

The Almanac

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

JUNE 16, 2023 | VOL. 58 NO. 41



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

Menlo-Atherton High School graduates nearly 500 seniors

Principal lauds school's 72nd graduating class for standing up for its ideals

By Angela Swartz

The 478 members of Menlo-Atherton High School's 72nd class celebrated the end of their high school careers on Friday morning, June 9.

This year's 10 a.m. graduation ceremony, like in years' past, took place on Coach Parks Field at the Atherton school.

Principal Karl Losekoot shared that his daughter is also graduating from high school this year. He recently sat down with her for dinner and said he wanted to give her advice, but that she had her own plans and was no longer a little girl. He realized that, just like with his daughter, no advice is needed for M-A's graduating class members despite his impulse to want to dole it out.

Instead, he commended the class for standing up for what they believe in — from speaking out against anti-semitism to organizing student protests so people are treated fairly in



Natalia Nazarova

Ventura Aguilar received her diploma at the Woodside High's graduation on June 9. See more graduation coverage of the class of 2023, starting on page 16.

the community. Last month, for example, students held a walk out and protest after a student was pinned to the ground by an Atherton police officer.

See **M-A GRADUATES**, page 17



Lizzy Myers

Mecca celebrates with a classmate after receiving their diplomas at the Menlo-Atherton High School graduation in Atherton on June 9.

Grand Jury report calls out Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside for misusing backyard units to meet housing quotas

By Angela Swartz

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury has put out a report on Monday, June 12, saying that affluent towns like Woodside, Atherton, Portola Valley and Hillsborough are using backyard accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in their state housing plans to avoid building multifamily low-income housing.

Among the report's recommendations is that the county and each city (21 in total) should immediately stop using ADUs to meet their state-mandated very low-, low-, and moderate-income housing targets until

they have also proposed an effective monitoring system that verifies how newly developed ADUs will be used.

This problem is most acute in Atherton, Hillsborough, Portola Valley and Woodside, where some residents are "up in arms" over the state-mandated housing requirements, and the city governments, trying to appease them, are proposing counting on ADUs to meet as much as 80% of their affordable housing targets, according to the report. ADUs are small homes or apartments that share the single-family lot of a larger primary residence.

Every eight years, every

state municipality is assigned its Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) goals. Local towns' housing goals over the next eight years have increased substantially since the last cycle, and there are penalties for failing to craft a plan called a housing element that demonstrates to state officials how those units can be developed.

"The city governments, trying to appease their angry citizens, are leveraging changes over the years to California's 1969 housing element law that most recently allow communities to count ADUs as affordable housing in their Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)

plans," according to a county press release. "However, the state has neglected to propose any form of regulation to ensure low-income tenants ultimately use the ADUs as planned by these cities. And because owners often rent their ADUs to family and friends, they can exacerbate patterns of segregation and exclusion, according to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Also, ADUs don't generally serve large families."

California needs to build 2.5 million homes by 2030 to meet current housing demands, according to the California Department of Housing and

Community Development (HCD). But the state averages only about 125,000 new homes annually — a shortfall of nearly two-thirds, according to the 19-member Grand Jury, which convened on July 1, 2022.

To date, just two San Mateo County cities' housing elements have been approved by the state. Plans were due on Jan. 31.

"ADUs are not a panacea, but they're a good tool in the toolbox," said a planning consultant working for a city in San Mateo County. "Most land on the Peninsula is single-family homes. ADUs are opening land

See **GRAND JURY REPORT**, page 9

INSIDE

ARTSCENE 20 | FOOD & DRINK 22

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

23 Flood Circle, Atherton



FOR SALE

Prime Location in the Heart of Lindenwood | 6 beds | 2 offices | 5 full + 2 half baths | \$14,495,000 | 23Flood.com

40 Crescent Drive, Palo Alto



FOR SALE

Extensively Remodeled Diamond with Pool
6 beds | 4 full + 2 half baths | \$10,250,000
40CrescentDr.com

7 Siskiyou Place, Menlo Park



FOR SALE

One-of-a-Kind Home with Jaw-Dropping Panoramic vistas
5 beds | 5.5 baths | \$8,818,000
7Siskiyou.com



CITRON

judycitron.com



Judy Citron
650.400.8424 | judy@judycitron.com | DRE 01825569

Talia Citron Knapp
650.400.8424 | talia@taliacitron.com | DRE 01987761

#3 Small Team ENTIRE Bay Area, 2023

#12 Small Team USA, 2023

\$1B+ SOLD

COMPASS

PREMIER PROPERTIES represented by **SCOTT DANCER**

Woodside



FOR SALE

16351 SKYLINE BLVD | OFFERED AT \$14,995,000

Woodside



FOR SALE

490 LAS PULGAS DR | OFFERED AT \$14,900,000

Woodside



FOR SALE

333 RAYMUNDO DR | OFFERED AT \$12,750,000

Atherton



FOR SALE

156 SELBY LN | OFFERED AT \$8,250,000

Woodside



FOR SALE

18200 SKYLINE BLVD | OFFERED AT \$3,699,000

Woodside



FOR SALE - 12 ACRES

14621 SKYLINE BLVD | OFFERED AT \$2,500,000

Woodside



FOR SALE - 1.9 ACRES

14051 SKYLINE BLVD | OFFERED AT \$1,950,000

Woodside



SOLD 2023

205 WINDING WAY | OFFERED AT \$22,000,000

Atherton



SOLD 2023

81 ATHERTON AVE | OFFERED AT \$20,000,000

Woodside



SOLD 2023

1034 CAÑADA RD | OFFERED AT \$7,500,000

Woodside



SOLD 2023

490 W. MAPLE WAY | OFFERED AT \$4,395,000

Woodside



SOLD 2023

1593 OUR HILL RD | Represented Buyer Off Market

COMPASS

Compass is the brand name used for services provided by one or more of the Compass group of subsidiary companies. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.



SCOTT DANCER

650.888.8199
scott@scottdancer.com
www.scottdancer.com

2930 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062
License # 00868362



Interested in buying a home off-market? Contact Ken!

DeLeon Realty is the best choice for those looking to buy a home off-market. Ken DeLeon will use his unique insights and connections as one of the top agents in Silicon Valley history to guide you through the process and make things as stress-free as possible. Because Ken is so well known and admired, agents from many different brokerages reach out to him and share their off-market listings. Due to reduced competition and marketing, off-market sales often sell at a discount when compared to aggressively marketed homes. Contact Ken today to find out more!

Ken DeLeon
Founder, DeLeon Realty
DRE #01342140

Ken@deleonrealty.com
(650) 543-8501

DELEONREALTY.COM
DELEON REALTY, INC. | DRE #01903224

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Courtesy Mike Kerr

EMTs treat a woman hit by a car at Roberts Market in Portola Valley on June 9.

Car crashes into Roberts Market, injures woman

By Angela Swartz

A driver reportedly going too fast in the Roberts Market parking lot in Portola Valley jumped a parking block and crashed into the grocery store around 11 a.m. on Friday, June 9, hitting a woman sitting on a bench. The woman was rushed to Stanford Hospital with a leg injury, according to the San Mateo

County Sheriff's Office.

Officers believe the driver was going an unsafe speed, but don't know how fast the driver was traveling, said San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Javier Acosta.

Mike Kerr, who manages the store located at 4420 Alpine Road, said the bench slammed into the building hard enough to damage the wall and crack the tile on the inside of the

store, bending a stainless steel tabletop. Kerr said he doesn't yet have an estimate on the damage to the store caused by the accident.

The driver is not facing charges and the incident is being considered a traffic accident, according to Acosta. ■

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

Castilleja School scrambles to relocate students during campus construction

Administrators stunned by rejection of plan to locate the girls' school temporarily at College of San Mateo

By Sue Dremann

Castilleja School's plan to move its students to the College of San Mateo this fall, while its campus in Palo Alto is rebuilt, was rejected by the San Mateo County Community College District's Board of Trustees on May 24.

The vote stunned the girls' school's administrators, who had been working closely with the college staff for the past

nine months on the plan, and sent them scrambling to find a new location for students for the 2023-24 school year.

Castilleja officials had been hoping to rent unused space at the College of San Mateo. The college's team had confirmed the classrooms Castilleja could use, as well as community college classes that Castilleja's juniors and seniors could take and dates the girls' school could hold its theater and dance productions

there, Head of School Nanci Kauffman said in an email.

On May 10, the college district's board announced it had given direction on the agreement to the college negotiator, Richard Storti, executive vice chancellor of administrative services, during its closed study session.

Returning to the matter in a closed session on May 24, the board then voted against the

See **CASTILLEJA SCHOOL**, page 10

Study deals blow to plan to replace Pope-Chaucer bridge

New analysis concludes the replacement would bring more water downstream

By Gennady Sheyner

An ambitious plan to reduce flood risks for Palo Alto and Menlo Park residents near the Pope-Chaucer bridge is now on the verge of faltering after the agency overseeing the project concluded that the long-awaited replacement would actually endanger downstream areas.

The analysis, which the San Francisco Creek Joint Power Authority board of directors discussed at a special meeting Thursday, June 8, represents a stinging setback for the agency's plans in what's known as "Reach 2" — the area between Newell Road and Pope Chaucer bridges. The creek authority had been planning to replace the Newell Road bridge and to widen the channel before commencing work on the Pope-Chaucer.

While the first two components of this plan remain on track, the new analysis from creek authority engineer Jack Xu is forcing the agency to reconsider its plans for the Pope-Chaucer bridge. The analysis concluded that unless the three cities along the creek — Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park — install flood walls along much of the creek, the risk to downstream areas such as University, Woodland and Euclid avenues would become significantly greater as a result of the Pope-Chaucer replacement. That's because in its current configuration, the flood-prone bridge functions as a dam during storms, restricting flow to downstream areas.

"If Pope-Chaucer is in place, the communities on University and downstream will never see a flow higher than a certain amount," Xu said. "When you remove that bridge, suddenly all the water gushes down and you'd have to protect those people from all the water that would come down if you remove the Pope-Chaucer."

The agency began to revisit its assumptions about the

hydrology of the volatile creek after the New Year's Eve storm, which caused flooding near Pope-Chaucer and in other sections around the creek. Xu said the flooding during that event did not match what the creek authority's modeling had predicted. The existing model, which was based on a 2009 analysis by a consultant, relied on data from four prior storms, all of which were less severe than the one that occurred during New Year's Eve.

'When you remove that bridge, suddenly all the water gushes down and you'd have to protect those people.'

JACK XU, ENGINEER, SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Xu's report notes that the prior model had underestimated the "roughness" of the creek — a measure of vegetation, debris and other blockages that interfere with the creek's flow. The prior analysis had also overestimated the capacity of the channel by as much as 2 feet in some area, the report states.

To protect downstream communities from increasing flood risk resulting from the Pope-Chaucer bridge's removal, the creek authority would have to build flood walls 1,000 feet in length and 1 or 2 feet in height, depending on the level of protection that the agency would be seeking to achieve.

Given the findings, the creek authority is preparing to reopen some of the other flood-control alternatives that it had evaluated in the Environmental Impact Review for the "Reach 2" section of its plan. This will include, among other things, further evaluation of options for detention basins upstream.

Tess Byler, project engineer

See **BRIDGE**, page 15

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. M-290266

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):

J&J NAILS SALON

120 Park Blvd

Millbrae, CA 94030

FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:

02/16/2022

REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):

LY THUYEN THI

1938 OSAGE AVE

Hayward, CA 94545

DUONG HA KY

532 Tyrella Ave #28

Mountain View, CA 94043

THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY A

General Partnership.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on May 17 2023.

(ALM May 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

PACIFIC RIM HI-TECH CONSULTING

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: M-294135

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) Pacific Rim Hi-Tech Consulting, located

at 640 Hobart Ave. San Mateo, CA 94402,

San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

BOB HIROSHI SATO

640 Hobart Ave.

San Mateo, CA 94402

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

April 26 2023.

