

# The Almanac

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

APRIL 14, 2023 | VOL. 58 NO. 32



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

## On the hunt for eggs at Flood Park

By Almanac staff

Hundreds of egg-seekers, baskets in hand, roamed Flood Park in Menlo Park on Saturday.

The city, in partnership with San Mateo County Parks, hosted an egg hunt and an array of other seasonal activities on April 8 at the county park, located at 215 Bay Road.

The main attraction at the free event was the egg hunt, which divided up kids by age groups and staggered the start times, to keep it fair.

Other highlights included a photo booth featuring the Easter Bunny, craft tables, sack races, corn hole, fire trucks, a face painter and balloon artists. ■



Devin Roberts

Children make a mad dash for eggs at Menlo Park's annual Egg Hunt, held this year at Flood Park on April 8.

## Friends remember slain Atherton arborist as generous, hard-working

'Everybody loved' Kathy Hughes Anderson, 62, who had 'so much more to offer'

By Cameron Rebosio

The friends of Kathy Hughes Anderson, former Atherton arborist who was murdered in her Menlo Park home in 2018, don't want her defined by her death. Instead, they hope that she'll be remembered for her generosity and hard work for the town of Atherton.

Pam Gomez met Hughes Anderson in 1990 when they worked for the town of Atherton, where Hughes Anderson was employed from 1989 to her retirement in 2011. Gomez said that Hughes

Anderson was deeply passionate about her work as the town arborist, and was instrumental in preserving the heritage trees seen today. Gomez said she used to call Hughes Anderson "the máquina," or machine in Spanish.

"If there was something to be done in the town, she'd be the first person out there with her boots on and her gloves," Gomez said. "And she just was a very hard worker, and very highly intelligent."

Not only a hard worker, Hughes Anderson was always ready to lend a hand to any residents who wanted help, Gomez said.

"If anybody needed her in the town of Atherton, she was out there helping them," Gomez said. "She was very giving that way. ... It's just her nature. She had such a kind, thoughtful nature. Everybody always spoke highly of her."

Gomez and Hughes Anderson were both members of the Los Trancos Woods Community Marching Band, where Diantha Stensrud met Hughes Anderson. Both Gomez and Stensrud fondly recall their time marching with Hughes Anderson, and the meals that the group would have at Rossotti's Alpine Inn.

Hughes Anderson traveled

widely with her husband, Bill "Andy" Anderson, who died in 2007 at age 64 due to complications from leukemia. According to Gomez and Stensrud, Hughes Anderson and her husband traveled to Costa Rica, Hawaii, Scotland, England and all throughout the contiguous United States.

Gomez fondly recalls joining Hughes Anderson and her husband on the trip to Costa Rica, traveling the rainforest and going deep-sea fishing together, where Hughes Anderson caught a large sailfish.



Courtesy Pam Gomez

Kathy Hughes Anderson

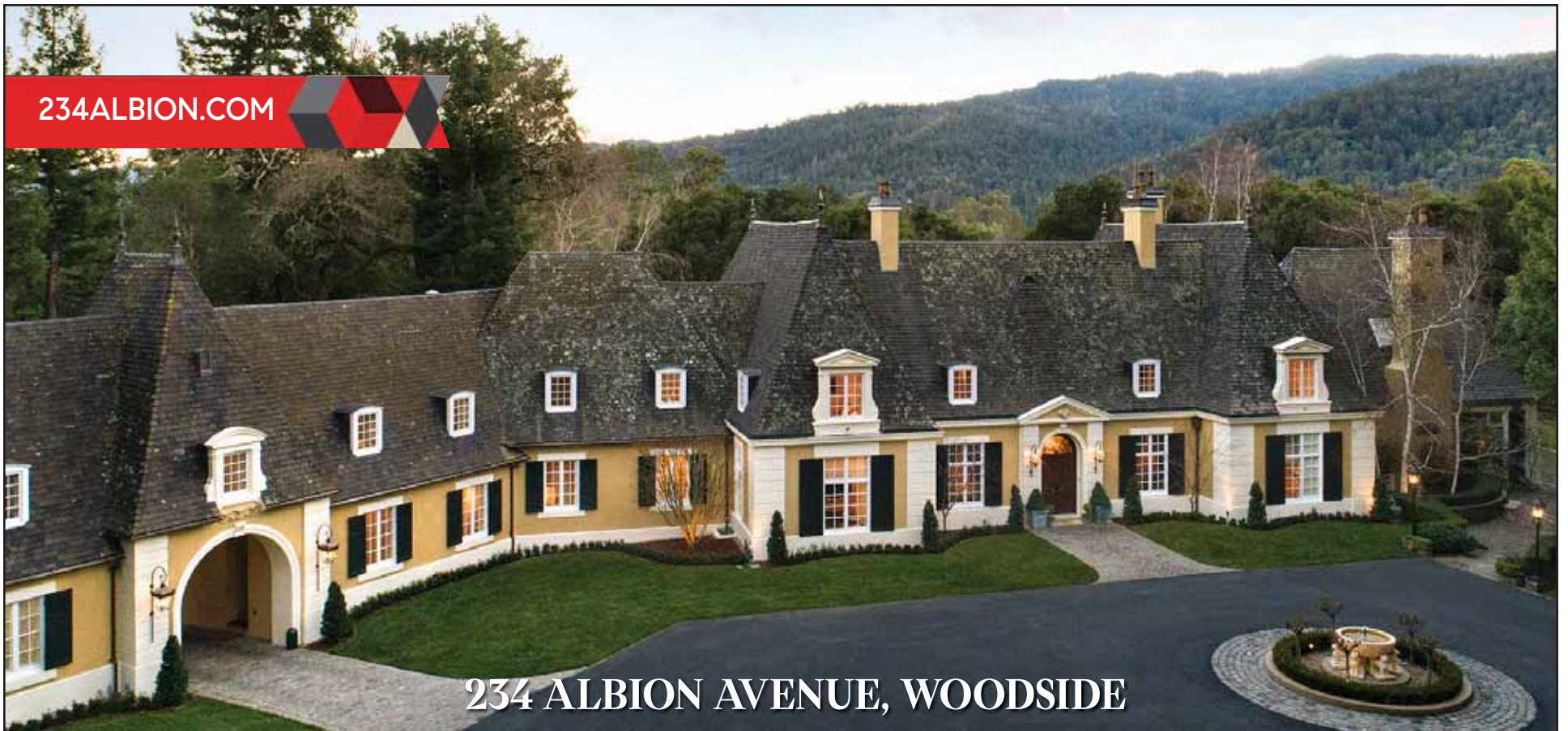
See **HUGHES ANDERSON**, page 8

INSIDE

ARTSCENE 20 | FOOD & DRINK 21

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

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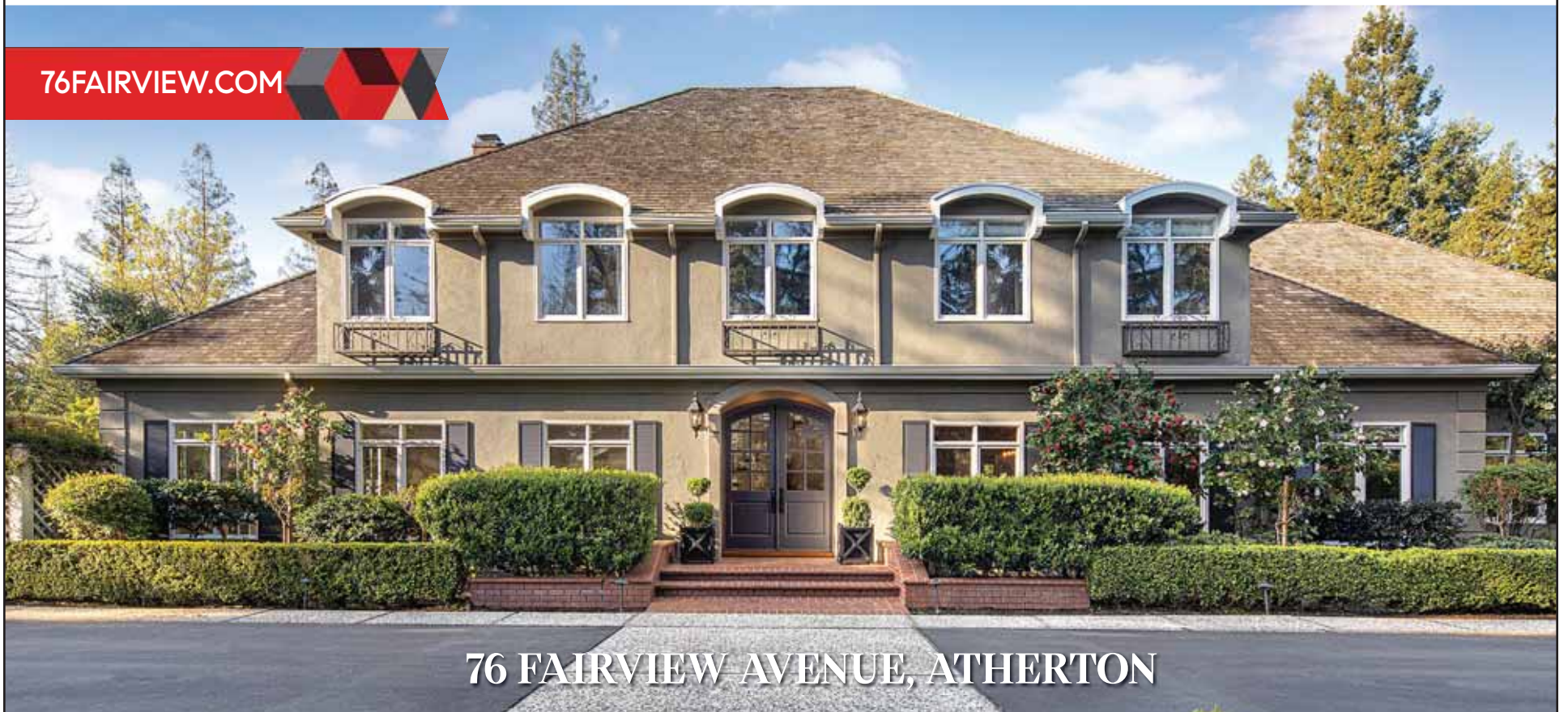


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# CAMP CONNECTION 2023

## ACADEMICS

### Early Learning Institute

**San Jose**

Every year Emerson Montessori School offers its three Write Now!® courses — camp-like sessions designed to improve students' writing and public presentation skills. Each one-week course features a different genre: Expository Writing (prose forms used in school assignments), Creative Writing (stories, plays, poems), and Presentation Skills ("Posters & PowerPoints," this year). Parents are welcome at the afternoon "Authors' Workshops," and "Speakers' Forums".

**HeadsUp.org****Emerson: (650) 424-1267  
Hacienda: (925) 485-5750**

### Harker Summer Programs

**Los Altos**

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

**Harker.org/Summer****(408) 553-5737**

### Pinewood School

#### Summer Festival of Learning

**Palo Alto**

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

**Pinewood.edu/SummerPrograms**

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

**Palo Alto/Bay Area**

Explore biomedical science at Stanford through lectures from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science including bioengineering, neuroscience, immunology and other topics. July 10-28 Registration begins March 1st.

