not think that the whole world should go that way," he told the Chronicle of Philanthropy in 2002. "I hope we will really make a difference, long term (i.e., 10,000 years)."

Among the Moores' more recent local conservation efforts, in 2018, they gave \$3 million to the nonprofit Save the Redwoods League to help acquire the 730-acre Harold Richardson Redwoods Reserve on the Sonoma Coast.

Leadership combined with humility

Moore received the National Medal of Technology from President George H.W. Bush in 1990, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President George W. Bush in 2002.

"Gordon Moore defined the technology industry through his insight and vision. He was instrumental in revealing the power of transistors and inspired technologists and entrepreneurs across the decades," Pat Gelsinger, Intel CEO, said in the company's press release. "My career and much of my life took shape within the possibilities fueled by Gordon's leadership at the helm of Intel."

Frank D. Yeary, chairman of Intel's board of directors, said, "Gordon was a brilliant scientist and one of America's leading entrepreneurs and business leaders. It is impossible to imagine the world we live in today, with computing so essential to our lives, without the contributions of Gordon Moore."

"Those of us who have met

and worked with Gordon will forever be inspired by his wisdom, humility and generosity," reflected foundation president Harvey Fineberg. "Though he never aspired to be a household name, Gordon's vision and his life's work enabled the phenomenal innovation and technological developments that shape our everyday lives. Yet those historic achievements are only part of his legacy. His and Betty's generosity as philanthropists will shape the world for generations to come."

After retiring from Intel in 2006, Moore divided his time between California and Hawaii, serving as chairman of the board for the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation until transitioning



Courtesy Intel Corporation

Gordon Moore was the co-founder of Intel Corporation and the author of Moore's Law.

to chairman emeritus in 2018.

Moore married Betty Irene Whitaker, who survives him, in 1950. He is also survived by sons Kenneth and Steven and four grandchildren ■

Email Editor Jocelyn Dong at jdong@paweekly.com.

Cecily Merrill

1944 – 2023

Cecily left us on February 21 after a 15-year struggle with Lewy Body Dementia. She was a fearless and highly motivated person all her life even as demonstrated through her long final struggle. Although it has been a long slow departure, she will continue to be missed. She left her brothers Frank, Paul, and Jim Merrill and her husband, Frank Friedlaender, behind.



Cecily was a California native and grew up in Northern California. Always interested in art, she enrolled and graduated from what was at that time the Oakland College of Arts and Crafts. Not only was she an artist in a traditional sense, but also a gifted musician and photographer, which she practiced throughout her life. However, to support herself she pursued a master's degree in education at San Jose State University. She taught high school in Oakland. Although, initially she commuted by motorcycle to school from Felton in the Santa Cruz Mountains that morphed into a Lotus Elan as economics allowed. This early interest in classic cars further developed into a shared interest with her husband, with whom she collected a small collection of 60's era classic cars. She also loved to travel and usually traveled with her husband to his science meetings around the world. In later years she became interested in genealogy and history. Specifically, she researched the role of the Indian trading posts in the development and colonizing west of the Mississippi. This fascination grew stronger and after much research culminated into a book documenting her Irish immigrant family history and migration from Virginia coal miners to professions on the west coast. Cecily had many interests and activities, including being a diligent jazzercise devotee and collector of more than 200 specimens of cactus.

Cecily was both a very kind and compassionate person, always willing to help when needed, as well as a very private person who valued solitude and enjoyed spending time alone at the family ranch in New Mexico. She brought to her marriage with Frank another way of living than that to which he was accustomed and together their approaches to life were highly complementary and made a stronger whole than each of them brought individually.

PAID OBITUARY

Peninsula Health Care District selects Ana Maria Pulido as CEO

By Angela Swartz

The Peninsula Health Care District Board of Directors announced Thursday, March 23, that Ana Maria Pulido will be its new chief executive officer starting April 10, according to a press release.

Pulido most recently served as director of public affairs for the San Mateo County Community College District. She said in an email that her last day with the college district is April 9.

She was also a member of the Ravenswood City School District Board of Trustees for 12 years. She replaces Cheryl Fama, who is retiring in April.

"Ana Maria's extensive record of service throughout San Mateo County includes commendable experience working with local



Ana Maria Pulido

leaders and public agencies to understand the health and social service needs of our community," said board Chair Lawrence W. Cappel in a statement. "Her knowledge of the various stakeholder communities we serve makes her the perfect fit for our organization and our goals."

Before her job at the community college district, Pulido, a native of East Palo Alto, handled communications for the Sequoia Union High School District.

"Having deep roots in San Mateo County, I am truly

honored to have the opportunity to serve as Peninsula Health Care District's next chief executive officer," Pulido said in a statement. "I would like to thank the board of directors for their trust in my leadership."

Pulido holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from San Francisco State University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of San Francisco.

Pulido's contract is for three years with a starting salary of \$226,000 annually.

The district serves San Bruno, Millbrae, Burlingame, Hillsborough, San Mateo and Foster City. The tax-funded organization brings health-focused programs and services to the community, including running the Peninsula Health & Fitness Center, along with dental and mental health services.

Go to peninsulahealthcare.district.org for more information. ■

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

Angus William Gallagher

September 3, 1928 – March 14, 2023

Angus William (Bill) Gallagher, a long-time resident of Menlo Park, passed away on March 14, 2023 at the age of 94 at home with family.

Bill and his fraternal twin brother Robert were born September 3, 1928 to Agnes Aabo and Peter Gallagher in Salt Lake City, Utah and were raised in Pasadena, California. After graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1946, he enlisted in the Navy. After completing his military service, he served a three-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the Spanish-speaking Southern States Mission.

He then attended college at Brigham Young University, where he pursued an accounting degree and met his wife, Dolly June Grotegut. In 1954, he graduated and married Dolly. Together, they moved to New York City where he worked as an accountant at Arthur Andersen and attended NYU Law School at night. He later received a Master of Laws degree from Yale University.

He began his career as an attorney for Standard Oil Company in New Jersey before returning to southern California. The couple moved to Menlo Park with their five children in 1965. Bill worked as tax counsel at Chevron Chemical Corporation for 24 years until he retired. He also served as president of the Tax Executive Institute and practiced law for some years after retirement.

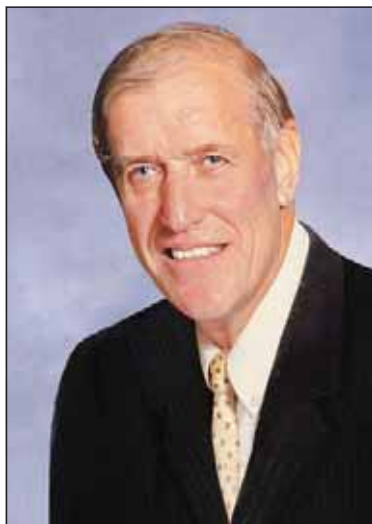
He loved his family's annual camping trips at Mammoth Lakes, California (over 60 years), fishing, gardening, coin collecting and serving in his church. He was a devoted husband and father for 68 years and has 19 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his daughter Marian Gallagher Wallace and twin brother Robert Francis Gallagher.

He will be missed by his "bride" Dolly June Gallagher, his children Peter Gallagher (Liana), Linda Kenedy (Brian), Joyce Gallagher Bradshaw (Bart), Mark Gallagher (Kathleen), son-in-law Dick Wallace.

He is also survived by his grandchildren Jake, Joe and Juligrace Wallace; Meagan Porter, Janna Mortensen, Christian and Peter Gallagher; Shannon and Colleen Kenedy, Erin Kenedy Gilbert, Mary and Shaun Kenedy; Kate, Patrick, Amy, and Molly Bradshaw; and Braden, Nicholas, and David Gallagher; and his great-grandchildren Alfie and Gwendolyn Porter; Levi, Amaya, and Charlie Gallagher; and Kairo Ruiz.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society in lieu of flowers.



High school district board unanimously appoints Crystal Leach as superintendent

By Michelle Iracheta

The Sequoia Union High School District has a new superintendent.

The district's Board of Trustees on Wednesday, March 22, voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Crystal Leach as the new superintendent, effective April 1, at a base salary of \$291,979. Leach's employment will run through March 31, 2027.

Trustee Board President Rich Ginn announced the terms of her contract at Wednesday night's board meeting.

In addition to Leach's annual salary, she will receive two stipends of \$1,283 each for her advanced degrees. Following a satisfactory evaluation at the end of the 2022-2023 school year, Leach will be eligible for a 2.5% merit-based step advancement increase starting July 1.

Leah will also serve in the position of associate superintendent and will receive a stipend of \$4,022 per month. This stipend will be prorated and paid until the district fills the position or June 30, whichever comes first.

Leach's appointment as head of the district follows Darnise Williams's controversial departure late last year. In December, the board of trustees released a statement that said that the district and Williams had "had mutually agreed to part ways."

The announcement came after a chaotic week of closed-session meetings and rumors about a possible ousting of the superintendent. The board did not give any specific reasons for Williams' departure.

Dozens of community members railed against the new school board before and following Williams's departure. Williams

received a severance of \$299,000 upon her departure.

Leach previously served as interim superintendent after Mary Streshly resigned from the position in September 2020 amid pressure from teaching and administrative staff calling for her ouster. Streshly is now a part-time adjunct professor at San Francisco State University and California Collaborative for Educational Excellence Fellow for the San Mateo County Office of Education, who provides "executive leadership support and instructional program intervention to struggling charter schools in Oakland," according to her website and LinkedIn profile. ■

Almanac Staff Writer Angela Swartz contributed to this story.

Email Editor Michelle Iracheta at miracheta@rwcpulse.com.

THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

LOS ALTOS HILLS

27555 Purissima Road **\$4,988,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/3.5BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

MENLO PARK

116 Chester Street **\$1,798,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 2BD/1BA
Compass 650-796-2523

10 Cathy Place **\$3,988,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

1489 Woodland Avenue **\$3,495,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/3.5BA
Compass 650-814-0478

2316 Loma Prieta Lane **\$3,500,000**
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00 3BD/2BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 650-485-3476

PALO ALTO

4149 El Camino Way apt d (C) **\$910,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 2BD/2BA
JLee Realty 650-857-1000

461 Carolina Lane **\$2,588,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

3887 La Selva Drive **\$3,150,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

485 Ferne Avenue **\$3,288,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

535 Tennyson Avenue **\$6,375,000**
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 4BD/3.5BA
Compass 650-867-0609

535 Patricia Lane **\$3,988,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/4BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

PORTOLA VALLEY

177 Alamos Road **\$7,895,000**
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00 1BD/2BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty 650-485-3476

REDWOOD CITY

112 E Street **\$1,895,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/2BA
Compass 650-796-2523

SAN CARLOS

2041 San Carlos Avenue **\$2,588,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3BA
DeLeon Realty 650-684-0887

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

PAID OBITUARY

Remote work rises and Caltrain ridership plummets in Silicon Valley since COVID

Annual report illustrates how the increasing cost of living is impacting residents — and driving them away

By Kate Bradshaw

Each year, Joint Venture Silicon Valley, a regional nonprofit think tank, publishes its Silicon Valley Index, a report chock-full of data points attempting to paint a point-in-time portrait of the region.