(ALM May 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

LUCIANO'S CUSTOM CABINETS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: M-294430

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) Luciano's Custom Cabinets, located at

3549 Haven Ave Unit E Menlo Park, CA

94025. Mailing Address: 1202 Laurel Ave,

East Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Registered owner(s):

ALEJANDRA GONZALEZ

1202 Laurel Ave

East Palo Alto, CA 94303

This business is conducted by: an

Individual.

Registrant commenced transacting

business under the fictitious business

name(s) listed above on May 26, 2023.

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on

May 26 2023.

(ALM Jun 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2023)

VILLA VISITATION APARTMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: M-294318

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) VILLA VISITATION APARTMENTS, located

at 141 SAN FRANCISCO AVE. BRISBANE, CA

94005, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

MARCO P. GUALCO, TRUSTEE, MARCO P.

GUALCO AND SANDY E. RIVERS REVOCABLE

LIVING TRUST, TRUST

141 San Francisco Avenue #5

Brisbane, CA 94005

SANDY E. RIVERS, TRUSTEE, MARCO P.

GUALCO and SANDY E. RIVERS REVOCABLE

LIVING TRUST, TRUST

141 San Francisco Avenue #5

Brisbane, CA 94005

This business is conducted by: a Trust.

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

May 15, 2023.

(ALM May 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

JOSABA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: M-294479

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) JOSABA, located at 1376 Adobe Drive,

apt 6, Pacifica, CA 94044.

Registered owner(s):

SAMANTHA GABRIELA BARRAZA SANCHEZ

1376 Adobe Drive, Apt 6

Pacific, CA 94044

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

June 01 2023.

(ALM Jun 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2023)

PARTRIDGE/KENNEDY APARTMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 294300

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) Partridge/Kennedy Apartments, located

at 817 Partridge Ave., Menlo Park, CA

94025, San Mateo County

Registered owner(s):

PENINSULA VOLUNTEERS PROPERTIES INC.

800 Middle Avenue

Menlo Park, CA 94025

This business is conducted by: a

Corporation.

Registrant commenced to transact business

under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on 10/15/1961

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on

May 12 2023.

(ALM May 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

SUMMIT SITE SERVICES, INC.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: M-294474

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) Summit Site Services, Inc., located at

3000 Sand Hill Road, 1-250 Menlo Park, CA

94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

DAVID BIDER, INC

3000 Sand Hill Road, 1-250

Menlo Park, CA 94025

CA

This business is conducted by: a

Corporation.

Registrant has not yet commenced to

transact business under the fictitious

business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on

June 01 2023.

(ALM Jun 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2023)

NOSTERRA VENTURES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: M-294415

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) NosTerra Ventures, located at 217

Camino Al Lago, Atherton, CA 94027, San

Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

THE DAVID AND HEIDI WELCH

FOUNDATION

217 Camino Al Lago

Atherton, CA 94027

CA

This business is conducted by: a

Corporation.

Registrant has not yet commenced to

transact business under the fictitious

business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on

May 26 2023.

(ALM Jun 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2023)

SUNRISE PROPERTIES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: M-294336

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) Sunrise Properties, located at 1180 San

Carlos Ave. #426, San Carlos CA 94070, San

Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

LINA FAVA

1180 San Carlos Ave #426

San Carlos, CA 94070

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

May 16 2023.

(ALM May 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

To place a legal notice visit

AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

For assistance email [LegalNotices@](mailto:LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com)

AlmanacNews.com.

Established 1965

The Almanac

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

NEWSROOM

Senior Editor

Andrea Gemmet, 223-6537,

agemmet@almanacnews.com

Staff Writers

Cameron Rebosio, 223-6536

Angela Swartz, 223-6529

Audience Engagement Editor

Jamey Padojino, 223-6524, jpadojino@almanacnews.com

Home/Real Estate Editor

Linda Taaffe, 223-6511, ltaaffe@almanacnews.com

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Heather Zimmerman, 223-6515,

hzimmerman@almanacnews.com

Features Editor

Julia Brown, 223-6531,

jbrown@almanacnews.com

Food Editor

Kate Bradshaw, 223-6527,

kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

Audience Engagement Assistant

Editor/Visual Journalist Magali Gauthier

223-6530, mgauthier@almanacnews.com

Audience Engagement Assistant

Editor Zoe Morgan, 223-6519,

zmorgan@almanacnews.com

Embarcadero Media Staff Writers

Sue Dremann, 223-6518

Avery Luke, 223-6533

Malea Martin, 223-6516

Zoe Morgan, 223-6519

Gennady Sheyner, 223-6513

Contributors

Kate Daly, Maggie Mah

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown, 223-6562

Designers

Linda Atilano, Paul Llewellyn,

Mary Watanabe, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Vice President and Chief Revenue Officer

Tom Zahralis, 223-6570

Display Advertising Sales

223-6570

Real Estate Manager

Neal Fine, 223-6583

ADVERTISING SERVICES

Advertising Services Manager

Kevin Legarda, 223-6597

Sales & Production Coordinator

Diane Martin, 223-6584

The Almanac is published every Friday at

**3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, CA 94025**

■ Newsroom:

(650) 223-6525

Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

■ Email news

and photos with captions

Las Lomitas board will re-do vote for a new member after violating state law

The board appointed Laura Moon last week, then learned an outgoing trustee can't vote on their successor

By Angela Swartz

A special meeting is set for Wednesday, June 14, so the Las Lomitas Elementary School District governing board can once again vote on a replacement for Brian Ross after becoming aware of a state law that prohibits outgoing trustees from voting on their successors.

In an email to the community on Sunday, June 11, board

President Jason Morimoto wrote that the board was made aware of concerns that it violated California Education Code Section 35178 when it appointed newcomer Laura Moon to the board.

"A member of the governing board of a school district who



Laura Moon

has tendered resignation with a deferred effective date pursuant to Section 5090 shall, until the effective date of the resignation, continue to have the right to exercise all powers of a member of the governing board, except that such member shall not have the right to vote for their successor in an action taken by the board to make a provisional appointment pursuant to Section 5091," according to the legislation.

Morimoto notes that while the vote was unanimous, he intends to have the board deliberate again on the provisional board trustee appointment at a special board meeting at 4 p.m. on June 14. Ross will not participate in the deliberations.

Ross announced in April he is stepping down from the board on June 30 because of a family move.

The board considered three other candidates: Portola Valley resident and district parent Susanna Chenette; Steve Mushero, a Menlo Park resident, tech executive and district parent; and Andrew Slater, a Menlo Park resident, teacher and district parent.

The board followed a similar process when it appointed the replacement for former board President

Dana Nunn in October 2021.

Nunn resigned because she is moving outside of district boundaries last fall and was no longer be eligible to serve as a trustee, she said. She helped with, and voted in, the appointment process for her replacement. Four board members now serving ran unopposed in the 2022 election and were elected to the board in November 2022, so any appointments via Nunn are now a moot point, said district spokesperson Kelli Twomey.

Twomey said a Sequoia Union High School District board member alerted the district to the section of education code. ■

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

Menlo Park council looks for ways to plug \$1M hole in city budget

By Cameron Rebosio

Menlo Park is facing a nearly \$1 million deficit in its annual budget for the coming fiscal year, thanks in part to a lawsuit over its utility tax and the need to staff up the new community center in the Belle Haven neighborhood.

The City Council discussed how to increase revenue while also boosting social services at a June 13 council meeting. The city is planning for \$76.3 million in expenses and only \$75.3 million in revenue, causing a \$0.96 million deficit. The proposed city budget can cover the deficit with its \$36 million in general fund reserves, but asked the City Council to find ways to increase revenue that would allow Menlo Park to maintain its general fund.

The city is facing the loss of revenue from its Utility Users Tax (UUT) due to a class-action lawsuit. In April, a San Mateo County Superior Court judge issued a tentative ruling that Menlo Park failed to make the necessary findings to continue collecting UUT from residents. The council failed to make findings in 2016, 2018 and 2020 showing that the tax was vital to the city's financial health, which it was required to do, according to the court. The city also has an initial estimate of \$4.5 million in refunds due to residents who paid UUT.

To increase revenue, city staff proposed raising the current 12% transient occupancy tax (TOT) by 1% to 3.5% to match other cities in the Bay Area. The revenue from the higher hotel tax could bring in an additional \$875,000 to \$3 million annually, according to the staff report.

City staff also proposed authorizing a new UUT similar to the now-defunct tax to bring in \$1.8 million to \$5.8 million annually, or to increase the current sales tax or business tax.

Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor said

she is "definitely not in support" of a renewed UUT tax but would consider increasing the hotel tax, and Mayor Jen Wolosin concurred. Nash also pushed back against the UUT, as well as the proposed sales and business tax increases, saying she didn't want to do anything to hurt small businesses, a concern Council member Maria Doerr said she shared.

"We have to recognize that 'what's the moment in time that we're going to go to voters asking for more money,'" Combs said. "If we're going and asking at a time when inflation is high and (people are) overall struggling?"

The increased tax measure could be on Menlo Park's November 2024 ballot.

Taylor also pushed for increased funding for anti-displacement programs and for the community wellness and crisis team, in which police officers would be paried with to a mental health clinician on mental health-related calls. Wolosin referred to anti-displacement strategies as "time-sensitive" as she voiced her support.

Taylor pushed to see what resources the city could provide for residents in crisis, particularly for youth.

"I'm thinking specifically (of recommendations for) our youth around mental health crises, drug use, just the things that unfortunately our teens are facing," Taylor said.

In the proposed budget, there are 296 city employees, which includes six additional positions to work at the Menlo Park Community Campus at the cost of \$2 million, projected to open in early 2024. The proposed budget assumes an employee vacancy rate of 10%, down from the current 14%.

The Menlo Park Police Department has the biggest budget in the city at \$23.7 million, and is expected to bring in about \$450,000 in revenue in the coming fiscal year.

The Menlo Park Police Department budget includes a startup cost of nearly \$285,000 for Flock license plate reader cameras to be installed at several locations around the city and that include gunshot detection. The cameras carry an estimated recurring cost of about \$251,000, and have been approved in the neighboring towns of Woodside and Atherton.

Council member Drew Combs pushed back on signing on for Flock cameras, saying that there

needs to be a "substantive discussion" to determine whether the communities that the cameras would be observing want them.

"Safety is a priority and always will be, but of course, there always has to be a balance between safety and measures of privacy and personal liberty," Combs said. "We could put cameras on every corner, and it would make us safer. We have to ask ourselves like, is that a community that we want?"

Nash supported a study session

before moving forward to discuss the costs, both monetary and privacy-related, as well as the benefits. Taylor suggested using a mid-year budget amendment in order to discuss the issue with the community.

The proposed budget will return to the City Council on June 27. ■

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

Kid-sized care for kid-sized people.



 **Stanford**
MEDICINE
Children's Health

In-person or
virtual visits at Peninsula
Pediatric Medical Group
genpeds.stanfordchildrens.org

Menlo Park officials talk emergency vehicle access, quiet zones in meeting over future of Caltrain crossings

By Cameron Rebosio

Emergency vehicle access, quiet zones and bike and pedestrian access were all top of mind during a joint meeting between the Menlo Park City Council and the Menlo Park Fire Protection District on May 30.

The city of Menlo Park is currently planning for grade

separation at three of Menlo Park's four Caltrain crossings, on Ravenswood Avenue, Oak Grove and Glenwood Avenue. The grade separation would include raising the tracks and lowering the road, opting against a fully elevated option. The city is also working to get quad gates for Ravenswood Avenue and Oak Grove in order to establish a citywide

"quiet zone" in which trains no longer have to sound their horns.

Menlo Park Fire Protection District (MPFPD) Director Chuck Bernstein questioned why quad gates are needed when the city is pursuing grade separation. Although separating the tracks from the road would eliminate the need, the quad gates can be installed in a shorter time frame.