**Explore.Stanford.edu**

### Summer@Stratford

**Palo Alto & Cupertino**

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

**StratfordSchools.com/Summer****(650) 493-1151**

## ARTS, CULTURE + OTHER CAMPS

### Camp Integem

**Sunnyvale**

Camp Integem is the #1 AR camp for kids and teens (ages 5-18). It is a magical and unique experience for K-12 students to delve into the exciting worlds of AR Coding, AI, STEM, 3D Design, Art, Animation, and Game Design. Teleport into their magical designs to experience the endless possibility.

**Camp.Integem.com****(408) 459-0657**

### City of Sunnyvale

**Mountain View**

Offering 90+ camps for ages 2-17 featuring traditional, art, dance, sports and STEM camps. Camps begin June 12 and go through Aug. 11. Check out swim lessons and recreation swim at two aquatic facilities with lessons starting in June.

**Sunnyvale.ca.gov/Activities****(408) 730-7350**

### Community School of Music and Arts

**Bay Area**

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

**Arts4All.org****(650) 917-6800 ext. 0**

### Curiosity Lab

**Palo Alto**

Offering Outdoor Nature Exploration Camps along the magnificent San Mateo coast. Mornings we are on a trail, exploring tide pools, climbing over boulders or at the beach. Afternoons are play, splash in a creek, build a sand castle, do an art project or just bask in the sun. Ages 5-11.

**TheCuriosityLab.com****(650) 823-2939**

### Dance Connection

**Palo Alto**

Dance, play, and grow this summer at Dance Connection! Our Summer Dance Camps and Intensives feature all styles of dance for ages 4-18 and all levels of experience. Learn ballet, tap, jazz, musical theater, hip-hop, acro, contemporary and more in a fun and focused environment. Our camps include fun themes, snacks, outdoor activities, arts & crafts and tons of FUN!

**DanceConnectionPaloAlto.com/Dance-Connection-Event-Calendar/Summer-Dance-Camps****(650) 322-7032**

### Medaka no Gakko Camp

**Palo Alto**

Experience the joy and fun of this 3-week day camp (June 19 – July 7) celebrating Japanese-American culture through art, music, crafts, sports, literature, cooking, language, and interactive demonstrations. Campers learn from dedicated teachers providing an enriching, hands-on curriculum. K-6 graders of all backgrounds welcome.

**MedakaNoGakko.org****MedakaNoGakkoPaloAlto@gmail.com**

### Oshman Family JCC Camps

**Bay Area**

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

**OFJCC-JCamp.com****(650) 223-8622**

### Riekens Center

**Stanford**

Explore all your interests this summer with Riekens Summer Camps! Enrolling now for camps in Nature, Creative Arts, and Fitness. There's something for every camper! For ages 5-18 with locations across the Peninsula.

**RiekensSummerCamps.org****(650) 364-2509**

## ARTS, CULTURE + OTHER CAMPS

### Stanford Jazz Workshop

**Palo Alto, Atherton**

Stanford Jazz Workshop week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (Giant Steps Day Camp, starts July 10), high school (Jazz Camp, starts July 16 or July 23), and adults/advanced teens (Jazz Institute, July 30). All instruments and vocals. On the Stanford campus!

**StanfordJazz.org****(650) 736-0324**

### Ventana School Summer Camp

**Bay Area**

Keep your child inspired all summer long! Campers will be immersed in engaging experiences with exciting weekly themes to boost their creative confidence and stimulate their minds! (Epic Experiments, Powerful Performers, Master Chef Junior, Inspirational Artists, and Wonderful Water). Open to students who will have completed K-5th grade by the summer.

**VentanaSchool.org/  
SummerCamp2023****(650) 948-2121**

## ATHLETICS

### Bald Eagle

**Stanford**

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

**BaldEagleCamps.com****(888) 505-BALD**

### Maccabi Sports Camp

**Mountain View**

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

**MaccabiSportsCamp.org/wp****(415) 997-8844**

### Spartans Sports Camp

**Mountain View**

Spartans Sports Camp offers a wide variety of sports and academic enrichment camps for kids entering grades 1-9. Experienced staff ensures everyone has fun. Daily on-site swimming is offered for all camps. Camps run weekly from June 12th - July 28th at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available.

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

### Stanford Water Polo Camps

**Palo Alto**

New to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or full day options for boys and girls ages 7 and up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games. Session 1 – June 12-15. Session 2 – June 19-22.

**StanfordWaterPoloCamps.com****(650) 725-9016**

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

The Almanac

Mountain View  
Voice ONLINEPalo Alto  
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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Magali Gauthier

Sue Crane, right, and Helen Park Bigelow speak about their book “Behind the Barrels: The Women of Ridge” at a launch event held at The Sequoias in Portola Valley.

## The women behind Ridge Vineyards

Portola Valley resident published ‘Behind the Barrels’ about the women who contributed to local winery’s success

By Angela Swartz

Nights spent under the stars in sleeping bags, picking grapes among celebrities and winning a major award that help put California wines on the map were not what Portola Valley resident Sue Crane imagined when her husband, against her wishes, bought a plot of land in the Santa Cruz Mountains in 1959.

Now, nearly 65 years later,

Crane is recounting the little-known story of the women behind the making of Ridge Vineyards in Cupertino in her new, self-published book, a 22-month labor of love authored by her longtime friend Helen Park Bigelow “Behind the Barrels: The Women of Ridge.” Over 100 people attended the book launch party at Crane’s home at The Sequoias senior living community in March.

Her husband Hew bought the

land with his colleagues from Stanford Research Institute: Charlie Rosen of Atherton, Howard Zeidler of Palo Alto and Dave Bennion of Menlo Park.

Their wives Fran Bennion and Blanche Rosen, along with Sue, acted as the social conduit — putting together meals, harvest parties, picnics and managing the children, who did some of the physical

See **RIDGE VINEYARDS**, page 14

## Pandemic-induced enrollment recovery a mixed bag at local schools

Fewer opt for charters in Ravenswood, enrollment drops in Sequoia district

By Angela Swartz

While some local public schools are bouncing back from dips in student enrollment prompted by an exodus of students during the COVID-19 pandemic, others are continuing to see declines in enrollment.

Enrollment has dropped 2.3% in the **Sequoia Union High School District** from 10,032 students last school year to 9,802 students this school year (including both charter and non-charter schools) as of Oct. 5, 2022, when the state collected data.

Enrollment is down at both Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools. M-A in Atherton has 2,125 students enrolled this school year, down from 2,221 last school year.

There are 1,694 students enrolled at Woodside High School in Woodside this school year, down from 1,759 last school year.

Charter school enrollment in the **Ravenswood City School District** dipped in the district from 45.2% last school year to 43.6% during the 2022-23 school year. This is a shift from the trend over the last few years of charter school enrollment growing.

During the 2014-15 school year, charter students made up 18% of the student population in

the district, and that percentage had been steadily increasing up until this school year.

The California Department of Education released data on April 4 that shows student enrollment is beginning to stabilize state-wide, with increased enrollment in kindergarten and grades seven and eleven. The state doesn’t include data on transitional kindergarten enrollment.

Overall, San Mateo County public schools saw about a 1.8% decrease in enrollment, from 86,422 students last school year to 84,836 students this school year.

### Transitional kindergarten

Districts could see growth in the coming years as they enroll 4-year-olds in transitional kindergarten (TK).

State legislation took effect in fall 2022 that requires all districts to add free programs for children who turn 5 between Sept. 2, 2022 and Feb. 2, 2023. The law requires that districts offer free education to all 4-year-olds once it is fully implemented during the 2025-26 school year.

The Almanac reached out to individual elementary school districts to gather TK enrollment data, as it is not yet included in the state data.

See **ENROLLMENT**, page 15

## Award-winning fully electric barn in Woodside houses seven horses and a family of five

By Angela Swartz

As new state mandates go into effect limiting gas-powered appliances, one 2,000-square-foot barn near the Horse Park in Woodside is already all-electric.

Hilary Bates, a local architect, owns the Whiskey Hill property that has a single-family home, along with the barn that houses seven horses and includes a two-bedroom apartment above that’s rented by a family of five. The barn,

originally built in 1958 and converted to more efficient electric appliances in 2021, won a 2022 Peninsula Clean Energy All-Electric Leader Award.

In 2022, state officials moved to ban all natural gas-fired space heaters and water-heating appliances by 2030. Similar restrictions will take effect sooner in the Bay Area. In March, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District approved the gradual phase out of gas-powered water heaters by 2027 heaters and space

heaters in 2029.

“It was always all-electric because I couldn’t run gas down there,” said Bates, a former member of the town’s Architectural and Site Review Board, which reviews residential applications for community character, site planning, building design and landscape elements. “Old electric appliances run very inefficiently. ... I realized I could change out the stove and create an all-electric, state-of-the-art building.”

The home has a heat pump

water heater, an air-source heat pump for air conditioning and heating, a high-efficiency dryer and an induction stove. She also has a 6.4 kWh solar system tied to a Tesla five-battery backup system. She said since she installed the solar panels in 2020, she has not experienced a power outage.

The renovation used the barn’s original footprint and foundation, but replaced all interior walls as well as the exterior shell and added double glazed windows, weather

stripping and insulation.

“This may be one of the only all-electric multi-use residential, commercial and agricultural buildings in San Mateo County,” according to Peninsula Clean Energy. “It not only preserves Woodside’s equestrian heritage and makes best use of the all-electric energy efficiency options available today, it also provides critically needed housing which the state of California is encouraging

See **BARN**, page 16

for local climate action!

now is the time

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## 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.

3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21/23

CNS-3683983#  
THE ALMANAC

Established 1965

# The Almanac

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

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To request delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call 854-2626.



## CRIME BRIEFS

### Two cars stolen in Atherton

Someone stole two cars from a home on the first block of Tuscaloosa Avenue in Atherton in the early morning hours of Monday, April 10, according to a police news bulletin.

At around 8:54 a.m., a resident reported that two cars parked in their driveway were missing. Officers on the scene from an unlocked door at the home and while searching the residence, found other items were missing. The break-in happened around 4:30 a.m., police said.

The suspect might have been driving a grey Ford Escape, according to police.

Police are asking anyone with information to call, and for those who live around Tuscaloosa Avenue, to check their surveillance video and report any possible leads to the Atherton Police Department at 650-688-6500.

—Angela Swartz

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Old Woodside Store Day

On Sunday, May 7, between noon and 4 p.m., the San Mateo County Historical Association invites the public to a free day at the historic Woodside Store at the corner of Tripp and Kings Mountain roads in Woodside.

The volunteer docent group, the Woodside Storekeepers, will greet the public and invite visitors to experience life in the 1880s. This special family day will focus on the history of the store and the redwood logging activities in the area. Children can try cutting a log with a two-person saw, cleaving shingles with a mallet and froe, competing in a seed spitting contest, making dolls and other activities. The Woodside Store is a San Mateo County Park operated by the San Mateo County Historical Association.