This year's data points confirmed a lot of what I'd observed anecdotally in my own circles: Essentials like housing, transportation, food and child care feel more expensive than ever. There's a widening gap between the haves and the have-nots, more people are leaving for greener pastures, and mental health challenges like anxiety and depression are all too common — especially for people experiencing financial stress. These statistics suggest that for many, Silicon Valley's high cost of living has made the region inhospitable enough to drive them away. But for those who remain, it's been exacerbated by unaffordable home prices, pay inequity and inflation.

Generally, this data set includes in its definition of Silicon Valley both San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, plus a few additional neighboring communities, including Fremont, Newark and Union City in Alameda County and Scotts Valley in Santa Cruz County. As a result, the territory includes a population of 3 million residents and 1.63 million jobs. Data is compiled by Joint Venture Silicon Valley's research arm, the Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies.

Here are the top takeaways from the report:

1. Housing remains as expensive as ever. About half of all renters are financially burdened by housing costs: 45% of renter households spend more than 30% of their gross income on rent, and 22% spend more than half of their gross income on rent.

Meanwhile, homeownership remains out of reach for many. In 2022, the median home price hit \$1.53 million, up 6% year-over-year after adjusting for inflation. Only 8% of all of the homes sold in the region were under \$600,000. The share of first-time homebuyers who can afford the median-priced home is only 27%, and as low as 14% for Black and Hispanic/Latino residents. (This is compared to 61% of first-time homebuyers nationwide in 2022.)

2. There are also positive signs of housing growth. In 2022, 12,000 new residential units were permitted in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties — more than in any year since 1978. Of those, 80% are in multifamily buildings, and 900 will be affordable to people earning less than half the area median income. However, the vast majority of new housing opportunities are likely to be affordable only to high-earning households. (The average monthly rental rate in multifamily buildings was \$2,920 during the first three quarters of 2022.)

3. Big tech companies employ a large proportion of local workers. The 30 largest tech firms make up 42% of employment in Silicon Valley, and a whopping 19% come from Google, Apple and Meta

alone as of Feb. 1. Meanwhile, startups are getting less love: In 2022, angel investment declined 90%, from \$360 million to \$40 million.

4. More employees are working remotely, causing big changes for regional transit networks. Over a third (35%) of Silicon Valley workers now work from home, up from 28% in 2021 and 6% in 2019. This shift is part of the reason for a massive decline in the number of people using Caltrain, Silicon Valley's primary commuter rail

line: Caltrain ridership has fallen by 92% from pre-pandemic rates. The biggest shift in commute patterns was a 74% decline in San Francisco-based commuters heading to Santa Clara County between 2019 and 2021.

Still, monthly transportation costs were up 40% in Silicon Valley in 2022 from 2018, at an

average of \$739 compared to \$526 for a family of four.

5. Pay gaps persist across race, gender and education divides. Between 2016 and 2021, white workers earned a wage that was on average 61% greater than that of Hispanic or Latino workers and 62% greater

See **REMOTE WORK**, page 17

OBITUARIES

A list of local residents who died recently:

Angus William "Bill" Gallagher, 94, a Menlo Park resident who worked as a tax counsel at Chevron Chemical Corporation for 24 years, served as president of the Tax Executive Institute and continued to practice law after his retirement, died on March 14; **Richard Allen Wray**, 79, a Palo Alto native who took over the family's Mountain View business, Shelton Roofing Co. Inc., in 1967 and ran it until recently, died on March 19; **Alexandra von der Groeben**, 95, a Palo Alto resident who worked her way through the banking industry before pursuing a distinguished real estate career in the Bay Area, died on March 3; **Carol Bartlett Little**, 86, a former Midpeninsula resident who served as an art docent at the Stanford Museum of Art before co-founding an investment group with fellow women docents to acquire and share art from emerging, contemporary artists, died on Jan. 9; **Ralph Rawles Wheeler** 88, a Palo Alto resident who as a youth traveled with the Koshares group of Scouts that visited Native American tribes to learn their traditions and later worked at Lockheed developing spaceflight simulations and designing capsules to return photos on film from space, died on March 20.

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

Samuel R. Phillips

April 8, 1935 – March 8, 2023

Samuel Robinson Phillips, age 87, a loving husband, father, and grandfather, passed away on March 8, 2023, in the company of his loved ones, who will continue to honor his memory. Sam was born on April 8, 1935, into a military family in Long Beach, CA. He was the only child of Rear Admiral Neill Phillips and Pauline Shaw Holseart. As Sam's father served during WWII in the South Pacific, Sam spent his early life with his grandmother, Clare Phillips, in Newport, Arkansas.



Sam attended Brook's School in Andover, MA. While pursuing his education, Sam had several colorful summer jobs including: his photograph gracing the cover of a romance magazine, employment as a hand model, working in a cannery, and spending a memorable summer traveling with a carnival where he slept on a python cage. These diverse employment opportunities made Sam committed to his education and he obtained his bachelors and masters degrees in engineering and mechanical engineering from the California Institute of Technology.

Sam was the perfect combination of Atticus Finch and MacGyver. Like Atticus Finch, he always found the perfect words to lovingly convey the importance of a life lesson whether it was one of morality or practicality. Like MacGyver he could fix anything. Given a barrel of a ballpoint pen, a wad of chewing gum, and a 9V battery, he could probably build a nuclear reactor and patent it too.

He had 60-plus years of experience as a mechanical engineer and consultant in engineering design, development and production. During his career he improved the manufacturing and reliability of implantable artificial hearts, developed, and introduced the first mass-produced product to use the diode laser, designed the cryogenic probe to treat prostate cancer using minimally invasive surgery, and helped develop a commonly used pacemaker. Sam's talents were not limited to medical developments. His work in cryogenics helped to put a man on the moon. Sam served as an expert witness in patent disputes all over the world. He had many passions that included obtaining his commercial pilot's license, seaplanes, and running. He was most proud of racing in the The Dipsea and Bay to Breakers. He also published "Torn By War," an ancestor's civil war diary.

Samuel will be remembered as a soft-spoken, hardworking, selfless, and brilliant man who had a strong passion for his career and worked until his last day. Samuel is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mitzi and two daughters Amanda, Amelia and her triplets. He was very proud of his grandchildren Wyatt, Garrett and Kelly who continue to follow his legacy of acts of service who are pursuing careers in the U.S. Army and attending nursing school. He touched the lives of everyone around him, but most importantly their hearts. Our condolences to those that never had the pleasure of his company.

Continuing with his love of science, he donated his body to U.C. Davis furthering the education of those who came after him. In lieu of flowers please donate to the American Red Cross. www.redcross.org

PAID OBITUARY

CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

Sentencing for convicted murderer

Francis Wolke, convicted of the murder of Menlo Park resident and retired Atherton town arborist Kathy Hughes Anderson, is set to be sentenced on April 5.

Wolke, 30, pleaded not guilty of first-degree murder by reason of insanity in San Mateo County Superior Court, but was found to be guilty and legally sane at the time of the crime. He killed Hughes Anderson in her own home in December 2018.

Defense lawyers had argued that Wolke should be found not guilty by reason of insanity

because he believed he had to commit cannibalism in order to join the "1%" of wealthy elite who "stay young forever." The defense said that Wolke experienced auditory hallucinations urging him to commit murder.

While Wolke had a history of heavy methamphetamine use, he did not test positive for any drugs at the time of the murder. The prosecution also pointed out that Wolke was not seen talking to himself and did not report any auditory hallucinations in the two weeks following his arrest.

Sentencing will take place at the Redwood City courthouse, located at 400 County Center, at 9 a.m. ■

—Cameron Reboisio



10 CATHY PLACE MENLO PARK



BRIGHT AND SPACIOUS IN CENTRAL MENLO

Over a quarter-acre of land in sought-after Central Menlo provides the setting for this expansive home of nearly 2,200 square feet. Bright, comfortable living spaces abound throughout this 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home, with a floorplan perfect for entertaining yet intimate enough for everyday living. Craft delicious meals in the large kitchen, enjoy nights around the fireplace in the family room, and experience a true California indoor/outdoor lifestyle in the spectacular backyard with a pool, spa, and delightful bamboo grove. Plus, this home offers solar panels, ethernet wiring, an EV charging outlet, and an insulated garage. And though this location at the end of a peaceful cul-de-sac offers incredible privacy, you will still be within walking distance of downtown Menlo Park, a ~5-minute drive to downtown Palo Alto, Stanford Shopping Center, and Stanford University, convenient to Caltrain and US-101, and within ~1 mile or less to top-ranked schools Oak Knoll Elementary and Hillview Middle (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

10Cathy.com
Listed at \$3,988,000

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

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com

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3887 LA SELVA DRIVE PALO ALTO



MODERN LIVING IN BARRON PARK

The rustic beauty of Palo Alto's Barron Park neighborhood offers a captivating juxtaposition to the aesthetic of this contemporary home offering 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and over 2,100 square feet of living space. Recently remodeled and expanded, this home embraces the hallmarks of modern design: an open floorplan bathed in natural light that provides spaces for entertaining and relaxation, all while maintaining an ambiance that is both stylish and welcoming. Striking engineered hardwood floors, Restoration Hardware fixtures, and Porcelanosa tiles are just some of the high-end appointments you will find throughout, while LaCantina doors open to a peaceful backyard area for indoor/outdoor living. Enjoy all the benefits of a Palo Alto lifestyle while relishing the serenity of this sought-after enclave – stroll through the neighborhood's lush surroundings to iconic Bol Park to visit the famous Barron Park donkeys, ride your bike along meandering pathways, and still be just minutes from exciting shops and restaurants of California Avenue and The Village at San Antonio Center. Plus, top-ranked schools are close at hand (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

3887LaSelva.com

Listed at \$3,150,000

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LIFEMOVES

continued from page 1

Barron said it took two months for a housing specialist to give her a call when she was at LifeMoves Mountain View.

“Most of (the apartments), the waiting list was closed or was too expensive,” Barron said of those that the housing specialist suggested.

‘People can’t afford to live on the Peninsula or in Silicon Valley. We have staff coming in from Manteca and Livermore and south of Gilroy, all over the East Bay.’

BRIAN GREENBERG,
LIFEMOVES VICE PRESIDENT

When she was interviewed last July, Barron was back to sleeping in her car after living at the site for four months — and she wasn’t the only one. At least six clients reporters spoke to were living in vehicles after participating in the program.

