

The Almanac

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

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Hundreds show up for Love Our Earth Festival in Atherton

By Angela Swartz

A battery-powered induction stove cooking up truffle popcorn, vegan salami, loads of free samples, kids art projects and a chance to peek inside 40 electric cars or pet a silkie chicken were all part of the much expanded Love Our Earth Festival on a sunny and warm Saturday, April 22, in Atherton.

The town hosted a smaller event last year at Holbrook-Palmer Park, its first Earth Day celebration. It teamed up with East Palo Alto, Palo Alto and Menlo Park to put on this year's festival. Just 15 minutes into this year's event and the Menlo-Atherton High School parking lot was nearly full, signaling the event's growth and popularity (1,000 people registered for the day).

Atherton Environmental Programs Committee (EPC) member Amy Farrell went

screening of a movie about climate change called "2040" at the Guild Theatre in and met others leading sustainability, like those from Menlo Spark and 350 Silicon Valley. The group met over Zoom and talked about joining forces to create a bigger event. In the fall of 2022, the committee asked the Atherton City Council to create a more inclusive, regional Earth Day event by partnering with nearby cities.

"They (the organizations she met at the event) said 'would you be open to collaborating since we're next door to one another?'" Farrell, who has worked in sustainable finance for over a decade, said. "It happened organically, in spirit of collaboration. We said 'let's bring the best from each of our cities and towns to really generate more enthusiasm and attract more attendees so we could educate more people.'"

See **FESTIVAL**, page 17



Shannon Aguiar

Brianna McDowell shares the joy of reading while promoting sustainable living through her hand-picked collection of eco-friendly books from Books Inc. at the Love Our Earth Festival at Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton on April 25.

JPA says San Francisquito Creek may never escape flood risk, despite years of work

By Cameron Rebosio

At a community outreach meeting in Palo Alto on April 20, residents of Menlo Park, Palo Alto and East Palo Alto learned that they might never escape FEMA's flood zone designation, prompting further frustration over the flood-protection efforts two decades in the making.

The San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Association (JPA) has been working on the flood relief efforts for 20 years, ever since areas across all three cities were designated as a flood zone in 1997, shortly before it flooded in 1998. The JPA consists of three cities along

the creek and two local water agencies.

The JPA is focused on replacing the Newell Bridge between Palo Alto and East Palo Alto, widening the creek channel, improving the flood walls and, as the last step, replacing the Pope-Chaucer Bridge between Menlo Park and Palo Alto. Construction on the Pope-Chaucer bridge has to be completed last or the JPA risks moving the flood risk downstream instead of alleviating the issue, as the Pope-Chaucer bridge acts like a "nozzle" downstream.

Margaret Bruce, executive director of the creek authority, compared construction on the Pope-Chaucer bridge

to taking your thumb off a garden hose, which could potentially damage structures farther downstream.

One resident who moved to his home in 1997, only a few months before FEMA designated the area as a flood zone, asked when homeowners might get some relief from the regulations that come with that designation, such as mandatory flood insurance.

Bruce said that residents may not see a change in flood zone designation for a decade, if ever.

"We are faced with climate change," Bruce said. "We are seeing increased variability

See **FLOOD**, page 8



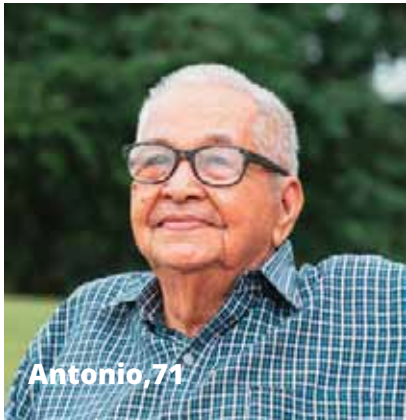
Kate Bradshaw

Debris is removed from just below the Pope-Chaucer Bridge on Dec. 31, 2022.

INSIDE

ARTSCENE 18 | FOOD & DRINK 22

Read up-to-the-minute news on AlmanacNews.com



Antonio, 71

"I think the world of PVI, I don't know what I would do without your meals."

In declining health, Antonio is no longer able to shop or prepare healthy food on his own. He skips meals and does not want to bother his family or neighbors for help. Antonio's adult children turned to PVI's Meals on Wheels and now Antonio can stop wondering where his next meal will come from. He can focus on enjoying family and his caring friendships with neighbors. Antonio's conversations and stories he shares with his loyal meal delivery driver are the highlight of his day.

Daily Senior Impact:

- 1 in 6 seniors is facing hunger
- 1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia
- Nearly 1 in 5 spousal caregivers passes away before their loved one
- 1 in 4 seniors live alone and feel lonely
- 50% of seniors living alone are without the finances for basic needs, transportation, or technology to access the wellness programs they need

Community Voices:

"I was delighted to find out the mission of PVI was to honor older adults like my mom. I like the positive vibes here. I'm amazed by the people working in different roles toward the same mission!" - Hiroko, Volunteer

"It's my privilege to support the wonderful work that PVI is doing for our community" - PVI Donor

"Your weekly groceries helps me make ends meet"
- Ruth, Got Groceries Program beneficiary

Celebrating 75 years

PVI

Enabling Seniors to Age in Place

No senior in our community should be left isolated or hungry—no loved one, no friend, no neighbor!

Every senior in our community deserves to live a vital and independent life—to **age in place** with access to nutritious food, Alzheimer's care services and caregiver support as needed, transportation services, and senior center health and wellness activities to live a happy and healthy life.

Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. (PVI) is in our **75th year**, dedicated to **enabling seniors to age in place**. We are leading senior care in the community, addressing the pressing issues of aging adults. And we cannot do it without you.

The challenges of aging are now greater than ever

Many local seniors are struggling to stay afloat in today's post-pandemic living. Needs are outstripping local **aging population growth**. Federal **emergency payments for food to individuals ends** in April, triggering the **"hunger cliff"** for recipients. Historic **inflation**, widespread **loneliness, social isolation, and hunger and health inequities** cut deeper across our culturally and ethnically diverse community lives. Recent **power outages** hit those most in need hardest.

Your generosity matters

You enable PVI to change the lives of local seniors for the better. Because of you care, **we have not missed a day** preparing and delivering **over 177,000 nutritious meals**; offering therapeutic **care to those with Alzheimer's** and **overwhelmed family caregivers**; providing daily **meaningful activities and social connections** to isolated seniors; and providing **vital transportation rides** for daily needs.

PVI's new and fast-growing weekly **"Got Groceries"** program is **providing over 250 seniors per month** with a vital lifeline of **3,000 pounds of protein, dairy, pantry items and fresh produce**. Lives are being changed.

Join us as we transform aging

PVI will continue to **transform aging** in our local communities, changing the way seniors are cared for and treated as valuable members of society. New levels of concierge caregiver and family support services, and the expansion of innovative community partnerships and local geographic coverage will meet the challenges ahead for you and your senior family members. We are **inspired by the community support** that makes this possible.

You can make a difference right now. Your gift of an amount that is right for you* is indispensable to the **thousands of local families relying on us** for their daily health and well-being. **Together we can fill empty plates** with nutritious food and provide meaningful programs to your neighbors who need us most.

Learn more and give securely online at www.1pvi.org/donate or use the QR code. We are grateful for your gift of any amount to help us protect our local seniors and families. Share your passion to help extend senior health and independence.



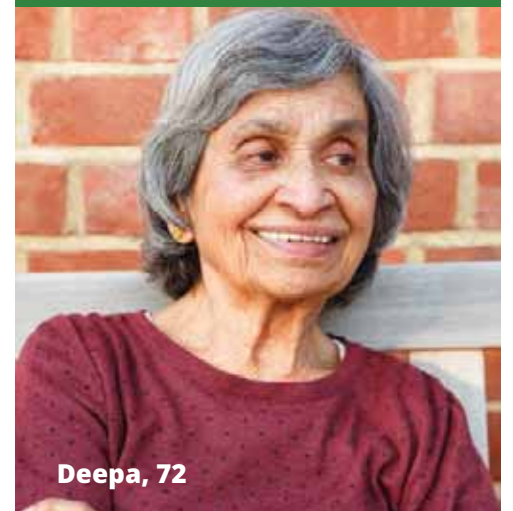
USE YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA TO SCAN OUR QR CODE AND DONATE FROM YOUR PHONE.

* **\$500 funds** one month of PVI Meals on Wheels for two at-risk seniors; or one annual Senior Center fitness membership for a senior in need; **\$1,000 funds** the Senior Center lecture series for 6 months; **\$2,500 funds** an iPad and training for one senior in need or Ride PVI transportation services for one month for five seniors.

With hope and gratitude,

Peter Olson
Chief Executive Officer

Georgie Gleim
Board President



Deepa, 72

For 75 years, Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. has enabled seniors to age in place, driven by a profound legacy of caring and our core values of respect, commitment, trust, dedication and compassion. Our four core programs serve over 6,000 households and address the most pressing issues of aging adults by offering critical services to sustain their daily physical, nutritional, emotional and mental health while achieving dignity and independence in their lives. PVI's programs include Nutrition Services/Meals on Wheels; Adult Day Services at Rosener House; Health, Wellness and Lifetime Enrichment offerings at Little House; and on-demand Transportation Services at Little House.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Sue Dremann

Crews use pavement rollers to fill potholes on El Camino Real on April 18 near Cambridge Avenue in Palo Alto.

Teeth-clattering potholes on storm-damaged streets get temporary fix

El Camino Real, University Avenue highway overpass among the worst

By Sue Dremann

They're big. They're numerous. They're bone-rattling. Gnarly potholes are everywhere.

On local freeways, on-ramps, streets and overpasses, drivers have been dodging and weaving around large potholes, deep fissures and mosaics of fractured asphalt caused by the recent atmospheric

river winter storms. El Camino Real, "The King's Highway" established to link the Spanish missions, hasn't been this bad since Gaspar de Portola made his first expedition through Palo Alto, one driver recently observed.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), which maintains the roads, started temporary fixes this month, at least on El Camino Real.

Dozens of residents recently took to Nextdoor to complain about El Camino's road conditions in Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos and warned others about especially dangerous potholes that could damage cars that drive over them.

"El Camino potholes are getting so bad that I feel like

See **POTHoles**, page 8

Portola Valley town attorney is the latest staffer to resign

Cara Silver's last day is May 22

By Angela Swartz

As Portola Valley is in the midst of finding replacements for key town hall positions recently vacated, another top staffer has announced her resignation.

Town Attorney Cara Silver sent her notice to the Town Council in a Friday, April 21, letter and said that she plans to leave her post on May 22. Silver, a partner at Jorgenson, Siegel, McClure & Flegel in Menlo Park, began serving in the Portola Valley role in 2017 and plans to continue working with her firm.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working for visionary Town Councils who have sought to find the right balance between the rural and built environments," she said. "I have been honored to work alongside intelligent, creative and caring staff who have chosen public service as their career path."

She said it's been inspiring to watch new commissioners and committee members become subject matter experts on a range of community issues.

"Portola Valley has many

challenges ahead," Silver wrote. "In parting, I wish the council, staff and community well and hope civility and respect for one another can be restored."

Silver told The Almanac in a Tuesday email that it's a difficult time for local governments.

"Many changes are coming down the pipeline and under-resourced cities are struggling to understand the breadth and impact of them," she said. "Communicating and implementing change is even more difficult. Portola Valley has an amazing town staff with expert knowledge in their subject fields. My hope is that community debate on these issues will leverage that expertise in order to comply with state mandates in a way that respects town values — I know it can be done."

Mayor Jeff Aalfs said in a Tuesday statement: "I have had the privilege of working closely with Cara Silver since she became town counsel in 2017. Cara has served Portola Valley tirelessly and honestly, always mindful of her duty to provide Portola Valley with the best legal guidance based on her knowledge of the law. I wish her all the best going forward."