Since only three of the city's four crossings are being considered for grade separation, Mayor Jen Wolosin said that the crossing at Encinal Avenue could be closed and only available for bike and pedestrian crossing. There is also a proposal to close the crossing in Atherton at Watkins Avenue to only bike

and pedestrian crossing.

"That concept ... wasn't totally met with excitement by everybody," Wolosin said. "Having the realization that they might lose access through towns."

There will soon be an increase in train services, but construction of these grade separations is still "decades away," according to Wolosin.

"I feel like (grade separation) should have really been decided and constructed, you know, 20 years ago to prepare us for the increase in trains that are going to come," Wolosin said. "Which are really going to impact emergency response times going across the city."

Council member Betsy Nash said that Menlo Park needs to have emergency access through

town, and that these services are needed on both sides of the tracks.

"Whatever happens to the grade crossing greatly affects emergency access (and) access from the freeways to the hospitals," Nash said.

Bernstein said that the MPFPD has already assumed the district will be cut in half by the train tracks, and that they have a ladder truck on each side of the tracks and have doubled the number of battalion chiefs stationed on both sides.

The city is currently working with Caltrain on an environmental review for the project. ■

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

Gary Heit PH.D., M.D.

March 15, 1956 – Feb. 14, 2023

Gary Heit passed away February 14th. His last days were spent in communion with the natural sights and sounds of his beloved Mindego Hill in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Gary was born the fourth out of five children and raised in Silver Lake, CA. His parents instilled in their children the value of arts, education and cultural diversity. These family values afforded Gary an eclectic group of friends he valued throughout life.

Singularly he could be found exploring the world through his microscope or designing explosive experiments earning him the family title "Joe Scientist". Though science was his passion Gary loved being immersed in nature. He hiked and camped throughout California's varied landscapes throwing many a birthday celebration in Big Sur.

Upon graduating from Area H alternative high school in Los Angeles, Gary studied at UC Santa Cruz (Oaks College '77) earning a degree in Psychobiology. After some memorable years at Cornell, he finished his studies in Neuroscience at UCLA receiving his PH.D. in 1988, and continuing on to earn his M.D. at Stanford in 1992. Upon serving a 7 year residency program he accepted an invitation to join the Stanford Neurosurgical Faculty.

Dr. Heit's creative genius earned him international recognition. His work can be found in various publications and chapters. His contributions furthered the field of deep brain and spinal cord stimulation improving the lives of those with movement disorders and pain syndromes. He built and directed the functional neurosurgical programs at Stanford and Kaiser Redwood City Hospitals. Gary co-founded a grass roots non-profit promoting advanced neurosurgical care in developing countries. Dr. Heit was the recipient of multiple humanitarian awards including the 2008 UCSC Founders Day Alumni Achievement Award, the 2009 Kaiser Permanente Sidney R. Garfield, MD Exceptional Contribution Award, and the Distinguished Humanitarian Award in 2012 by the San Francisco - Ho Chi Minh Sister City Committee.

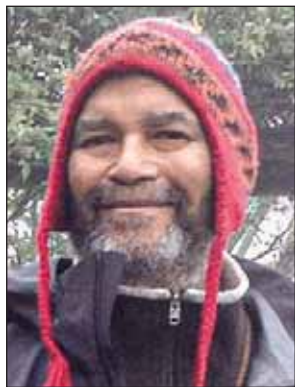
Dr. Heit's joyous personality made him an icon in the hallways and operating rooms everywhere he worked leaving smiles and laughter in his wake. His bedside manner was one of kindness, humor, and a compassion informed by his personal experiences as a patient.

Complications from cancer forced Gary to retire from neurosurgery all too early for his liking. His wife and multitude of pets loved having him home soaking up all the love and sweetness he offered so freely. Working in his vegetable garden and cooking from its bounty kept him happily engaged, but sunsets were reserved for deep appreciation and gratitude for his beautiful life.

Even as Gary's spirit was vast and will to live seemingly endless, eventually he made the courageous decision to enter hospice. He passed away shortly thereafter at home.

Dr. Gary Heit is preceded in death by his father Louis Heit of Santa Cruz, his mother Ruth Heit of Santa Monica, and eldest brother Eric Heit of Santa Cruz. He is survived by a loving tribe of friends and family including Dr. Alan Heit of Santa Cruz, Karen Heit of Santa Monica, and Lori Lyons of Cusco, Peru.

Plans for a celebration of Gary's life are pending.



PAID OBITUARY

Holiday Fund donations set new record

\$1.2 million in grants to Midpeninsula nonprofits is largest ever

By Almanac staff

Another record-setting year of community giving has resulted in the Palo Alto Week, The Almanac and the Mountain View Voice holiday funds awarding \$1.2 million in grants this spring to 98 local nonprofit organizations and eight high school scholarship winners.

More than 500 donations were received in this year's campaign. They included gifts from readers, local businesses, the Packard, Hewlett, Peery and Arrillaga foundations and other family foundations that requested anonymity. Among those were donations of \$350,000 and \$100,000. The Palo Alto Weekly Moonlight Run and Walk raised \$68,000.

The \$1.2 million raised is the combined giving to the

holiday funds of the Palo Alto Weekly (\$793,000), the Almanac (\$310,000) and the Mountain View Voice (\$84,000). Embarcadero Media, the parent company for the three news organizations, covers all the expenses of the annual campaigns, so every dollar raised is given away in grants.

"Residents of our communities realize the importance of the work being done by local nonprofits and the value of targeting their philanthropic giving to where they live," Embarcadero Media Foundation president Bill Johnson said. "The Holiday Fund is an example of how local journalism can serve and strengthen the community by helping to channel donations to well-vetted organizations deserving of support."

The Almanac Holiday Fund began more than 25 years ago and each year selects 10 nonprofits providing needed services to residents of Menlo Park, Redwood City, North Fair Oaks or East Palo Alto that share equally the funds raised. This year, the Almanac raised a total of \$310,000 and made grants of \$31,000 to Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, Ecumenical Hunger Program, LifeMoves, Literacy Partners Menlo Park, Health Connected, Ravenswood Family Health Center, Star Vista, St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room, St. Francis Center of Redwood City and Upward Scholars.

In addition to numerous major gifts from individuals or family foundations, the Menlo Park Rotary Foundation donated \$10,000. ■

STANFORD
JAZZ
FESTIVAL
50

30
EXCITING
CONCERTS!

FULL LINE-UP STANFORDJAZZ.ORG

**JUN 23-
AUG 5**

JUN 24 TERENCE BLANCHARD FEAT. THE E-COLLECTIVE & THE TURTLE ISLAND STRING QUARTET

JUN 25 INDIAN JAZZ JOURNEY, FEAT. MAHESH KALE, AND GEORGE BROOKS,

JUL 8 OMAR SOSA

JUL 15 **CHIEF ADJUAH**

JUL 19 RUTH DAVIES' BLUES NIGHT FEAT. RUTHIE FOSTER

JUL 22 SULLIVAN FORTNER TRIO PLUS ANAT COHEN

JUL 29 ANAT COHEN & ROMERO LUBAMBO / HAROLD LOPEZ-NUSSA DUO & MIKE RODRIGUEZ

JUL 30 DAFNIS PRIETO & LUCIANA SOUZA

AUG 1 TAYLOR EIGSTI GROUP

AUG 3 **PATRICE RUSHEN**

GRAND JURY REPORT

continued from page 1

that was not open before. But higher density housing near transit is better.”

In the report, a city manager added: “I think they (ADUs) are a piece of the solution, but not all of it. I think ADUs are an important way to provide opportunities for other things — where people want multigenerational living onsite, for caretakers, or other folks — they can reside in an ADU even if they’re not paying rent.”

Assembly Bill 72 gives HCD the ability to enforce local government’s land use, planning, and zoning requirements. In the current RHNA cycle, HCD asks that San Mateo County jurisdictions monitor and verify ADU affordability every two years. However, HCD has not specified how to prove the ADUs are rented to very low-, low- or moderate-income households.

The most surprising finding to Grand Jury Foreman Steve Drace is that HCD is allowing cities to use ADUs to satisfy low-income housing, yet there is no system in place to monitor if low-income residents are inhabiting those units.

“We think that’s a little sketchy,” Drace said. “It’s within the letter of the law, but it’s violating the spirit (of the law).”

The low-income ADU “only exists on paper, that’s the issue,” said civil grand juror Greg Spector.

The Grand Jury conducted a digital survey of representatives from all 21 municipalities, according to Spector. It also interviewed 20 city officials and consultants over Zoom, he said.

How cities are supposed to determine their ADU estimates

In its technical memo “Using ADUs to Satisfy RHNA,” ABAG advises members that the estimate should be based on the average number of ADU building permits issued each year, multiplied by eight, because there are eight years in a housing element cycle.

Using data from a 2020 statewide survey of homeowners who had constructed ADUs in 2018 or 2019, ABAG concluded that the assumption that the ADU breakdown in a city is 30% very low-income, 30% low-income, 30% moderate-income and 10% above-moderate income. Most county cities and towns adopted this formula instead of conducting their own affordability analysis, according to the Grand Jury.

However, a 2021 report prepared by ABAG’s Housing Technical Assistance Team said



Gennady Sheyner

A studio manufactured by Adobu and displayed in the company’s Redwood City showroom is an example of the type of backyard housing units that many cities are trying to encourage residents to build.

that although ADUs are often affordable, jurisdictions should be cautious about relying on them too heavily because of fair housing concerns:

“Many ADUs are affordable to lower and moderate-income households because they are rented to family and friends of the homeowners,” the report states. “If minorities are underrepresented among homeowners, the families and potentially friends of the homeowners will be primarily white. Therefore, relying too heavily on ADUs could inadvertently exacerbate patterns of segregation and exclusion.” The report also acknowledges that ADUs often do not serve large families, another critical fair housing concern.

And while ADUs accomplish an essential fair housing goal by adding new homes in parts of the municipality that are more likely to be areas of opportunity, the report recommends that jurisdictions with fair housing concerns “may want to use more conservative assumptions based on open market rentals, excluding units made available to family and friends,” which it summarizes as: 5% very low-income, 30% low-income, 50% moderate-income and 15% above moderate-income.

Only two cities — San Carlos and San Mateo — use ABAG’s more conservative formula of 5-30-50-15 in their plans. One city — Belmont, used its own judgment. Colma does not use ADUs in its housing element.

Why it matters

The Grand Jury notes that the cities and towns relying primarily on ADUs to meet their RHNA housing targets do not meet the overall objectives

required by RHNA of:

- Increasing the housing supply and mix of housing types, tenure, and affordability
- Promoting infill development and socioeconomic equity, protecting environmental and agricultural resources, and encouraging efficient development patterns
- Promoting an improved intraregional relationship between jobs and housing
- Balancing disproportionate household income distributions
- Affirmatively furthering fair housing.

‘ADUs are not a panacea, but they’re a good tool in the toolbox. Most land on the Peninsula is single-family homes. ADUs are opening land that was not open before. But higher density housing near transit is better.’

PLANNING CONSULTANT, WORKING FOR A CITY IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

While HCD does not single out those four towns for their heavy reliance on ADUs to meet their affordable housing needs, HCD has consistently instructed San Mateo County cities and towns that they must monitor and verify ADU production and affordability at least every two years, according to the Grand Jury. It has not specified an acceptable process for verifying the affordability level of ADUs as planned, the report states.

There are a handful of independent nonprofit agencies and for-profit real estate management companies in the Bay Area that have established systems for monitoring and verifying rented housing for continued affordability, while maintaining tenant and owner privacy, according to the Grand Jury. City managers and other officials continuously raised this issue during Grand Jury interviews.

There have been a slew of laws in recent years that aim to bolster the construction of ADUs in the state.

Recommendations

The Grand Jury recommends that by Feb. 1, 2024, the 21 municipalities, adopt and implement a verification system capable of monitoring and verifying how newly developed ADUs are being used.