For more information, go to [historysmc.org/old-woodside-store-day](http://historysmc.org/old-woodside-store-day) or call 650-299-0104.

### Ravenswood tech head wins award

The Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 5 recognized 10 San Mateo County administrators at its 2023 awards ceremony on April 5, for their achievements and dedication to public education.

Solomon Hill, executive director of technology for the Ravenswood City School District, was named the technology administrator of the year.

The Association of California School Administrators is the largest umbrella organization for school leaders in the United States. ACSA's Region 5, which encompasses San Francisco and San Mateo counties, serves 25 districts and more than 300 schools educating 158,000 students.

### Wildfire Preparedness Fair in Portola Valley on April 22

The Portola Valley Wildfire Preparedness Committee is hosting a wildfire preparedness fair on Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Portola Valley Town Center, 765 Portola Road.

The event focuses on two key wildfire issues: The rising cost of fire insurance and keeping residents safe during a wildfire evacuation.

Attendees can visit 21 wildfire preparedness exhibits. Contractors and manufacturers of fire mitigation products will be on hand to answer questions as well as landscaping experts, who can explain how to create an ember-resistant, defensible space around a home.

Representatives from the California Department of Insurance will discuss California's new insurance regulations and the changing insurance market. After the presentation, attendees can discuss their specific insurance concerns. Members of the Woodside Fire Protection District and San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management will present on what would happen during a real wildfire event.

For more information, go to [portolavalley.net/wildfirepreppair](http://portolavalley.net/wildfirepreppair).

—Angela Swartz

# Man arrested following brazen sexual assault in Palo Alto pedestrian undercrossing

Investigators locate suspect on UC Berkeley campus

By Sue Dremann

A man who was sought for a brazen daytime sexual assault in the California Avenue pedestrian undercrossing in Palo Alto on Sunday, April 9, has been arrested, police said.

The man, identified as 34-year-old Daniel Widyanto Condronimpuno of Palm Beach, Florida, was taken into custody on Tuesday, April 11, with help from law enforcement at the University of California, Berkeley, Palo Alto police said in a press release. An earlier police press release incorrectly stated he lived in San Francisco.

While neither the Palo Alto nor UC Berkeley police have directly stated it, Condronimpuno may be the same man that UC Berkeley police arrested Tuesday in connection with five sexual assaults and batteries, including a robbery, against women on campus in a seven-day period, according to an April 11 news report by Berkeleyside. UC Berkeley police withheld the arrestee's name in a community advisory issued Tuesday.

## Sunday's assault in Palo Alto

After the California Avenue attack, a passerby reported to police at 2:49 p.m. Sunday discovering an injured woman in



Jocelyn Dong

The California Avenue bicycle and pedestrian underpass runs between Jerry Bowden Park to the California Avenue business district.

the California Avenue pedestrian underpass, where she said she had just been sexually assaulted.

The woman, who is in her 50s, was walking her bicycle east in the tunnel when a man who also had a bicycle passed her in the opposite direction, she told police. The man allegedly struck her from behind, causing her to fall to the ground, and then sexually assaulted her.

The woman shouted for help and the man stole her cellphone before he fled the scene, she told police. Responding officers found the cellphone in the 3000 block of Emerson Street.

The woman suffered moderate injuries, including lacerations to the back of her head and bruises on her neck. She was taken to a hospital, where she received

treatment and a sexual assault forensic exam, police said.

The man was described as Asian and between 30 and 40 years old. He had a stocky build and was clean-shaven. He wore a dark bike helmet, dark sunglasses and a high-visibility yellow top. Police released a suspect sketch on Monday, April 10.

Investigators shared information about the alleged assault with other Bay Area law enforcement agencies.

## Police make the arrest

On Tuesday morning, detectives spoke with investigators from the UC Berkeley Police Department, who said they had

See **SEXUAL ASSAULT**, page 17

# Former Portola Valley town clerk lands job in Los Altos

By Angela Swartz

Melissa Thurman, who left her role as Portola Valley town clerk last month, started as Los Altos' city clerk on Monday, April 10.

Thurman took on the Portola Valley role in April 2022 and left on March 20. She joined San Bruno's city government in 2018, according to her LinkedIn. Before those roles, she held positions in the cities of Redwood City, Half Moon Bay and San Bernardino, according to a city of Los Altos press release. She has over 15 years of experience working for city governments.

"We are very excited to welcome Melissa to the city," said Los Altos Assistant City Manager Jon Maginot in a statement. "She brings a wide

variety of experience to the role, and vast expertise in records management, elections and technology implementation that will better our service to the City Council, commissions and Los Altos community."

Thurman holds certifications as a master municipal clerk and a certified municipal clerk. Thurman is a designated fellow of the Athenian Dialogue Society, the leadership training arm of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Thurman succeeds former clerk Andrea Chelemengos, who retired in April 2022. Assistant City Clerk Angel Rodriguez took



Melissa Thurman

on the interim city clerk during the transition.

Portola Valley is in the midst of finding replacements for other key town hall positions that were recently vacated. Town Manager Jeremy Dennis left his role on March 17 and Public Works Director Howard Young is filling in on an interim basis. Assistant Town Manager Melvin Gaines left the town in January to take on the city manager role in East Palo Alto.

Portola Valley Mayor Jeff Aalfs said in an April 12 email that the town is recruiting now to fill the clerk position permanently. The town is also working to hire an interim clerk which it hopes to announce soon, he said. ■

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

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Higher Interest Rates and the Market

Dear Monica: Have higher interest rates affected the current real estate market? How are buyers reacting?  
George T

Dear George: Interest rates have risen multiple times since March 2022 but are trending downward at the present time. Buyers have more or less absorbed the higher rates and sellers have adjusted prices as well.

The long rainy season kept many sellers from putting their homes on the market but now that spring is here, sellers have been listing their properties. Demand is high and inventory is low, keeping the market tight. If you have been waiting to sell your home, now is a good time to do so.

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



PVI Presents the 32nd Annual



Sunday, April 23rd, 2023

10:30 am - 2:00 pm

800 Middle Ave Menlo Park, CA 94025



Jan Yanehiro



Jane Smiley

Jane Smiley portrait © Derek Shapton



Vanessa Hua



Adam Hochschild

Mark your calendar for PVI's 32nd Annual Authors Salon! The event will be held outdoors in the courtyard of PVI's Little House on Sunday, April 23rd, 2023. Authors Salon will feature an exciting panel of authors, the opportunity to purchase their work, a sit-down lunch, and more! This year's featured authors are Jane Smiley, Vanessa Hua, and Adam Hochschild. The amazing Jan Yanehiro will return as our moderator. Individual tickets are \$150.

For more information and tickets visit:

[1pvi.org/authorsalon2023/](http://1pvi.org/authorsalon2023/)



## TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

NOTICE OF TOWN COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING

REVIEW PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE MUNICIPAL FEE SCHEDULE TO INCLUDE ALIGNMENT WITH CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INCREASES, ADMINISTRATION, BUILDING, PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING, AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed changes to the fee schedule. The Public Hearing will be held on **Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**, via a Zoom teleconference meeting. To join the Zoom meeting, access the link provided on the April 26, 2023 Town Council agenda.

Data associated with the proposed changes will be available to the public at [www.portolavalley.net/finance](http://www.portolavalley.net/finance) beginning 10 days prior to the meeting date above.

Public Hearings provide the general public and interested parties an opportunity to provide testimony on these items. If you challenge a proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at a Public Hearing(s) described above, or in written correspondence sent to [cstocker@portolavalley.net](mailto:cstocker@portolavalley.net) prior to the Town Council meeting date.

All interested persons are invited to appear before the Town Council to be heard at the time and place mentioned above.

## Portola Valley Wildfire Preparedness Fair

Saturday, April 22, 2023,  
10am to 2pm

Portola Valley Town Center  
765 Portola Road, Portola Valley  
[www.portolavalley.net/WildfirePrepFair](http://www.portolavalley.net/WildfirePrepFair)

Learn how to help **protect your home from ignition during a wildfire event.** Visit 25 Exhibits including vendors, manufacturers, and experts in wildfire preparedness.

Learn how your fire insurance policy may change this year. Attend a **lecture series** including a presentation by **representatives from the California Department of Insurance** on California's new wildfire safety insurance regulation.

**Are you ready for a wildfire?**



## Friends and family create memorial for man killed by fallen tree on Alpine Road

Jesus Ivan Cruz Diaz was driving back from a job when a eucalyptus crushed his van

By Angela Swartz

Family and friends of Jesus Ivan Cruz Diaz, the San Jose man killed on March 21 after a eucalyptus tree along Alpine Road near Highway 280 fell on his work van, set up a memorial to remember the 29-year-old.

A small memorial service was held at the site of his death on Easter Sunday, April 9, afternoon, according to Portola Valley resident Rita Comes. Diaz was driving away from a job when the huge tree crashed down on his van during a gusty atmospheric river storm. Several other nearby trees came down as first responders worked to extricate him from the vehicle.

Almost \$100,000 has been raised for Diaz's funeral expenses through a GoFundMe created by his employer, Able Plumbing, Sewer and Drain.

"We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support that we have received since we launched this GoFundMe campaign in honor of Jesus," Glen Gilbert of Able Plumbing wrote in a March 29 update on the site. "We would like to express



Courtesy Rita Comes

Family and friends set up a memorial to remember Jesus Ivan Cruz Diaz. Diaz was killed by a falling tree on Alpine Road in Portola Valley on March 21.

our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who has contributed to the fundraiser, shared our story, or offered your condolences during this difficult time. Your kindness and generosity have helped us raise vital funds to assist Jesus's family. We cannot thank you enough for your support and compassion."

Stanford University, which owns the land where the fallen tree was growing, is still in the process of removing hazardous eucalyptus trees from that stretch of its property along Alpine Road in Portola Valley. ■

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

### HUGHES ANDERSON

continued from page 1

Some of the clearest memories both Gomez and Stensrud have of Hughes Anderson were of her parties. Hughes Anderson would host holiday parties and a big summer barbecue. Stensrud said she remembers talking to Hughes Anderson in the kitchen at these parties, where her cooking expertise really shone. Stensrud said that Hughes Anderson was immediately welcoming, and that her green tomato pie was the highlight. Gomez recalled that Hughes Anderson also made delicious fried green tomatoes, with both recipes using tomatoes from Hughes Anderson's garden.



Courtesy Pam Gomez

Kathy Hughes Anderson (right) and Pam Gomez.

Hughes Anderson hosted the holiday parties for people who didn't have a family to go to, according to Stensrud.

The most prominent personality trait, according to her friends, was Hughes Anderson's kindness. Stensrud said that Hughes Anderson was someone that she could always count on when she came into town.

"She was like a sister to me," Gomez said. "She was somebody that I called up, somebody that I trusted."

Hughes Anderson, 62, was apparently chosen at random by Ohio resident Francis Wolke in December 2018 and brutally slain inside her home on Valparaiso Avenue. Wolke, 30, was convicted of her first-degree murder last month, and faces sentencing in May.