Portola Valley Town Manager Jeremy Dennis left his role on March 17. Public Works



Cara Silver

See **TOWN ATTORNEY**, page 16

Peninsula cyclists call for increased safety measures on Cañada Road after fatality

Local cyclists and skaters come together to hold a vigil for Lester Legarda, who died in Woodside

By Avery Luke

Thirty-seven-year-old Lester Legarda, known to his friends as "Loaf," was an avid skateboarder from South San Francisco. Legarda was laid back, but those who knew him say he embraced every day as a new adventure. He could often be found at San Mateo skate shop Atlas, which is where he met with one of the owners and founders, Ryen Motzek.

"I've never seen a bad day for

Lester," said Motzek. "He was always kind, always optimistic and just really appreciated life."

After suffering from a knee injury, Legarda joined cycling club Peninsula Velo to help rehabilitate and socialize with new people. Cyclists in Pen Velo said he made fast friends in their community. Though Legarda was relatively new to the sport, he devoted extra time to improving racing skills and building strong connections on the team.

"He was a committed rider and he'll be sorely missed," said Pen Velo's Erik Salander.

Legarda died Monday night, April 10, after his bicycle was struck by a car while biking Cañada Road. Last week, a group of Peninsula cyclists took a pause during their weekly "noon ride" to share a moment of silence at a memorial for Legarda, which lies at the site of his death, near Filoli Estate.

"There's just something extra horrible about the situation, the

fact that he was doing something peaceful," said Motzek. "He didn't do anything wrong. He was just doing something new and healthy."

Even though Cañada Road is often considered a safe place to ride, some cyclists say there is a "danger zone" on the stretch near Filoli, between Edgewood Road and Highway 92. It's a hot spot for distracted driving and drag racing, according to cyclist Lloyd Chambers. He pointed out a memorial site for

a different cyclist who lost his life after being by a car in 1999, visible from the site of Legarda's death, to other cyclists as they mourned.

Cyclist accidents and deaths are common in San Mateo County— it's among the top 25% of California counties with the highest rates of bicycle collisions. A bicyclist died in a hit-and-run crash near Veterans Boulevard and Maple Street in

See **CYCLISTS**, page 7

Notice of Public Hearings

The Woodside School District will hold two separate public hearings on the proposed Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), with the Budget Overview for Parents cover page, and the proposed Budget for fiscal year 2023-24 on May 16, 2023, at 3:30pm at the Woodside School District, 3195 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062. Copies of the proposed LCAP and Budget are available for review at the District office from May 10 to May 16, 2023 between 8:00am-2:00pm and posted on the District website, <https://www.woodsideschool.us/>. Contact Waly Ndiaye, wndiaye@woosideschool.us, (650) 851-1571 to request a printed or electronic copy. Public members or stakeholders may request to comment at the public hearing on the proposed LCAP and budget or any item therein, by following the instructions for public comment found on the District website.

4/28/23

CNS-3686254#
THE ALMANAC

April 28, 2023
1st Quarter 2023

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

Este aviso contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable, por favor lea el aviso en español si va aquí incluido. Si el aviso en español no va incluido aquí, contacte al sistema de agua para pedir una copia

The O'Connor Tract Co-Operative Water Company has levels of manganese above the secondary drinking water standard.

Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. Our water system is in violation of a secondary drinking water standard. Violation of a secondary standard does not pose an immediate threat to health.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Average results for water samples for the last four quarters have manganese levels of 53 ppb in well #1 and 145 ppb in well #2 (ppb=parts per billion). This is above the secondary drinking water standard, or secondary maximum contaminant level of 50 ppb. Manganese concentrations above the standard may have an effect on taste and tend to leave black deposits in some plumbing systems.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water).** There is no health risk.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

O'Connor Water has been above the secondary standard for manganese for many years, and this has been described to members in the annual Report on Water Quality Measurements. Recent state regulations have imposed stricter requirements for complying with the secondary standard for manganese. The state has issued the company a citation for noncompliance. The state ordered the company to start quarterly monitoring in February 2012, and this monitoring is still ongoing at both wells. The state also required that manganese monitoring be continued quarterly and that the results of these tests be reported to all water consumers.

The Company has been working with State agencies and the City of Menlo Park to complete the planning of a manganese treatment facility and construction is well along at the Company's property.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this public notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For further information contact:

Secretary-Treasurer Telephone 650-321-2723

Email: oconnorwater@gmail.com

O'Connor Tract Co-Operative Water Co., System 4110019

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The Almanac

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\$300K contract awarded to bring 'mini' train museum to Atherton

Work is expected to take four to six months

By Angela Swartz

A "mini" train museum will soon come to Atherton.

The City Council awarded a construction contract for the Atherton rail history museum at the site of the former rail station at Dinkelspiel Station Lane to Castillo Plumbing, Inc. of Hayward, for \$302,000, during an April 19 meeting.

Staff estimate construction will take about four to six months, but it could take a bit long to get it outfitted with memorabilia, said City Manager George Rodericks in an email. The council has expressed hope that the museum will be ready in time for the town's centennial celebration in September, but that may not be the case.

Council members agreed it seemed like a steep price, but ultimately voted unanimously on Wednesday to direct a \$400,000 grant from Caltrain to outfit its 620-square-foot train station depot into a museum. Caltrain ended service in Atherton in late 2020, making Menlo Park the nearest stop for catching a train.

The main elements of the work include fixing up the structure with wood and roof repairs and replacement, along with improvements inside and outside the building and new furniture. The building will be enclosed with new doors added, and there will be restriped accessible parking, providing path a from Town Center and from parking into the building, with limited landscape treatment along track side.

Within the museum, the town envisions displays of Atherton's train station history, the trains and the riders, according to a staff report. The museum will be outfitted with a video display and benches, free standing historical displays and a display case that will feature model trains on a track as a focal point. These model trains will present a chronological evolution of the history of the train in Atherton.

The town committed \$96,000 on the project's design, so the grant won't be able to cover all the fixes the council is hoping for, such as furnishing and installing a mechanical heating and air conditioning unit; rehabilitation and painting the existing monument sign; and cleaning and repainting the exterior of the clock, which amount to about \$43,000 in costs. Staff members previously said an HVAC unit would be necessary to protect historic displays and electronic equipment.

Vice Mayor Diana Hawkins-Manuelian said people already go to the depot to sit and changes need to be made no matter what to make the building safer.

The council also gave the go-ahead to use library funds for the 2022-23 fiscal year to support the production of two Atherton history videos for the town's upcoming centennial celebration, which could run in a loop at the history museum, City Hall and library for about \$25,000, according to a staff report. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com

CRIME BRIEFS

Burglars steal over \$200K in jewelry and documents

Someone broke into a home on the 1200 block of Cañada Road in Woodside last week, reportedly stealing a safe with about \$200,000-\$300,000 worth of jewelry and documents, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

The burglary happened at the Woodside Glens neighborhood home between 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, and 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 20, according to the police blotter.

Also on Thursday, between 10 a.m. and noon, someone also broke into a home on the first block of Winding Way in the Mountain Home Road neighborhood and took a piece of jewelry worth \$300 and 16 digital photographs, said Sgt. Javier Acosta in an email.

Anyone who has information regarding these incidents may call the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Anonymous Tip Line at 800-547-2700.

—Almanac staff

Woodside celebrates its 101st May Day Parade May 6

By Angela Swartz

Back for a second year after a pandemic pause, the 101st Woodside May Day Parade and Carnival will take place on Saturday, May 6. The theme this year is “All Things Music.”

The day begins with a fun run organized by the Woodside Recreation Committee at 8:30 a.m., starting at the Town Library at 3140 Woodside Road. There is a pancake breakfast at Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Road, from 8 to 10 a.m.

The parade will start at Woodside Elementary School, 3195 Woodside Road, at 10 a.m. Dr. Vicki Coe Mitchell, a long-time Woodside resident and anesthesiologist at Stanford and Sequoia hospitals, will be the grand marshal.

Dr. Mitchell is a prominent member of the Woodside Arts & Culture Committee, according to an event press release. She also founded the Woodside Plein Air Painters and was on the Village Hub Launch Committee. She helped found the Woodside Emergency Preparedness



Courtesy Woodside School Parent Teacher Association

Left to right: 2023 Deputy Woodside May Day Parade Marshal Beth Dameron, Princess Valeria Martinez, King John Nouri, Prince Will Rotelli, Queen Olivia Warren, Princess Amelia Vargas, Deputy Marshal Kara Ireland D'Ambrosio and Grand Marshal Dr. Vicki Coe Mitchell. Right insert: Prince Dylan Nash.

Committee, and active in WPV-Ready and WPV-CERT.

Woodside Elementary School music teachers Beth Dameron and Kara Ireland D'Ambrosio will act as deputy marshals.

This year's Kindergarten Royal Court is composed of Queen Olivia Warren, King John Nouri,

princesses Valeria Martinez and Amelia Vargas, and princes Dylan Nash and Will Rotelli. The Royal Court is chosen from the 2022-23 kindergarten class at Woodside Elementary. They will ride in the parade on the 1942 vintage fire truck, “Old White.”

After the parade, D'Ambrosio

will direct the traditional May Pole dance at the outdoor amphitheatre led by the third grade class, followed by the announcement of the Woodside Citizen of the Year. The award goes to an individual who has contributed consistently to the school community.

A carnival and food trucks will be located at the Woodside Elementary School campus from noon to 3 p.m. There will be five food trucks in its Sellman parking lot, including Daniel's Food Kitchen (tacos and burritos), Redwood Grill (barbecue), Sam's Chowder House, Whisks on Wheels (burgers) and Golden Desserts & Ice Cream.

The Woodside School Parent Teacher Association is hosting and sponsoring the parade and carnival. Sponsoring the fun run are Bucks of Woodside, W.L. Butler Construction, Inc., The Village Doctor, Coldwell Banker: Carrie Davis, Jim Milton and Christienne Hadley, and QW Cooper.

Tickets for unlimited access carnival wristbands can be purchased for \$20 at the event, or in advance at the school and online at tinyurl.com/2023mayday.

Fun run tickets are \$25 for adults before May 4 and \$30 the day of the event. Children 14 and under can participate for \$20 before May 4 or \$25 the day of the event. Families of four can pay \$70 before May 4 or \$80 the day of the event. Participants will receive a T-shirt, muffins, fruit and refreshments. Register at woodsidgetown.org or download a registration form on the website and mail it to: Woodside Recreation Committee, P.O. Box 620005, Woodside, CA 94062.

As in past years, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department will close Woodside Road at Kings Mountain Road at 8:30 a.m. Since maneuvering through crowds and cars can be difficult, organizers encourage attendees to arrive early.

The celebration returned in 2022 after a two-year break because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Email May Day Parade Chairman Lisha Mainz LMainzDC@gmail.com with any questions. ■

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

Longtime department leader Jeff Liu named East Palo Alto police chief

By Sue Dremann

Jeff Liu, East Palo Alto's interim police chief, has been appointed to the job on a permanent basis, the city announced on Monday, April 24.

The city awarded him the top leadership position on April 14, and the East Palo Alto City Council first announced his appointment on April 18 after an extensive recruitment and selection process that included community members, city staff and the council.

He began his law enforcement career in East Palo Alto as a police officer in September 2000 and served in the patrol and investigations units. He became a sergeant in January 2009, supervising patrol teams



Jeff Liu

and the investigations bureau for six years, according to a city statement.

In March 2015, he was promoted to commander, a senior leadership role that oversaw all patrol and investigations bureau functions. Liu remained

a commander until January 2021, when he first became acting, and later, interim chief of police.

“With over 20 years of experience working here in the City of East Palo Alto, Jeff has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our residents. His heart, passion, and love for community are qualities that will ensure East Palo Alto continues to be a shining example of how to ensure the highest levels of safety while also being mindful of justice and social responsibility,” Vice Mayor Antonio Lopez said in the statement.

Liu also serves as a board member at the Forensic Science Research Center at California State University, East Bay (CSUEB), and the Wine Country Marines. He is an instructor

in police cadets training and development at police academies throughout the Bay Area. He has bachelor's degree from CSUEB and a Master of Science degree in law enforcement and public safety leadership from the University of San Diego.

Liu is married to Lesa, his wife of 16 years; has two children; and

has one granddaughter. He is best known for “leading from the heart,” the city statement said. He is passionate about the East Palo Alto community, which he refers to as his “family.” ■

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

CYCLISTS

continued from page 5

Redwood City on March 31.