When asked why some clients never get to see a housing specialist, LifeMoves Vice President Brian Greenberg said that not every client is ready to see one when they enter the program. He said that every client is assigned a case manager, but housing specialists are only called in when a client is ready.

“Nothing makes us happier than if someone comes in one day, and a few days later they have the wherewithal and the access to resources to get into housing,” Greenberg said. “If it was a simple thing, there wouldn’t be that challenge. So I can’t address individual complaints, but getting people housing is a partnership, and we do our best to hold up our end of the partnership.”

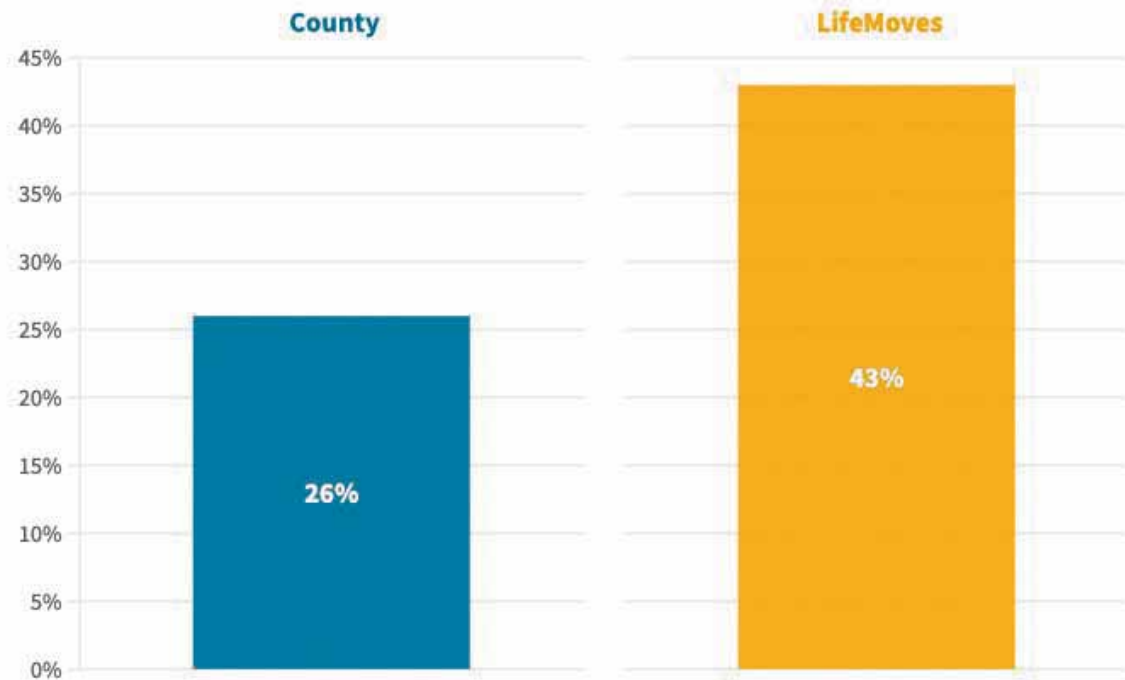
Caroline Mathangani, who moved into LifeMoves in February 2022, said her case manager repeatedly suggested she apply to apartments she knew she wouldn’t qualify for because at the time, Mathangani didn’t have a credit score or recent pay stubs.

Mathangani left LifeMoves Mountain View after receiving a notice that her time was up. She said she didn’t bother filing an extension after being asked to leave.

“I felt like my case manager was betraying me,” she said. “She had made me a promise and said, ‘I’m not going to ask you to leave until we figure this out.’”

Clients are asked to fill out extension forms every two weeks and document what they’re

Santa Clara County data shows lower percentage of LifeMoves Mountain View clients find stable or permanent housing compared to nonprofit's data



Sources: Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing, LifeMoves • Chart by Magali Gauthier
The county data represents a percentage of 281 total client exits from the shelter's opening in May 2021 through September 2022. LifeMoves' data represents a percentage of 219 total client exits from May 2021 through June 2022.

doing to work toward housing. According to LifeMoves leadership, the extensions are almost always granted if the resident is safe in the facility and working toward securing stable housing.

After moving in, each person receives a customized plan from a case manager that establishes goals and tasks for housing, employment, finance, health and education, according to a sample case plan the organization shared. Case managers are there to help connect clients with resources and get them closer to securing permanent housing, as well as give referrals to the housing specialists.

Former client Lily moved into LifeMoves in January 2022. She said shortly into her stay her case manager quit, leaving her without any case management services for about a month.

“They’re supposed to be helping people find housing,” Lily said. “I was there for over three months and I never saw a housing specialist. Never once did I get an appointment with one. I emailed, and I called, and I did everything I could to get in contact.”

When she left the program in April, she wrote an email to her case manager that she shared with this news organization, stating that she did not receive any support to find housing in the three months she was there. She said she never received a response from LifeMoves.

Reporters agreed to use a pseudonym for Lily, a request made by many of the clients interviewed. Sources who are

referred to by a first name only in this story, unless otherwise stated, are using a pseudonym.

Staffing challenges

Emmanuel, a teenager and former LifeMoves Mountain View client, said his experience was positive when he first arrived at the shelter. He quickly made a few friends and grew close to his case manager.

“(She) was the best kid case manager I’ve had,” said

Emmanuel. “She was really outgoing. She made all the kids feel like that was their home. She had a lot of activities during the holidays and everything.”

But Emmanuel said his case manager eventually told him she was quitting because she had too much on her plate.

“When she quit, none of the kids had anybody for a while,” Emmanuel said.

Greenberg acknowledged staffing is a challenge for LifeMoves, as is the case at many

homeless services organizations. “People can’t afford to live on the Peninsula or in Silicon Valley,” he said. “We have staff coming in from Manteca and Livermore and south of Gilroy, all over the East Bay.”

Greenberg said the organization aims to employ one case manager for every 17 single adults living at the site. For families, the goal is about 12 to 14 families per case manager. There’s also a children-focused case manager, housing



Gov. Gavin Newsom talks about the state’s multi-billion dollar budget to support the unhoused at LifeMoves Mountain View on June 25, 2021. Behind him, from left to right, LifeMoves CEO Aubrey Merriman, state Sen. Josh Becker (D-Menlo Park), state Assembly member Marc Berman, (D-Menlo Park), and Mountain View City Council member Ellen Kamei.

Magali Gauthier

specialists, benefits specialists and vocational specialists employed by LifeMoves, as well as a full-time licensed vocational nurse on site. If clients aren't already connected with mental health care in the community, they can access care on site through graduate-level interns pursuing degrees in psychology or social work, Greenberg said.

Former LifeMoves case manager Grace, whose name this news organization agreed to change for this story, said in an interview that she and other staff members were often overwhelmed by their caseloads.

"We needed to have at least one or two, maybe three additional case managers on site," Grace said.

Patterns of mismanagement alleged

Greenberg said that, staffing challenges aside, anyone hired at LifeMoves goes through "intensive onboarding regarding agency policy, boundaries, professionalism (and) de-escalation."

Grace said she received substantial training when she started at LifeMoves. But she found there was a disconnect between the training she received and the level of support required to implement it. When case managers needed to make referrals for their clients, for instance, Grace said it was unclear what support and resources staff had at their disposal.

"That's probably where my disappointment came in," Grace said. "LifeMoves has been around for a while, and they've got many shelters and many sites and they're out there doing a lot of different things, but I guess it just seemed to be that each site kind of operated on its own."

Valentina Carrion, 44, who lived at LifeMoves from October 2021 to August 2022, said staffers were unequipped to handle the needs of their clients.

"I would make all the staff members have some kind of background or classes on mental illness," Carrion said, when asked what she would change about LifeMoves. "A lot of the mental illnesses were just thought of as people being lazy. ... When you're homeless, you're going to have mental illnesses; you're going to have things because of trauma that you've experienced."

Despite staff receiving de-escalation training, multiple current and former clients told this news organization that they got into altercations with staff, some of which turned physical. One former client said he was physically assaulted by LifeMoves Mountain View's first program director in December



Magali Gauthier

Lily felt safer living in her car than at LifeMoves Mountain View, where several men repeatedly harassed her, she said.

2021. Court records corroborate his allegations. In June 2022, the district attorney charged the former director on suspicion of misdemeanor battery. There's an outstanding arrest warrant issued by the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office for the former director.

Citing confidentiality, Greenberg said in an interview that he could not comment on internal personnel matters but confirmed that the program's first director is no longer working for LifeMoves.

Multiple clients also trace their issues with the program back to the second director who took over after the first left.

Former client Lily said three men living at the site repeatedly sexually harassed her and that the harassers were permitted to stay in the program even after she brought it to the second program director's attention.

'The restrooms are disgusting, often smeared with feces, and urine is all over the toilets and floor. I genuinely feel safer and cleaner in my car on the street.'

LILY, FORMER LIFE MOVES MOUNTAIN VIEW CLIENT, IN AN APRIL 2022 EMAIL TO HER CASE MANAGER

"I don't feel safe," Lily wrote in an April 2022 email to her case manager, which she showed this news organization. "My interactions have ranged from inappropriate comments from intoxicated men to one of them kissing me without consent."

LifeMoves Mountain View's community guidelines include a section outlining grounds for immediate discharge from the program. Included in that list, in bold and underlined letters, is "absolutely no sexual harassment."

When asked whether he

knew of any unchecked sexual harassment cases at LifeMoves, Greenberg said he had not been made aware of any complaints.

Lily said she filed multiple written grievances with the program director at the time.

"She said she would take care of it; it started up again; and that was kind of the theme," Lily said. "She would talk to them and they would leave me alone for a few days, and then we'd be right back to where we started."

One of Lily's most persistent harassers was a client struggling with sobriety. The director told her she couldn't remove him from the program until he got his substance abuse issues under control, Lily said.

Greenberg confirmed in an interview in November that this director was also no longer with the LifeMoves Mountain View program, and instead was operating LifeMoves' Safe and Supportive Parking Program in Redwood City. He declined to comment on why and when she left the Mountain View program.

"We do tend to rotate around program directors," Greenberg said.

The former director did not respond to multiple attempts to contact her for comment and on Feb. 7, reporters received an automatic response from a LifeMoves email account stating that she was no longer with the nonprofit. LifeMoves Mountain View is currently on its third program director since opening nearly two years ago.

One model doesn't fit all

Adult residents in the program each live in their own unit, measuring 80 to 100 square feet, with 80 rooms for individuals and eight for couples. The rooms are just long enough to fit a bed with storage space underneath, as well as a desk and chair. They each have air conditioning, electricity, a window and a door with a lock.