It also recommends, that by the same date, the jurisdictions should develop and adopt incentives for ADU owners which could be offered in exchange for deed restrictions that would include requirements for ADU tenants to participate in independent monitoring. It should also track the intended use of ADUs — rented or non-rented — during the permitting process and offer incentives in exchange for deed restrictions that require ADUs to be used as rentals.

By April 1, 2024, the Grand Jury would like the municipalities develop and adopt a new ADU affordability distribution formula specific to each jurisdiction to the extent they are used to meet very low-, low-, and moderate-income housing requirements in their RHNA housing elements.

Town responses to report

Atherton Mayor Bill Widmer said the Grand Jury made some good points, but pointed out that it is incumbent upon jurisdictions like Atherton to ensure that its ADU program meets the expectations of the state’s RHNA mandate for the town through effective monitoring. Widmer disagrees with the Grand Jury’s assessment that use of an ADU by a family-member or caretaker is a “paper only” use.

“To ensure we do our part, the town is conducting extensive outreach in the community to identify current ADUs being rented or used by family-members or caretakers,” he said in an email. “This is just the beginning of a fully expanded monitoring and development program. Also the town is partnering with HIP Housing as well as Stanford (University) and Menlo College to help find housing for those in need.”

“Without having these ADUs, family members, students or caretakers would need to find housing elsewhere, thereby taking away another housing location that others may need from others the already beleaguered commute and affordability issues,” he said. “ADUs allow for step-down housing for seniors in Atherton and allow them to either stay in their home or at the very least, in their community. That’s important and something I believe the state supports as well.”

The Woodside Town Council will hear and approve the response to the Grand Jury at the Town Council meeting July 25, said Mayor Chris Shaw in an email.

Portola Valley Mayor Jeff Aalfs said that the report is disappointing in its dismissal of the town’s thoughtful process and has a poor presentation of the actual data.

“We incorporated ADUs into our new draft housing element judiciously, building on our past history of ADU construction, and with guidance from the California Department of Housing and Community Development,” he said in a statement. “In addition to planning for ADUs, we also did the hard work of planning for multifamily housing to meet our state-imposed housing requirements while preserving local decision-making, optimizing safety, and honoring our historic commitment to the town’s rural character and sensible development.”

Elected officials are required to respond to a report’s findings and recommendations within 60 days, and governing bodies must respond within 90 days.

Read the full report at sanmateocourt.org/documents/grand_jury/2022/2022adu.pdf. ■

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

CASTILLEJA SCHOOL

continued from page 5

agreement and announced its decision in its public session. The details of the decision were not released, but Board President Lisa Petrides said during the announcement that the trustees affirmed their decision from May 10.

The decision shocked Castilleja's administrators.

"CSM leadership gave us every assurance that the partnership was secure, and we were blindsided by this reversal," Kauffman said. "We have not heard directly from the SMCCCD (San Mateo County Community College District) Board to understand their decision. They were well-aware that reversing CSM's plan would be extremely disruptive to our community."

The primary driver of the school's decision to seek a temporary campus for all of its students,

Kauffman said, was to reduce construction time. Castilleja won the City Council's approval of its redevelopment plan in June 2022, following a contentious and drawn-out review process.

Holding classes at CSM would have also allowed the school to increase its enrollment by around 16 students — about 3.5% — in the coming school year without a problem, she said. But the school cannot accommodate the expanded population on its Palo Alto campus, given that the city has capped the school's on-campus enrollment as part of its conditional-use permit.

The permit states that if any students remain on campus during construction, the school can't have more than 416 students there — a restriction to which the school will adhere, Kauffman said.

Now Castilleja's plan is to keep grades 7 through 12 at the school's Bryant Street campus, she said.

"Our current plan is to enroll sixth graders at a dedicated satellite campus. Having a dedicated sixth grade facility keeps us in compliance with our Palo Alto CUP (conditional use permit) and brings a lot of benefits to our youngest students, including a schedule and resources that are tailored for the sixth grade experience," she said.

Last week, administrators told parents the sixth grade will be located at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center in south Palo Alto.

"The JCC really came through in our hour of need, and we are especially grateful to them as fellow educators," Kauffman said in a June 12 email update.

Splitting off the sixth grade from the rest of the school wasn't Castilleja's first choice, but on the bright side, the move will reduce traffic to the Bryant Street campus during the next academic year, she said. The school will have the smallest student population on campus since 1994, she added.

"I'm deeply appreciative of the support from incoming sixth grade parents and current Castilleja families who have been understanding of the situation," Kauffman said.

How Castilleja's talks with the College of San Mateo fell apart

Community College District board President Lisa Petrides said in an email to the Weekly that discussions on Castilleja were in closed session and that the board isn't able to comment on the deliberations. However, the board released a public statement on May 25 in which it stated that Castilleja's proposals would result in "detrimental displacement of students and undue interference with programs and activities at the College of San Mateo's campus."

Castilleja School had been working to secure space for its students for months. Administrators reached out to staff at Cañada College, one of the campuses of the Community College District, last fall to discuss possible use of Cañada's sports fields and minimal other space. Cañada College decided

not to pursue an agreement as it was not in the best interest of its campus, according to the board statement.

In late 2022 and early 2023, Castilleja approached the College of San Mateo with a similar request — for access to sports fields along with other minor uses of space across campus.

"At the time, it was understood that Castilleja School had secured classroom space elsewhere," the district board stated.

Beginning in February, conversations between the College of San Mateo and Castilleja began regarding hosting Castilleja's entire operation for two years: the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

"When the conversations expanded to a much larger scope (i.e., a proposal for a long term and possessory interest use of property at CSM), the Board of Trustees became the authorizing and negotiating body for such a transaction," the statement said. "The California Education Code and SMCCCD Board Policy state that any decision for exclusive use through a lease or joint use agreement falls within the purview of the Board."

The board heard the details about the Castilleja School proposal for the first time during closed session on May 10, 2023, and rejected the proposal, the statement indicated.

Kauffman and Interim Chancellor Melissa Moreno spoke extensively on May 15. Moreno and Petrides also met separately. Petrides suggested that Castilleja might consider submitting a proposal for use of facilities on the CSM campus that was much reduced in scope, the board's statement said.

Petrides, Moreno and other district representatives met with Kauffman, members of the Castilleja School Board of Directors, and other Castilleja School representatives on May 22.

"The parties had a thorough conversation about the situation, including the facts and applicable legal standards. A further conversation between the SMCCCD Interim Chancellor and the Castilleja School Board President also occurred on May 23, 2023," but the board voted down the proposal the next day at its meeting, the statement said.

Kauffman, after reading the board's statement, offered her response to the Weekly in a follow-up email.

"During these conversations, the SMCCCD Board made it sound like they were open to a smaller-scale usage, but when we offered that to them, they still refused to move forward

with our smaller-scale proposal," she wrote.

The school's scaled-down options included a shorter lease and renting space for only juniors and seniors, roughly one-quarter of the original proposal, she said.

Kauffman said that last August, Castilleja was encouraged by a senior representative of the San Mateo County Community College District to reach out directly to the presidents of Cañada, Skyline and CSM to ask them to host Castilleja's students because, as the representative reported, "all three campuses have significant unused capacity."

After Cañada College declined to move forward with Castilleja, the girls' school approached CSM. Castilleja didn't approach Skyline because planning with CSM was proceeding well, she said.

By October, Castilleja was working with CSM to identify a combination of arts, athletics and science spaces that were going unused; and by February, CSM hosted a Castilleja Board of Trustees retreat, which included a tour of campus and a discussion of specific arrangements for middle and upper school students, she said.

Kauffman called it "confusing" that the district Board of Trustees "did not follow through on CSM's good faith negotiations," despite knowing the hardship it would cause Castilleja.

"CSM had communicated that the space to be leased was not necessary for operations in the 2023-24 school year, so we do not understand the Board's decision," she said. ■

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

Avenidas
Re-Inventing Aging

18th Annual CAREGIVER CONFERENCE

Creating Networks of Support: A Caregiver's Journey

Saturday, June 24
9:00am - 3:30pm

MOUNTAIN VIEW SENIOR CENTER
266 Escuela Ave, Mountain View *Parking is free.*

This conference is designed to support and educate family caregivers, solo agers, health care and social service professionals, and community members about both the challenges and the opportunities in their journeys of providing care.

Registration - \$25 (\$30 at the door) No refunds after June 23.

Choice of 3 different workshop tracks with expert presenters:

- Caregiver skills workshops
- Navigating change & plan for the future
- Customizing your support network

Conference attendees will enjoy info-packed workshops, plus:

- Inspiring Keynote Speech by Mukand Acharya, PhD, healthy aging advocate
- Premium vendors
- Morning coffee from Peet's
- Lunch from Specialty's
- Coffee cart and cookies
- Giveaways and more!

Scan QR code to register

Visit Avenidas.org for more information or call (650) 289-5400

City of Mountain View
This program is partially or fully funded by
SOURCEWISE
COMMUNITY RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

LEHUA GREENMAN

"A father is someone you look up to no matter how tall you grow."
Happy Father's Day!

650.245.1845 COMPASS

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Dr. Harold E. (Bud) Coleman, 93, a resident of Palo Alto, anesthesiologist, medical practice pioneer and longtime member of the Stanford Golf Club, on May 26.

Dr. Gary Heit, 66, a resident of La Honda, Stanford neurosurgeon, nonprofit founder, and vegetable gardener, on Feb. 14.

Judy Kennedy, 80, a resident of Stanford and Palo Alto, medical social worker and founder of Families in Transition (FIT) in East Palo Alto, on June 5.

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

ONE-OF-A-KIND WESTRIDGE ESTATE WITH BAY VIEWS



OPEN SATURDAY
June 17, 1:00 – 3:00pm

Property outline is for information only and not intended to be precise

700 WESTRIDGE DRIVE | PORTOLA VALLEY | OFFERED AT \$6,995,000 | 700WESTRIDGEDR.COM

Approximately 2.7 gated acres with pool, spa, and tennis court

Sweeping views of the San Francisco Bay

Move in, renovate, or build new

4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths on multiple levels

Approximately 6,130 total square feet

Professionally designed gardens and vast synthetic front lawn

Fully deer-fenced property and enclosed vegetable garden

Excellent Portola Valley schools



**HUGH
CORNISH**
& ASSOCIATES

650.619.6461
hcornish@cbnorcal.com
CalRE#00912143

www.HUGHcornish.com

Over \$3.2 Billion in Sales

#127 in the United States
RealTrends, 2022



**COLDWELL
BANKER**
REALTY

The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor agents and are not employees of the Company. ©2023 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker Logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. CalRE #01908304.



OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY 6/17 & SUNDAY 6/18: 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

SATURDAY
& SUNDAY

10888 MAGDALENA ROAD
LOS ALTOS HILLS



\$6,988,000 | 5 Bd | 5 Bth
10888MagdalenaRd.com

2105 MONTEREY AVENUE
MENLO PARK



\$3,988,000 | 4 Bd | 4.5 Bth
2105Monterey.com

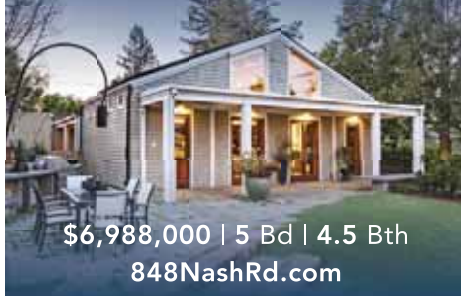
69 YALE ROAD
MENLO PARK



\$8,488,000 | 5 Bd | 7.5 Bth
69Yale.com

SATURDAY
ONLY

848 NASH ROAD
LOS ALTOS



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

11 HILLTOP DRIVE
SAN CARLOS



\$2,248,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
11HilltopDR.com

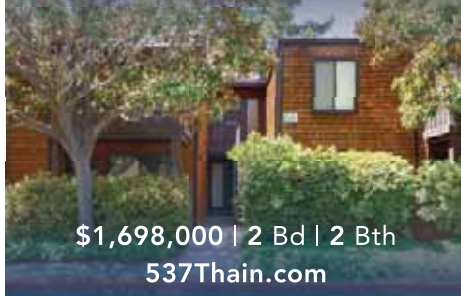
7 CYPRESS COURT
LOS ALTOS



\$4,475,000 | 4 Bd | 2.5 Bth
7CypressCt.com

SUNDAY
ONLY

537 THAIN WAY
PALO ALTO



\$1,698,000 | 2 Bd | 2 Bth
537Thain.com

1932 EMERSON STREET
PALO ALTO



\$11,650,000 | 6 Bd | 6 Bth
1932EmersonStreet.com

360 EVERETT AVE. #5A
PALO ALTO

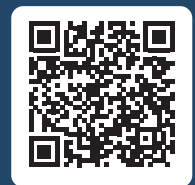


\$2,688,000 | 3 Bd | 3 Bth
360Everett.com

PROUDLY SERVING
SILICON VALLEY
DELEONREALTY.COM



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR
MORE DETAILS OR VISIT US
AT **DELEONREALTY.COM**



Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com
中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822
DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224





10888 MAGDALENA ROAD
LOS ALTOS HILLS



SANCTUARY IN LOS ALTOS HILLS

Modern architectural style, impeccable craftsmanship, and a fantastic location on more than an acre of land highlight this light-filled 5-bedroom, 5-bathroom home in Los Altos Hills. Built in 2018, this home showcases all of the hallmarks of contemporary design: a graceful, open floorplan teeming with high-end materials and finishes, expansive spaces ideal for both entertaining and everyday living, and picture-perfect outdoor venues that invite a true California lifestyle. Over 4,500 square feet of living space extends a warm, welcoming feel from the moment you step inside, with highlights that include a linear fireplace, chef's kitchen, a retreat-like primary suite, and folding La Cantina doors that create a seamless transition to grounds that enjoy jaw-dropping views from numerous points. And though this home feels incredibly private, you will be just a 5-minute drive from the Rancho Shopping Center, close to the Los Altos Golf & Country Club, convenient to Interstate 280, and have access to top-ranked Los Altos schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

10888MagdalenaRd.com

Offered at \$6,988,000

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

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

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



Wrongful death lawsuit filed in death of San Carlos couple killed in crash

The suit was filed on behalf of Gregory Ammen and Grace Spiridon's surviving twin daughters

By Shannon Faulise

Following a deadly street racing collision on November 4, 2022, the family of the San Carlos couple who died has filed a wrongful death lawsuit that includes a demand for a jury trial. The suit was filed on behalf of Gregory Ammen and

Grace Spiridon's surviving twin daughters.

The complaint, filed on June 6 by Ammen family attorney Niall McCarthy, seeks relief for the twins in the form of past and future medical expenses and other compensation as allowed under the wrongful death statute.

"You have two 8-year-old girls who are going to need funds for education, healthcare and essential living until they're adults," McCarthy told this news organization in a phone interview. "I certainly want to see some type of economic recovery for these two young girls whose lives have been forever altered."

The twins, Madison and Olivia Ammen, survived and suffered minor injuries. Their parents met in middle school and started dating while they were students at Palo Alto High School, family and friends said.

Defendants in the case include 23-year-old Kyle Harrison and Cesar Salto Morales, the latter, who was a minor at the time of the collision. Morales's parents and two unidentified minor passengers in Morales' car are also listed in the complaint.

When they pulled up to the same traffic light, Morales



Courtesy Liza Spiridon

Gregory Ammen and Grace Spiridon were driving with their two children when their car was struck Nov. 4, 2022.

See **LAWSUIT**, page 18

Menlo Park takes a whack at gas-powered gardening equipment

By Cameron Rebosio

The Menlo Park City Council passed a motion in a 3-2 vote to prohibit gas-powered leaf blowers and string trimmers, commonly known as Weedwackers, starting July 1, 2024.

Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor and Council member Drew Combs opposed the ban on gas-powered gardening equipment.

Combs had concerns over using the city's police to enforce

a regulation on gardening equipment, and the varying consequences across the city.

"I know in this case, there will be disparate impacts with regard to the enforcement of an ordinance, a measure like this, and that it will be mostly people of color who will be targeted, who will have the police called on them," Combs said.

Under the new ordinance, the property owner would be responsible for violations that occur on their property, rather

than the hired gardeners, and gas-powered lawnmowers, hedge trimmers and chainsaws would be prohibited years later, starting Jan. 1, 2029. The hours of allowed use aren't changing from the current ordinance, which allows gardening equipment to be used Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Combs said that despite the fact the infraction or fine will

go to the property owner, the people who will actually have law enforcement called on them are disproportionately people of color.

"For me, it's hard to wrap my brain around how this is not just criminalizing people of color doing their jobs," Combs said.

Council member Nash said that she shares concerns about the health of the gardeners, but that the council could move in the direction of state or city incentives to switch to electric

gardening tools.

Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor expressed concern over the low numbers of outreach, with only 12 gardeners in Menlo Park responding to the city's survey. Taylor said that she would expect at least 50 responses. Taylor also said she had concerns about the ordinance disproportionately impacting residents making under \$100,000 a year.

"It's a good intention to not

See **GARDEN EQUIPMENT**, page 18

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY



MENLO PARK | \$3,500,000
www.2060-Gordon.com | Custom-built in 1994, this over 2,700 sq.ft. home was tastefully remodeled to maximize the full potential of its large indoor space.
Julie Lau
650.208.2287
JLau@cbrnorcal.com
CalRE #01052924



MENLO PARK | \$1,769,000
4br/3ba w/solar roof tiles, built-in grill, flagstone patio, bamboo flooring & more. 1,790 sf/4684 sq.ft. lot.
Zita Macy
650.346.2799
zmacy@cbrnorcal.com
CalRE #01300198



MENLO PARK | \$1,588,000
Lovely 3br/2.5ba 2-story home in Prima Bella Haven w/open concept floor plan & remodeled kitchen
Amelia Middel 650.704.3064
CalRE #01103989
Miriam Porras 408.644.5041
CalRE #02002039

ColdwellBankerHomes.com

GUIDING YOU HOME SINCE 1906

The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees ©2023 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logo are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.

BRIDGE

continued from page 5

at the creek authority, said the recent analysis made it clear that the hydraulics at the creek have changed.

“That’s a shock to everybody,” Byler said.

Both she and Xu suggested that moving ahead with the Pope-Chaucer removal would be politically difficult, given historical opposition by property owners along the creek to having floodwalls installed along the creek.

“It would be very difficult to get a project where you can remove Pope-Chaucer,” Xu said. “It would take a lot of floodwalls. The history of the project shows there’s no appetite for that.”

The news also came as a shock to the residents in Crescent Park in Palo Alto and the Willows neighborhood in Menlo Park, many of whom have been lobbying for the Pope-Chaucer bridge to be replaced since the major flood of 1998. Tom Rindfleisch, a Crescent Park resident who has been tracking the ebbs and flows of the flood-control project for years, said June 8 that many people in his neighborhood have trouble sleeping during rainy seasons because of flood risks. He challenged the creek authority not to abandon the project.

“There are going to be people who are really put out by this because of the continuing fear over the winter rain season on how they can protect their homes and their lives and their properties,” Rindfleisch said. “I believe the solution has to be get rid of Pope-Chaucer bridge and fix the downstream creek so it can hold the capacity for what will undoubtedly flow downstream.”

Menlo Park City Council member Drew Combs, who chairs the creek authority’s board of directors, shared his disappointment. Months ago, he had been telling residents in flood-prone areas near the creek that the long-delayed project would be finally coming, Combs said. He had also believed that the construction on Reach 2 would start before his term on the creek authority expires, a prospect that now seems less likely.

“This is a general frustration with the situation, but facts are facts. The science is the science,” Combs said.

Palo Alto Vice Mayor Greer Stone, who also serves on the board, urged the creek authority’s staff to consider possible mitigations that could improve flood control in case Pope-Chaucer is not replaced. He called the new analysis “concerning.”

“Some of the residents impacted by flooding there finally saw light at the end of the tunnel for that portion of the creek,” he said.

Given the latest findings, the

creek authority plans to take a fresh look at other design alternatives, a process that will likely require additional analysis and will almost certainly delay the project even further. Board member Rebecca Eisenberg, who represents the Santa Clara Valley Water District on the creek authority’s board, urged staff to explore emerging technologies and other mitigation strategies to address flood control.

“Because the current situation is not tenable ... It’s just not,” Eisenberg said. “The answer can’t be, ‘So sad. Too bad. Live with it.’ That’s not going to be OK.”

A new analysis by the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority has found that replacement of the Pope-Chaucer would send more water downstream, putting that area at risk of flooding. ■

*Email Staff Writer
Gennady Sheyner at
gsheyner@paweekly.com.*

THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

ATHERTON

191 Glenwood Avenue \$6,199,000
Sun 1:00-4:00 4BD/4BA
Coldwell Banker Realty 650-400-5800

153 Toyon Road \$6,350,000
Sat 2:00-4:00 5BD/3BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby’s International Realty 650-485-3476

MENLO PARK

3031 Alameda de las Pulgas \$2,250,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA
Compass 650-740-7954

2315 Crest Lane \$9,988,000
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00 7BD/7.5BA
Keller Williams 650-520-3407

PALO ALTO

406 Pepper Avenue (C) \$1,550,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 2BD/3BA
JLee Realty 650-857-1000

PALO ALTO

881 Lytton Avenue \$3,498,000
Sat 2:00-4:00 3BD/2.5BA
Compass 650-207-9909

620 Lowell Avenue \$6,995,000
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00 4BD/3BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby’s International Realty 650-485-3476

PORTOLA VALLEY

700 Westridge Drive \$6,995,000
Sat 1:00-3:00 4BD/3.5BA
Coldwell Banker Realty 650-619-6461

REDWOOD CITY

455 Sequoia Avenue \$4,300,000
Sat 1:30-4:30 6BD/5BA
Compass 650-740-7954

SANTA CLARA

1533 Rucker Place (C) \$1,098,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2.5BA
JLee Realty 650-857-1000

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

Join Us for Fun in the Sun on the Longest Day!
Summertime activity ideas for you and a loved one
with memory loss to share



Open House & Fundraiser
Wednesday, June 21st • 4:00pm-5:30pm
at Kensington Place

Light bites and refreshing beverages offered
Space is limited! RSVP to Lu Shibli at
lshibli@kensingtonsl.com or (650) 363-9200.

We invite you and your loved one to join us as we partner with the Alzheimer’s Association to celebrate **The Longest Day, the day of the year with the most light!** Our team – along with people all around the world – will be using creativity to raise awareness and funds in support of the Alzheimer’s Association’s passionate mission. We’ll be conducting interactive demonstrations, offering caregiving tips and sharing fun ideas for hands-on enrichment. We’ll also be welcoming donations to accelerate research and other promising pathways toward treatment and a cure.

So join us to support this extraordinary cause! And...soak in the sunshine and warmth of summer as you explore new ways to connect and communicate with your loved one. While you’re here, we encourage you to introduce yourself to us and learn more about the care and services we provide. We’re eager to listen and ready to help.



KENSINGTON PLACE
A Memory Care Community
REDWOOD CITY
— North Atherton —



Devoted Exclusively to Residents with Memory Loss



RCFE License
415600964



Highlights of The Longest Day Open House & Fundraiser at Kensington Place
Flower arranging • Brain health culinary demonstration • Brain wellness and cognitive exercises
Expressive arts • Alzheimer’s Association resource table for donations, educational information, support group offerings and ideas for activities that foster a sense of purpose and rekindle fond memories

(650) 363-9200 | 2800 El Camino Real | Redwood City, CA 94061 | www.KensingtonPlaceRedwoodCity.com



Photos by Natalia Nazarova

Left: Benjamin Bogyo shakes hands with Josephine Meade after his speech “A Memorable Journey” at Woodside High School’s graduation on June 9. Above: Abrianna Puth takes a selfie with Grace Ricketts while they wait for the graduation ceremony to begin. Below: Amanda Marcos gives her speech “Strength in Our Differences.”