Through-traffic on Cañada Road has been exacerbated in recent years, partly by navigation apps like Waze, which suggests alternate routes for drivers to bypass traffic jams. Drivers often use Cañada Road as an alternate commute route.

Chambers described seeing crushed glass and tacks in the bike lane of Cañada Road that appears to be intentionally dumped every quarter-mile.

More can be done by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department to make the area safe for cyclists, he said, such as increasing the number of officers who patrol the area for speeding and distracted drivers

“I've made a bunch of calls to the sheriff's department over the years,” said Chambers. “I was told they patrol this road, but between Edgewood and 92 I've never seen a patrol car.”

San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus said, “We are committed to improving safety and visibility throughout the

county, especially in intersections with high pedestrian and bicycle traffic. We have assigned extra deputies and increased patrol in these areas to promote and encourage road safety.”

Close to 300 cyclists took part in a memorial bike ride for Legarda in Woodside on Saturday morning, April 15. The ride began at Woodside Town Hall and ended near Filoli.

Pen Velo has set up a GoFundMe for his family at gofundme.com/f/lester-legarda. ■

Email Staff Writer Avery Luke at aluke@rwcpulse.com.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Is This a Good Time to Buy A House?



Dear Monica: Silicon Valley has had layoffs and a bank failure. Should I buy a house now or wait to see how these issues affect the market?
Helen C.

Dear Helen: Depending on your price range, if you are below \$5 million, and in some cases higher, the market is good. Above that is also good for specific properties but is not as good as the lower range.

Decide what you want your next property to be. If you plan to stay in it for 5-10 years, you are likely fine going ahead with your plans. Your property is not just an investment, but also a place where you will live and perhaps where your children will be educated. These are the more important considerations when buying a house.

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

EV chargers coming to Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton

By Angela Swartz

The Atherton City Council gave the go-ahead for staff to purchase electric vehicle chargers for installation in Holbrook-Palmer Park for \$54,000.

The City Council decided on April 19 to put eight charging ports with four, Level 2 chargers at the park's entry lot and four, Level 2 chargers in the Jennings Pavilion parking lot. Clean Energy is offering a \$5,000 rebate for each charger and the total cost would be \$90,000 without the incentives.

The purchase is part of a greater effort to help the town reach its climate action goals of a 49% reduction of 2005 greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

EV adoption is soaring, and

nearly 50% of personal cars purchased last year in San Mateo County were electric, according to the town. Roughly one of every seven, or 14%, of 6,261 vehicles in Atherton were electric as of 2021, according to a CalMatters analysis of data from the Energy Commission. This is the highest percentage of electric cars per capita in the state.

The council considered putting 10 chargers, spread throughout three locations in the park, located at 150 Watkins Ave., near the entry of the park, near the Jennings Pavilion and near the main house. It would have cost \$77,000 to install chargers at all locations.

The council opted not to install chargers near the main house. It was estimated it would cost \$33,000 to install two

chargers in this part of the park without rebates.

Council member Rick DeGolia said 10 chargers would probably not be heavily used, noting that the two EV chargers with capacity to charge four vehicles at a time as a part of the new Town Center aren't used a lot. Installed in August 2022, they have an average of 50 charging sessions per month, according to staff.

"I do think as time passes they're (the chargers) going to get more use because as time passes there's going to be more and more EVs," DeGolia said. "There's potential for change (adding more EV) as we add in solar to the Pavilion."

Mayor Bill Widmer said that it doesn't seem worth designating 10 parking spaces in the park for the chargers and noted that

the spaces can only be used for electric vehicles and handicap spaces by state law. There are a total of about 50 parking spots in the park now.

Staff noted that installing the chargers near the parking entry was the most cost-effective option.

Level 2 chargers typically deliver a full charge in four to six hours, according to Peninsula Clean Energy.

In spring 2022, Clean Energy provided Atherton free site design assistance and generated a charging evaluation report for EV charging at three sites in the park.

Leaf blowers

The town is also closer to enacting a ban on 2-stroke gas-powered leaf blowers, which

would begin in July 2024.

Staff introduced the ordinance to council on April 19. The ordinance is up for adoption on May 17.

Town staff is recommending the council set up a \$25,000 rebate program for residents during the 2023-24 fiscal year. It plans to offer one-time, individual rebates of up to \$250 toward eligible zero-emission equipment (such as batteries and equipment).

Residents could use the rebate to purchase equipment for themselves and their personal use; equipment for their landscapers; and/or equipment for the landscapers to use on their property only. ■

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

FLOOD

continued from page 1

in precipitation as we design this project. We will do the best we can with what we have to protect the community to the best of our ability, and the goalposts are moving."

To escape the flood zone designation, the JPA would have to prove to FEMA that the current flood zone has a less than once in 100 years chance of flooding, and would have to build concrete floodwalls around the creekbed. The JPA brought this idea to the community when going through

the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and it was "soundly rejected" according to Bruce.

Rebecca Eisenberg, an elected representative on the Santa Clara Valley Water District and director of the San Francisquito Creek JPA, came to the meeting in the final minutes to speak to residents. She reiterated that protection from a once in 100 year flood was not feasible, despite the JPA's commitment to flood protection.

"I care about you all, but I also care about the environment and flooding is

terrible for the environment," Eisenberg said. "It's awful. It's catastrophic, in addition to people losing everything and losing their homes."

Her reassurances were not well received by residents. Eisenberg's comments flared tensions at a March 9 JPA meeting, when she wanted to revisit the design of the Newell Bridge, potentially delaying construction.

"People are more important than things," a resident called out at last week's meeting. "Are we waiting for the first person to die? People are more important than the environment."

Eisenberg said that she agreed with the statement but that they can't "keep concretizing our way out of this," as climate change increases the size of the flood zone and changes the creek modifications needed to keep the community flood-safe.

There was one tangible accomplishment announced at the meeting: The JPA says there is currently no open litigation over the flood protection efforts. While there's no guarantee that new legal battles won't emerge, the lawsuits barring the JPA from working on private property

have been settled.

The Newell Bridge renovations are currently on a fast track, and the JPA is submitting an application to expedite its permit, which staff expects to receive in September.

The current estimated cost of the Newell Bridge renovations is \$15 million, and the JPA is working with Caltrans to secure funding for the project.

To find out if you're in a flood zone, check out the flood map on msc.fema.gov. ■

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

POTHOLES

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"I'm driving down a backroad in West Texas," one poster said. Another wondered if he was the only one swearing while driving down the road. Others expressed frustration that their cities weren't fixing the road.

El Camino Real, however, isn't under city control. Designated California State Highway 82, the state, through Caltrans, is responsible for its maintenance. Cities such as Palo Alto,

East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Mountain View don't have jurisdiction over road maintenance along state highways and routes, including freeway overpasses, onramps and offramps.

Not that cities don't occasionally jump in. In 2016, the city of Palo Alto decided to do emergency repairs on westbound Oregon Expressway near the U.S. Highway 101 after nearly a dozen large potholes became a hazard for motorists, even though the section of roadway is owned by the state.

Before the recent winter storms, roadways such as El Camino and the University Avenue overpass over U.S. Highway 101 weren't in great shape. Now, the situation has become untenable.

The University overpass has dozens of deep holes as large as 2 feet across and inches apart, threatening to compromise the roadway surface.

"The University overpass is a regional nerve center of Peninsula traffic, and the

potholes need immediate attention for safety reasons," East Palo Alto City Council member Ruben Abrica said.

Caltrans spokesperson Victor Gauthier said the agency has been working on temporary fixes.

"The roads got hammered" this winter, he said.

Statewide, Caltrans maintains 15,133 miles of highway and 13,063 highway bridges, according to the agency's website.

In addition to maintaining road surfaces and bridge integrity, Caltrans is also responsible for vegetation management along state roadways. The agency has had many crews doing preventative vegetation removal on crucial roadways such as state Route 17, trying to keep roadway corridors safe from wildfires and fallen trees during storms.

"We try to be proactive. This was a rare season," he said regarding the potholes.

On Tuesday afternoon, April

18, Caltrans contractors finally began filling some El Camino potholes. Workers on foot in bright yellow, reflective vests and hardhats scooped shovelful of asphalt from a slowly moving truck, filling holes. A small army of heavy-equipment pavement rollers followed to flatten the surfaces.

As of April 20 Caltrans was unable to provide a repair schedule for the University overpass potholes nor for its resurfacing of El Camino.

Damage to cars caused by the potholes is also costly. Potholes can damage tires, rims and a car's suspension, and those costs could come out of the state's coffers. Caltrans has an online damage-claims program for repairs under \$10,000. Claims for more than \$10,000 must be filed through the Government Claims Program. The program gives claimants the opportunity to demand compensation for a loss, potentially with a settlement without the need to file a lawsuit.

Anyone who is concerned about a state roadway condition, including potholes, overgrown vegetation, trash and debris, encampments and graffiti, can submit a maintenance request to Caltrans online at csr.dot.ca.gov.

Got car damage?

Caltrans' damage-claims program for repairs under \$10,000 can be submitted online at dot.ca.gov/online-services/submit-damage-claim. To receive more information regarding damage claims for more than \$10,000 and a claim form, write to Government Claims Program, Office of Risk and Insurance Management, Department of General Services, P.O. Box 989052, MS 414, West Sacramento, CA 95798-9052.

General Caltrans information: 1-800-955-0045; gcinfo@dgs.ca.gov. ■

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

LEHUA GREENMAN



Happy Arbor Day!
"Each & every tree that we plant today is going to be responsible for saving our environment tomorrow."

650.245.1845 COMPASS

County opens new navigation center for homeless people in Redwood City

By Bay City News Service

A new, innovative navigation center for people experiencing homelessness in San Mateo County opened April 18 in Redwood City.

“You can bring your dog, your partner and your belongings,” the county touted in a press release.

Simply called the Navigation Center, the space provides 240 temporary living spaces for unsheltered people, along with on-site support services such as trauma counseling, substance use treatment, and even health and dental care, a first for a San Mateo County non-congregate shelter, the county said.

The total cost for the project is estimated to be \$57 million, with annual operating costs at just over \$5 million, according to the county.

The bulk of the funding — just over \$55 million — came from a California Homekey grant, a statewide program launched in 2020 to provide local governments with money to create

temporary or permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness.

In some ways the new center mirrors a high-end apartment complex, with outdoor plazas, a community garden area, landscaping, a basketball court and even a dog run. There is also parking for 68 vehicles, 140 bicycles, laundry facilities and Wi-Fi.

The Navigation Center is also getting 60% of its energy from solar power and using recycled water for irrigation, the county said.

The county said that the site is thought to be the nation’s first multi-story prefabricated shelter and said its design is being used as a blueprint elsewhere. The housing units are arrayed in wings of one, two and three stories. Over half of the units have their own restrooms.

Construction on the new center, located on 275 Blomquist St., right off U.S. Highway 101, began a year ago, with many units being prefabricated off-site and then installed.

As of Tuesday, the county didn’t have details about when

new residents would be able to begin moving in, but said it would happen “soon.”

According to the county, the Navigation Center has space for up to 260 people and is geared toward those who may be reluctant to go to traditional shelters, which have cots or bunk beds and little privacy.

The new Redwood City center allows couples to room together along with their pets and to safely store their belongings, the county said.

“This Navigation Center will provide a home-like setting for clients as they move towards permanent housing solutions,” Dave Pine, president of the Board of Supervisors, said in a statement released by the county. “What we have heard over and over again is that being homeless strips people of their dignity. This Navigation Center will help restore that dignity.”

The Navigation Center will be operated under a contract with Menlo Park-based nonprofit LifeMoves.

“LifeMoves exists to end homelessness, and we can’t



Courtesy Preston Merchant/San Mateo County Health via Bay City News

Mike Callagy, San Mateo County’s chief executive speaks at the opening of the Navigation Center in Redwood City on April 18. The center offers temporary housing and supportive services for residents experiencing homelessness.

do that alone,” said Aubrey Merriman, LifeMoves chief executive officer, in a statement released by the county. “It takes public, private and service system partnerships to catalyze innovative projects like these. LifeMoves is honored to be part of the collective solution and I thank everyone who rose to the challenge.”