A walkway through the adult

units is dotted with bright planters filled with artificial flowers and leads to a communal area on the 1-acre site where clients are served three meals daily. Residents have access to an outdoor dining area, food storage, laundry machines, bathrooms and showers, a community room where classes are hosted, dog kennels, bike storage and supportive services offices.

There are 12 family units between the common area and Leghorn Street, each with its own bathroom. There's also a community room and a green-and-blue playground for children in this gated portion of the complex.

For those living in single or couple units, there are a handful of communal bathrooms and showers located in the common area, which the majority of clients said are dirty and a health hazard.

A current LifeMoves resident said they haven't showered at the site in half a year. Instead, they joined the Palo Alto Family YMCA for access to clean showers because they said the floor next to the showers at LifeMoves Mountain View were frequently flooded and that the curtains were often moldy.

Former client Lily reported to her case manager in an April 2022 email that bathrooms are frequently filthy.

"The restrooms are disgusting, often smeared with feces, and urine is all over the toilets and floor," Lily's email reads. "I genuinely feel safer and cleaner in my car on the street."

When asked about the state of the bathrooms, LifeMoves said that "the facility does house clients with serious mental illness, who occasionally present challenges to shower and toilet facilities," adding that the organization "relies on both a professional janitorial service and client chores to keep bathrooms clean."

Homeless advocate Malia Pires from Reach Potential Movement said that, from her experience working with Mountain View's unhoused community, transitional housing programs like LifeMoves can be "a hard sell" for people who are used to controlling their own environment.

"They're downsizing, if they're living in an RV, into a smaller unit," Pires said of the LifeMoves program. "A big one that we hear, a reason people don't want to move into the program, is because they really want to be able to make their own food and have a greater measure of independence. And so they feel like they're going to be losing some of that if they move into the program."

In addition to being assigned chores like cleaning bathrooms,

clients must adhere to strict rules, including a nightly curfew, no visitors permitted in their rooms, and only using plastic utensils during meals.

When commenting on LifeMoves Mountain View's approach to client safety, Greenberg said that the program caters to many different types of people.

"They're co-ed environments," Greenberg said. "The people that come in are frequently fragile, and as you can imagine, traumatized by years on the street."

For this reason, Greenberg said, certain rules must be in place and apply to everyone to ensure the facility is "completely safe for the most vulnerable residents at all times."

But for current client George, those rules make him feel stereotyped, as if being unhoused means he is "a violent criminal or a drug addict or capable of a suicide." But he said he follows the rules closely to keep a roof over his head.

"The way the rules are set up, I would characterize my being here less as a client and more of an inmate," George said.

Income is a pivotal factor for success

Grace said some of her clients, especially those who had jobs, were able to find housing with the help of LifeMoves.

She said one client found part-time work at a Ross department store down the street from the site after being laid off. She started contributing to the housing fund LifeMoves maintained for her. Eventually, she got hired back at her old job and saved up enough to find permanent housing.

Carolyn, a former client, started her stay at LifeMoves in November 2021. She said LifeMoves gave her and her children a safe place after they escaped domestic violence.

When she came to the shelter, Carolyn said she already had a job and a good credit score. She just needed help finding housing she could afford as a single mom, with enough space to accommodate her kids.

Carolyn benefited from mental health therapy while she was at LifeMoves, which she called "the best I've ever received." She had a case manager as well as a housing specialist, whom she met with on a weekly basis and ended up helping her find the apartment she still lives in today.

"At times I felt like giving up," Carolyn said, who described sometimes seeing 20 apartments in one weekend. But having a housing specialist in her corner

See **LIFEMOVES**, page 16

LIFEMOVES

continued from page 15

made it a lot easier.

“Feeling empowered and just having somebody guide you through all of this when you’ve never had to do it yourself, it really helped me not be so overwhelmed,” she said.

But Carolyn said her stable job and a good credit score were also pivotal factors to finding housing.

“Some people don’t have that,” Carolyn said. “(LifeMoves) can’t turn your world or remove your trauma. They just provide the resources and you do what you can with them.”

Greenberg acknowledged that when a client is dealing with underlying challenges, like poverty, trauma or mental health issues, it can be harder for them to find success with the program. But, he maintained, “We want to get people housed as quickly as possible, regardless of the challenges.”

Yet Grace said sometimes those barriers become so high that they’re insurmountable.

People need a stable income and savings to be approved for most housing, she said. But some clients may not physically be able to work. Others face mental health challenges that prevent them from holding down jobs, or are too elderly to work. Others are at risk of losing their Social Security benefits if their income gets too high.

“Three-to-four-months, tops, is the goal for people to come in, kind of get settled, get situated, save their money,” Grace said. “But the reality is not every client is going to fit that mold.”

By the numbers

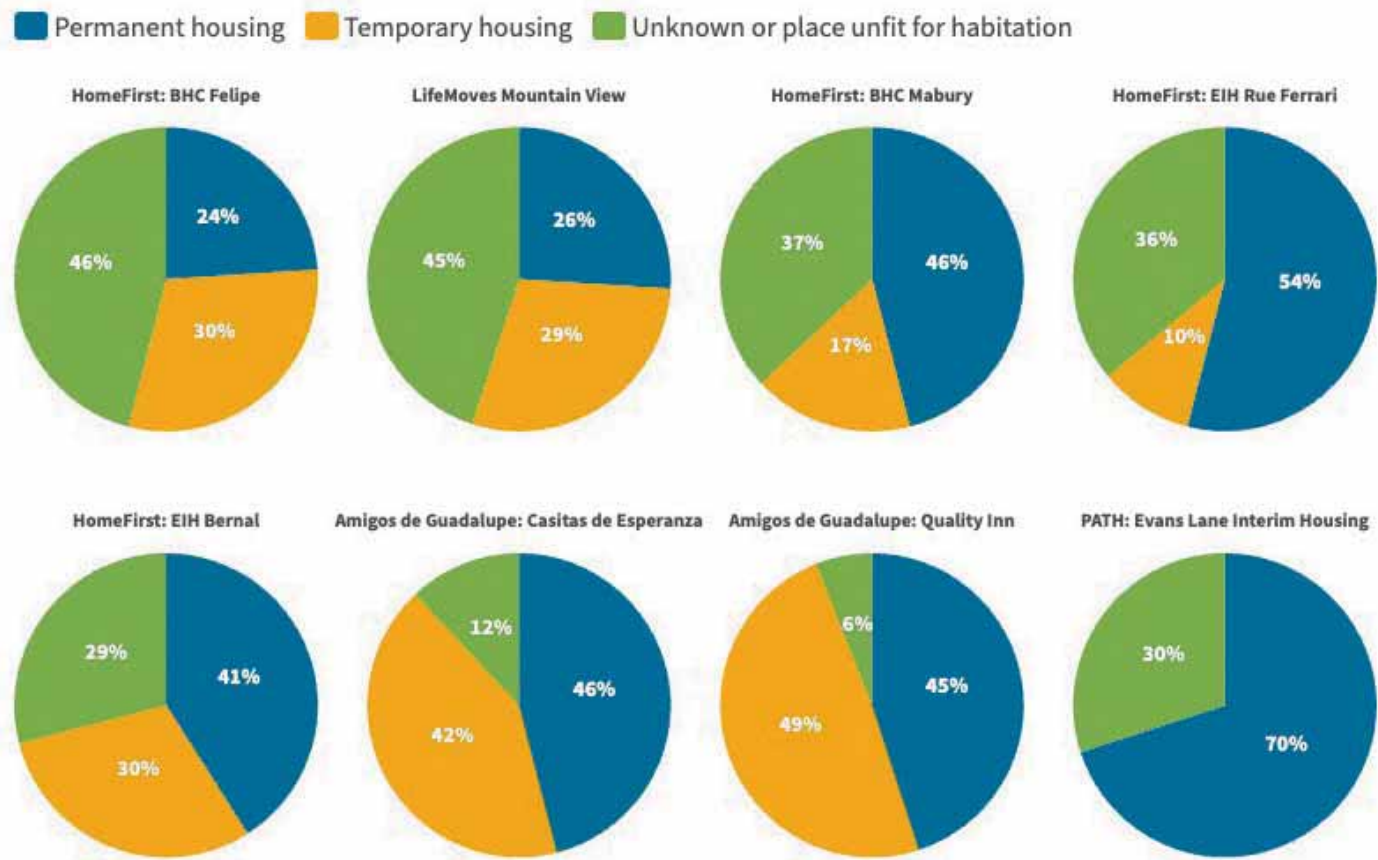
While some residents are able to meet the goals of the program, the data shows that a majority of clients leave LifeMoves Mountain View without finding stable housing. Exactly how many is unclear because data provided by LifeMoves is not consistent with Santa Clara County data.

According to LifeMoves, out of 219 clients who exited the program, 95 individuals, or about 43%, transitioned into stable housing between the site’s opening in May 2021 and the end of June 2022.

Data provided by Santa Clara County showed 281 clients exited the program between its opening and September 2022, and that only 73 individuals, or 26%, were placed in permanent housing.

LifeMoves attributes this discrepancy to differences in how the county and the nonprofit categorize their data and define stable housing, as

LifeMoves Mountain View residents find permanent housing at a lower rate than most other comparable programs in Santa Clara County



Source: Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing • Chart by Magali Gauthier

well as the county data representing a slightly longer time frame. LifeMoves Director of Community Engagement & Public Affairs Ben Biscocho said some housing situations that are considered a “temporary destination” by the county may be considered “stable” by LifeMoves, such as people who stay with family or friends or go into residential treatment programs.

“Although temporary, these exits reflect clients working towards stability through reconnecting with loved ones and sobriety, among other things,” Biscocho said.

LifeMoves leadership added that across its 26 locations in San

Mateo and Santa Clara counties, families generally have a higher success rate in getting housed than single adults or couples. They said that “82% of our families and 65% of all clients engaged in supportive services” found stable housing but declined to specify how many people participated in those services. LifeMoves said it served over 7,000 clients in the 2021-22 fiscal year, agency-wide.

When asked for a data breakdown for families versus singles adults or couples at the Mountain View site specifically, the organization would not provide it for this story.

Data discrepancies aside, the county’s numbers also show

that LifeMoves Mountain View’s rate of getting clients into stable housing is significantly lower than similar programs in Santa Clara County.

At 26%, LifeMoves has the second lowest rate of individuals who exit to permanent housing out of eight non-congregate shelters identified in the county’s dataset, which included Santa Clara County programs that utilize “tiny homes or similar models,” such as converted hotels. The six shelters ahead of LifeMoves range from 41% to 70% of clients moving into permanent housing. The only program that performed below LifeMoves Mountain View in the county’s dataset is the HomeFirst Bridge Housing Community program on Felipe Avenue in San Jose, with 24% of clients exiting into permanent housing.