Gomez considered her relationship with Hughes Anderson one of her most treasured friendships.

"She had so much more to offer, so many more years to offer and she had so many friends ... everybody loved her. I'd never heard anybody say anything negative about her in all the years," Gomez said.

Hughes Anderson didn't have

any kids of her own, but both Gomez and Stensrud describe her as immensely generous to her nieces and nephews and the children of her friends. Gomez recalled that Hughes Anderson dropped everything to do the flowers for her daughter's wedding completely free of charge.

"She always did it out of the kindness of her heart," Gomez said. "You never had to give her anything in return, it was always because she wanted to do it, and those are the kinds of people you always want in your life."

Stensrud remembers that she went to Hughes Anderson's home right after she died, only to find boxes that Hughes Anderson was getting ready to mail to Stensrud's nieces.

Gomez and Stensrud still continue a tradition started by Hughes Anderson, a monthly brunch to celebrate birthdays for the group of friends. The two still go out for lunch to celebrate Hughes Anderson's birthday.

"She's always in my heart," Gomez said. "She will never be forgotten." ■

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

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6 beds | 4+ baths | \$10,250,000 | 40Crescent.com

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Stunning Estate Located in the Heart of Lindenwood  
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## 302 Pope Street, Menlo Park



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# Portola Valley teachers say raises will make a big impact on their lives

Pay increases average 20% for school district faculty, following a lengthy contract dispute

By Angela Swartz

Portola Valley teachers shared their elation about their new raises, averaging 20%, during a recent school board meeting, following 15 months of negotiations between the Portola Valley School District and teachers union.

The agreement, approved by the Board of Trustees on March 30, is retroactive to July 1, 2022 and runs through June 30, 2025. Base salaries for the Portola Valley Teachers Association teachers begin at \$82,130, and teachers can earn up to \$153,886 for the 2023-24 school year. The district's prior contract started teachers at \$64,108, and teachers could earn up to \$132,969.

Corte Madera School social studies teacher Lemma Barazi grew emotional telling the board how the raise is essential to her



Courtesy Tim Sato

Portola Valley Elementary School District teachers told the board they are stretched thin during an October 2022 meeting.

survival, and that teachers had demonstrated to their students their right to assemble and engage

in collective bargaining.

"For the remainder of the year, I no longer need to worry about

**'For the remainder of the year, I no longer need to worry about a negative bank balance or finding \$20 for gas just so I can get to work.'**

LEMMA BARAZI, CORTE MADERA SCHOOL TEACHER

a negative bank balance or finding \$20 for gas just so I can get to work," she said. "Today I can quit my food delivery job and focus my energy, and time, to providing high-quality education."

Barazi previously told the board that after being forced to move out of her apartment, she had to

live with 14 other people to save money.

Corte Madera School fourth grade teacher Jenny Lebsack told the board that the new salary schedule will help the district retain and attract teachers.

"The future of PVSD looks very bright indeed," she said.

Ormondale School third grade teacher Daphna Wolfe said the negotiations process wasn't easy, and it was long.

"I appreciate all the teachers for hanging in," Wolfe said.

The new contract will cost the district an additional roughly \$1.22 million during the 2022-23 school year, and \$646,000 on top of that for the 2023-24 school year. ■

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

## Parents sue Menlo Park, police over daughter's death

By Cameron Rebosio

The family of Menlo Park resident Ashley Kilkelly is suing the city for wrongful death and negligence, claiming police officers failed to properly conduct a welfare check at her apartment.

Kilkelly's parents, Diana and David Bauer, filed a complaint

alleging that Kilkelly was in medical distress on October 25 at 1 a.m. Her neighbor, a nurse, called the police asking for a welfare check after hearing the sounds of Kilkelly's pain.

According to the complaint, an officer for the Menlo Park Police Department tried the doorknob to Kilkelly's apartment and found it unlocked but did not

enter. Kilkelly was found dead in her apartment the next day.

According to the Menlo Park Police Department, they "respond to every welfare check differently, based on the facts and any observations available to (the department) at the time of the call."

"Our hearts go out to the family of Ms. Kilkelly," said Police

Chief David Norris in a statement. "We have been served with this lawsuit and are aware of the allegations. We are working through counsel and the litigation process."

The lawsuit calls out 25 unnamed defendants, including the officer who went to Kilkelly's apartment, and the city of Menlo Park. It alleges that the city and

other defendants "proximately caused the death of (Kilkelly) ... as a result of their negligent conduct and/or negligent failure to act."

The City of Menlo Park has not yet responded to a request for comment. ■

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

## Judge denies Elizabeth Holmes' request to remain free during appeal

Order means convicted founder, CEO of Theranos must surrender on April 27

By Susan Nash/  
Bay City News Service

Time is running out for Elizabeth Holmes, the convicted founder and CEO of Theranos, the now-defunct blood-testing company.

In an order late Monday night, April 10, U.S. District Judge Edward Davila denied Holmes'

motion for bail pending appeal.

The order means that, unless a higher court intervenes, Holmes must surrender to federal prison authorities on April 27 to begin serving an 11-year sentence for wire fraud and conspiracy.

Holmes had sought a temporary reprieve on the theory that numerous evidentiary rulings made by Davila during Holmes' four-month trial in the fall of 2021 would be reversed on appeal.

The bulk of the challenged rulings related to Holmes' false statements to investors regarding whether Theranos' much-touted fingerstick blood-testing technology actually worked.

Davila wrote that even if an appellate court eventually concludes that some of the rulings were erroneous, the many other misrepresentations by Holmes, "such as those regarding the

company's financial status, reliance on third-party and commercially available devices, partnership with Walgreens, and validation by pharmaceutical companies," meant that reversal of a single evidentiary decision was not likely to lead to reversal of her conviction.

Although refusing to delay Holmes' surrender date, Davila rejected arguments by the prosecution that she posed a flight risk.

Prosecutors claimed that a planned one-way trip to Mexico — booked for the couple by Holmes' partner, William Evans, while the jury was deliberating — demonstrated Holmes' intent to flee the jurisdiction.

"Booking international travel plans for a criminal defendant in anticipation of a complete defense victory is a bold move, and the failure to promptly cancel those plans after a guilty verdict is a

perilously careless oversight," Davila wrote.

But Holmes, he said, was unlikely to flee, given her two young children, the \$500,000 bond secured by her parents' home, and the fact that her

notoriety would make her instantly recognizable.

Even so, Davila concluded, Holmes had not raised a "substantial question ... that was likely to result in reversal or an order for a new trial." ■

### OBITUARIES

A list of local residents who died recently:

**May Bloom Rodrigues**, 84, a longtime Palo Alto resident, professional cook and caterer known as a gracious host with a love of Irish folk music, died on April 3; **Barbara Ann Hatt**, 61, a Midpeninsula native who worked as an accountant at Bloom Energy for more than a decade and was known for her free and adventurous spirit, died on March 21; **Kathryn**

**"Katie" Elizabeth Cotton**, 57, a Menlo Park resident who worked most of her 18-year career directly for Steve Jobs as vice president of worldwide corporate communications for Apple Inc. and later raised awareness for mental health education for children as a volunteer in retirement, died on April 6.

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

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*"Take life one day at a time because every day is a different day with new challenges."*

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# WOODSIDE BY ERIKA DEMMA

**JUST LISTED | OPEN SUNDAY April 16, 1:30 – 4:30pm**



## Designer Living with ADU on Almost 2 Acres

3600 TRIPP ROAD, WOODSIDE

Beautifully renovated home with designer style plus updated ADU above the barn

Approximately 1.92 gated acres (83,635 sq. ft.)

5 bedrooms, office, and 3.5 baths in the main home

Detached 1-bedroom, 1-bath ADU with full kitchen

Large pool and spa with rock waterfall

4-stall barn currently converted to additional garage/storage

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**Offered at \$7,995,000 | 3600Tripp.com**

## Surrounded by Close-in Natural Beauty

444 HILLSIDE DRIVE, WOODSIDE

Enchanting country home in a beautiful wooded setting

More than one-quarter acre (approx. 12,000 sq. ft.)

3 bedrooms and 2 baths plus bonus office and possible fourth bedroom

Approximately 2,465 square feet

Extensive use of redwood, including exteriors and clear-heart ceilings

Beautifully remodeled kitchen and baths

Close-in convenience less than 1 mile to Town Center

Woodside Elementary School (K-8)

**Offered at \$3,150,000 | 444Hillside.com**



**OPEN SUNDAY April 16, 1:30 – 4:30pm**

**JUST LISTED | OPEN SUNDAY April 16, 1:30 – 4:30pm**



## Country Privacy in Woodside Glens

160 OTIS AVENUE, WOODSIDE

Peaceful, private home in a beautiful Woodside Glens setting

Almost one-half acre (approx. 18,000 sq. ft.)

3 bedrooms, 2 baths, office, and recreation room

Flexible-use lower level is perfect for fitness, office, and/or play

Approximately 1,705 square feet

Expansive rear deck

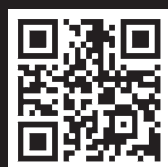
Level, sun-swept garden or play area at the front

Convenient off-street parking

Woodside Elementary School (K-8)

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Co-list with Deborah Kehrberg



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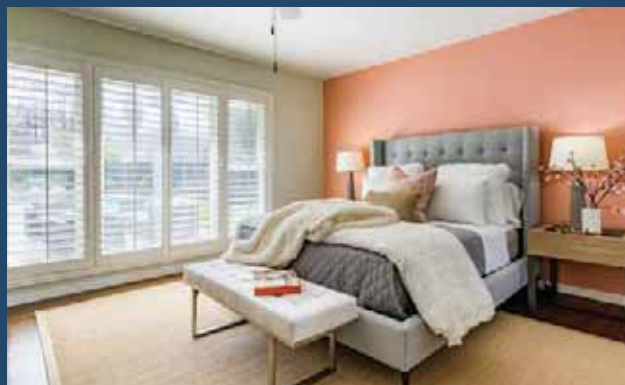
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# 2110 WARD WAY WOODSIDE



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Nearly a third of an acre on a peaceful cul-de-sac plays host to this expansive 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home with over 2,300 square feet of living space. Light-filled interiors offer ample space to both entertain and unwind, with large gathering areas, an eat-in kitchen, two fireplaces, and privately situated bedrooms. The spectacular backyard provides exciting venues for indoor/outdoor living, with a shimmering pool as the centerpiece. Plus, this home enjoys air conditioning, and a 3-car garage. An incredible location near the Atherton border puts you within a short trip of downtown Menlo Park, Palo Alto, and Stanford University, within walking distance of the Menlo Country Club and the shops and restaurants of Woodside Plaza, and a ~5-minute drive from Interstate 280 for Bay Area commuting.

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

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**Listed at \$2,988,000**

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848 NASH ROAD  
LOS ALTOS



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**RIDGE VINEYARDS**

*continued from page 5*

labor. People — including local football players and future leaders of Silicon Valley industries — coveted a chance to come and help pick the grapes. The women were a huge part of spreading the word about Ridge.