Woodside High graduates reflect on pandemic, resiliency during graduation

By Angela Swartz

Woodside High School’s 383 graduating seniors walked across a stage on Friday morning, June 9, to accept their diplomas.

The school’s 64th class, per tradition, celebrated commencement on Bradley Field, the Woodside school’s football field.

Principal Karen van Putten said she shared a special bond with the students despite having only spent two of their four years of high school with them because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“You are not only survivors, but you are thrivers,” she said.

Valedictorian Benny Bogyo said in an address to the class that he’d prefer to gloss over the pandemic years of their high school careers, so he

didn’t trigger bad memories.

Graduate Amanda Marcos described the class as the only grade that has experienced high school pre-, during and post-pandemic. The Class of 2023 moved to remote learning because of the pandemic in its sophomore year.

The senior gift, revealed during the ceremony, is a giant orange Adirondack chair that will be placed outside of the school’s library.

Graduates celebrated by spending their graduation night on a yacht in the Bay.

The ceremony was live streamed this year.

View the list of graduates at AlmanacNews.com. ■

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



Ravenswood board member is departing, retiring from teaching

Bronwyn Alexander taught at Belle Haven Elementary School in Menlo Park

By Angela Swartz

Ravenswood City School District Trustee Bronwyn Alexander is stepping down from the board after three years and retiring from teaching to move out of the area, she announced during a June 8 board meeting.

A district newsletter notes that she dedicated 12 years of

service to the community. She taught at Belle Haven Elementary School in Menlo Park until 2019.

“Trustee Alexander has been a pillar of our community, advocating for quality education and working



Bronwyn Alexander

tirelessly to improve the lives of our students,” according to a district statement. “Her commitment, passion and unwavering dedication will be sorely missed. Throughout her tenure, she has played a vital role in shaping the future of our district and has been a driving force behind numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing educational opportunities for all.”

She is expected to step down from the board in early to mid-August.

An Aug. 22 meeting will provide community members an opportunity to engage with the district and gain insights into the selection process for a new board member. ■

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

express

Today’s local news
& hot picks

Fresh news
delivered
daily

Sign up today at
AlmanacNews.com/express

Menlo School sends off its 104th class

The 144 members of Menlo School's Class of 2023 received their diplomas on Thursday morning, June 8, during a ceremony on the school's Atherton campus in front of the Stent Family Hall, according to a press release.

Menlo history teacher and department chair Carmen Borbón made a speech entitled "Charge to the Senior Class." Head of School Than Healy,

Upper School Director John Schafer and Senior Class President Tudor Braicu also spoke.

Menlo's choral and instrumental music programs performed.

The private school enrolls 795 students in grades 6-12.

View a reel of the graduation on the school's Facebook page.

Find the full list of graduates at bit.ly/MenloSchool2023 grad. ■



Photos courtesy Menlo School

Menlo School's Class of 2023 at commencement on June 8.



M-A GRADUATES

continued from page 1

Three graduating seniors spoke at the ceremony. Estrella Villalobos spoke in Spanish and English in her speech entitled: "My Appreciation - En Dos Idiomas."

Graduate Jackson Bryman talked about his tendency to be defiant and encouraged fellow graduates to embrace subversive humor. He recalled one "particularly saucy moment" his sophomore year when he was taking a test over Zoom. One question asked what emotions a scene evoked in readers and he answered that it was not an objective question.

"Surely we've all encountered resistance, pushback, and perhaps the suffering that comes with it," he said. "It wouldn't be

an appropriate commencement address without touching on the trials and tribulations. I encourage you to let your recalcitrance come back to bite you because we must suffer just a little in order to preserve our integrity as human beings."

Graduate Jackie Nassiri teared up while highlighting her parents' immigration to the U.S. and the values they instilled in her.

"Immigrants aren't just anyone, they are survivors and thrivers," she said. "The immigrant mentality motivates people to work hard now and to reap the rewards of comfort later."

Following the speeches, there were live musical performances. Members of the Menlo-Atherton Choir sang "I Lived" by OneRepublic. It was followed by a performance of Abba's

"Slipping Through My Fingers" by graduate Ryan Barnes on vocals and William Knox on guitar.

Seniors celebrated graduation throughout the week, with a picnic at Huddart Park on June 5 and a senior lunch on June 8. Students headed off to grad night by bus on Friday.

The ceremony was live streamed on YouTube this year.

View the list of graduates at AlmanacNews.com. ■

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



Photos by Lizzy Myers

A student of the Class of 2023 receives her diploma at the Menlo-Atherton High School graduation in Atherton.



Above: After the turning of the tassel, graduating seniors throw their caps in the air. Top: Estrella Villalobos gives her bilingual senior speech, "My Appreciation - En Dos Idiomas."

GARDEN EQUIPMENT

continued from page 14

have gas leaf blowers, to (not) have anything gas,” Taylor said. “However, I have to consider the folks who it’s going to disproportionately impact, which is that that’s their income, and it’s not like it’s a high income.”

The ban on gas-powered equipment came as a result of public health and noise concerns. A 2001 study from the American Chemical Society showed that one hour of using a gas-powered lawn mower

produces as much pollution as driving a car for 100 miles.

The council determined that there will be an adjustment period, when law enforcement is focused on education instead of repercussions. City staff is doing further research on making homeowner rebates hardship-based, in order to help residents get the necessary equipment.

The city will be studying enforcement options, as well as conducting outreach.

The ordinance will return to the City Council on June 27 for formal adoption. ■

LAWSUIT

continued from page 14

challenged Harrison to a race as the two revved their engines back and forth, according to Harrison’s account to law enforcement, the complaint states. Passengers in Morales’ car, identified in the complaint as E.S. and J.M., shouted at Harrison to provoke him to race, while a passenger in Harrison’s car yelled at Morales to “blow the light.”

The newly filed civil suit alleges that the parents of Morales knew their teen engaged in street racing activity and allowed him to modify the vehicle he crashed that night to increase its speed and power. For allegedly knowing their son was drawn to reckless driving and paying

for the modifications to the vehicle, the Ammen family is suing Morales for negligence and his parents for negligent entrustment.

The two minors in the car with Morales, along with the other driver, Kyle Harrison, are also being sued for negligence: Harrison for recklessly and unlawfully operating his vehicle to cause a collision, and the other passengers for allegedly taunting and encouraging Harrison and Morales to race at high speeds.

Harrison and Morales are both currently facing criminal charges related to the case, including second-degree murder charges. Harrison has already pleaded not guilty to all six counts against him, including the two counts of murder and four counts related

to alleged drag racing and injuries to other parties.

Morales is currently being held in juvenile detention. If tried as an adult in criminal court, both he and Harrison could face sentences of 15 years to life in prison.

McCarthy said the reason the family is filing the lawsuit is to raise awareness about the dangers of reckless driving and racing.

“This particular family is very focused on shedding some light on what happened here,” McCarthy said. “The hope is that this case is gonna prevent one other person from drag racing, street racing, being in a sideshow, or doing something that endangers the life of an innocent bystander.” ■

Bay City News contributed to this report.



**Town of Atherton
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**

6:00 P.M. June 19th 2023

This is meeting is held in-person at the Council Chambers

80 Fair Oaks Lane
Atherton, California 94027

YOU ARE INVITED

The Town of Atherton with M-Group will **facilitate a workshop** on **Atherton’s Housing Element**, details follow:

When: Monday, June 19, at 6PM

Where: Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

The workshop will share additional Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) analysis required by the State and present multi-family housing strategies for potential inclusion in the Atherton Housing Element. The purpose of this workshop is to receive feedback from the community on preferred multi-family housing strategies.

Staff will then consider this feedback in advance of presenting recommendations to the City Council at a subsequent public meeting.

If you have any questions on the item please contact Planning Division at planningdept@ci.atherton.ca.us

Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

/s/ Radha Hayagreev

Radha Hayagreev, Consulting Senior Planner

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

Fair Housing (AFFH) analysis required by the state and present multifamily housing strategies for potential inclusion in the town’s 2023-31 housing element.

Staff will consider this feedback in advance of presenting

recommendations to the City Council at a subsequent public meeting.

Anyone with questions may contact senior planner Radha Hayagreev at 408-796-4370, and via email at rhayagreev@ci.atherton.ca.us or planning dept@ci.atherton.ca.us.

—Angela Swartz

Menlo Park celebrates Juneteenth

Menlo Park will observe Juneteenth on Saturday, June 17. The event will offer live music and free food at Karl E. Clark Park at 313 Market Place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Summer Concert Series returns to Menlo Park

Menlo Park’s Summer Concert Series is kicking off again this summer on July 12. Six shows will take place at Fremont Park at the corner of Santa Cruz Avenue and University Drive, and two at Karl E. Clark Park, located at 313 Market Place. Concerts in the park are free and begin at 6 p.m. The schedule is:

July 12 - Luv Bomb at Fremont Park

July 19 - Night Owls at Fremont Park

July 26 - Fog City Swampers at Fremont Park

August 2 - Curley Taylor at Fremont Park

August 9 - Arena Band at Fremont Park

August 11 - Tebo Muzik at Karl E. Clark Park

August 16 - The Sun Kings at Fremont Park

August 18 - Busta Groove at Karl E. Clark Park

—Cameron Rebosio

Join our team!
We’re looking for talented, highly motivated and dynamic people

Mountain View Voice Beat Reporter

The Mountain View Voice is an award-winning community news organization covering the vibrant city of Mountain View in the heart of Silicon Valley. The Voice has been honored by the California Newspaper Publishers Association in recent years with multiple awards for reporting and photojournalism. We pride ourselves on providing our readers with insightful, accurate and unbiased news about our diverse community.

As a full-time reporter for the Mountain View Voice, you will be responsible for establishing productive relationships with sources, seeking out stories of interest and importance to our readers, and reporting on breaking news in our circulation area. As part of our collaborative newsroom, you will cover regional stories that are also published in Embarcadero Media’s other Midpeninsula news outlets, the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac and the Redwood City Pulse.

The ideal candidate will have a bachelor’s degree, at least one year of professional reporting experience, a thorough knowledge of AP style, excellent communication and organization skills, and be familiar with the Mountain View area. Fluency in written and spoken Spanish is a big plus. The salary range is \$21-\$26/hour, depending on experience.

For more information, go to tinyurl.com/MVBeatReporter.

450 Cambridge Avenue | Palo Alto | 650.326.8210
PaloAltoOnline.com | TheAlmanacOnline.com | MountainViewOnline.com
RWCpulse.com | TheSixty.com

Employment

Principal Technical Account Manager

Genesys Cloud Services, Inc. seeks Principal Technical Account Manager in Menlo Park, CA to oversee key accounts & partners to ensure they are receiving maximum return on their Genesys investment. Telecommuting allowed for this position. Send resume to: Miriam.Graeff@genesys.com. Include job code JR100941 in reply. EOE.



Today’s local news & hot picks

Fresh news delivered to your inbox daily

Sign up today at AlmanacNews.com/express

To place an ad or get a quote, contact Kevin Legarda at 650.223.6597 or email digitalads@pawebly.com. The advertising deadline is Friday at noon.

VERY REAL LOCAL NEWS

Print or online subscription starts at only \$12/month

AlmanacNews.com/join

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.



AND BECAUSE OF YOU.

Help support local journalism and the dedicated people behind the headlines.



Magali Gauthier
VISUAL JOURNALIST

Hear from visual journalist, Magali Gauthier

I'm Magali Gauthier and I'm the staff visual journalist for Embarcadero Media, the 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.