When asked about LifeMoves’ relatively low success rate compared with other county programs, Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian said it’s “awfully tough to compare and contrast different shelters with different models and different populations in different communities.”

“It’s hard to make that apples-to-apples comparison,” he said.

According to public records obtained by this news organization from the city of Mountain View, LifeMoves leadership is aware that the site’s rate of getting clients into permanent

housing is low. In an internal email, LifeMoves CEO Aubrey Merriman acknowledged concerns about how the Mountain View site was performing. That email was eventually forwarded to city staff, making it a public record.

‘... our Mountain View exit statistics might be a little underwhelming given the excitement and expectations attached to the site when it first opened.’

AUBREY MERRIMAN, LIFE MOVES CEO, IN A MAY 2022 EMAIL TO THE NONPROFIT’S LEADERSHIP

After receiving an email last May from a Mercury News reporter inquiring about LifeMoves’ exit data and asking to interview program participants, CEO Merriman forwarded the email to LifeMoves leadership, warning that “there is always a risk involved when you put a microphone in front of a client,” and that there was “additional risk that our Mountain View exit statistics might be a little underwhelming given the excitement and expectations attached to the site when it first opened.”



LifeMoves CEO Aubrey Merriman speaks at an event celebrating the opening of LifeMoves Mountain View on May 25, 2021.

Magali Gauthier

See **LIFEMOVES**, page 17

LIFEMOVES

continued from page 16

Merriman wrote, “I wouldn’t be surprised if the subtle angle here is that (with) all this buzz about these modular projects the outcomes aren’t dramatically better,” adding, “I’m speculating here.”

Merriman did not agree to be interviewed for this story, despite more than a dozen requests made over the course of three months.

What comes next

Shortly after the Mountain View site opened in 2021, Merriman said the nonprofit’s long term vision is to have 10 interim shelter sites across the Bay Area, with an ultimate goal of solving the region’s homelessness crisis. The nonprofit created a playbook that outlines how it developed and built LifeMoves Mountain View, and how other jurisdictions can do the same in their communities.

LifeMoves currently plans to open at least three more interim modular shelters modeled after the Mountain View site. The nonprofit has partnered with the cities of Palo Alto and San Jose, with plans to use \$78.1 million



Magali Gauthier

Former LifeMoves Mountain View client Valentina Carrion sits on a couch in her apartment in Mountain View on Dec. 6, 2022.

in Homekey funds this year to build two more interim housing communities, totaling 292 units.

LifeMoves leadership told this news organization that one lesson they’ve learned from the Mountain View site is that it’s better to build up: The organization is planning a three-story shelter in Palo Alto, leaving more open space for residents, whereas the Mountain View shelter is constructed as a single-story facility. Though the shelter was initially estimated to cost around \$17.6 million, that figure has incrementally increased,

most recently to about \$32 million for construction alone.

LifeMoves, the city of Redwood City and San Mateo County are also close to completing a 240-unit, modular, multi-story navigation center on 2.5 acres of land that broke ground last April. The project received \$55.3 million in Homekey funds from the state.

Santa Clara County and LifeMoves are also proposing an interim shelter site using Homekey funds in the city of Santa Clara. That project is still going through the public input process and hasn’t been approved yet.

Meanwhile, Mountain View and Santa Clara County continue to fund the existing LifeMoves Mountain View program, each pledging \$2.4 million for operational costs over the next two years.

Former case manager Grace said the lack of affordable housing in Mountain View and the greater Bay Area was a major hurdle to her ability to help clients succeed. For clients who were unemployed, she cobbled together various forms of financial aid so they could qualify for the few affordable units available. And even those who worked full-time jobs struggled to make enough to afford a place of their own.

“For a lot of clients that were coming in, I think for many of them, they probably just had these expectations that, ‘Oh well, there’s already housing already set up. And I’ll just be here for a little bit. And then from there, they’re going to recommend me to whatever affordable housing situation is out there,’” Grace said.

Vice President Greenberg emphasized that LifeMoves is a “housing-first” model, and the goals that clients are given reflect that overarching objective. In a sample case plan that LifeMoves shared, the first bullet

point atop a list of 12 distinct goals is “Client will obtain stable housing.”

But out of the 18 clients who were interviewed for this story, the majority were unable to meet that goal. At the time of publishing, reporters could only confirm one client who became housed with the help of LifeMoves. Some are still participating in the program. Others found a home on their own after leaving.

Among them is Mathangani, who lives in a room in a shared house in Santa Clara that she found herself. Lily said she had to move out of state to use a housing voucher that she secured on her own. And when reporters last spoke to Barron, she and her protective pups were still living in their packed SUV. ■

*Email Chief Visual Journalist
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mgauthier@almanacnews.com
and Staff Writer Malea Martin
at mmartin@mv-voice.com.*

*This is a multi-part series.
In the next installment,
reporters investigate the barriers that make it challenging for programs like LifeMoves Mountain View to get clients housed, and what experts say the best solutions are.*

REMOTE WORK

continued from page 11

than Black or African American workers. In 2021, men earned \$59,000 more than women when both groups had a bachelor’s degree or higher level of education. In addition, there is a significant gap in median income between people with less than a high school degree and those with a professional or graduate degree, totaling about \$115,000.

6. Income inequality is widening. In 2021, income inequality rose by 5% in Silicon Valley while decreasing by 3% in the U.S. overall. Billionaires with primary homes in San Mateo or Santa Clara counties hold an estimated \$63 billion in liquid wealth.

The top 10% of Silicon Valley households held 66% of the wealth in 2022, and just eight residents held more than that of

the bottom 50% of households combined. Meanwhile, 42% of children in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties live in households that can’t make ends meet without extra help.

7. People are leaving Silicon Valley. Between mid-2020 and mid-2021, Silicon Valley’s population declined by nearly 39,000 residents, the highest figure on record for the region. In 2021, about 48,000 people moved away; around as many as relocated during the dot-com bust in 2001.

8. “Minimum wage is no longer a living wage in Silicon Valley,” according to the report. “Even at the highest local minimum wage last year (\$17.10 per hour in Mountain View and Sunnyvale), the least expensive household type — a two-adult household with no children — would be unable to meet

their own basic needs without public or private assistance ... Silicon Valley’s Self-Sufficiency wages — representing a no-frills, bare-bones minimum for affording basic human needs such as housing, childcare, food, transportation, and healthcare — were completely out of reach for the more than 302,000 workers in 2021 earning less than the statewide minimum wage of \$14 per hour.” Overall, inflation has resulted in a \$550 decline in the median household income.

9. Child care costs in particular have skyrocketed in the region. “The cost of full-time childcare at Silicon Valley’s licensed preschools has nearly doubled since the beginning of the Great Recession economic recovery period in 2010 — rising from \$11,100 per year in 2010 to an estimated \$20,500 in 2022,” according to the report. Overall,

child care costs are rising at twice the rate of inflation.

In addition, as many as 1 in 5 Silicon Valley households are at risk for food insecurity but are not eligible for most public assistance programs.

10. Mental health challenges remain a problem for teens and adults alike. One in eight students in middle or high school reports that they have considered suicide. The share is higher for female students (16% compared to 7% of males), as well as those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or not straight (36%), and highest for those who identify as transgender youth (38%). Anxiety and depression are also a problem for adults: “One in five Bay Area residents experience anxiety and/or depression most days of the week, with rates particularly high among young adults (ages 19-29), non-Hispanic

Black, and Hispanic or Latino residents; rates are the highest for those who struggle financially,” according to the report. That proportion is down from 24% in 2021 and 30% in the second half of 2020.

However, the report notes, people that generally exhibit the highest rates of anxiety and depression are those who need sources of income or savings to pay for immediate spending needs. “Relieving near-term financial burdens facing Bay Area residents may alleviate mental health issues to a large degree,” the report states.

Access the full report at jointventure.org and additional data at siliconvalleyindicators.org. ■

*Email Associate Digital
Editor Kate Bradshaw
at peninsulafoodist@
embarcaderopublishing.com.*

TREES

continued from page 5

when a tree fell on his work van as he drove eastbound along Alpine Road near the Highway 280 south onramp. Emergency responders said that several more trees fell while they were attempting to extricate Diaz from the van, nearly hitting them and their vehicles.

“We are very saddened by the

tragic loss of life that happened as a result of last week’s storm,” said Luisa Rapport, director of Emergency Communications and Media Relations for Stanford. “The university has performed an initial review of the trees on Stanford land adjacent to the three trees that have already fallen. The trees are very challenging to reach for tree crews due to the saturated soil, distance from the street, and size of the trees. Stanford is reaching out to

well-equipped service providers to better understand the logistics of removing hazardous tree conditions.”

Stanford is in contact with county officials to share updates and coordinate work in the area, she said. San Mateo County is working with the California Highway Patrol to place cones and detour signs restricting access to the lane closest to the creek on Alpine Road, she said.

Stanford’s land maps confirm

that the university owns the land in question. Stanford’s 8,180 acres of contiguous land in the area are in six different governmental jurisdictions.

Espinosa contacted Santa Clara County District 5 Supervisor Joe Simitian on Monday, March 27, who reached out to Stanford and the Santa Clara County Planning Department. Simitian said he plans to raise the issue at the county’s board meeting next week, as well as contact San

Mateo County since there are a “range of views” about which county the site is located in.

“Anyone who has been through a tree removal in either county, it can be an extended and time-consuming process,” Simitian said. In an emergency circumstance like this, the process needs to move faster, he said. ■

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

County's minimum wage in unincorporated areas rises to \$16.50

By Bay City News Service

Those who work for minimum wage in unincorporated San Mateo County will see their hourly rate rise beginning April 1.

Workers will make at least \$16.50 an hour in unincorporated areas of the county starting April 1. It is the first local minimum wage for areas that range from commercial corridors to coastal farmland.

A San Mateo County spokesperson said the minimum wage must be paid to employees who work at least two hours a week, with few exceptions. Businesses

of all sizes must pay workers at least \$16.50 for all time worked within the geographic boundaries of unincorporated San Mateo County.

In November of last year, the county Board of Supervisors approved setting the minimum wage at \$16.50 to put more money into the pockets of fast-food employees, agricultural laborers and other typically low-wage workers.

The new minimum wage is \$1 per hour higher than the state's minimum wage, which increased on Jan. 1.

"The board is proud to take a stand for the workers who are the

backbone of our community," said Dave Pine, county Board of Supervisors president. "Many of these workers were deemed essential during COVID, and it's absolutely critical that we do what we can for them."

San Mateo County's minimum wage applies to workers regardless of immigration status across a wide geographic region. This includes North Fair Oaks, home to the bustling Middlefield Road corridor, agricultural land stretching from south of Pacifica to Pescadero, Broadmoor Village in the North County and other unincorporated pockets.