“We made it more than just a plain winery,” said Crane, a former Portola Valley mayor.

“The women — Fran Bennion, Blanche Rosen, and Sue Crane — were the glue, and the hub, of their families,” Crane wrote in the book. “Each woman was vigorously involved in raising children, managing the household, and balancing her own artistic pursuits while supporting the men. Some gave their support more reluctantly than others, some with more enthusiasm.”

**An unexpected journey**

When the men bought the land in 1959, they had no intent to start a winery. It was simply a property investment. “None of them cared a hoot about wine,” Park Bigelow explained. “I thought it was a stupid idea,” said Crane.

Crane was pregnant with her first child when Hew drove her up the dirt one-way road (now a two-way drive). The land is 4.5 miles up Monte Bello Road.

She refers to herself as a “winery widow” in the book because her husband would spend all week at SRI, then all weekend at the vineyard.

“I would take care of the children and suffered because I had to stay home,” she said. She had three sons, all within three and half years, the first born in 1958, shortly before the winery’s purchase.

Eventually, they learned to make fine wine and it became a thriving, family-run business.

And they learned to love the experience running the winery.

“Sue remembers the beauty of those days — not just the sight of rows of grapevines and rolling hills, but the sense of people being so glad to participate, the camaraderie, the voices and laughter drifting in the air,” she recounts in the book.

Their children said their years were measured from harvest to harvest.

“The kids working so hard at the winery doing really important, useful real work was a gift to them,” she said. “Kids don’t get that advantage very often.”

**Global attention**

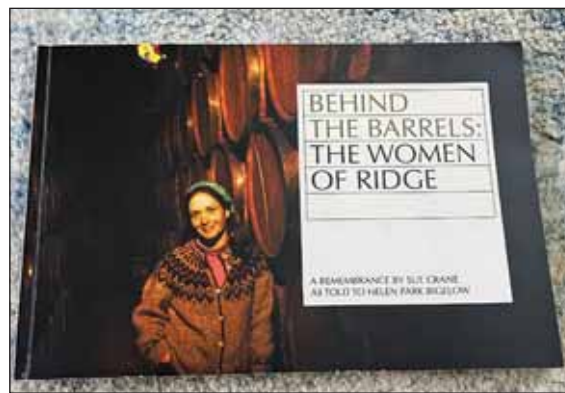
The vineyard helped bring global attention to California wines when it won fifth place in the 1976 Judgement of Paris, for its 1971 Monte Bello Cabernet. Stag’s Leap of Napa Valley won first place for its 1973 Cabernet.

The awards upset all expectations and is widely considered the event that put California wines on the map.

**How the book was conceived**

The idea to write a book came to Crane 20 years ago, but it wasn’t until she moved into The Sequoias in 2014 that she got serious about actually putting her thoughts on paper. She was going to dinner every night, where she had a captive audience for stories of Ridge while sharing its wine with other residents.

When Crane asked Park Bigelow, a longtime friend and Palo Alto resident who moved to The Sequoias in 2015 and is a writer, if she could write the book, Park Bigelow said she



Angela Swartz

The cover of Sue Crane’s new book “Behind the Barrels: The Women of Ridge”.

couldn’t because she neither a journalist nor a ghost writer.

Eventually, Crane convinced her to sign on and they met weekly, talking and looking at about 1,000 photos she had collected over the years from the winery. Crane pulled from Hew’s journal on his time at the vineyard.

As they started, it seemed clear it was important to focus on the women involved in the vineyard.

Ridge was one of first wineries to offer monthly wine subscription service — with specially selected wines before their release.

The two weren’t sure what the cover should look like until they brought on a French book designer, Karen Sheckler-Wilson, who created the clever idea of superimposing a photo of Crane with the title of the book in the style of the vineyard’s wine label.

“I’m super satisfied,” Crane said. “I didn’t expect it to come out so beautifully done.”

There is some loneliness being the last standing member of the vineyard. Crane said she feels like the women would be very proud and pleased with the book and would tell her: “Sue, you got it, we were important.”

The men, on the other hand, would give the women credit after years of maturation.

“We (the women) were very, very taken for granted,” she said. “Knowingly, we allowed it... I was very satisfied to be the wife of a vineyard owner, but I realized I was very involved.”

**Ridge today**

The men eventually sold the vineyard in 1986, and the new owners opened another tasting room in Sonoma County.

A few times a year, Crane visits the vineyard, bringing friends and sharing the experience with them. Her boys are bonded to Ridge, she said.

**Where to find the book**

The book is on sale in The Sequoias gift shop at 501 Portola Road in Portola Valley. It will also be available in Ridge Vineyards’ tasting rooms in Cupertino and Healdsburg this month, according to the winery. It may also be available on the vineyard’s website, [ridgewine.com](http://ridgewine.com).

All sales of the book will go to a scholarship fund for The Sequoias employees and an employee holiday gift fund. ■

**Kathryn (Katie) Elizabeth Cotton**

October 30, 1965 – April 6, 2023

Memoriam Kathryn Elizabeth Cotton

(Katie Cotton) 1965-2023

It is with great sadness that the family of Kathryn Elizabeth Cotton announces her passing. Fondly known to family, friends and all who loved her as Katie. She passed peacefully on Thursday evening, April 6, surrounded by family and close friends.



Katie is survived by her children Ethan and Isabelle Mimeles, life partner Jim Wells, mother Marie, siblings LoriAnn, Patty and Richard, former husband Michael Mimeles, nieces and nephew, Alayna, Allison, Bryce, Caroline, Danielle, Hannah, Olivia, Phillip, and Sydney whom she loved dearly and supported relentlessly, and her loving pets, Kona and Jasper. Katie was preceded in death by her father Philip Cotton.

She arrived in California from New Jersey in 1988 ready to make her mark on the world. And so she did.

Katie is recognized as one of the most remarkable women in Public Relations and Marketing in Technology. In her role as Vice President of Worldwide Corporate Communications for Apple Inc., she worked most of her 18-year career directly for Steve Jobs. She was a strong and unwavering proponent for the company, helping to elevate its products and brand.

In retirement, she raised awareness for mental health education for children by volunteering in local community organizations. Katie also became an avid birdwatcher, ready to easily identify any bird at a moment’s notice.

Her children, Ethan and Isabelle, remember her as a devoted mother, kind friend, and inspirational role model that supported them in every aspect of their lives.

A private funeral will be held on Friday, April 14th at the Asbury United Methodist Church in Asbury, New Jersey where Katie will be laid to rest. A celebration of life will take place in the Bay Area in the coming months.

If you would like to honor Katie’s life and charitable work, please consider a donation to Pets In Need <https://www.petsinneed.org/> in Redwood City or SafeSpace <https://safespace.org/> in Menlo Park.

PAID OBITUARY

**Cyclist, 37, dies after collision with car on Cañada Road near Filoli Garden**

Lester Legarda of South San Francisco died

By Michelle Iracheta

A 37-year-old South San Francisco man died Monday night, April 10, after the bicycle he was riding collided with a car on Cañada Road near Filoli, according to the California Highway Patrol Redwood City.

The San Mateo County Coroner’s Office identified him as Lester Legarda.

The crash caused law enforcement to shut down the road for several hours between Edgewood Road and the Pulgas Water Temple

while they investigated.

According to initial reports, an Acura sedan and a cyclist were both traveling north on Cañada Road when the crash occurred around 5 p.m. The cause of the collision has not yet been determined and is currently under investigation.

The 22-year-old driver of car and the passenger were both taken to the hospital as a precaution, according to CHP.

Authorities reopened Cañada Road shortly before 8:30 p.m on Monday after closing following the fatal crash earlier in the evening.

Witnesses are asked to contact the Redwood City Area Office at 650-779-2700 with any information regarding Monday night’s crash.

This is the second time in less than two weeks that a cyclist has died in Redwood City after a collision involving a motorist.

On March 31, a cyclist on Veterans Boulevard was killed in a hit-and-run collision. Police are still investigating that incident. ■

Email Editor Michelle Iracheta at [miracheta@rwcpulse.com](mailto:miracheta@rwcpulse.com).

**ENROLLMENT**

*continued from page 5*

The Ravenswood district has 71 TK students enrolled this year, 43 are enrolled in TK this school year in the **Menlo Park City School District.**, and 17 students are enrolled in TK in the **Woodside Elementary School District** this school year. There were 12 in Woodside's program last year. Ravenswood had 49 TK students last school year.

There are 56 students in the **Las Lomas School District's** TK program this school year.

There are 33 students enrolled in TK in the **Portola Valley School District** this school year. Projected enrollment is expected to be 44 next school year, said Superintendent Roberta Zarea in an email.

**Districts with enrollment gains**

Enrollment grew in the Portola Valley district, which increased from 477 students last school year to 515 students this school year.

"Recently we sent all current families an enrollment intention form for next year in order to plan for staffing," said Zarea. "For parents who stated

they are returning, we asked why they continue to choose PVSD. Parents were effusive with praise for our teachers and staff, outstanding educational programs, and inclusive community. For parents who stated they are not returning next year, we asked why they are leaving. Very few families indicated that they are not returning, and are due to moving out of the district or very individualized reasons."

Enrollment increased in the Las Lomas district from 1,088 students last school year to 1,151 students this school year.

**Districts with enrollment declines**

2,705 students are enrolled in the Menlo Park district this school year, down just five students from 2,710 students last year. Enrollment has declined since the 2019-20 school year, when there were 2,922 students. Enrollment fell slightly in the Woodside Elementary School District from 371 students last school year to 365 this school year.

Enrollment decreased in the Ravenswood district, with overall drop in students from 2,793 last school year to 2,640 this year.

As of the state's count in

October, there were 1,489 students enrolled in non-charter schools, down from 1,530 last school year. But enrollment has increased since then, according to the district. As of April 6, there are now about 1,517 students enrolled, an increase of about 5% from the start of the school year. These additional students are mostly new to the community or those who had left another program and chosen Ravenswood, according to Shen.

There are 1,151 students in charter schools this school year, compared to 1,263 last school year.

"We know families in our community have options when choosing a school and that enrollment in general has been an issue for schools statewide," said district spokeswoman Joy Shen in an email. "Our understanding is that much of the charter growth in recent years can be attributed to the opening of new grade levels; the slowdown of that expansion would impact the distribution of charter vs. non-charter enrollment."

District officials say they've been trying to increase enrollment, which has fallen 76% since 2000, by collaborating with local preschools to support the transition to kindergarten; engaging

with community organizations about Ravenswood programs, developing an online tool to make registering for school easier for families; and bringing district fifth graders on a field trip to Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School.

**Sequoia Union High School District**

TIDE Academy, which has added a grade level each year since it opened in 2019, welcomed its fourth graduating class this year. It has 188 across three grades enrolled last school

year and 243 this school year across four grades.

In the district, 8,599 students attend non-charter schools, while 1,203 are attending charter schools. During the 2021-22 school year, 8,743 attended non-charter schools and 1,289 attended charter schools.