San Mateo County has adopted the “housing first” model of tackling homelessness, which asserts that people need a safe and solid roof over their head before they can take on other issues that may be contributing

to their homelessness, such as mental illness or addiction. The county hopes to reach a “functional zero” level of homelessness, which means everyone who wants housing or shelter assistance in the county can receive it.

A point-in-time count done in San Mateo County on Feb. 23, 2022, found that there were 1,808 people there experiencing homelessness on that date. Of those people, 1,092 were unsheltered and staying in the streets, in vehicles or tents, the county said. ■

— Almanac staff contributed to this report



Dream Home Opportunity

ATHERTON

358 El Camino Real

Build your own dream home in the prestigious West Atherton neighborhood. This deep lot is approximately 1/3 of an acre and lined with trees creating a beautifully private setting for any home. The location provides easy access to Stanford University, Menlo Park with its boutique shopping and dining, the Menlo Circus Club, and the Silicon Valley tech and venture capital centers.

PRICE: \$3,700,000



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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)

This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 31 2023.
(ALM Apr 21, 28, May 5 and 12, 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)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. M-291259
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):
APOLO DAYCARE
450 Bell St
East Palo Alto CA 94303
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:
06/02/2022
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
MARIBEL AGUILAR TORRES
450 Bell St
East Palo Alto CA 94303
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An Individual.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on April 05 2023.
(ALM Apr 21, 28, May 5 and 12, 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)

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)

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)

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)

CHECK THE CHIP
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294087
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CHECK THE CHIP, located at 1139 San Carlos Ave, Suite #305, San Carlos, CA 94070, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
CHECK THE CHIP, INC.
2100 Geng Road, Suite 210
Palo Alto, CA 94303
DE
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/10/2023.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 20 2023.
(ALM Apr 28, May 5, 12 and 19, 2023)

ASPIN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-293894
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Aspin, located at 1194 Manzanita Dr. Pacifica, CA 94044, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
BRANDI BISHOP
1194 Manzanita Dr.
Pacifica, CA 94044

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/10/2023.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 20 2023.
(ALM Apr 28, May 5, 12 and 19, 2023)

To place a legal notice visit
AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/
The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.
For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

Criminal sex-assault charge to be dropped against Palo Alto teacher

Middle school teacher and coach Peter Colombo faced a felony for alleged rape of a sixth-grader over 20 years ago

By Sue Dremann and Zoe Morgan

The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office plans to drop its felony sexual assault case against a Palo Alto Unified School District middle school teacher due to "insufficiency of evidence," the deputy district attorney in charge of the case said on Monday, April 24.

Peter Michael Colombo, 55, was charged with one count of aggravated sexual assault (rape) of a minor by force or fear, related to an alleged incident at the former Jordan Middle School (now named Greene Middle School), where Colombo was a teacher. The attack allegedly occurred in the locker room during the 2001-2002 school year.



Peter Colombo

Colombo pleaded not guilty during arraignment on April 3. Palo Alto Unified School District administrators notified police of the accusation against Colombo in late January 2022 after receiving an email from a husband who alleged his wife, now in her 30s, was sexually assaulted by Colombo when she

was 11 years old. The school district initially placed Colombo on paid leave. After charges were filed, the district placed him on unpaid leave, school district Superintendent Don Austin said. The assault charge was filed on June 16, 2022, according to court documents.

The decision to drop the charges came after Colombo's March 21 preliminary examination, during which the student and Palo Alto Detective Yolanda Franco-Clausen testified. The court also considered a submitted 44-page transcript and ruled the case against Colombo could move to trial.

But Nikhil Warrior, Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney in charge of the case, said Monday that his office would no longer pursue Colombo's prosecution and intends to tell the court at the next court hearing that all charges would be dropped.

"It is our intention to dismiss the charges for insufficiency of the evidence at the next court date," he said in an email.

"The District Attorney's Office remains committed to investigating and prosecuting sexual assault and ensuring these individuals are held accountable. In this case, I want to thank Jane Doe for her courage in coming forward and

detailing what happened to her. One of the many pernicious aspects of these types of crimes, particularly when inflicted on children, is the multiple forms of trauma they inflict — trauma which can impact a victim's ability to remember aspects of their attack," he said.

Colombo and his attorney, Joshua Bentley, didn't return requests for comment about the upcoming dismissal.

The husband of Colombo's former student told this news organization that while he and his wife were disappointed by the decision to drop the charges, they felt it was the most likely scenario given the age of the case and the lack of other accusers coming forward. The husband added that he took "some small solace" in the fact that his wife's story has been made public, even if the criminal case appears to be over.

The end of Colombo's criminal case isn't the end of an inquiry into the sexual assault allegation against him, however. Austin said the school district will conduct its own investigation of Colombo, having been asked by police to delay the district's investigation while the criminal case was underway. Colombo isn't

See **TEACHER**, page 16

THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

ATHERTON

358 El Camino Real	\$3,700,000
Sun 2:00-4:00	4BD/3BA
Compass	650-759-3356
130 Tuscaloosa Avenue	\$8,998,000
Sat 2:00-4:00	5BD/4.5BA
Coldwell Banker Realty	650-619-6461

LOS ALTOS

7 Cypress Court	\$4,788,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	4BD/2.25BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000
848 Nash Road	\$6,988,000
Sat 1:30-4:30	5BD/4.5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000

MENLO PARK

225 Gloria Circle	\$4,988,000
Sun 1:00-4:00	4BD/3.5BA
Coldwell Banker Realty	650-400-2933
1161 Sherman Avenue	\$4,498,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	5BD/3BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000

PALO ALTO

3477 Alma Village Circle	\$2,988,000
Sat 1:30-4:30	4BD/2.5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000
3887 La Selva Drive	\$3,500,000
Sat 1:30-4:30	4BD/3BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000

PALO ALTO

485 Ferne Avenue	\$3,288,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	4BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000
890 Marshall Drive	\$4,850,000
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:30	5BD/4BA
Keller Williams Realty	650-817-5000
1932 Emerson Street	\$11,650,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	6BD/6BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000

REDWOOD CITY

45 Black Fox Way	\$3,988,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	5BD/4.5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-684-0887

SAN CARLOS

11 Hilltop Drive	\$2,288,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	4BD/3BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000

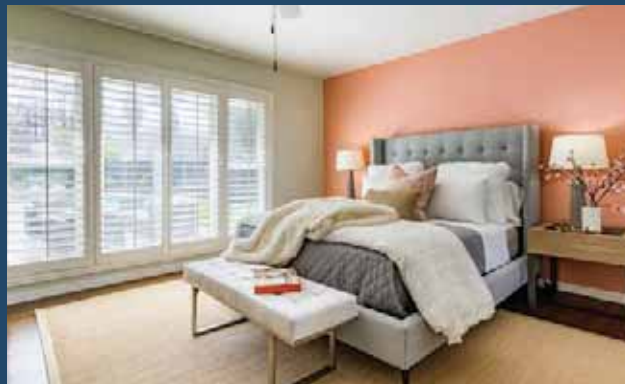
WOODSIDE

2110 Ward Way	\$2,988,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	3BD/2.5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000
231 Hillside Drive	\$3,295,000
Sun 2:00-4:00	4BD/2BA
Intero Real Estate Services	141-537-7606
930 High Road	\$7,498,000
Sun 2:00-4:00	6BD/5.5BA
Coldwell Banker Realty	650-400-2933

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



2110 WARD WAY WOODSIDE



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





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45 BLACK FOX WAY
REDWOOD CITY



\$3,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
45BlackFox.com

848 NASH ROAD
LOS ALTOS



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

1161 SHERMAN AVENUE
MENLO PARK



\$4,498,000 | 5 Bd | 3 Bth
1161Sherman.com

1490 KINGS LANE
PALO ALTO



\$3,288,000 | 3 Bd | 2 Bth
1490Kings.com

10950 KESTER DRIVE
CUPERTINO




\$1,788,000 | 2 Bd | 2 Bth
10950Kester.com

11 HILLTOP DRIVE
SAN CARLOS



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

3477 ALMA VILLAGE CIR
PALO ALTO



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

3887 LA SELVA DRIVE
PALO ALTO



\$3,500,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
3887LaSelva.com

750 LINCOLN AVE
PALO ALTO



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

905 CAMILLE LANE
MOUNTAIN VIEW



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

2110 WARD WAY
WOODSIDE



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

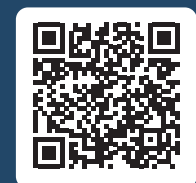
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Teresa Waltz Kurfess

October 31, 1951 – April 7, 2023

On Good Friday, April 7th, 2023, Teresa Waltz Kurfess passed away peacefully at home holding the hands of loved ones after a courageous and inspirational battle with pancreatic cancer. She was 71 years old. When she was diagnosed in December of 2019, Terry pledged to not be defined by this fierce illness. She kept her promise.



Terry was born in Marysville, CA in 1951 to Doug and Lucille Waltz. A 5th generation Californian, Terry was born into a farming family that has been farming the same land since 1906. She graduated Wheatland Unified High School, then Stanford University, earning bachelor's degrees in English and Italian ('73), and a master's degree in Education ('74). She met her husband Bill Kurfess (Stanford '72) and they married in 1973. They settled in Menlo Park and raised their two children Doug and Elizabeth.

Terry was committed to finding joy and wonder in every day. She was a principled leader driven by strong core values and an undying belief in the good of others. She maintained many meaningful friendships with lifelong friends of all ages. She was a gracious host, known for making everyone feel warm and welcome. She was a voracious reader and especially LOVED playing bridge. Every summer Terry looked forward to "feeding her soul" at the family cottage on the shores of Lake Michigan near Saugatuck; she endeavored never to miss a sunset. She was a mentor and trusted confidant to many. She had a marvelous sense of humor and was thoughtful, supportive, and fiercely loyal. She was an incredible wife, mom, daughter, aunt, sister, and her favorite role: "Grandma."

Terry spent time early in her career in the for-profit world with World Publications, Xerox Learning Systems and Crane/Auvil Advertising Agency, but her life's work was in non-profit community development. She excelled in leading from the front and energizing others in fundraising, grant writing, operations, goal setting, or old fashioned hard work; in short she inspired those around her with an always positive attitude, compelling visions for the future, and execution to get there. Terry supported the Children's Health Council and Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in volunteer and professional capacities as Board President/Chair and Director of Development, respectively. She was a member of the steering committee for the grand opening of the Lucille Salter Packard Children's Hospital, member of the Board of Directors for the Stanford Health Services Hospital Board, member of the Executive Membership Counsel for the Cantor Arts Museum, and a member of the Fundraising Committee for the Palo Alto Community Fund Advisory Board. Her affiliation with the Junior League of Palo Alto spanned 46 years and included a stint as President, and spawned dozens of close friendships that remain to this day.

Terry is preceded in death by her father Doug Waltz. She is survived by her husband, Bill, their two children Doug (Iliana) and Elizabeth, granddaughters Kelsey, Sadie, and Madison, mother, Lucille Waltz, brothers Stephen (Janet) and Clyde (Raegan) Waltz.

A celebration of life is scheduled for May 11th, 2023 at 4:30PM in the afternoon at Stanford Memorial Church followed by a reception. In lieu of flowers, gifts in memory of Teresa Kurfess can be made to one of the following organizations:

The Children's Health Council: <https://give.chconline.org/give/427504/#!/donation/checkout>

Junior League of Palo Alto-Mid Peninsula (Endowment Fund): <https://www.thejuniorleague.org/support/>

Stanford Pancreas Cancer Research Group: memorial.stanford.edu. In the "Direct your gift" menu, please choose "Other Stanford Designation", and in the following field enter "Pancreatic Cancer Research at the Stanford Cancer Institute in memory of Teresa Kurfess".