The county's Executive Office is working to ensure that both employees and employers are aware of the new minimum wage.

The California Labor Commissioner's Office will ultimately enforce the minimum wage. County officials said this avoids establishing a new local enforcement agency while providing consistency across jurisdictions as the Labor Commissioner's mission is to "ensure a just day's pay in every workplace."

The ordinance also allows for an individual employee to sue his or her employer for not complying.

The new minimum wage applies to so-called gig workers, employees who get paid tips and both adults and minors. Mirroring the state's minimum wage requirements, there is an exception for "learners", who may earn 85 percent of the minimum wage for the first 160 hours of employment, then the full \$16.50 per hour.

Starting Jan. 1, 2024, and then every following year, San Mateo County's minimum wage will be set based on a formula involving the consumer price index, which tracks the prices of goods and services, and the prior year's increase. ■

Menlo Park's deficit spending, expected to be in the millions, shrinks to \$15,000

By Cameron Rebosio

Menlo Park's budget outlook this year is much better than its prior gloomy predictions, with a new report showing that an expected deficit of \$6.4 million has now shrunk to a mere \$15,000.

Menlo Park's general fund revenue is forecast to be \$1.6 million higher than expected and expenses are estimated to

be \$5.2 million lower, including mid-year budget amendments, according to data presented at a March 28 City Council meeting. The general fund is anticipated to nearly break even with \$76.65 million in revenue and \$76.66 million in expenses.

City officials, however, are anticipating future economic uncertainty in the 2023-24 fiscal year due to national and regional trends. With

rising interest rates nationally, the collapse of locally based Silicon Valley Bank and Meta's recent announcement of plans to lay off 10,000 more employees, projections for the future are uncertain.

Much of the difference between the predicted and actual expenses came from staff vacancies that the city expected to be filled, resulting in \$5.5 million in savings. However, staff did not budget

for overtime and the temporary help needed to make up for the vacant positions.

One unpredicted budget item was reimbursements for hotel rooms during storms and power outages. Menlo Park has set aside \$70,000 to reimburse residents for hotel stays during the recent storms and city officials are attempting to obtain reimbursements from PG&E.

"I had several emails from residents who were

(expressing) heartfelt thanks for those hotel reimbursements," Council member Betsy Nash said. "Including one who said that it really shows how the city prioritizes residents."

The 2023-24 budget principles adoption will be brought before the council on April 25. ■

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

ABUSE

continued from page 5

interactions with the volunteer, later revealed to be his brother, which occurred in July 2018. In his tweet, Lavery said he confirmed with his father that he had encouraged the volunteer's unsupervised work with children. His father, Lavery wrote, asserted that the "most important thing was maintaining secrecy over the affair."

As pastor, Ortberg was a mandated reporter, which by law required him to report suspected abuse or neglect. He stepped down from his leadership position at Menlo Church in July 2020. He still serves as an advisor to

Transforming the Bay with Christ; his wife Nancy Ortberg serves as its CEO, according to its website.

During a March 8, 2020, town hall meeting, Ortberg spoke about why he did not make a report to the authorities, according to the Zero Abuse report:

"I am what's called a mandated reporter and that means that I am obligated to report a person to appropriate authorities if there is a reasonable suspicion of damage. In other words, that the person might have done harm or might do harm. I can say, having asked the volunteer when we had that initial conversation very stringent questions around this, I am absolutely certain that that person did not harm

anybody and would not and will not harm anybody. Immediately, after that conversation, I consulted with two clinical experts and both of them confirmed that this was a situation in which reporting was not mandatory and would not have been appropriate."

Before hiring the Zero Abuse group to conduct an investigation, the board retained an independent investigator, who did not find any misconduct in the Menlo Church community.

Blatnik, who has attended the church for over a decade, said the church continues to work with Zero Abuse because working with a "reputable third party specializing in the area" is the "right thing to do."

Resources

The letter from EuBank also includes steps church staff are taking to combat abuse in the church.

For example, all Menlo Church staff members, including church elders, have received child abuse training and are mandated reporters as well as all volunteers who serve with children and students.

The church has set up an email address for survivors or congregants to send their concerns to menlo@zeroabuseproject.org. Zero Abuse will not share any information received with Menlo unless specifically authorized to do so by the person who



Menlo Church officials outlined steps being taken to prevent abuse.

contacted them, according to the letter. However, if Zero Abuse Project receives a disclosure of child abuse, the organization will notify law enforcement or other appropriate authorities.

The church is providing financial resources available for survivors of this abuse at Menlo to pursue care and counseling. Email care@menlo.church to learn more and access counseling referrals and resources.

Progress from Zero Abuse recommendations

The church also provided a March 2023 update on progress made on recommendations from Zero Abuse.

For example, the church provided personal safety education

for parents and caregivers who have children or youth in a Menlo ministry. It also has modified its staff handbook to include the recommendations from Zero Abuse to explicitly require employees to report gift-giving, including gifts to children, and clarify the prohibition on physical violence.

The church is making progress on a number of other suggestions from the nonprofit, according to the report, and expects to establish a standing child protection committee this spring.

Read the full progress report at tinyurl.com/menlozeroabuserecommendations. ■

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

Employment

Principal Machine Learning Engineer

Principal Machine Learning Engineer needed at TeachFX, Inc. in Menlo Park, CA. Must have bachelor's in Comp Sci or related & 3 yrs of machine learning exp, including: Programming w/ Python; Machine Learning infrastructure & running models at scale & building data pipelines that feed models; Solving problems in Speech Recognition or Natural Language Processing; ML frameworks such as scikit-learn, TensorFlow or PyTorch; Cloud platforms AWS or Google Cloud Platform. Will accept a Master's + 2 yrs exp. Remote work is an option. Salary: \$135,000-\$160,000. Email resumes to berk@teachfx.com. EOE

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**Andrea
Gemmet**
EDITOR

The **Almanac**

A message from our Editor, Andrea Gemmet

I'm Andrea Gemmet a news editor for Embarcadero Media, a small local news organization on the Peninsula that covers news for the Palo Alto Weekly, the Mountain View Voice, The Almanac and Redwood City Pulse.

It was a typically busy Tuesday afternoon in June when one of my reporters called to tell me the power had gone out in Emerald Hills and she planned to take her laptop to a coffee shop to finish working. We were still on the phone when she realized a wildfire had broken out.

In that moment, our conversation shifted. Smoke was in the air, firefighters were racing to the scene and she needed to evacuate. As she and her family scooped up their dogs and headed to safety, the rest of the newsroom team sprang into action. There was no telling how fast or how far the fire would spread, and we wanted to make sure the rapidly changing news about road closures and evacuation areas reached our readers as quickly as possible.

Being familiar with the steep, narrow, and winding roads in the area, I was worried about the havoc a large-scale evacuation might cause, and had been frantically posting emergency information on our social media channels in an attempt to reach as many people as possible.

As the Edgewood fire spread, our reporters worked the phones, our visual journalist hurried to the scene and I ended up grabbing a notebook and heading a press conference at Woodside Fire Protection District's Station 19. On the way there, I called friends to tell them that they were in the evacuation zone and needed to leave.

After more than a decade as the editor of the Mountain View Voice and more recently, The Almanac, it had been a while since I'd been out covering a fire. I vividly remembered being a pregnant reporter, eyes stinging and throat raw from the smoke as I walked all over Woodside on the sweltering day in August 2002 when wind-blown embers spread a six-alarm fire that started on the grounds of the Fleishhacker estate. Once the flames were quenched, I covered the efforts to make Woodside, Portola Valley and Emerald Hills more fire-resistant and better prepared for the next wildfire.

As journalists from this community, the work isn't always easy. These stories affect us, our families, and our neighbors. Yet, it gives us the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of local issues, and a responsibility to enhance our reporting with context. We wouldn't be able to do that without the ongoing support of our members.

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If Atherton wants staff housing at Menlo College, funding is needed

By Melissa Michelson

Atherton is one of many Bay Area cities struggling to comply with state mandates for building housing. Menlo College, a small residential college located within Atherton, often struggles to hire or retain qualified faculty and staff due to the lack of nearby affordable housing. Building housing on Menlo's campus would mitigate both of these challenges.

The current mandate facing Atherton, set by the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), is to get state approval for a plan to build 348 additional housing units over the next eight years. The town's first plan was rejected; the revised plan submitted in January includes additional accessory dwelling units (ADUs), rezoning

GUEST OPINION

single-family homes for future multifamily developments, and a 60-unit faculty and staff apartment building on the Menlo College campus. The state will be responding to that plan by the end of March.

Yet, even if the state accepts the plan, a major challenge remains: while Menlo College leadership has the land available and would welcome the opportunity to build staff and faculty housing on campus, the college doesn't have the financial resources to build those apartments.

Building affordable housing on Menlo College's campus would have a ripple effect throughout Silicon Valley. It would create jobs, stimulate economic growth, take cars off area roads and free up

existing affordable housing units throughout the Valley that are now occupied by members of the Menlo College community.

The project would benefit Atherton, but it would also benefit Menlo College and its students. More available campus housing would allow the College to attract and retain talented faculty and staff who might otherwise be unable to afford to live in the area. It would improve Menlo College's ability to support students in need, offering them access to the educational and career opportunities of Silicon Valley.

Menlo College has always been a small, largely residential college. But the Menlo College of today is probably not what most people assume, reflecting enrollment shifts over the last decade. Today, Menlo serves an extremely diverse student

population: the 800-plus students hail from 45 countries. Menlo College is a federally designated Minority Serving Institution two times over, as both a Hispanic-serving institution and an Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander-serving institution, and a large proportion of our students receive Pell Grants. One-third of Menlo's students are the first in their family to attend college.

The benefits to Atherton residents are also clear. Atherton residents enjoy graciously laid-out homes and an abundance of heritage trees, generating a rarely-found combination of tranquility and sense of privilege. Those who call Atherton home are by and large fiercely protective of the lifestyle that Atherton offers. Building these apartments on Menlo's campus will help the town maintain

that lifestyle while complying with the RHNA mandate.

In order for this project to become a reality, the college needs the financial support of the town or directly from Atherton residents. It would take just a small handful of wealthy homeowners in the area making tax-deductible contributions to Menlo College to cover the construction costs.

Last year, Gov. Gavin Newsom called out Atherton for its resistance to building new multifamily homes and resisting state requirements to meet RHNA housing targets. I offer residents an alternative to continued resistance and protest: dig into your pockets, and let Menlo College build the apartments. ■

Melissa Michelson is the dean of Arts & Sciences at Menlo College.