During the recent string of storms in early January, our newsroom covered power outages, downed trees and flooding across all our coverage areas, from Mountain View to Woodside. On some days, I was on the ground with reporters at the San Francisquito Creek speaking with local residents about how floods had impacted their homes and what they were doing to protect them from further damage. At the same time, other reporters were in touch with city officials and public works departments to give you all the most up-to-date news on power outages and impacted roadways. On other days, I was driving around Woodside and Portola Valley, in constant communication with reporters about downed trees and street closures to photograph and film. All the information and visuals we gathered were then sent to our editors who were updating stories online. It was a really collaborative and time-consuming effort. But we knew it was important to tell and show our readers how current events were impacting them as quickly as possible.

This type of localized and extensive coverage would not be possible without our members' support. Countless people in our newsroom took part in bringing it to you. If you want to see more stories that provide you with information that helps you make decisions about your everyday life, please consider becoming a member.

The Almanac

Palo Alto
Weekly

RWC
PULSE

Mountain View Voice

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

You can also subscribe for one year by mailing a check for \$144 to us at 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto 94306.

JOIN AT

www.almanacnews.com/join/



Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

'PUFFS' power

Palo Alto Players stage 'unofficial' show set in a certain wizarding world that emphasizes heart over heroics

By Karla Kane

Have you ever heard the story about the wand-wielding, broom-riding boy wizard who was destined to be a hero? Matt Cox's "PUFFS, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic," is not that story. Well, not exactly ...

Palo Alto Players' latest production takes place at a magical boarding school that shall not be named during the glory years of *The Boy Who Lived*, but is told from the point of view of members of that most undersung of the school's four houses: the humble Puffs, who just happen to be there, trying their best.

"PUFFS," like that aforementioned other story, centers around a trio of friends. In this case, their adventures run parallel to those of their more acclaimed classmates. Protagonist Wayne (Will Livingston), an orphan from New Mexico, longs for greatness, but over the course of his years at that certain school, "he just keeps not saving the world," director Kristin Walter said.

The show is "very funny, very satirical, there's a zillion inside

jokes from the books and the movies, and we walk that very fine line where we don't get sued," Walter said, laughing. It's completely unauthorized by "Harry Potter" creator J.K. Rowling, and Walter said the rights come with a multipage rider with tips for staying out of lawsuit territory.

"You can say 'Harry' and you can say 'Potter' but you can't say 'Harry Potter,'" Walter noted. The characters are taught by the likes of Professor McG and Professor Sprouty, and fear the evil Mr. Voldy and his Death Buddies.

Michelle Skinner, who grew up with the books and has worked with Walter before, plays Megan, one of Wayne's companions. Megan struggles to accept her Puff-ness and rebels against it by changing her accent, embracing goth style and trying out the other house's identities.

"Her whole family is Puffs and she kind of has that stigma — that they're kind of lame, they're losers; she's worked her whole childhood up until this point to not be a Puff," she explained. "They're that group of misfits. They don't always belong. They're a house of very

different people that all love each other and accept each other despite that."

While "PUFFS" is filled with winking references and parody content, Walter said it's also full of heart, and carries an important message.

"There's a wonderful speech about how as a Puff you fail and you fail hard, but you keep trying, and failure is just a form of practice," Walter said. "That resonates a lot for me. I teach theater to middle schoolers and one of our little sayings is that we celebrate the epic fail. It's not about perfection, it's just about moving forward."

Walter, who taught for more than two decades at Palo Alto's Castilleja School and will move to Greene Middle School this fall, would seem the perfect directing choice for the production. A self-proclaimed huge "Potter" fan, she even boasts a "mischief managed" tattoo.

"I read it to my husband (Chris Mahle, a frequent Palo Alto Players performer and also a PAUSD teacher); I read it to my son as he was growing up," she recalled of the series. "I must have read every book at least a dozen times." In fact, her son Max Mahle is a member of the "PUFFS" ensemble. The two have acted together a few times, but this is Walter's first time directing him (on stage, anyway).

While she loves the original stories, Walter is also well aware of the problematic, transphobic



Courtesy Scott Lasky

Actors, from left, Michelle Skinner, Will Livingston and Kyle Dayrit play members of the most overlooked house at a famous magical school in 'PUFFS' at Palo Alto Players.

comments author Rowling has made in recent years.

"At our first rehearsal, we said our names, our Hogwarts houses, and our pronouns," she said, "Mostly because it's important but — bonus — because it pisses off J.K. Rowling. I am very, very glad this does not line her pockets at all," she said of the unsanctioned show.

Though obviously geared toward those who have considerable familiarity with the world of *You Know Who*, Skinner said the show can be enjoyed by anyone, no matter how Muggle.

"The script does a really good job of almost creating a new world within a world that already exists. If you don't know it, you'll still be able to have a really fun time," she said. "It's funny and silly, but at the same time it has these incredibly heartfelt moments when you learn about love and friendship and loyalty within that. A couple of times, I've almost been brought to tears in the rehearsal room."

In the cheeky play, students are categorized as Puffs, Braves, Smarts or Snakes. "There's a story about the creation of the school, and it's all of the different founders saying who they'd accept," Walter said. Snakes founder Sal, for instance, is particularly interested in "blond, rich a*****s." Huffle Helga, founder of the Puffs, though, is open-minded and open-hearted. "She'll take the rest of them. As long as they're willing to work hard, they should have a place," she said. "Reading the books, you never really think much about the Puffs. But they're, like, the best house. They're kind of awesome."

"PUFFS" runs June 16 to July 2 at Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. The production is recommended for audiences age 13 and up. More information is available at paplayers.org. ■

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

After the boll

Painter draws on childhood memories while also exploring a cash crop's dark history in 'Tangled Cotton' at Pamela Walsh Gallery

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

The blank canvas is a daunting challenge for most artists: where to begin, and what to paint? For Anna Sidana, whose work is currently on display at the Pamela Walsh Gallery, the answer came by looking back at her childhood. Memories of time spent at her family's farm in Rajasthan, India, inspired her large-scale botanical oil paintings that are lush evocations of what she calls "an oasis in the desert." The exhibition, titled "Tangled Cotton," is on view through July 8.

This is Sidana's first solo exhibition and reflects her

circuitous route to becoming a full-time artist. Born and raised in New Delhi, she earned a bachelor's degree from the British Computer Society and embarked upon a career in technology that would take her to Europe and eventually to California. The next 30 years would find her working for some of the biggest names in the tech world (including Netscape and Paypal) before pausing to take a step back when her two children left for college.

"It was time to think about all that has happened and what I was doing," Sidana said. After taking a painting class in San Francisco, and then another, she

found herself asking, "What if this could be my next chapter?"

It would be a huge pivot for Sidana, as she moved from Palo Alto to San Francisco and enrolled at the San Francisco Art Institute. Although she loved her studies, she realized that, after years in marketing, "I didn't even speak the same language — it was a huge learning curve." She persevered because, "School was amazing; I just wanted to be the best artist I could be."

She graduated with a master's degree in Fine Arts in 2020, just in time for pandemic lockdowns. The bright side was that there was plenty of time to focus on her work. Realizing that she felt a sense of "disconnection" from her roots in India (most of her family lives here, and she has only returned to India for brief visits) she began to remember the happiest times of her



Courtesy Pamela Walsh Gallery

Some works by Anna Sidana, such as "Tangled Cotton," seen above, deliberately include drips of paint, which the painter described as "just part of the flow."

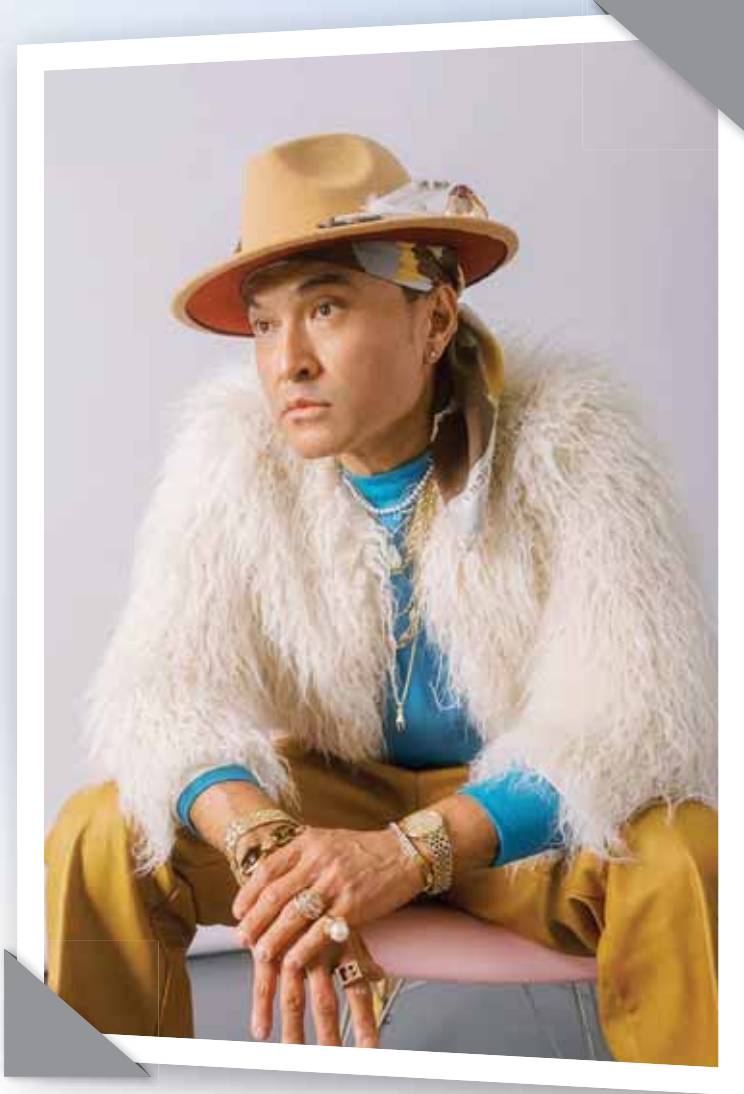
See ANNA SIDANA, page 21

Worth a Look

Lyrics Born

Japanese-American rapper Tsutomu Shimura, known by his stage name Lyrics Born, takes the stage at the Guild Theatre on Saturday, June 17. Known for his distinctively retro, funk-forward sound, Shimura brings electrifying energy and unwavering passion to his live performances, frequently featuring live bands behind him. He released his latest album, *Vision Board*, last year, an eclectic coalescence of R&B, funk and hip-hop musical styles. Beyond his acclaimed career as a rapper, Shimura has made recent forays into visual media; you may recognize him from his appearances in films "Sorry To Bother You" and "Always Be My Maybe." Bass player and funk musician Chaki will open.

June 17, 8 p.m. at the Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Tickets are \$29-\$55. guildtheatre.com. (AJ)



Courtesy Mark Chua

Lyrics Born plays The Guild on June 17.

Los Altos Juneteenth

Organized by education-focused social justice organization Justice Vanguard, this fourth annual festival commemorates the anniversary of when enslaved African Americans in Texas were emancipated in 1865, two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. The festival features a variety of local vendors that promote and celebrate African American culture, including popular food truck The Cookout, soul food staple Busstown, East Palo Alto-based microbrewery Brewing with Brothas, craft seller Crafty Carol 80, fruit cart Mangosay and more. The afternoon's entertainment also includes music and dance performances and speeches, and rum punch, beer and wine for adult attendees. Proceeds and donations from the event will support Justice Vanguard's programming, including education programs, their Black Student Scholarship fund and various community-building events. The event promises to be family-friendly, so don't worry about finding a babysitter for your little ones on Saturday.