PAID OBITUARY

OBITUARIES

A list of local residents who died recently:

Bernadette Gersh, 60, a resident of Redwood City who entered the U.S. Air Force as a nurse and rose to the rank of Lt. Col. during Desert Storm before working as a pediatric nurse for Kaiser Permanente, died on Feb. 5; **Charles "Chuck" C. Harwood**, 95, a resident of Portola Valley who served as president of Signetics Corporation, an integrated circuits manufacturer that became a major competitor during the formation of Silicon Valley, died

on March 31; **Lisa Layne**, 66, a Palo Alto native, National Merit Scholar, gymnast, cheerleader and Junior Olympic diver who worked with many Fortune 500 clients with her executive coaching company The Layne Group, died on March 11; **Terry Wright**, 92, a former Atherton resident who was a devoted tennis player, performed as a dancer in light opera productions and was active in numerous charitable activities, including serving as a volunteer for Fioli, the Committee for Art at Stanford and the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club, died on April 7; **Edward Healy "Teddy"**

Smith, 37, a Mountain View native who earned accolades as a top salesperson in the solar panel industry and was known for his bright red trademark hair and athletic skills, which earned him Most Valuable Player of the rugby football club at Boston College, died on April 9; **Leo Daniel Johnson**, 78, a long-time Palo Alto resident, deputy sheriff for the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department and the Department of Corrections, and a celebrated athlete who was a wide receiver for the San Francisco 49ers when the team won the Western Division title in 1970 and was later inducted into the Hall of Fame for the Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association in San Antonio, Texas, and the Phillis Wheatley Wall of Fame in Houston, died on March 26; **George Sterrett Wheaton III**, 90, a resident of Portola Valley and fourth-generation Californian who earned an engineering degree from Stanford University, served in the 23rd Armored Engineer Battalion in Germany and later became associate chairman of the Stanford Computer Science Department, died on April 3; **Gerry Adams Gilchrist**, 96, a longtime Palo Alto resident who worked in the Palo Alto school district for 22 years as a teacher and head of the English department at Palo Alto High School, died on April 5; **Sharon Anthony Bower**, 90, a resident of Stanford, known as a feisty, pro-choice feminist who earned a master's degree in counseling and psychology and became a pioneer in self-help publishing books before forming the consulting firm Confidence Training, which honed the communication skills of the talent at major tech companies, such as Apple, HP and Oracle, died on April 9; **Teresa Waltz Kurfess**, 71, a Menlo Park resident and fifth-generation Californian known as a skilled fundraiser and grant writer who dedicated her time working with nonprofits, including the Children's Health Council, Vista Center for the Blind, Lucille Salter Packard Children's Hospital, the Stanford Health Services Hospital Board, the Cantor Arts Museum, the Palo Alto Community Fund Advisory Board and the Junior League of Palo Alto, died on April 7.

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

Prudence Eleanor Lehaney Cleary

August 6, 1929 – September 6, 2022

Our beloved mother Prudence Eleanor Lehaney Cleary passed away peacefully in her sleep at her home in Menlo Park on September 6, 2022. The daughter of Prudence and James Lehaney, she had two brothers Francis and James (deceased).

Prue attended Holton Arms High School in Kansas City, Missouri. She received her B.A. with distinguished honors in English Literature from Marymount College, Tarrytown, New York. During her college years she studied voice and opera. Prue married Mansfield Ralph Cleary Jr. (deceased 2002) on April 14, 1950. They lived in Atherton for 40 years and raised six children. They were members of the Menlo Circus Club. Mans and Prue loved international travel with friends and scholars from Stanford University. They attended concerts, opera and theater in San Francisco. She was a respected member of the Committee for Art at Stanford where she studied Art and Art History.

Prue had six children: Mansfield, Cece, Candace (deceased) Kate, Amity and Coalter. She adored her seven grandchildren, Spencer, Justin (deceased), Caitlin, Patrick, Charlotte, Mark, Kenny (deceased) and two great grandchildren, Corbin and Ridley.

As a child, Prue spent hours in the library. An avid reader she studied world history, art, music and was a skillful skeet shooter. Always well dressed, Prue was an intellectual who enjoyed thoughtful conversations. She devoted countless hours to leadership and volunteer roles at St. Raymond's Elementary School including the Mother's Club, Great Books and Catechism. She encouraged her children to be independent thinkers, pursue higher education, study languages and travel the world! They benefited from exposure to ballet, classical and world music, theater, literature and multi-cultural events. She instilled a great sense of adventure in her friends and family.

The Cleary family spent many wonderful summers boating, water skiing and fishing at Fallen Leaf Lake near Lake Tahoe. Prue was an exceptional cook and loved Julia Child's cuisine. Friends and family enjoyed her daily gourmet feasts. On Holidays and birthdays she delighted everyone with roasts, Yorkshire pudding, souffles, pies and cakes. Prue, Mans and their children loved their many family dogs including nine German Shepherds and their puppies. She valued her family, friendships and observed a strong sense of justice. We will carry her spirit in our hearts. She will be remembered in a private family celebration of her life.

PAID OBITUARY

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Edward George Rotticci

October 16, 1930 - April 16, 2023

Edward George Rotticci of Woodside, CA passed away peacefully on April 16, 2023. He was the husband of Luanne Grupe Rotticci and shared 14 years of marriage.

Ed, as he was affectionately known, was born October 16, 1930 in Modesto, California, he was the son of Edward Joseph Rotticci and Monica Mengelt Rotticci. Ed attended Modesto High School and was an "All State" Football recipient. Ed went on to attend Santa Clara University on a football scholarship. The highlight of Ed's college career was playing in the Orange bowl championship where Santa Clara defeated Kentucky to win the trophy. After College and having served in the Korean war effort Ed returned to Modesto to marry his sweetheart, Jane Ann Mason, wife of 52 years. Ed's life was devoted to raising his family in Orinda CA and running his business ERO Forest Products in Oakland.

Ed was a devout Catholic and belonged to the Santa Maria Parish in Orinda Ca as well as the St. Denis Parish for the past 14 years. In addition to practicing his faith Ed was an avid hunter, fisherman and dominoes player. For him there was nothing better than a warm afternoon on a Montana stream fighting a rainbow trout. Ed and Jane Ann (or "Ancy" as she was affectionately known) had second homes in Pincrest CA and Big Sky, MT where their children and grand children would often visit. After a long battle with heart disease, Ancy passed away in January of 2007. Ed remarried the new love of his life in March of 2009 where he and Luanne began an active life of travel, golf and family events.

Ed is survived by his wife Luanne Grupe Rotticci, four children: Kimberly Rotticci, Robert (Skip) Rotticci, Tom (Jeannie) Rotticci and John (Dana) Rotticci. His grandchildren Christopher (Bridget) Rotticci, Stuart Rotticci and Elizabeth Rotticci Pierce (Carter), Betsy Rotticci, Tommy (Blake) Rotticci, Jack Rotticci, Mary Claire Rotticci, Joey Rotticci, Jane Rotticci, Lauren Rotticci, his great grandchildren Blair Rotticci, Walter Rotticci and Dirk Rotticci and Sophia Pierce and Emma Pierce. Ed also has three step children; Anne Sconberg, Shelly Meredith, James Skanberg.

Ed is predeceased by his brother Hank Rotticci and sister Philomena Sandifer, his wife Jane Ann Mason Rotticci and son, Edward Payne Rotticci.

A Funeral Mass will take place at St. Denis Church located at 2250 Avey Ave., Menlo Park 94025, Saturday April 29 at 11am. Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Santa Clara University Athletic Department either online or by mail to: Robin Petrini, Sr. Director of Development, Santa Clara University, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053.



PAID OBITUARY

Katherine Y. Loarie

February 14, 1978 - March 11, 2023

On Valentine's Day 1978, Katherine Loarie came into this world with a loving heart that never stopped beating for herself and others until she was instantly killed in a tragic automobile accident on Saturday, March 11, 2023 in Joshua Tree, California. Family and friends are in shock and disbelief that such a vibrant, caring and talented woman's life was catastrophically cut short. Katherine is survived by her adoring parents, Connie and Robert Loarie of Atherton, CA, her dearly beloved sister, Cina Boitnott (Chris Boitnott), her cherished niece and nephew, Fiona and Tyson Boitnott of Redwood City, CA and a number of aunts, uncles and cousins.

While growing up, Katherine attended Bing Nursery School, Phillips Brooks School, Castilleja School and Menlo School. Katherine did not need to work very hard to get great grades, thus, her attention turned to reading for fun, listening to music, becoming a movie connoisseur and the developing sport of water polo. In four years at Menlo School playing varsity water polo, she turned into an excellent goalie. In 1996, Menlo School won the Central Coast Section Championship in woman's water polo with Katherine as the goalie. She had been accepted at University of California at Berkeley, but when Cal's water polo coach discovered that Katherine had played on the winning CCS team, she was immediately recruited to play Division 1 NCAA water polo for Cal.

At Cal, Katherine also joined Chi Omega Sorority and volunteered at the HIV/AIDS center in Oakland. While volunteering at this center, she learned the value of donating blood. Despite a hectic schedule, Katherine began a life-long endeavor to donate blood wherever she lived. Recently, Stanford Blood Center credited Katherine with 57 visits or more than 7 gallons of donated whole blood. In her junior year, Katherine combined her love of the water with her love of academics by joining Semester at Sea on an educational trip around the world. Katherine graduated from UC Berkeley in 2000 with a double major in Economics and Mass Communications. Not ready to settle down, as a life-long learner with an insatiable curiosity and fascination with languages and art, she spent one more year learning Italian in Florence and French in Paris while also enjoying the museums and culture in both cities.

Trying out a variety of jobs over the following few years, Katherine found that working for Morgan Stanley as a team analyst and sales associate enabled her to apply her many skills. Eventually, she decided that an MBA was needed. In 2009, she graduated from Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth with an MBA and honors recognition in digital strategies. She enjoyed her two years at Tuck so much, she became involved with and was elected president of the Dartmouth Alumni Association Silicon Valley, where her expertise, positive attitude and personal warmth enabled her to be re-elected as president of DAASV for the next twelve years.

After business school, Katherine held a number of different jobs in digital media, marketing, business operations and product management, most recently working with Meta in technical program management. Those with whom she worked agreed she had a unique perspective and skillset and her dedication, integrity, empathy, creativity, and



enthusiasm were infectious. She always went above and beyond to help her team succeed.

Katherine lived her values. In the work world, she was often the only woman in the room. Within the companies for which she worked, she created opportunities and conferences for women to enter the field and to advance within their fields. She also volunteered as treasurer and technology lead for WIRE (Women who Identify, Recruit & Elect), a non-partisan organization, working to promote women in government. Additionally, she applied her knowledge and talents by volunteering on two Palo Alto city council campaigns.

Katherine adored her Australian Labradoodle, Teddy. In her neighborhood, she was informally known as the mayor of Downtown North Palo Alto because she walked her beloved Teddy three times a day greeting everyone with smiles, infectious laughter and enthusiasm. She is credited with increasing the number of Labradoodles in the area because Teddy is such a delightful dog and their devotion to one another was so touching.

Katherine loved the outdoors. She often would go up to the Lake Tahoe area with Teddy, family and/or friends for fun hiking and skiing in the mountains or boating on The Lake. She lived her life responsibly serving as a model citizen who could discover pleasure in small moments, joy in accomplishments and happiness in the world around her. She deeply cared about the well-being of others and was a loyal and faithful friend. She cared about the environment, even patiently teaching her parents the subtleties of recycling. Katherine was one of a kind representing the best of us, her impact on this earth will long be remembered because she was loved and admired by so many.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to the Katherine Y. Loarie T'09 Memorial Fund at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. Gifts can be made online at dartgo.org/katherineloarie or sent to: Dartmouth College, Gift Recording Office, 6066 Development Office, Hanover, NH 03755, denoting on the check "Katherine Loarie T'09 Memorial Fund." Katherine would be so proud if you volunteered at a charity you love or went for a long hike in the hills. A celebration of Katherine's life will be held on May 24th. Please contact her family for details.

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M-A track and field team breaks national record

By Chase Trigg

On April 7, four Menlo-Atherton High School girls on the track and field team competed in the highly selective Arcadia Invitational race in Southern California. The Bears put M-A in the history books as they broke the national record for the 4x1600 relay and school records for the 800-meter race.