San Mateo County should reverse course, keep youth sports fields in Flood Park plans

By Ron Snow

Recently, San Mateo County supervisors voted to delay their promise to area youth. Their decision to suddenly remove the promised baseball and youth sports fields at Flood Park from being constructed this year is a tragedy to area youth, youth sports organizations, and the parents and coaches that mentor this segment of our community.

Many area youth have waited for nearly eight years for these sport fields. This delay of three, four or more years means most of this generation will have aged out of youth sports before the county delivers on the promised sport fields.

For at least 14 years, the once beautiful baseball field has been left in disrepair, unmaintained and unusable. The Realize Flood Project was to remedy that by restoring the baseball field and adding multi-use fields that could support soccer, lacrosse, and other open-field play.

In 2019, county supervisors

GUEST OPINION

were presented the Flood Park project, and in November 2020 supervisors certified and approved the project's environmental impact report and landscape plan which identified that the youth sports fields would be the first to be implemented in the first phase of a three-phase construction project.

In July last year, supervisors approved a revised landscape plan that, at the public's request, relocated all sports fields to the north-eastern side of the park, the sports field side, thus saving the famous Heritage Grove and many other trees (more details available at floodpark.org). The plan to have youth sports fields constructed in Phase One remained unchanged. Funding for the first phase was allocated and was shaping up to finally get construction going this year.

In December, the worst happened: supervisors unanimously voted to delay youth sports fields at the park by

removing baseball field restoration and new sports fields from Phase One. Wait, how could that happen? Why did the supervisors make this decision without allowing the parks department's presentation of the final plan? Why did they suppress public discussion and input? Did they even realize that their decision would break their promise and have such a negative impact on area youth?

The community youth and associated organizations, which have been major supporters of the project, were never notified of this major change to the plan. To allow this ill-thought-out and damaging action to stand is a major setback for youth sports organizations, coaches and local youth. It comes at a time when the extreme weather has already negatively impacted youth sports, as many practice and play at locations that are not accessible due to saturated and damaged fields.

All of this can and should be corrected now. Construction is not set to begin until the

summer. Plans for the baseball and sport fields are already well along and could be finalized for Phase One. By restoring these critical sports fields back into Phase One, youth could be playing on them next season.

Phase One is funded and will start this summer. However, future phases have no guarantee that they will be funded. County management and the parks department both have publicly stated that a downturn in the economy and high inflation could significantly impact the next several years of county projects, budgets, and funding. Add to this the unexpected costs of extreme weather damage this year and forecasts for continued extreme weather events and we have a bleak financial picture. Why, with these looming financial forecasts, put our area youth at risk of indefinite delay?

Knowing the history of how projects progress in the county, it is easy to see that further delays for youth sports are likely to occur. So what might at best be a three-year delay is more likely to be four years,

six years or more. Why put our youth at such risk?

The community and parks staff put a lot of effort into the Realize Flood Park project plan. Local youth were expecting baseball and sports fields in Phase One. All previous supervisory meetings that discussed this had resulted in support for these fields being part of Phase One. That was never modified; at least, not until this backroom decision that supervisors made last December.

Let's fix this. Don't allow this broken promise to stand. Let's deliver the restoration of the baseball field and the new multi-use fields in Phase One now. There is time. It is the right thing to do. We all need to raise our voice and ask County Supervisors and Parks management to listen and keep their word. ■

Ron Snow is a leading member of Flood Park Advocate, a group focused on future development and preservation of the county's Flood Park.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Middle Plaza's appeal focuses on luxury, not the needs of residents

I wish to thank Stanford University and the Silvers (Stephen and Jared) for bringing to Menlo Park an ultra-luxury experience. Knowing that Stanford's endowment fund will grow even larger and the Silvers will become even more prosperous creates, well, a truly joyful feeling. This is why we choose to live in Menlo Park.

Perhaps with the proceeds, this consortium might consider setting aside a few shops for other vital services such as a thrift store, or rental assistance, unemployment resources, drug addiction mitigation, homeless shelter information, disaster relief, and bankruptcy avoidance stores. Or a food pantry, a public artistic performances venue, an adult literacy center, a cost-plus pharmacy, or affordable restaurants, among so many other stylistic and natural choices.

Mr. Silver could then enjoy not just a cabinet of curiosities experience, but also witness a whole realm of actual living human

curiosities stumbling about his shopping fiefdom, also known as the Rodeo Drive of Menlo Park. Words can not express my depth of hopeful anticipation. The revolution will be televised.

Jeff Colflesh

Placitas Avenue, Menlo Park

California's rail project could see escalating costs, low ridership

The High Speed Rail (HSR) is a colossal waste of hundreds of billions of dollars that could be far better spent on California's other needs.

There is no known cost because no one knows if it's feasible to tunnel through the fault ridden Tehachapi Mountains. Ridership projections are falling, which means the state will have to subsidize it with billions more each year. It is not a green project when all emissions are considered.

Interstate 5 has plenty of excess capacity and airports can easily be expanded if needed. The HSR is woefully out of date as people will prefer the door-to-door convenience of autonomous EVs. HRS may speed through the valley but is decidedly a low-speed railroad on a door-to-door basis.

Ed Kahl

Whiskey Hill Road, Woodside

What's on your mind?

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

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

Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Questions? Email editor@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6537.

Public Notices

PALO ALTO SMART THERAPY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-293543

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Palo Alto Smart Therapy, located at 4370 Alpine Rd, Suite 200, Portola Valley, CA 94028, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
KRISTA REGEDANZ, PH.D. A PSYCHOLOGICAL CORPORATION
3000 El Camino Real, Building 4, Suite 200 Palo Alto, CA 94306 CA

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/09/2015
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 24 2023.
(ALM Mar 24, 31, Apr 7 and 14, 2023)

DANIEL PURINTON DESIGNS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-293628

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Daniel Purinton Designs, located at 1320 Academy Ave Belmont, CA 94002, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
DANIEL MARTIN PURINTON
1320 Academy Ave Belmont, CA 94002
MARY GUADALUPE PURINTON

1320 Academy Ave Belmont CA 94002
This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/29/2012
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 06 2023.
(ALM Mar 17, 24, 31 and Apr 7, 2023)

LINEAGE & LEGACY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-293665

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Lineage & Legacy, located at 2512 Farrington Way, East Palo Alto, CA. 94303, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
HELPING OTHERS MAINTAIN EARTH, INC.
2085 East Bayshore Road Palo Alto, CA. 94303 CA

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 10 2023.
(ALM Mar 17, 24, 31 and Apr 7, 2023)

To place a legal notice visit
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Town of Atherton

Town Administrative Offices
80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, California 94027
650-752-0500

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of a draft Leaf Blower Ordinance.

This meeting will be held in person. The public may participate in the City Council Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane Atherton, CA 94027.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/506897786>

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

One tap mobile +16699006833,,506897786# US (San Jose)#

Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: freyes@ci.atherton.ca.us

Description: The City Council is considering amendments to for adoption of Leaf Blower Ordinance. This purpose of such draft Ordinance amendments is intended to consider the Town to regulate the use of leaf blowers in order to minimize air pollution and noise and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A copy of the City Council staff report and draft Ordinance can be found online, by Friday, April 14, 2023 here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

The proposal has been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to CEQA Section 15308, Actions by Regulatory Agencies for protection of the Environment.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on **April 19, 2023 at 6:00 PM** via in-person and teleconference accessible through the above-described information, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the amendments should or should not be approved.

IF YOU CHALLENGE any actions taken to adopt a draft Leaf Blower Ordinance in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

If you have any questions or would like to submit comments on the item please contact Rachael Londer, Management Analyst II, at rlonder@ci.athertonca.us or 650-752-0577 or contact George Rodericks, City Manager, at grodericks@ci.atherton.ca.us or 650-752-0504. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Date Published: March 27, 2023

Date Posted: March 30, 2023

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL

/s/ George Rodericks

George Rodericks, City Manager



Town of Atherton

Town Administrative Offices
80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, California 94027
650-752-0500 Fax 650-688-6528

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider a tentative map for a two-lot subdivision with a conditional exception for non-conforming lot widths at 43 Santiago Avenue (APN 070-343-310) based on the Planning Commission's recommendation pursuant of Atherton Municipal Code Title 16.

This meeting will be held in person. The public may participate in the City Council Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane Atherton, CA 94027.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/506897786>

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

One tap mobile +16699006833, 506897786# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: freyes@ci.atherton.ca.us

Description: The project is located at 43 Santiago Avenue, Atherton (Assessor's Parcel Number 070-343-310). The proposal includes a tentative map for the subdivision of a 2.5-acre parcel of land to allow two individuals lots approximately 1.2 acre and 1.3 acre in size, with conditional exceptions for non-conforming lot widths.

A copy of the meeting agenda, City Council staff report, and application materials can be found online by Friday, April 14, 2023 here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

The proposal has been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15332 In-fill Development Project and under Section 15061(b)(3) Common Sense Exemption.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said the proposed project is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on **April 19, 2023 at 6:00 PM** In person. City Council decisions are final on the date of decision and may not be further appealed.

If you have any questions on the item, please contact the Project Manager. Radha Hayagreev, Senior Planner at rhayagreev@ci.atherton.ca.us, or (650) 752-0576. If you have any questions about the City Council meeting, please contact Francesca Reyes, Office Specialist, at freyes@ci.atherton.ca.us or (650) 752-0500. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

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ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL

/s/ George Rodericks

George Rodericks, City Manager

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

UNFOLLOWING THE RULES

Rufus Wainwright brings 'Folkocracy,' favorites and 'little surprises' to special Stanford Live anniversary show

By Karla Kane

According to Rufus Wainwright's song "April Fools," "Life's a train that goes from February on, day by day, but it's making a stop on April first." And the Canadian-American artist will indeed be making a local stop on that date — no foolin' — when he headlines Stanford Live's annual Bing Fling.

Wainwright has taken his musical career on many adventures over the past few decades, from his lush, original pop gems like "April Fools," to Judy Garland tributes, ancient Roman opera epics and adaptations of Shakespearean sonnets, to name a few, and garnering Grammy nominations and Juno Awards along the way. Fans are drawn in by his unmistakable voice, attention to melody, smart lyrics and charming presence, whether he's performing with a symphony, rock band or as a solo troubadour.

"This is a very unique concert," Wainwright said of his Stanford show, where he will be backed by a small orchestra and which will include favorites and "little surprises" from throughout his repertoire. "I have a whole subset of beautiful arrangements for smaller ensembles, so we're going to get to dip into some of those pieces, which I'm excited to do," he said.

The event, which is this year celebrating the 10th anniversary of Stanford Live's flagship venue Bing Concert Hall, will also include Stanford student musicians and a performance of Justin Peck's "Hurry Up, We're Dreaming" by San

Francisco Ballet.