Charter school enrollment has remained steady in the district over the years, with still around 12% enrolled in charter schools. ■

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

**Public Notices**

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME**

File No. M292407  
The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):  
MAGNOLIA PROPERTIES  
131 & 141 S. MAGNOLIA AVE  
MILLBRAE, CA 94030  
CA  
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:  
10/11/2022  
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):  
PACIFIC WEST RESOURCES, INC.  
2820 HILLSIDE DRIVE  
BURLINGAME, CA 94010  
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY A Corporation.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on March 28 2023.  
(ALM Apr 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2023)

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)

**THE STOKED COMPANY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No.: M-293745  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) The Stoked Company, located at 1292 Galvez Dr., Pacifica, CA 94044, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
PAUL TRENTO JACKSON  
1292 Galvez Dr.  
Pacifica, CA 94044  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 20 2023.  
(ALM Apr 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2023)

**WHISKEY HILL THUNDER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No.: M-293709  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Whiskey Hill Thunder, located at 650 Whiskey Hill Road, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
WILLIAM A. ALFANO III  
650 Whiskey Hill Road  
Woodside, CA 94062  
RICHARD C. ALFANO  
650 Whiskey Hill Road  
Woodside, CA 94062  
This business is conducted by: a General Partnership.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/01/2008  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 16 2023.  
(ALM Apr 14, 21, 28 and May 5, 2023)

**WAVES OF GRIEF COLLECTIVE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No.: M-293673  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) WAVES OF GRIEF COLLECTIVE, located at 1259 EL CAMINO REAL, UNIT 1118, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
OCEANFLOW COLLECTIVE  
1259 EL CAMINO REAL, UNIT 1118  
MENLO PARK, CA 94025  
CA  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/06/2023  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 13 2023.  
(ALM Apr 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2023)

**APOLO DAYCARE AND PRESCHOOL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No.: M-293924  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Apolo Daycare and Preschool, located at 450 Bell St East Palo Alto CA 94303, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
MARIBEL AGUILAR TORRES  
450 Bell St  
East Palo Alto CA 94303  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/06/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 05 2023.  
(ALM Apr 14, 21, 28 and May 5, 2023)

**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

**FEATHERHAUS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No.: M-293960  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Featherhaus, located at 846 Murchison Drive, Millbrae, CA 94030, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
FEATHERHAUS LLC  
846 Murchison Drive,  
Millbrae, CA 94030  
CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/18/2018  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 06 2023.  
(ALM Apr 14, 21, 28 and May 5, 2023)

**To place a legal notice visit [AlmanacNews.com/legal\\_notices/](http://AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/)**



**Town of Atherton**

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

**NOTICE OF STUDY SESSION**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Atherton City Council in conjunction with the Planning Commission will hold a study session to consider changes to Accessory Dwelling Unit/Junior Accessory Dwelling Unit allowances pursuant of Atherton Municipal Code Title 17.

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://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/97102770195>

**Meeting ID:** 971 0277 0195

**One tap mobile**

+16699006833, 971 0277 0195# US (San Jose)

**Dial by your location**

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

**Meeting ID:** 971 0277 0195

**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](mailto:freyes@ci.atherton.ca.us)

**Description:** Study Session to discuss regulations regarding Accessory Dwelling Units/Junior Accessory Dwelling Units.

A copy of the meeting agenda, City Council staff report, and application materials can be found online by Friday, April 28, 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 15252 Feasibility and Planning Studies and Section 15268 Ministerial Projects.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the meeting will be held on **May 3, 2023 at 4:00 PM** In person.

If you have any questions on the item, please contact Town Planner, Sung H. Kwon at [skwon@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:skwon@ci.atherton.ca.us), or (408) 796-4844. If you have any questions about the City Council meeting, please contact Francesca Reyes, Office Specialist, at [freyes@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto: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.

**Date Posted:** April 10, 2023

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL  
/s/ Sung Kwon  
Sung Kwon, Town Planner

**BARN**

*continued from page 5*

through recent legislation to promote ADUs (accessory dwelling units).”

Bates is passionate about the move away from gas-powered appliances. She also serves on the board for Menlo Spark, a nonprofit collaboration of local government, businesses and residents working to help Menlo Park adopt measures by 2025 to reach carbon neutrality by 2030. In 2015 she became a credentialed LEED Green Associate through the US Green Building Council, according to her Menlo Spark profile.

The main home still has some gas-powered elements. She has swapped gas-powered water heaters for electric ones and added a 24 kWh solar array. Bates is still waiting for the market to come up with a 48-inch induction cooktop.

**Home energy audits and rebates**

Anyone unsure how much energy their appliances are using can get a free assessment from groups like Home Energy Analytics. This is what Bates used to measure the barn’s energy usage because it was on the same meter as the main house.

Bates said there is a labor shortage of highly qualified subcontractors who can install heat pumps. BayREN.org provides an online tool for finding recommended expert energy consultations, services and installations.

Peninsula Clean Energy offers a \$3,500 rebate to help San Mateo County residents switch to a heat pump heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system. Peninsula Clean Energy also offers zero-percent loans up to \$10,000 for a heat pump or heat pump water heater project.

Redwood City offers a \$500

rebate for switching to a heat pump.

**Woodside’s electric codes**

Unlike neighboring cities and towns, Woodside opted not to institute bans on gas-powered appliances in 2019. Nineteen of the 22 agencies in the area have adopted so-called reach codes that impose greater restrictions than what the state mandates, according to San Mateo County’s electricity provider Peninsula Clean Energy. The town does get its electricity for its municipal facilities from Peninsula Clean Energy’s 100% renewable energy, Jan Pepper, CEO of Peninsula Clean Energy, acknowledged to the council in October.

Woodside Mayor Chris Shaw said that, from his point of view, it’s important to have backup power because of the common power outages in town. Although gas fireplaces generally work during a power outage, gas stoves and ovens will generally not work because gas appliance ignition is electric, according to PCE and the Sacramento Bee. But Shaw and others in town have gas-powered backup generators that will work during outages.

“It has absolutely nothing to do with whether or not each of us has responsibility to reduce carbon emissions,” he said. “It boils down to the simple fact that our utility provider PG&E can not reliably deliver electricity. ... There are going to be multiple power outages every winter. With year after year of wildfires, you count on power going out year-round. We seem to experience more outages than other communities.”

“It would be irresponsible to tell them you can’t have natural gas,” Shaw said. “It allows people to cook food, heat their homes, have hot water to take a bath. ... At the same time, the state is disenfranchising rooftop solar. It’s putting the cart in front of the horse.”

On Friday, April 14, most Californians who want to put



Magali Gauthier

Solar panels are seen on the flat part of the roof of an all-electric barn in Woodside.

solar panels on their roofs will no longer have access to the incentives that took effect a decade ago.

Still, Bates said she wishes town officials would do more.

“In Woodside, we have not yet caught up to Portola Valley and other towns of similar lot size and type by developing either a green building ordinance or reach codes,” she said. “It’s a shame because during my two years at ASRB, we approved some very significant estates, with large main houses, multiple ADUs, outbuildings and heated water features. Some projects that came before ASRB committed to going ‘all-electric’ immediately which is great, while others said they would at least consider it during the design process. That is at least some progress.”

Bates said through this kind of work, the board was able to convince staff to now require that owners indicate the location of rooftop solar, which is now required by code.

“PV (photovoltaic) panels can be a major design element in terms of aesthetics, but also the roofscape needs to be considered early on in the design process so there is appropriate orientation and sufficient roof space for panels unencumbered by complicated gables, ridge lines or adjacent trees,” she said. “While Woodside has a long way to go, it was a valuable start to awareness and discussion of the issue of

electrification which is not going away. There is only so much impact that individuals can make on the issue of building decarbonization; this is where we really need to look to our elected officials to lead the way.”

Portola Valley opted to adopt a green building code that includes few exceptions. In October 2022, its Town Council gave the go-ahead to require all new construction to be all-electric. The all-electric requirements apply to all newly constructed buildings and outdoor amenities such as outdoor kitchens, grills, pools, spas, fireplaces, fire pits and outdoor heaters.

It also requires major remodels to be all electric, and adds some new requirements for the installation of a heat pump air conditioner on the replacement, upgrade or relocation of an air conditioner, as well as pre-electrification requirements when replacing or upgrading the main electrical panel.

However, Portola Valley residents are required to replace their failing gas-powered devices with electric ones under this reach code. Owners of new construction projects which have already received planning approvals may apply for exemption from new green building amendments.

Some praised the town for taking action that will have an impact on climate change. There was also resistance from residents who are worried about the costs of requiring electric appliances.

Atherton provides exemptions in new construction for indoor and outdoor cooking appliances, fireplaces and outdoor fire pits that use the fossil fuel. In 2022, it adopted stricter policies than other Peninsula cities for electric vehicle (EV) charging, requiring more level 2 chargers than most cities, including making EV chargers available to accessory dwelling units (ADUs), guest houses and pool houses. ■

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

## AGING WISELY

# Your Roadmap to Long Term Care

## WORKSHOP SERIES

Avenidas Care Partners is excited to announce a workshop series to explore questions and concerns about long-term care as well as to help gain a holistic perspective on how to approach long-term care planning.

*Presented by Paula Wolfson, LCSW, Manager, Avenidas Care Partners.*

### Upcoming Long Term Care Seminars

April 27, May 4, & 11

**THURSDAY**  
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**Guidelines for Dementia Care Management**  
Tips for keeping loved ones feeling safe, affirmed, and comforted.

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## Avenidas

### Re-Inventing Aging



Magali Gauthier

An air exchanger is tucked away behind a hedge that separates it from a series of horse paddocks.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT**

*continued from page 7*

a possible suspect under observation. Later that day around 12:40 p.m., UCPD officers arrested the man on campus at Memorial Glade. Palo Alto officers assigned to the case went to Berkeley and conducted an additional follow-up investigation.

The investigators arrested and booked Condronimpuno into Santa Clara County jail for multiple felonies: attempted rape by force, sexual penetration by force, assault with intent to commit rape, forcible sexual battery, false imprisonment, felony battery, assault with a deadly weapon and robbery, in addition to a misdemeanor of preventing someone from summoning help with a wireless communication device. Online court records show he's in custody on \$1 million.

Meanwhile, UC Berkeley police also arrested a man in connection with five sexual assaults and batteries, including a robbery, against women on campus in a seven-day period, according to an April 11 news report by Berkeleyside. It isn't known if the arrested man is Condronimpuno. UC Berkeley police withheld the arrestee's name in a community advisory issued Tuesday.

The Palo Alto Police

Department said it is temporarily withholding the release of Condronimpuno's photo, as other law enforcement agencies still have active investigations involving the same individual and the premature release of his photo could hamper the investigation of their cases, according to the press release. Palo Alto police plan to share the booking photo once they receive confirmation that the release won't compromise other cases.

"Police would like to thank the many community members in Palo Alto and beyond who assisted our investigation by providing information in the aftermath of this assault and who shared information about the crime to help get the word out. Police would also like to thank members of the media who covered this incident and helped to widely distribute the sketch of the suspect," they said.