Senior Chloe Pilette and juniors Tatum Olesen, Cleo Rehkopf, and Annie Pflaum competed in the 4x1600. It came as a surprise, but the Bears were the top seed in the race, and they certainly lived up to their position. Pilette ran the first leg of the relay and secured a strong third-place position for the Bears despite getting boxed in at the start of the race.

Pilette handed the baton to

Pflaum, who took a crucial lead for M-A. Not only did Pflaum catch up to her competitors, but she gapped the second-place team by about 100 meters.

“Running under the lights was just a totally different type of vibe than most meets, which was really cool. I’m just excited to see how much faster we can go next year,” Pflaum said.

Rehkopf took care of her leg with ease, comfortably maintaining the 100-meter gap between M-A and second-place, and handed off the baton to the Bears’ anchor, Olesen. As Olesen grabbed the baton, the only thing on her mind was breaking the national record for the 4x1600. Speeding up at the very end of her leg, Olesen broke the national record for the year.

On Saturday morning, April 8, Olesen was back on the track, competing in the 800, which

consists of two laps around the track. She ran her laps in 2:11.14, breaking M-A’s all-time record by about 0.3 seconds, etching her name in the Bears’ history books.

“Breaking the school record had been a goal of mine for a while and I think the relay the night before made us all more prepared for our individual events,” Olesen said.

“It was such a surreal feeling; we had no idea what to expect going in but we always had each other’s back, which took the pressure off a little bit and made the win even more rewarding,” Pilette said.

The girls’ performance put M-A on the map nationally for track and field. ■

This story originally appeared in the M-A Chronicle: www.machronicle.com.



Courtesy John Hale

Menlo-Atherton High School students, from left, Annie Pflaum, Chloe Pilette, Tatum Olesen and Cleo Rehkopf were the fastest high schoolers in the country in the 4x1600 race at the Arcadia Invitational on April 7.

TOWN ATTORNEY

continued from page 5

Director Howard Young is filling the position on an interim basis while he continues to head the Public Works Department. Assistant Town Manager Melvin Gaines left in January to become the city manager in East Palo Alto. Town Clerk Melissa Thurman resigned on March 20. She is now serving as the city clerk for Los Altos.

Council member Judith Hasko, who was elected to the council in November, said that the council is reaching out to staff to identify any areas of concern, or functions that need special near-term support with the department heads leaving.

When asked how a lack of a fully functioning staff impact the town’s safety, a huge concern for some residents, Hasko said that the town has its “eyes keenly trained on making sure our safety networks and capabilities are working well and at the highest standards.”

“Our interim Town Manager,

Howard Young, has extensive experience in Public Works, which gave him particular insight into the town’s safety operations,” she said. “I know he was personally involved in solving many of our recent storm-related problems in town, and believe he will continue his admirable work in this and other capacities.”

Housing development has been a major point of contention in town. The Town Council missed the state deadline for submitting a compliant housing element, choosing to further refine its plan.

Last year was a busy year for Silver. Nathhorst Triangle residents filed a massive public records request with the town after they were concerned about the potential for a multifamily housing development in their neighborhood. The town also begrudgingly settled a lawsuit alleging Brown Act violations over text messages between town staff and advisory committee members, saying it was necessary to save the town the cost of expensive litigation.

A vitriolic election led to Town Council member Craig Hughes losing his reelection bid in November.

‘In parting, I wish the council, staff and community well and hope civility and respect for one another can be restored.’

CARA SILVER,
PORTOLA VALLEY TOWN ATTORNEY

Silver recently faced criticism from the volunteered group Portola Valley Neighbors United, which came out against Stanford University’s plan to develop land along Alpine Road known as the Wedge, in its April 16 newsletter.

PVNU questioned if Silver had the town’s best interests at heart by advising the

town Council at the end of March not to approve binding California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) mitigation measures recommended by the Planning Commission and the Woodside Fire Protection District (WFPD).

“If the Town Council adopted the measures requested by the fire district and Planning Commission as CEQA ‘mitigation’ measures, the measures would become required, enforceable parts of our new housing element,” the group wrote. “By refusing to adopt these measures as CEQA mitigation measures, the three approving council members are not only freeing the town from any binding commitment to implement these important measures. They are also weakening and possibly undermining the town’s ability to adopt and enforce such critical public safety measures going forward.”

Silver said the statements by PVNU contain misinformation. For example, fire mitigations do not need to be incorporated into the housing

element’s initial study/mitigated negative declaration (IS/MND), which the council adopted in late March, in order to be enforceable.

“The town of Portola Valley and the attorneys representing WFPD specifically for CEQA purposes worked together and agreed on the final resolution approving the IS/MND,” she said. “Moreover, they agreed that the fire marshal’s requests, which the town has agreed to implement, do not belong in an IS/MND but in other town codes and policies.”

Prior to her time in Portola Valley, Silver held senior positions with the cities of Palo Alto and Santa Monica.

The Portola Valley Town Council is set to hold a closed session in the coming days to discuss the process for hiring a new town attorney, as well as the possibility of hiring an interim town attorney, according to an April 25 press release from the town. ■

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

TEACHER

continued from page 10

guaranteed a return to his job.

“The decision to drop the charges doesn’t automatically trigger a reinstatement. We will begin our own process,” Austin said.

It’s too early to say who would perform the investigation, Austin said.

“Typically, we would use an

outside investigator on something this big.”

Colombo was the subject of multiple complaints against him regarding inappropriate or offensive comments made to students and criminal convictions during a 30-year period, according to an investigation by this news organization. The convictions included trespassing on a woman’s property,

DUI and vandalism. He falsified a 1995 substitute teaching credential application by omitting his criminal history.

At the start of the 2021-2022 school year, parents accused Colombo of rudeness and inappropriate comments and behavior toward students, a Weekly investigation found.

“His history has to be a factor,” Austin said of the district’s

decision about whether to reinstate Colombo.

Colombo taught and coached within the school district, including at Palo Alto High School, for 24 years. His earlier teaching history includes Kennedy Middle School in the Redwood City School District and Junipero Serra High School in San Mateo, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Colombo will remain on leave, but the district will check with its attorney regarding whether the continued leave will be paid or unpaid, Austin said. ■

Email Staff Writers Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com and Zoe Morgan at zmorgan@paweekly.com.

Woman killed, teenager severely injured in wrong-way crash on Interstate 280

By Avery Luke

One person was killed, and two others were injured in a wrong-way collision on Interstate 280 Saturday afternoon south of State Route 92, in Woodside, the California Highway Patrol said.

A white Ford sedan driving northbound in the southbound lanes of Interstate 280

on crashed head-on into a black BMW SUV at about 2:38 p.m. on April 22, California Highway Patrol said.

The BMW's driver, a 54-year-old San Francisco woman who the San Mateo County Coroner's Office identified as Eden Palmer, was pronounced dead at the scene. A 14-year-old boy, who was in the front passenger seat of the SUV, was taken to Stanford Medical

Center with major injuries, authorities said. His name was not disclosed.

"The female who was killed at the scene was related to the juvenile that was riding with her in the BMW," said Arturo Montiel, California Highway Patrol-Redwood City public information officer.

The driver of the white Ford sedan was identified as Constellatia Martin, a

24-year-old Campbell resident, according to the California Highway Patrol. Martin reportedly undressed and got out of the Ford, according to the highway patrol. She was arrested and taken to Stanford Hospital with major injuries, police said.

"She was nude and when the officers approached her, they detained her," Montiel said.

Charges against Martin will

be announced when she is released from the hospital and booked into jail, said San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

It is currently unknown whether drugs or alcohol played a role in the crash, California Highway Patrol said. ■

Redwood City Pulse Editor Michelle Iracheta contributed to this story.

Email Staff Writer Avery Luke at aluke@rwcpulse.com and Editor Michelle Iracheta at miracheta@rwcpulse.com.

Housing advocates: Menlo Park is on the right track with housing element

By Cameron Rebosio

The California Department of Housing and Community Development asked Menlo Park to revise its housing element for a second time. Housing experts say the city may not have far to go in getting its plan for thousands of new units approved.

Menlo Park got its state-mandated housing element in under the wire, adopting the 2023-2031 housing element on deadline day, Jan. 31. The City Council approved it on a 4-1 vote, with Drew Combs opposed.

The state requires cities to plan for future building with an eye toward balancing jobs and housing in a document known as a housing element. Menlo Park's housing target, also known as the Regional Housing Needs

Allocation (RHNA), says the city must plan for close to 3,800 new housing units by 2031.

The city's current housing element plans for 7,185 units, 3,518 of which are designated as affordable. The previous RHNA cycle required planning for 2,946 units of housing.

While the housing element requires another try, Jeremy Levine, the policy manager for the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County (HLC) said that the city is on the right track.

"I wouldn't say something went wrong so much as there are more steps to be taken," Levine said. "Instead of like, raking Menlo Park over the coals, they made progress."

Levine pointed to the 345 affordable units on city-owned parking lots and the tenant protections outlined in the housing

element as signs of the significant progress that the Menlo Park City Council made before turning in the second version.

At the April 26 meeting, Council member Cecilia Taylor said she wanted the city to take another look at its below market-rate (BMR) formula. She said monthly rent for a BMR unit runs anywhere from \$2,900 to \$3,500 and she wants to try to make them more affordable.

"Is there ... something that we can use within our tool house to make these units that are not affordable, more affordable," Taylor said.

Levine said that the city needs to reexamine its policies in order to make building more appealing and feasible, particularly rules that require at least a 20,000-square-foot lot to build, even in areas where properties of

that size don't exist.

"You can't build anything there anymore," Levine said. "They've just banned housing along a large portion of that area; they should be getting rid of that stuff."

When it comes to repercussions, Levine said that builder's remedy was too experimental to really know what to expect. Levine said that he didn't see builder's remedy applications becoming a problem, but it was more likely that a city would end up being sued for non-compliance. Menlo Park, however, is unlikely to face that risk.

"(A lawsuit) is unlikely to happen in Menlo Park, as long as the

city continues to keep working on putting really good policies into the housing element, then moving in the right direction," Levine said. "I think Menlo Park has been moving in the right direction, and the best way to avoid getting sued is working to get a housing element in good faith."

Menlo Park has scheduled to review the latest version of the housing element in mid-June and resubmit the element to the state following a public review period in late June. ■

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

FESTIVAL

continued from page 1

Farrell was inspired to join the EPC after attending Atherton's Earth Day event last year shortly after moving to town.

The theme this year is about taking action, said event organizer and town of Atherton staffer Rachael Londer.

"Each festival space has something you can do immediately this week and next week to reduce your impact on the climate," she said. For example, there was a section of the festival on water conservation and another on reducing plastics.

Farrell said a lot of people really loved the hands-on activities.

"If they were consider changing their stoves and heat pumps; it's one thing to read about and another to see it," she explained.

Food at this year's event included Oaxacan cuisine from Zaida's Kitchen; smoothies,

burgers and other lunch items from Casita Vegana; spinach and mushroom-filled pupusas from Nixta Foods; Annie's T Cakes; Eclipse Vegan Ice Cream; vegan bacon from Hooray Foods and more.

There were also e-bikes, cooking demos, live music, bike repair and more.

Goodwill was onsite accepting donations.

Last year, the city of Menlo Park held its Earth Day event at Flood Park. Palo Alto Youth Council hosted its Earth Day Fair in Mitchell Park in 2022. ■

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



Shannon Aguiar

Sharon Winnike educates attendees about pollination and the UC Master Gardener Program at the Love Our Earth Festival.



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

NOTICE OF TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. via hybrid format at the Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley and Zoom.**

The Town Council will hold a Public Hearing to review the following:

- **Adoption of Housing Element Update (2023-2031)**
- **Adoption of Conforming General Plan Amendments**
 - 1) Creation of a new "Gateway" land use classification that allows affordable housing, recreation, and open space uses to be applied to two parcels.
 - 2) Creation of two new multi-family land use classifications allowing up to four and 20 dwelling units per acre.
 - 3) Creation of an opt-in overlay classification to allow for up to four units on approximately three single family lots (not to exceed a total of 12 units during the new housing element cycle).
 - 4) Creation of a new mixed-use land use classification to allow for up to six dwelling units per acre as well as the uses currently permitted in the existing A-P Administrative Professional District. The Land Use Element, Alpine Scenic Corridor Plan and Nathhorst Triangle Plan, the General Plan Land Use Map and the Nathhorst Triangle Plan diagram would be revised to include these new land use designations.