The New York-born, Montreal-raised Wainwright currently lives in Los Angeles with husband Jörn Weisbrodt (who, like Stanford Live leader Chris Lorway, is a former artistic director of Toronto's Luminato Festival). Daughter Viva, along with mini-Aussie pup Siegfried, are the "two lights of our lives," he said.

Family ties helped spark his next major project, the upcoming "Folkocracy," a collection of 15 songs that see Wainwright embracing his folk-royalty heritage, as the son of the late Canadian folk artist Kate McGarrigle and American singer-songwriter Loudon Wainwright III.

"I grew up in a folkocracy, so I'm sort of tapping into that tradition," he said of the new record. While "Unfollow the Rules," his 2020 pop album, was partly inspired by his return to Southern California, where he spent the breakout days of his career, the new record "actually propels further back to my childhood and to my folk upbringing, which was pretty profound when you look at my family, and especially my parents and their work," he said.

The tracklist of "Folkocracy" includes songs Wainwright heard often in his formative years as well as some he's learned more recently (and includes a new version of one of his own, "Going To A Town").



Courtesy Miranda Penn Turin

Rufus Wainwright said his April 1 show at Stanford Live's Bing Fling will be a "unique concert" with "beautiful arrangements for smaller ensembles." His latest album, "Folkocracy," due out in June, explores his upbringing in the folk music scene. Cover art courtesy BMG.

"I wanted to bring forth that kind of folk music spirit, which is not always necessarily even about the material; it's more about the way it's delivered. It's about playing an instrument, having a certain sense of intimacy when you're performing a song, and also being very sparse in your offering," he said. "So much music today is so constructed and so architectural... this is about bringing it down and making it more about the song."

Coming out on June 2 (just ahead of his 50th birthday, in July), the album was produced by Mitchell Froom and features an all-star group of guest artists.

"It was who was available, who's not going to charge me 8 trillion dollars, and who's game," he said with a laugh, when asked about his star-studded roster. That elite team includes David Byrne, Sheryl Crow, Susanna Hoffs, Van Dyke Parks, Chaka Khan, Wainwright's aunt Anna McGarrigle, and his sisters Martha Wainwright and Lucy Wainwright Roche.

"For a lot of singers today — a lot of pop singers especially — they are used to autotune, to being produced by these very glamorous pop producers," he said of recruiting collaborators to embrace the record's more vulnerable, stripped-back style. "It's not always the easiest sell but I did pretty good, I think."

"Folkocracy's" dark first single, released March 7, is his take on the old murder ballad "Down In The Willow Garden," inspired by the Everly Brothers

version Wainwright grew up with. Brandi Carlile's beautiful, haunting guest vocals on the "brutal, graphic" song, which is written from the perspective of a man who slays his lover, "give it more of the feminine side," he said. "It is very tough, the subject matter, and, sadly, something that exists in our world. Violence against women was around back then and it's around now."

The next release from the album will be a cover of folk icon Peggy Seeger's "Heading For Home," which features superstar singer John Legend. "That's a real doozy," Wainwright said. "Every time I listen to it, I cry."

Wainwright puts his distinctive sonic stamp on everything he does, but he said his approach to cover songs differs from how he handles his own original compositions. When interpreting the songwriting of others, "I'm really relying heavily on my animalistic singer side, which is far more instinctive, and very hungry," he said. The experience is "more clinical in a certain way. You're really just trying to serve the song. You have to be more aware of if that's actually happening or not."

Rufus Wainwright performs as part of "Celebrating Stanford Live's Next Decade" on Saturday, April 1, at 8 p.m. at Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. More information is available at live.stanford.edu. ■

Email Contributing Writer Karla Kane at karlajkane@gmail.com.



Courtesy Aislinn Weideler/Ennead Architects

Bing Concert Hall has its 10th anniversary in 2023 and Stanford Live is marking the occasion with a concert featuring Rufus Wainwright, San Francisco Ballet and Stanford student musicians.

Food & Drink

Easter feast

10 Peninsula restaurants serving special brunch menus

By Kate Bradshaw

Springtime has arrived on the Peninsula, which means Easter is on its way. Whether you celebrate the Christian traditions the holiday is associated with or simply appreciate Peeps and a good egg hunt, Easter provides a good excuse to gather for brunch. Here are 10 spots pulling out all the stops for their Easter brunch festivities. Reservations are required or encouraged for most.

Dinah's Poolside Restaurant, Palo Alto

Dinah's Poolside Restaurant will have hot and cold food offerings plus a carving station with honey pineapple ham and a roasted New York strip steak with peppercorn sauce. At \$70 per adult and \$30 per child between the ages of 4 and 12 (the 3-and-under crowd eat free), the restaurant will have breakfast favorites like sourdough French toast, bacon, homemade breakfast sausages, eggs Benedict and potatoes, as well as lunch items like clam chowder, roasted salmon, spinach and ricotta ravioli and chicken marsala, deviled eggs, croissants and more. The buffet-style meal will be served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dinah's Poolside Restaurant, Dinah's Garden Hotel, 4261 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-493-2844, Instagram: @dinahs_poolside_restaurant.

Quattro, East Palo Alto

Between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Easter Sunday, April 9, Quattro, the high-end restaurant at Four Seasons Silicon Valley in East Palo Alto, will host an Easter brunch featuring a seafood station, a carving station and a mimosa and cocktail station. A dessert buffet offers carrot cake with passionfruit ganache and cream cheese mousse, Easter bonbons, a caramelized honey cake and chocolate Earl Grey tea crêmeux. Main courses include citrus confit duck leg and beef Wellington. There will also be an egg hunt for children. Prices are \$190 per adult or \$280 with cocktails and wine; children are \$70 each.

Quattro at Four Seasons Silicon Valley, 2050 University Ave.,

East Palo Alto; 650-566-1200, Instagram: @fspaloalto.

Navio, Half Moon Bay

For \$249 per person, Navio, the restaurant at the Ritz-Carlton Half Moon Bay, is offering a seven-course Easter weekend tasting menu by chef de cuisine Francisco Simon, as well as an a la carte Easter brunch. Easter dinners will be held on April 7 and 8 from 5 to 9 p.m. and Easter brunches will run April 8 and 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Offerings include "fresh seafood, farmer's market inspired salads, traditional brunch favorites with a seasonal spin, prime cuts, and a wide array of desserts," according to the restaurant's website. Navio at the Ritz-Carlton Half Moon Bay, 1 Miramontes Point Road, Half Moon Bay; 650-712-7000, Instagram: @navio_hmb.

The Village Pub, Woodside

Easter diners will start out their meal with hot-cross buns and sweet butter for the table before one of several first courses on offer, including shellfish velouté with butter-poached Saint Simon oysters, potatoes and caviar; citrus-cured Hokkaido scallops with green and red strawberries, pickled Fresno chilis and radishes; or a buckwheat crêpe with Meyer lemon ricotta, lingonberries and a pine nut crumble. For the entrée, diners can choose among a Maine lobster frittata, olive oil-poached Alaskan halibut, grilled beef tournedos and soft-poached eggs, brioche pain perdu or a soft-rolled French omelet. And for dessert, options include a 12-layer carrot cake served with black currant ice cream or strawberry pavlova made with rose water meringue. The cost is \$118 per person and available time slots begin at 10 a.m.

The Village Pub, 2967 Woodside Road, Woodside; 650-851-9888, Instagram: @thevillagepubwoodside.

Fleming's Steakhouse, Palo Alto and Santa Clara

Fleming's Steakhouse visitors can dine April 9 on a three-course meal with a salad, entrée



Courtesy Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley

Above: The Easter brunch at Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley features a dessert buffet by pastry chef Guillermo Soto Torres including carrot cake with passionfruit ganache and cream cheese mousse, an Easter bunny, bonbons, caramelized honey cake and chocolate Earl Grey tea crêmeux. Below: The Easter brunch planned at Navio at the Ritz-Carlton in Half Moon Bay.

and dessert. Salad offerings are the Fleming's salad, made with walnuts, tomatoes, dried cranberries, red onion and lemon balsamic vinaigrette, or a Caesar salad with crispy prosciutto. For entrées, choose between a petite filet mignon, a crab-stuffed shrimp scampi or a lobster tail scampi. And for dessert, guests can choose between a chocolate gooey butter cake or New York cheesecake. Beverages include a blueberry lemon drop made with vodka, blueberries and candied lemon or wine. The restaurant opens at 11 a.m. and the meal is expected to cost around \$80 to \$90 per person.

Fleming's Steakhouse, 180 El Camino Real G-2, Palo Alto, 650-329-8457; 2762 Augustine Drive Suite 110, Santa Clara, 408-346-4557; Instagram: @flemingssteakhouse.

Hobee's, various locations

Throughout the month of April, Hobee's has a tradition of offering carrot cake pancakes with a cream cheese drizzle in addition to its usual items like omelets, breakfast bowls and blueberry coffee cake. Hobee's, locations in Redwood Shores, Palo Alto, Mountain View and Sunnyvale; Instagram: @hobeesrestaurants.

Menlo Tavern, Menlo Park

Menlo Tavern is planning an Easter brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 9 but was still finalizing its menu when contacted. Reservations will be required. Menlo Tavern, 100 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; 650-330-2790, Instagram: @menlotavern.



Courtesy Albert Law / Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay

Alexander's Steakhouse, Palo Alto and Cupertino

From 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 9, The Sea by Alexander's Steakhouse in Palo Alto will offer a \$95 three-course, prix fixe menu (plus a \$23 kids menu). Choose from mussels, grilled octopus, spring chopped salad or shrimp shots for the first course; wild Ora King salmon, eggs Benedict, sea scallops or scrambled eggs with the choice of New York steak or Maine lobster for the second course; and carrot cake, a butter waffle or an ice cream sundae for dessert. Sides and add-ons include lobster fried rice, Japanese A5 wagyu and caviar. Alexander's Steakhouse in Cupertino, meanwhile, is offering a prime rib take and bake for \$475. Serving six to eight people, it includes a large Caesar salad, a 7-pound prime rib and sides including mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese and creamed spinach. Orders close at noon April 6. Alexander's Steakhouse, 4269 El Camino Real, Palo Alto,

650-213-1111; 19379 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, 408-446-2222; Instagram: @alexanderssteakhousesv.

Donato Enoteca, Redwood City

The Easter Sunday menu at Donato Enoteca starts with an antipasto of torta pasqualini, a savory pie made with spinach ricotta, spring onion, Parmesan cheese, crescenza cheese sauce and a quail egg. The main course is a slow-roasted Colorado lamb shank with garlic and oil and sautéed green asparagus. And there's a Neapolitan dessert made with homemade ricotta, candied orange peel, orange blossom water and cracked wheat served with lemon curd. Available all day.

Donato Enoteca, 1041 Middlefield Road, Redwood City; 650-701-1000, Instagram: @donatoenoteca. ■

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



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