Anyone with information about the reported sexual assault is asked to call Palo Alto Police Department's 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413. Anonymous tips can be emailed to [paloalto@tipnow.org](mailto:paloalto@tipnow.org) or sent by text message or voicemail to 650-383-8984. ■

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

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

*continued from page 6*

**Peninsula Community Disaster Preparedness Fair on April 29**

There will be a free disaster preparedness fair for Peninsula residents on from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 29.

Several disaster prevention and relief organizations will be on hand, including Menlo Park Fire Protection District, FEMA, the Red Cross and PG&E. The event will also feature food trucks, fire engine

tours, fire safety and hands-only CPR training and sign-ups for free smoke detectors.

There will also be free giveaways each hour and vendors selling preparedness items. The event will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1105 Valparaiso Ave.

**Tenants rights workshops in Menlo Park this month**

The San Mateo Anti-Displacement Coalition is sponsoring a Menlo Park tenants' rights workshop

organized by several local housing advocacy groups.

The workshops will explore tenant resources and education on tenants' rights on evictions, home conditions and lease agreement rules. The event will offer free food and childcare.

The workshop will be hosted in Spanish on Tuesday, April 18, and in English Wednesday, April 19. Both will be held at the Belle Haven Branch Library at 413 Ivy Drive from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Residents can register at [bit.ly/mp-tenants](http://bit.ly/mp-tenants).

— Cameron Rebosio

THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES			
<b>LOS ALTOS HILLS</b>		<b>PORTOLA VALLEY</b>	
<b>24892 Olive Tree Lane</b>	<b>\$12,980,000</b>	<b>177 Alamos Road</b>	<b>\$7,895,000</b>
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00	5BD/5.5BA	Sat 2:00-4:00/Sun 1:00-3:00	1BD/2BA
Christies Sereno	703-408-4810	The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty	650-485-3476
<b>MENLO PARK</b>		<b>SAN JOSE</b>	
<b>1860 White Oak Drive</b>	<b>\$5,250,000</b>	<b>4785 Corrales Drive</b>	<b>\$1,098,000</b>
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00	4BD/3BA	Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	3BD/2BA
Coldwell Banker Realty	650-619-6461	JLee Realty	650-857-1000
<b>PALO ALTO</b>		<b>WOODSIDE</b>	
<b>743 Barron Avenue</b>	<b>\$2,198,000</b>	<b>930 High Road</b>	<b>\$7,988,000</b>
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	2BD/2BA	Sat 2:00-4:00	6BD/5.5BA
Compass	650-269-0210	Coldwell Banker Realty	650-400-2933
<b>195 North California Avenue</b>	<b>Call for price</b>	Agents: submit open homes at <a href="http://AlmanacNews.com/real_estate">AlmanacNews.com/real_estate</a>	
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	5BD/3.5BA		
Compass	650-387-2716		

*Announcing* THE 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY  
**Short Story Contest**  
 Prizes for First, Second and Third place winners  
 in each category: Adult, Young Adult and Teen

ALL stories must be 2,500 words or less

**ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE  
 MAY 10, 2023**

**SHORT STORY CONTEST**

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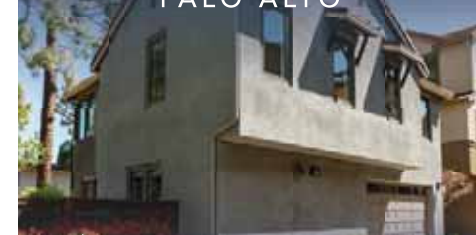
\$2,988,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth  
2110Ward.com

848 NASH ROAD  
LOS ALTOS



\$6,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth  
848NashRd.com

3477 ALMA VILLAGE CIR  
PALO ALTO



\$2,988,000 | 4 Bd | 2.5 Bth  
3477AlmaVillage.com

905 CAMILLE LANE  
MOUNTAIN VIEW



\$1,788,000 | 3 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
905Camille.com

750 LINCOLN AVE  
PALO ALTO



\$4,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth  
750Lincoln.com

11 HILLTOP DRIVE  
SAN CARLOS



\$2,288,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth  
11HilltopDR.com

3887 LA SELVA DRIVE  
PALO ALTO



\$3,150,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth  
3887LaSelva.com

7 CYPRESS COURT  
LOS ALTOS




\$4,788,000 | 4 Bd | 2.5 Bth  
7CypressCt.com

485 FERNE AVENUE  
PALO ALTO



\$3,288,000 | 4 Bd | 2 Bth  
485Ferne.com

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# 1161 SHERMAN AVENUE MENLO PARK



## GORGEOUS CUSTOM HOME IN WEST MENLO

This superb 5-bedroom, 3-bathroom home, a custom new construction by Supple Homes in 2014, offers an exceptional location along with nearly 2,600 square feet of living space filled with luxurious finishes and modern amenities. Warm, welcoming interiors make you feel at home from the minute you step inside, with a 2-level floorplan that is both spacious and intimate. Guests may gather around the living room fireplace before making their way to the dining room for a meal catered from the chef's kitchen. Entertainment options continue into the backyard that boasts a large patio, hot tub, and lawn. And at the end of the night, retire to comfortable bedrooms such as the upstairs primary suite with a spa-like bathroom, and a downstairs bedroom with ample privacy. Topping it all off is a sought-after address in West Menlo that is within a stroll of great restaurants including the iconic Dutch Goose, and a short bike ride or drive to downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, freeways and public transportation, parks, Stanford, and top-ranked schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

**1161Sherman.com**

**Listed at \$4,498,000**

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

中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224



# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## DIRECTING ATTENTION

WINDRIDER BAY AREA FILM FORUM SPOTLIGHTS VOICES OF YOUNG FILMMAKERS AS PART OF 14TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL

By Emily Margaretten

The Windrider Bay Area Film Forum is ready to return to the Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center April 13-15, where it will screen several award-winning documentaries, including two full-length films and a short program that features the diverse stories of young filmmakers.

Now in its 14th year, Windrider celebrates independent films with public screenings and moderated discussions aimed at sparking in-depth community conversations. The short program showcases four documentaries from Youth Documentary Academy (YDA), which helps high school students from underserved communities direct and produce their own films. The four short film screening at Windrider are among 10 YDA documentaries that will be shown in the second season of "Our Time" on public television, a series created and produced by YDA in partnership with PBS.

YDA emerged from the creative vision of Executive Director Tom Shepard, a filmmaker who grew up in Colorado Springs and attended Stanford University as an undergraduate. Troubled by the industry's unequal access to filmmaking programs, which were based largely in California and New York, Shepard decided to create an academy for aspiring filmmakers in Colorado.

"Ten years ago, I went back to my childhood home and started talking with media artists about what it would look like to level the playing field and create a more elite film arts training academy in the middle of the country. And really asking the question, who gets to tell their story in America?" Shepard said.

The two-month summer program selects 12 students from southern Colorado who collaborate with professional filmmakers on stories that reflect their lived experiences. Students may not have previous training in filmmaking, which is not a barrier to participating in the program, according to Shepard. "Because these kids have some emotional skin in the game, they're very motivated to learn, and we have industry-standard gear and professional filmmakers that are mentoring them at each stage," he said.

As a result, the documentaries have a high production value that also reflects the voices of the storytellers. For Will Stoller-Lee, co-founder of Windrider and a YDA board member, this is what makes the films so unique. "The stories are their stories. And that's the piece that I think is the most inspiring and compelling ... because they're pretty unfiltered and honest with the way they tell their stories."

The four YDA films selected for Windrider speak to many of the societal

challenges that youth face today, something that Shepard credits to the varied backgrounds of the filmmakers. "The films really represent very diverse issues. We have films about teen mental health and teen suicide. We have films about race and colorism. We have films about growing up with a disability, like autism, and films about LGBTQ lives."

The variety of stories, in turn, challenges popular perceptions about middle America and places like Colorado Springs that often have a reputation as being conservative, Christian and intolerant of difference, Shepard said. The films also facilitate conversations that typically are not talked about candidly, especially between youth and adults. "We're finding that the films and filmmakers are powerfully opening doors to courageous conversations that make people uncomfortable. They're humanizing politically delicate issues," Shepard said.

The discussions at film festivals have been so productive that Colorado high schools also have started screening YDA films to promote conversations around difficult topics, like teen mental health, domestic violence and immigration — a development that Stoller-Lee hopes will continue at a national level as more than 80% of PBS stations, including KQED, plan to broadcast the second season of "Our Time," which features 10 YDA films, to local audiences.

The YDA filmmakers and Shepard, meanwhile, will be in attendance at Windrider, where they will moderate a discussion after the screening of the short program on April 14. In keeping with Windrider's theme of breaking down barriers and inspiring change, each film offers a message of hope despite the filmmakers' experiences of trauma and hardship.

"Blind Sighted," directed by Mitch Davila-Armendano, addresses prejudices directed against people with disabilities; "Skinned Knees," directed by Olive Van Eimeren, probes the trauma of domestic abuse and alcoholism; "Leaving Africa," directed by Rose Nseyia, focuses on the perils of immigrating from a war-torn country; and "Under the Wire," directed by Madison Legg, addresses the stigmas of teen mental health and suicide.

The film festival's two full-length documentaries, "Refuge" and "Waterman," will be screened on April 13 and 15 and also include discussions with the films' subjects and creators.

*The Windrider Film Forum takes place April 13-15, 7 p.m. at Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. For more information about Windrider and purchasing tickets, visit [windriderbayarea.org](http://windriderbayarea.org).* ■

*Emily Margaretten is a freelance writer.*



**From top to bottom:** "Leaving Africa," directed by Rose Nseyia, focuses on the perils of immigrating from a war-torn country. "Skinned Knees," directed by Olive Van Eimeren, explores the trauma of domestic abuse and alcoholism. "Under the Wire," directed by Madison Legg, addresses the stigmas of teen mental health issues. "Blind Sighted," directed by Mitch Davila-Armendano, addresses prejudices directed against people with disabilities. Courtesy Youth Documentary Academy.

# Food & Drink

## The science behind coffee

The Coffee Lab is opening this month in downtown Menlo Park

By Zack Fernandes  
Photos by Magali Gauthier

A new laboratory is about to open its doors in downtown Menlo Park. Its two founders have painstakingly assembled a collection of state-of-the-art techno-wizardry: microscopes, lasers and reverse-osmosis filtration systems. Wall-mounted televisions display readouts and measurements from sensors. There are white lab coats, plant specimens and seed samples. You may think this is the product of the latest venture capital-backed biotech startup, but it's not. This lab's mission is to connect people more deeply to America's favorite beverage: coffee.

The Coffee Lab, which opens at the end of this month, is definitely not a coffee shop. You won't be able to walk in during the day and leave with a cup of coffee or a pound of beans (it's neither permitted nor staffed for that). Instead, its owners want you to focus more on the experience of brewing and tasting coffee, hoping to teach you enough to take your own home coffee practices to the next level.