Information pertaining to these items may be viewed online at www.portolavalley.net/housing or by contacting Thomas Geisler, Development Review Technician, at tgeisler@portolavalley.net. The agenda and staff report will be published at <https://www.portolavalley.net/town-government/town-council/minutes-and-agendas> in advance of the meeting.

Public Hearings provide the general public and interested parties an opportunity to provide testimony on these items. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Town Council to be heard at the time and place mentioned above. If you challenge a proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at a Public Hearing(s) described above, or in written correspondence delivered to the Town Council at, or prior to, the Public Hearing(s). Public Comments should be directed to housing@portolavalley.net.

Publication Date: April 28, 2023

Laura Russell, Planning & Building Director

Review

A little 'slice' of everything

From film-noir 'Sesame Street' to AI's possible future, Pear Theatre's annual new works showcase tackles comedy, drama

By Karla Kane

This month marks my first time at an in-person event at the Pear Theatre since before the COVID-19 pandemic, and what more fitting way to return than by attending what is perhaps the Pear-iest of possible productions?

"Pear Slices" is a collection of mini-plays (nine, in this case) by members of the Pear Playwrights Guild put together into one production, and it's been an annual highlight from the Mountain View theater for nearly two decades now.

Don't go into "Pear Slices" expecting polished perfection. Instead, go with an open mind and a sense of excitement at getting to see a whole bunch (fruit pun not intended) of fresh ideas from local talent. Not every play will be a winner but there's surely something to pique everyone's interest, and if you aren't a fan of something, well, it'll soon be on to the next. Short attention span? You're in luck.

This year, the "Slices" are directed by Pear veteran Caitlin Papp and Pear newcomer Thomas Times, and were written by Barbara Anderson, Robin Booth, Leah Halper, Greg Lam, Sophia Naylor, Ross Peter Nelson and Bridgette Dutta Portman. The cast features Sarah Benjamin, Arturo Dirzo, Nique Eagen, Elizabeth Finkler,

Bezachin Jifar, Sarah Kishler, Tiffany Nwogu, Collin Seaman and Sandy Sodos, all of whom get the chance to take on numerous roles throughout the two-act production.

As always, 2023's slate of shows covers a wide variety of themes. Two — "Aileen" by Anderson and "Sweet Dreams Are Made of This" by Nelson — deal with the dark side of technological progress, the former concerning an AI-determined justice system and the latter about a future in which lucrative information is harvested from dreams. Both premises are intriguing but "Aileen" is the more successful, telling a chilling sci-fi tale that doesn't seem far off from reality, where racism runs rampant and the wheels of (in)justice turn

ultra-rapidly, despite repeated claims from the authorities that their software is a perfectly neutral and efficient system. Jifar is compelling as a suspect caught in its sinister, bigoted web.

Naylor's "The Witching Hour," which starts off the show, is a lyrical, dreamy introduction to a frolicking quartet (Benjamin, Kishler, Finkler and Sodos) of nocturnal spirits who are duty-bound to dance the sun up but forbidden from staying out to watch the sunrise. I found the aesthetic (twinkling and glow-in-the-dark accoutrements; costumes courtesy of Pati Bristow) appealing, even if I was unclear as to whether it's to be taken at face value or as an allegory.

Booth's "Fantasy Island" delves into wacky dark comedy, with



Courtesy Caitlin Stone-Collonge

Actors from left, Nique Eagen and Bezachin Jifar in a scene from early in the career of voting rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer in "Way Home" by Leah Halper.



Courtesy Caitlin Stone-Collonge

Actors from left, Elizabeth Finkler, Tiffany Nwogu, Collin Seaman and Bezachin Jifar investigate a suspicious disappearance in a Sesame Street-like neighborhood in "The Street Has I's" by Greg Lam, part of The Pear Theatre's production of "Pear Slices."

Sodos as a castaway who makes frenemies with a talking coconut (Eagen). Lam's "The Street Has I's" is also comedic, blending thinly disguised "Sesame Street" characters with the tropes of film noir, and it's an enjoyable mash-up, despite the lack of a satisfactory resolution. Jifar again gives a memorable performance, this time as a potential villain who speaks in the high-pitch and third-person style of a certain fuzzy red puppet.

Halper goes quite serious with her two inclusions. The first, "Way Home" could serve for local theater fans as a little prequel of sorts to TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's recent "Fannie." It's a look into a moment in the life of civil rights hero Fannie Lou Hamer (Eagen). Her second offering, the sweet and sad "A Lift," features Benjamin as a hopeful teen connecting with her long-estranged, down-and-out father, the likable Dirzo.

Portman seems to have a penchant for playing with well-known characters from history, mythology and literature. While watching her amusing "Literary Mediation Services" I was reminded of her "Wheel of Fortuna" from a few "Slices" ago. This time, instead of dealing with characters from ancient history,

famous literary figures in conflict are put into peace talks by Nwogu and Eagen. Sodos earned big laughs from the opening-night audience in her performance as the titular whale, Moby Dick. She's another of the most memorable cast members, bringing a manic energy and gleeful spark to every role she plays.

Naylor's oddball, one-woman "Nirvandra" is another time for Sodos to shine. In one of my favorites of the night, Sodos plays Bethany, a self-help spokeswoman for a cult-like pyramid scheme that apparently rakes in profits by teaching others to make money off her patented "Nirvandra" doodling instruction. Bethany's wild-eyed, frozen-grin facade starts to crumble mid-seminar thanks to the breakdown of her business and marriage partnership.

Sometimes hit-or-miss but always quirky and thought-provoking, "Pear Slices" remains a tradition I look forward to, and it sure was nice to be back.

"Pear Slices" runs through May 14 at the Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. Tickets are \$38. More information is available at thepear.org. ■

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

Snapshot of a bygone era

Photography exhibition explores facets of American life in the 1930s

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

The old adage "the gift that keeps on giving" certainly applies to the Capital Group Foundation's donation of 1,000 photographs to the Cantor Arts Center. Since 2019, the museum's curators have organized several exhibitions from the gift on various topics, the latest iteration of which is "Reality Makes Them Dream." Consisting of over 100 prints, periodicals and photo books from the 1930s, the exhibition is on view through July 30.

The majority of the photographs are, as one might expect, in black and white. They reflect the work of the five major artists in the collection: Ansel Adams, John Gutmann, Helen Levitt, Wright Morris and Edward Weston, as well as a number of lesser-known artists. The exhibition curator, Josie R. Johnson, explained the special strengths of the Capital Group gift as "the opportunity to study and present the work of artists in much greater depth. ... The majority of the photographs in the collection were selected and printed

by the artists themselves (or under their supervision) at later stages in their lives when they could look back at the full sweep of their careers."

Johnson, who is the Capital Group Curatorial Fellow for Photography, reviewed the entirety of the collection, before narrowing her sights on the 1930s. She said that this decade offered "a rich cross-section of the collection" but she also noted that there was a need to rethink the tendency to see this time period as rife with documentary-type images. "I developed the exhibition thesis that many American photographers created realistic images of the world around them to spur their viewer's imaginations."

In order to fully appreciate

this thesis, it is necessary for the viewer to slow down and consider each print carefully and in detail. One might say that the placement of Dorothea Lange's iconic portrait, "Migrant Mother," is classic Depression-era documentary photography that we know well. But taking time to stand before the real print, instead of seeing a reproduction online or in a magazine, there are many details to consider. The mother's worried expression as she looks vacantly to the left, the threadbare clothing on the children and the smudges of dirt on the baby's face — he or she is barely visible in the folds of cloth. This is still an incredibly powerful image that sums up every bit of despair, sadness and futility of the environmental and economic

disaster that was the Dust Bowl.

Johnson sees similarities from this decade to our own. "I hope people find inspiration in the way the artists saw the world at a time with parallel economic challenges, environmental catastrophes, and international conflicts." And while pictures like "Migrant Mother" have come to symbolize an entire era then, as now, life did go on and there were beautiful, even wondrous things to behold.

Ansel Adams is usually thought of as the chronicler of the West and its open spaces. In this show, there are examples of his smaller, more intimate work. "Dogwood in Yosemite" is a spectacular print thanks to

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BYGONE ERA

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the high contrast between the lush white flowers and a black background. His well-known portrait of Georgia O'Keeffe and Orville Cox is always delightful to see, thanks to that mischievous grin on the painter's face. And he even did still life, as can be seen in "Sculptor's Tools," a riveting study of line, texture and contrast.

Moving from print to print, there is a sense that what has been captured in black and white is a slice of Americana from a much slower and, perhaps, more innocent time. Berenice Abbott's "Warehouse, Water and Dock Streets," is a Hopper-esque study of stillness. We can imagine it might have been taken on a Sunday morning, given the lack of people and activity, but look closely in the center of the print at the seated man, casually reading his newspaper.

Wright Morris captures buildings and objects that were central to life at the time: the church, the meeting house and the barber shop. In the "Grano Grain Elevator, Western Kansas," he elevates a humble farm building to the status of a rural cathedral, its symmetrical form reaching up to the heavens.



Courtesy Cantor Art Center

Depression-era photography has become strongly associated with a documentary style, but "Reality Makes Them Dream" shows other facets of life at the time, as in Marion Post Wolcott's "Center of town, Woodstock, Vermont. Snowy Night."

No exhibition from this time period would be complete without Edward Weston and he is represented here in all the ways we know him: portraits, still-lives and landscapes. Whether it was an extreme close-up of a green pepper or the enigmatic shadows created by an egg slicer, Weston was a master of light and dark. Johnson shared that his "Nude (Charis) Floating" is her favorite image of the show. "This

scene is nothing out of the ordinary, but the way Weston frames the pool and catches the light makes it seem otherworldly."

In addition to Berenice Abbott and Dorothea Lange, several other women artists are represented. Ruth Bernhard's take on the egg slicer is humorously titled "Kitchen Music."

Margaret Bourke-White's "Drilling Rig" demonstrates how imaginative framing and timing

can turn an industrial site into a study in abstraction. Anne Brigman's dark and moody "Nocturne" takes us to the beach at twilight. Marie Post Wolcott's "Center of Town, Woodstock, Vermont" captures a snowy main street in small-town America. Noted Johnson, "This image is full of enchantment; the glowing orbs of light from the street lamps and the snow-dusted sidewalks make this photograph appear as though it was plucked from a snow globe or some other winter wonderland."

It was not just the bucolic rural scene that these artists were drawn to; the city was also captured in all its glory and idiosyncrasies. John Gutmann was attracted by the signs and symbols of city life, while Helen Levitt's street urchins display the need for fun and socialization, no matter what side of town you hail from.

We are now used to being bombarded with images that have been edited and revised in myriad ways. As this exhibition demonstrates, this was a simpler age. "These photographs offer useful representations of how these subjects appeared at the time, since all of these artists participated in the interwar-era shift from favoring staged, heavily retouched, and softly-focused

photographs to natural, minimally edited and sharply-focused images," Johnson said. "For many of them, it was the straightforward view of the scene before their lens, with just the right light or framing or composition of elements, that constitute a work of art."

The exhibition ends with a well-known and much beloved image by Ansel Adams, "Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico." It was taken in 1941 and America was about to enter into a global conflict that would have enormous impact on the social fabric of the country. But it is an optimistic picture, full of the wonder of the natural world that would, hopefully, survive for generations to come. Noted Johnson, "For those who think of the 1930s as wholly defined by the doom and gloom of the Great Depression, perhaps they will see how some people found joy and beauty in the world around them, difficult as it was."