The duo behind the vision to increase coffee literacy in the Bay Area are Matt Baker and his partner Vance Bjorn. The two are a far cry from the stereotypical image of hipster baristas that typify the third-wave coffee movement in the Bay Area and the Pacific Northwest. Both are former techies with roots in

Silicon Valley — Baker was a product manager at several tech companies, including eBay, while Bjorn co-founded a biometrics company in Redwood City in the late 1990s. But make no mistake — the two are unabashed coffee nerds. They even own a condo in the Hawaiian coffee region of Ka'u, where they've spent time getting to know local farmers.

Baker attributes his love of coffee (at least partially) to his Italian heritage — though not many Italians take up refurbishing vintage espresso machines as a hobby like he did, or work a stint as a barista at their local coffee shop just to learn more about the drink.

Bjorn was also introduced to coffee at a young age. "Coffee is in my blood," he said, attributing his first exposure to his mother. She operated a gourmet coffee shop in Minnesota back in the 1980s, when Starbucks was still just a small cafe in Seattle and instant coffee was America's cup du jour.

The Coffee Lab represents the culmination of Baker and Bjorn's passion for all things coffee, and a desire to share their love and knowledge of the drink with the community. "The idea of the Coffee Lab is to explore coffee," Baker said. He likens the space to a wine-tasting room, with a goal of educating and delivering an immersive experience for novices and coffee buffs alike. Most importantly, Baker and Bjorn want their customers to come to the Coffee Lab to have a good time, discovering the nuances of coffee



Above: Matt Baker, co-founder of Silicon Valley Coffee Lab, talks about coffee roasting as Mai Le, center, and Deandra Lee listen. Top: Vials contain coffee beans at various stages of processing.

— from farming to roasting, brewing and tasting — along the way.

At the Coffee Lab, customers will be able to purchase a private class called Coffee 101. The two-hour session, offered for groups up to 12, covers coffee production from plant to cup and will be available to book on their website. To make the learning process less abstract, the class will include a video call with growers on a coffee farm, as well as a hands-on introduction to a variety of brewing methods and the basics of tasting coffee. In the future, Baker said the Coffee Lab will offer more advanced classes that dive into greater detail.

Outside of classes, the Coffee Lab is also designed to work as a meeting space. Baker hopes it will appeal to businesses, especially those that work remotely, that want to come together in person for regular team-building activities. At the end of a tasting session, the Coffee Lab will make its videoconferencing equipment and displays available for customers to use if they'd like to stay and get some work done.

The Coffee Lab is not Baker and Bjorn's first foray into the coffee

business. In late 2018, the duo purchased a facility in San Carlos and started roasting beans.

"The Bay Area is like a mecca for coffee ... we have the perfect climate in California for storing green beans," Baker said. The region's ideal humidity and access to the Port of Oakland allows Baker and Bjorn to buy green coffee beans from all over the world and store them for roasting. After some time fine-tuning the roasting process, the duo began selling coffee to local businesses. They even purchased a laser engraver, designing and offering custom laser-etched bags of their roasts for clients.

Baker and Bjorn's first thought for expanding the business was a cold coffee they call Cloud Brew, a creamy, nitrogen-infused drink with production methods they are reluctant to discuss — and which they've trademarked. Until the pandemic hit, the plan was to keg Cloud Brew and sell it to tech offices in and around Silicon Valley. With buildings emptying out and workers going remote, they shelved the concept (they say Cloud Brew will launch formally in the future) and continued to focus on roasting

until they came across a space they thought would be perfect for their Coffee Lab concept.

Despite Baker's comparison, the Coffee Lab's similarities to a wine-tasting room are more philosophical than architectural. The physical space resembles a museum exhibit and conference room rolled into one, with machines for every brewing method imaginable on display next to a large conference table and chairs.

Though the Coffee Lab's cache of equipment may seem intimidating to novices, Baker and Bjorn remain steadfastly committed to keeping the practice of coffee consumption accessible to customers with a variety of budgets, technical skills and taste preferences. Next to a \$4,000 gadget called the Decent, which looks like the love child of a tablet computer and an espresso machine, sits a Breville Bambino, which pours shots of the same stuff and costs under \$300. In a corner, there's also a Mr. Coffee machine, driving home the Coffee Lab's point that good coffee is within reach for all.

See **COFFEE**, page 22



Visitors sample coffees from all over the world at Silicon Valley Coffee Lab in Menlo Park.



## Town of Atherton

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

Planning Commission  
April 26, 2023

REGULAR MEETING 6:00 P.M.

*This is meeting is held virtually and in-person  
at the Council Chambers 80 Fair Oaks Lane*

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the **Atherton Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider several projects as listed below during their regular meeting.

This meeting will be held as a in person and via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The public may participate in the Planning Commission Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

**Town of Atherton is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Meeting.**

**Topic: Atherton Planning Commission Regular Meeting Time:** April 26, 2023, 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/84150249099>

**Meeting ID:** 841 5024 9099

**One tap mobile**

+13017158592,,84150249099# US  
(Washington DC)

+13052241968,,84150249099# US

**Find your local number:** <https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/84150249099>

**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:**

[planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us)

#### Projects under Public Hearing:

**A.** Request for a Conditional Use Permit to allow for the renovation and 364 sq. ft addition to existing locker rooms for accessibility upgrades, spa, and related amenities at the Menlo Circus Club located at 190 Park Lane. (APN 070-214-080) Permit number CUP23-00002

*CEQA:* This project is categorically exempt from further CEQA review pursuant to Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) of the CEQA Guidelines.

**B. Request for a Tree Protection Zone Exception** for three tree exceptions of 6.5x for a 39-inch oak tree to build a detached 1,132 sq. ft. ADU, 5.9x for a 53-inch oak tree and 1.7x exception for a 46-inch oak tree for a tennis court at 240 Oak Grove Avenue (APN 061-290-050) Permit number PTPZ23-00002

*CEQA:* The proposal has been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to CEQA Section 15303, New Construction of Conversion of Small Structures.

**C.** Request for a Construction Timeline permit penalty appeal regarding the delays in construction of a new 15,500 sq. ft. three-story custom home at 76 Ridgeview View Drive (APN 073-181-450) Permit number APL23-00001

*CEQA:* This project is categorically exempt from further CEQA review pursuant to Section 15303 (New Construction)

A copy of the Planning Commission staff report and application materials can be found online, by **Friday, April 20, 2023**, here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that said application is set for hearing by the Planning Commission at its meeting on April 26, 2023, at 6:00 PM in-person and via 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 projects listed in the public hearing section should or should not be approved.

**IF YOU CHALLENGE** the listed projects 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 Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Planning Commission decisions are appealable by any aggrieved person to the City Council within 10 days of the date of the decision.

If you have any questions on the item please contact If you have any questions on the item please contact Radha Hayagreev, Senior Planner, (408) 796-4370 at [rhayagreev@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:rhayagreev@ci.atherton.ca.us) or directly to the Planning Commission at [planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us)

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 Posted:** April 14, 2023

ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION  
/s/ [Radha Hayagreev](#)  
Radha Hayagreev, Senior Planner



Above: Personalized bags of coffee are displayed. Below: Young coffee plants grow at Silicon Valley Coffee Lab.



#### COFFEE

*continued from page 21*

Though Baker and Bjorn are not fans of pod-based coffee machines (it's the only major brewing method missing from the lab), the Coffee Lab is otherwise absent of any puristic coffee dogma. "We're not here to tell people how they should drink their coffee," Baker said. "I like cream, but some people like artificial vanilla creamer. Who am I to say 'Don't drink that?'"

Its relaxed approach to coffee drinking aside, the Coffee Lab takes its science seriously. Along the side of the room, big-screen TVs mounted to the walls display outputs from a microscope. There are tools for measuring dissolved solids in coffee and the moisture content of a green coffee bean. Another TV displays the output of coffee analysis software, with charts plotting samples on a scale

of underdeveloped to bitter and weak to strong.

Besides being a playground for geeks, the point of all the science-y stuff is to help customers connect the dots between the empirical qualities of a cup and the variables that influence those qualities. A UV spectrometer in the lab allows students to understand the acidity of different roasts, for instance, while a reverse-osmosis filtration system and added minerals show the importance of using high-quality water to brew. Through all of this, Baker and Bjorn's hope is that the Coffee Lab's customers leave with an understanding of how to control as many variables as possible — not to make some hypothetical perfect cup of coffee, but rather, whatever cup is perfect for them.

*The Coffee Lab, 651 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park; 650-750-2739. By appointment only. siliconvalley.coffee ■*



750 LINCOLN AVENUE

PALO ALTO



**BRIGHT AND LUXURIOUS IN COMMUNITY CENTER**

A large corner lot in the coveted Community Center neighborhood sets the stage for this bright and luxurious 3-level home with over 3,300 square feet of gracious living space. Stylishly appointed with hardwood floors, crown molding, and a gorgeous Rookwood-style fireplace, this home enjoys a floorplan ideal for a modern lifestyle, with expansive formal rooms perfect for entertaining, a chef's kitchen with Brazilian granite countertops and top appliances, and a family room on both the main level and downstairs providing space where you can relax and unwind. The home's 5 bedrooms and 4.5 bathrooms are highlighted by the primary suite with a spa-like bathroom, while an additional bedroom suite on the lower level can be used to accommodate guests, extended family, or even an au pair. Outside, pathways wind through impressive grounds filled with blooming flowers and colorful foliage, and a slate patio offers great space for indoor/outdoor living. Plus, this home also includes a detached garage and an EV charger. Find yourself within walking distance of University Avenue and beautiful parks, convenient to Stanford University, and just a mile from US 101, with access to top-ranked schools Walter Hays Elementary, Greene Middle, and Palo Alto High (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

750Lincoln.com  
Offered at \$4,988,000

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

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**PALO ALTO | \$2,999,950**

Custom-built 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with pool, 1,947 SqFt, 9,106 SqFt Lot. Newly landscaped front yard, newer wide plank flooring and carpets and freshly painted inside. Amazing opportunity in the heart of Evergreen Park!

**Wendi Selig-Aimonetti**  
650.465.5602  
wendi@wendiselig.com  
CalRE #01001476



**PALO ALTO | \$2,900,000**

1,799 sf home with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and family room on a 6,305 sf lot. Wonderful tree-lined street.

**Mike Vick**  
408.309.7357  
mike.vick@cbtnorcal.com  
CalRE #00922261



**PALO ALTO | \$2,895,000**

Light & bright 3br/2ba home. Approx 2,075 sqft. SS appliances in the kitchen. 2br/1ba downstairs. Primary bed & bath upstairs. Private yard.

**Rachel Ni**  
650.455.1500  
rachel@rachelni.com  
CalRE #01916174



**PALO ALTO | \$2,698,000**

3br/1ba in a great Midtown neighborhood w/remodeled kitchen, bonus room, dual pane windows, metal & foam roofs, spacious backyard & permitted sunroom.

**Clara Lee**  
408.568.5576  
clara.lee@cbtnorcal.com  
CalRE #01723333



**TRUCKEE | \$1,850,000**

Remodeled (2011) & pristine, this 6br/4ba home has it all, including views of the Glenshire Pond & Alpen glow.

**Kirstin Horn** 530.210.0225  
CalRE #01911890  
**Pilar Zolezzi** 530.414.6807  
CalRE #01985131