"Reality Makes Them Dream" is on view through July 30 at the Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. Admission is free; reservations are required. For more information, visit museum.stanford.edu. ■

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

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Pinewood.edu/SummerPrograms

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ARTS, CULTURE + OTHER CAMPS

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MedakaNoGakko.org
MedakaNoGakkoPaloAlto@gmail.com

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ARTS, CULTURE + OTHER CAMPS

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StanfordJazz.org (650) 736-0324

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VentanaSchool.org/SummerCamp2023 (650) 948-2121

ATHLETICS

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SpartansSportsCamp.com (650) 479-5906

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StanfordWaterPoloCamps.com (650) 725-9016

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Food & Drink

Readers dish on their all-time favorite Peninsula restaurant bites

From honey yuzu scallops and khachapuri adjaruli to beef Wellington, these are the dishes readers love

By Kate Bradshaw

With the 100th edition of the Peninsula Foodist newsletter out April 19, we decided to survey our readers on their all-time favorite bite from a Peninsula eatery. The responses offered an array of dishes covering a wide swath of communities, price points and cuisines.

While we've featured many of the restaurants readers mentioned in previous coverage, we have written relatively little about these specific dishes before, indicating that there's always more to explore on the menus of even the most popular local restaurants.

Readers offered a wide range of explanations for why they love these dishes — some prefer salty or citrus flavors, while others described their favorites in terms of textures, using words like tender, fluffy, flaky and crispy to characterize these special menu items. The descriptions made my mouth water and left me eager to try these reader favorites.

Here are your responses, which have been edited for clarity.

Whole fish, Euvia, Palo Alto

Clean, healthy, beautiful and delicious.

Diane Wexler, Portola Valley

Crab pot pie, The Village Bakery, Woodside

Incredibly light puff pastry top and creamy crab below.

Timi B. Most, Menlo Park



Veronica Weber

The arnisia paidakia at Euvia features grilled lamb chops with olive oil roasted potatoes.

Poke appetizer, Saint Michael's Alley, Palo Alto

Fresh flavors. Tuna plus wasabi and spices with a couple of chips.

Iris Korol, Palo Alto

Cacio e pepe, iTalico (available Wednesdays and Thursdays), Palo Alto

I had always heard about this pasta dish but never tried it. At iTalico they make it tableside in a carved-out Parmesan wheel. Very dramatic and so much fun!

Melinda, Palo Alto

Petrale sole, Mezza Luna, Half Moon Bay

Love white fish and their light lemon sauce. Yum.

Kathryn Murdock, Half Moon Bay

Beef Wellington, La Fontaine, Mountain View

The perfectly medium-rare cut of beef, the crispy pastry, the truffle mashed potatoes, the amazing mushroom gravy... it is warm and filling and pairs beautifully with a Rutherford Ranch merlot. It is the definition of French comfort food.

Mark, Mountain View

Bianca pizza, Pazzo, San Carlos

I love pizza and it's my favorite pizza from my favorite pizza place.

Hugo Traeger, Palo Alto

Chinese chicken salad, Chef Chu's, Los Altos

Perfect ratio of chicken (which is crispy), bite-size lettuce, crunchy noodles and peanuts. The dressing is not very heavy (and) they carefully prep the ingredients. Plus it was my deceased mother's favorite dish at Chef Chu's and I will always order it to keep her spirit near.

Mary Gloner, San Jose

Octopus, Euvia, Palo Alto

Grilled to perfection. Salty and tender.

Andrea Carlson, Hillsborough

Carpaccio, Carpaccio's, Menlo Park

It is the perfect combination of raw beef, onions, capers, mustard and lemon juice.

David Pasta, Palo Alto

Honey yuzu scallops, Nobu, Palo Alto

Plump, perfectly cooked scallops, crispy mushroom chips and the best sauce.

Francine Taylor, Redwood City

Blueberry biscuits, Cafe Borrone, Menlo Park

Moist and flaky but not overly sweet.

Linda Seekins, Brisbane

Pork tenderloin with onions, Bistro Vida, Menlo Park

The onions are perfectly cooked, the meat is tender and the sauce is so tasty.

Carine Schneider, Menlo Park

Sweetbreads, The Village Pub, Woodside

Perfectly cooked; melts in your mouth.

Brian S. Higgins, Burlingame

Whole wheat pasta with mushrooms, Donato Enoteca, Redwood City

Housemade pasta.

Lyn Anderson, Redwood City

Chile rellenos caseros, Quinto Sol, Redwood City

This dish is two delicately roasted, queso-filled rellenos served in a scrumptious hominy and potato broth — very unusual and very delicious! What a delight with chips, salsa and a margarita!

Susan Spinrad Esterly, Palo Alto

Birria tacos, San Agus Cocina Urbana & Cocktails, Palo Alto

Wonderful flavors and it melts in your mouth.

Karen White, Palo Alto

Steamed Chilean sea bass with ginger and green onion, Chef Chu's, Los Altos

Its simplicity demands high-quality ingredients and perfect execution. No one in the area does it this well.

Michael Wolfe, Menlo Park

Ramen, Dohatsuten, Palo Alto

It's hearty, rich and perfect for rainy, stormy weather.

Bozhena Orekhova, Palo Alto



Devin Roberts

Buffalo cauliflower at Timber & Salt.

Cioppino, Duarte's Tavern, Pescadero

Incredible melange of the tastes and textures of the sea. Perfectly fresh, perfectly seasoned.

Chris Lunt, Mountain View

Chicken mole enchiladas or a plate of tacos, Taqueria La Cazuela, East Palo Alto

This is peak comfort food for us. When the pandemic hit, we would sign off at the end of the workday on Friday and ride our bikes to Taqueria La Cazuela, then eat our takeout in the backyard, at a local park or at the Oval at Stanford. For those few hours in the fresh air, eating the best Mexican food in town (and the best chips and salsa, too), we could momentarily forget the state of the world and just enjoy delicious food and good (socially distanced) company. We continue to frequent Taqueria La Cazuela on Fridays after work. The staff is always friendly, and the food is consistently fresh and tasty!

Stacy Arevalo, East Palo Alto

Couscous, Bistro Vida, Menlo Park

Real couscous, spicy merguez (sausage), lots of veggies.

Marcel Gani, Atherton

Barbecue pork wonton soup, Chef Kwan's, Menlo Park

The soup is chock-full of wontons, chicken, barbecue pork, veggies and more.

Ruth M. Yamawaki, Palo Alto

Mole poblano, Vive Sol, Mountain View

I've tried everyone's mole and theirs is the best!

Dena Hill, Palo Alto

Carbonara pizza, Pizzeria Delfina, Palo Alto and Burlingame

The perfect marriage of crispy/chewy crust to luscious toppings, which don't get goopy.

Sylvia Tarbell, Los Altos

One-pound bindle of barbecue ribs, La Bodeguita Del Medio, Palo Alto

It starts with the presentation, which consists of multiple plates for your large portion of ribs, the yuca fries and the side of Caribbean slaw. It feels like a production. Then you dig into the meal and find that the meat is mouthwateringly tender as it falls off the bone. The guava barbecue sauce is rich, sweet and tangy. The fried yuca chips with spicy homemade ketchup is a perfect companion, and the slaw with special house aioli helps to balance out the bold flavors of the rest of the meal. La Bodeguita is a favorite restaurant for large friend and family dinners, and the barbecue ribs dish is inextricably tied in my mind to fun and leisurely dinners with good company.

Evan Johnson, Palo Alto

Moules frites, Cuisinett Bistro and Market, San Carlos

Rustic, simple, perfect execution. Reminds me of what can be

achieved with strong skills and great ingredients.

Nick Shah, San Carlos

Lamb chops, Evvia, Palo Alto

Love the taste, the quality, the seasonings (and) the lemony potatoes.

Susan G. Block, Palo Alto

Oyako don, Sumika Grill, Los Altos

The classic Japanese dish is only made here like it is in Japan: exquisitely runny egg yolks mixed with tender chicken meat in the perfect-sized rice bowl.

Randolph Fung

Vito's Calabrian, Speederia Pizzeria, Redwood City

Great combo of the spicy peppers, sausage, and creamy ricotta cheese. Put a little hot honey on it ... mmm.

Jacob Ballon, Redwood City

Arancini, La Stanza Cucina Italiana, Menlo Park

Crunchy exterior with creamy interior swimming in a delicious tomato sauce.

Patricia Jones, Palo Alto

Beet ravioli with lemon cream sauce, Pasta Moon, Half Moon Bay

The flavor was heavenly and it

was beautiful to look at.

Patti A Colevas, Stanford

Gazpacho, Cascal, Mountain View

It is fresh, spicy and delicious.

Barbara Brosh, Mountain View

French onion soup and steak frites, Bistro Vida, Menlo Park

No other restaurant presents this classic as well as Bistro Vida: I feel as though I am in Paris.

Barbara Carroll, Menlo Park

Hamburger, Menlo Tavern in Stanford Park Hotel, Menlo Park

It is very juicy and all components are delicious.

Judith Wolf Harris, Palo Alto

Fish and chips, Dinah's Poolside Restaurant, Palo Alto

The fish is always very fresh tasting. The batter coating is light and crisp, and the chips are excellent.

Ruth King, Palo Alto

Susan's Downfall, Cafe Pro Bono, Palo Alto

Rich, decadent ravioli.

Tess Byler, Palo Alto

Chicken piccata, Original Joe's, multiple locations

I have been eating this dish for decades. It's the perfect combination of perfectly cooked chicken, tangy lemon sauce and briny capers. I love it with creamy mashed potatoes.

Karen Swinehart, Palo Alto

Grandma's special enchiladas, La Fiesta, Mountain View

It is the ultimate comfort food. Creamy, spicy, perfectly balanced.

Tom Purcell, Mountain View

Khachapuri adjaruli, Bevri, Los Altos and Palo Alto

Boat-shaped cheese bread with butter and an egg. Unusual egg, cheese and bread combination.

John Edwards, Palo Alto

Fiochetti aurora, La Stanza Cucina Italiana, Menlo Park

Pear-stuffed pasta in a creamy sauce. Unusual.

Joy Kosobayashi, Menlo Park

Twice-cooked tofu, Fey Restaurant, Menlo Park

This dish happens to be vegetarian — it might even be vegan — but everyone in our family, veggie or non-veggie, loves it. Silky slabs of tofu are lightly battered and then added to a stir-fry

of assertive flavors and textures — bell peppers, cabbage and chilis. We always ask for “less hot” and it is always plenty hot. Tip: It is part of Fey's set vegetarian dinner for four, so if you want a lot of delicious vegetarian food, this is a great way to go. I think we ordered this meal every other week during the height of the pandemic.

Lydia Lee, Menlo Park

Buffalo cauliflower, Timber & Salt, Redwood City

The buffalo cauliflower from Timber & Salt is a mix between traditional fried and tempura fried, managing a crispness and a tenderness that's absolutely magical. I don't know how they do it, but I'm here for it!

It comes coated with enough buffalo hot sauce and some sort of ranch drizzle, achieving buffalo hot wing flavors without the meat. My partner and I can never say no to ordering it when we dine at Timber & Salt, and it always feels like a special treat for us to enjoy. I've had buffalo cauliflower at other eateries and nobody does it quite like Timber & Salt.

Jason Shugars, Redwood City

Garides skordates, Evvia, Palo Alto

Such incredible flavor! And Evvia is like the Peninsula — understated and not showy but



Veronica Weber

Dohatsuten's signature ramen features spicy garlic pork, shredded chili, Kurobuta chasu pork, stewed taro pork, cabbage, carrots, green onions, chives, bean sprouts, nori and egg.

very high quality.

Lauren Lax, Mountain View

Milk bread with sweet potato and brown butter dip, Ethel's Fancy, Palo Alto

It's a creative twist on a nostalgic Japanese bread that sets the tone for the rest of the dishes to come.

Kim Kawamura, Palo Alto ■

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A message from our Editor, Andrea Gemmet



Andrea Gemmet

EDITOR

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

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

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

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

As the Edgewood fire spread, our reporters worked the phones, our visual journalist hurried to the scene and I ended up grabbing a notebook and heading a press conference at Woodside Fire Protection District's Station 19.

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

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The Gullixson Team is ranked #3 small team in the Bay Area and #18 in the nation in RealTrends report of the Top Residential Real Estate Professionals. (June 2022)

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