June 17, noon-5 p.m. at Hillview Park, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Admission is free. justicevanguard.org. (AJ)

Biggest Little Air Show

The Hiller Aviation Museum will be celebrating its 25th anniversary this Saturday with their annual Biggest Little Air Show. The event features a plethora of aerial performances by model airplanes, drones, helicopters, model rockets and more. Airshow pilot Vicky Benzing provides a not-so-little performance in her full-sized 1940 Boeing Stearman airplane, complete with aerobatic tricks and a thrilling display

of her vintage vehicle. The Sukhoi West Demo Team also performs at the event, promising viewers an aerial spectacle. The San Carlos airport will close its runways, allowing visitors to observe a host of remote-controlled model aircraft up-close before they take to the sky as part of the event's aerial displays. Stop by the airport with your family to enjoy a morning of flamboyant flying performances sure to impress airplane enthusiasts of all ages.

June 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Road, San Carlos. Adult tickets \$19, senior/youth tickets \$12, children 4 and under, museum members attend for free. hiller.org. (AJ)

Treecital

Sure, music in the park is a popular summer event, but why not branch out with music *about* a park — or specifically, about what grows in a park? With their "Treecital" on June 17, vocalist and certified arborist Katherine Nägele-Lin and pianist Shannon Wang pay tribute to the trees in a family-friendly performance that pairs science and art. The Mountain View Library and Canopy host this outdoor event, a mashup of a concert with an informative chat about the important roles our tall leafy friends play both scientifically and culturally speaking. The program features songs from around the world, as well as over several centuries and includes pieces by two Bay Area composers.

June 17, 2 p.m. at Pioneer Park, Mountain View. Free. mountainview.libcal.com. (HZ)

Briefs by Akhil Joondeph (AJ) and Heather Zimmerman (HZ).

ANNA SIDANA

continued from page 20

childhood: playing freely with cousins among the mango and pomegranate trees and cotton plants on the family farm.

Sidana has depicted this tropical flora with bold, bright colors and sinewy lines that conjure energy and movement. They are not landscapes; Sidana said that she avoids a horizon line, but the works are too big and powerful to be considered still life. Lush, ripe pomegranates appear ready to burst open while fluffy, white cotton buds portend their future bounty. Standing before the canvases it is impossible not to feel a sense of immersion into this abundant environment. But there is a backstory to all this beauty that Sidana also wants the viewer to know and understand.

Cotton has a checkered history here in the United States as the crop most closely associated with slavery and as one of the underlying economic factors of the Civil War. As the gallery press release notes, "Anna's paintings depict cotton not only as a beautiful flower, but also as a crop with a deep history tainted by colonialism and human oppression." The title of the show, "Tall Cotton," refers to a phrase from the antebellum South that describes "bountiful crops, soaring prices and thriving prosperity," according to the press release.

Sidana also was aware that in India, the cash crop had its own problematic history as a resource that was exploited by British colonialism over several centuries. So how does she bridge the dichotomy between the bleak history and the beauty she remembers from her childhood?

"I think that it is messy," she stated, adding, "I want to create an enchanting world, a fantastical place. I want to draw people into the storyline and to be aware of the underbelly, the role cotton has played in the persecution of humanity."

How important is it to her that people are aware of the underlying message? "It is quite important," she stressed, "Art is one of the few bastions where you can speak the truth. I want them to understand the story — they don't have to like it."

"Great paintings reveal their secrets slowly. They do not need

to hit you over the head with bold statements. They pull you in with sensual brushstrokes and sophisticated, jewel-toned palettes," said Pamela Walsh. "It is so satisfying when an artist has depth to their work that goes beyond making a nice painting. These pictures are her heart songs and I am proud to share art in my gallery that has gravitas."

Sidana's oil-on-canvas paintings transport the viewer through the seasons and life cycles of the plants as though you are in their midst. Branches, leaves and blossoms create a dense jungle of forms that seem impassable and yet the valuable fruit is there for the taking. Some of the plants are rendered with great precision and accuracy, as in "Cotton for the Gods" but there is also a choice to allow free-flowing drips to remain on the canvas. In "Falling Apart, Silently," for example, the blood-red tendrils of paint add to the feeling of the slow decline of the fully open flower and allude, perhaps, to the temporal nature of all living things. Sidana explained, "The drips are a final step; they are not mistakes, they are just part of the flow."

After a career in technology where, as she said, "You are in your own lane running as fast as you can, all the time," Sidana seems happy and energized about her new direction. She has had several pieces of her work accepted in prestigious competitions like the De Young Open and the London Art Biennale. In addition, she has been selected to attend numerous artist residency programs where, she said with a smile, "You don't have to worry about a thing, all you have to do is your work."

How would she like visitors to regard the paintings in this show? "I would like people to enjoy and engage with the art and ask, a step deeper, 'Why would someone paint like this?' Perhaps they might walk away with an 'aha' moment," Sidana said.

"*Tall Cotton*" is on view through July 8 at Pamela Walsh Gallery, located at 540 Ramona St., Palo Alto. pamelawalshgallery.com. ■

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

VERY
REAL
LOCAL
NEWS

Print or online subscription starts at only \$12/month

Visit: AlmanacNews.com/join

#PressOn

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

Food & Drink

Inside Redwood City's hidden pasta factory

The unassuming factory creates oodles of pasta shapes, along with an array of desserts

Story by Kate Bradshaw
Photos by Devin Roberts

When my colleague Devin Roberts and I showed up at an 8 a.m. appointment deep in industrial Redwood City, we were flummoxed.

"Where's the pasta factory?" we asked each other as we circled fruitlessly around the block, passing an RV repair shop and asking a man if he knew where the pasta factory was. (He didn't even know there was one nearby.)

We circled the block again and then finally called the phone number of our contact on the inside: Trish Battaglia. She picked up immediately and eagerly stepped outside of an unmarked door and let us in.

In the front office of the factory, we donned hairnets and walked into the back room where Saporito Pasta makes its noodles.

Battaglia, her husband Greg and their business partner Brian DiNapoli have run the Redwood City pasta factory for about eight years and are its third owners; the factory has been in operation for at least 20 years. Since taking on the business, they have quadrupled pasta sales, Battaglia said.

And they're looking to expand further: They recently purchased a new plant that will allow them to manufacture meat-based pasta dishes. Cooking with meat requires specialized U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection facilities, so they need a separate space, Battaglia explained.

A team of five workers clocks in at 5 a.m. daily to make fresh pasta and desserts that are served at restaurants like Local Union 271, 888 Ristorante Italiano, Stamp Bar and Grill, The Post, Miramar Beach Restaurant and the Peninsula Creamery, and sold at local grocers like Bianchini's Market, Piazza's Fine Foods, Sigona's Farmers Market and Dehoff's Market. The company works with other customers too, but some grocers co-pack the pasta to have their company's branding on it, and some restaurants



Above: Trish Battaglia is the co-owner of Saporito Pasta in Redwood City. Below: Pasta dough is sent through the extruder.

present it as their own housemade pasta, she said.

Making the pasta

Saporito makes both dry and fresh pastas with just a handful of main ingredients: semolina and water, plus sometimes egg.

The pasta is made in a series of steps: First, the semolina and water are weighed. Next, they're added to one of two machines that mix the dough. The first machine, the laminator, mixes the dough until it comes out in flat sheets, which are then rolled up around rods that are fed through another machine that slices the sheets into different shapes. This machine makes flat noodles like linguini, pappardelle and lasagna.

Then there's the extruder machine. This one is used for making the pasta noodles that come out as tubes — from macaroni to gemelli to penne. These

are pressed through different dies — like a Play-Doh press — shaping long strands of tubular noodles.

During our visit, the extruder machine was pumping out long, thick bucatini noodles. As the noodles emerged in long, thick cords, the operator would wait until each was a little longer than a foot before slicing the emerging noodles and rolling them in semolina. Then he gently folded each noodle set into a bundle to be packaged for delivery.

As the day goes on, the team makes different batches of pasta, adding egg to some subsequent batches, and making further batches of the colored or flavored pasta varieties toward the end of the day. They've used natural ingredients like beets, spinach, roasted red peppers, paprika, saffron and squid ink in specialty orders, Battaglia said.



Times were tough for the factory during COVID. The team had to deal with a spike in the cost of flour and the loss of their tech company commissary kitchen customers. Before the pandemic, they had been preparing 4,000 pounds of pasta a week just for

Google. After the outbreak, that disappeared. So the community stepped up to buy their pasta, Battaglia said. The Redwood City Police Department placed orders; the company began offering a 15% discount to first responders. And they volunteered to serve



Above: A pan of cheese ravioli at Saporito Pasta in Redwood City.
Below: Saporito also makes desserts like raspberry mousse, chocolate ganache and tiramisu.



pasta to an entire hospital.

Plus, the grocery stores kept selling their pasta, she said.

"We're thankful to all of our grocery stores we sell to," Battaglia said. "They pretty much kept us in business."

In addition to expanding to a new USDA-compatible facility where they can prepare food with meat, Saporito Pasta is also expanding production of its dessert offerings.

Two of the staff members previously worked at French Patisserie, a Pacifica-based macaron wholesaler. Saporito currently offers crème brûlée, chocolate ganache mini cakes, raspberry mousse mini cakes and tiramisu. During the holidays they also make bûche de Noël cakes.

They're hoping to pass the business on to family members and often invite relatives to help out at the factory, Battaglia said. "It's mangia (eat), but work," she added.

All of the factory staff members work together to produce the pasta; the newer employees spend a couple of years just on one machine to master it before moving on to other parts of the manufacturing process, she said.

Some commute from as far away as Richmond, and Battaglia said she helps to pay for the FasTrak tolls and gas costs associated with their commutes. She said her favorite part is seeing the

Saporito Pasta products are available at the following Peninsula grocery stores:

Sigona's Farmer's Market,
2345 Middlefield Road,
Redwood City,
650-368-6993;

399 Stanford Shopping
Center, Palo Alto,
650-329-1340; Instagram:
@sigonafarmersmarket.

Bianchini's Market,
3130 Alpine Road #415,
Portola Valley, 650-851-4391;
810 Laurel St., San Carlos,
650-592-4701; Instagram:
@bianchinismarket.

Piazza's Fine Foods,
3922 Middlefield Road,
Palo Alto, 650-494-1629;
1218 W Hillsdale Blvd.,
San Mateo, 650-341-9496;
Instagram:
@piazzasfinefoods.

Dehoff's Market,
1063 Upton St., Redwood City,
650-365-5190; Instagram:
@dehoffskeymarkets.

employees "enjoy what they do."

"We all bring skills," she said. "Everybody contributes in one way or another." ■

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



Town of Atherton

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

Planning Commission

June 28, 2023

REGULAR MEETING 6:00 P.M.

*This is meeting is held virtually and
in-person at the Council Chambers.*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

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

Topic: Atherton Planning Commission Regular Meeting Time:

June 28, 2023, 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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

Meeting ID: 841 5024 9099

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84150249099# US
(Washington DC)

+13052241968,,84150249099# US

Find your local number

<https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/kglcVN4cq>

Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us

Projects under Public Hearing:

A. Tree Protection Zone Exception for three heritage trees to 6 times (6x) the trees diameter for the construction of detached accessory building including a 1,200 SF ADU, a 2-car garage, and a small guest suite / pool house at 345 Stockbridge Ave., zoned R1-A (APN 070-011-290 / Permit PTPZ23-00003)

CEQA: The proposal has been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to CEQA Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land

B. Request for removal of one (1) 26.8-inch Heritage Oak Tree to provide proposed vehicle back up distance for the garage as part of a new 2-story, 6,451 sq. ft. residence with full basement, detached garage Accessory Dwelling Unit, pool and driveway project at 92 Inglewood Lane, zoned R1-A (APN 070-240-150 / Permit HTR23-00002)

CEQA: The proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA 15303 (e) New construction or conversion of small structures.

C. Request to remove two Heritage trees, a 20.5" Magnolia, and a 33.8" Ash tree in the left side yard for the construction of a new 870 sq. ft. accessory structure to be used as a personal gym at 60 Adam Way, zoned R1-A (APN 059-311-210 / Permit HTR23-00003)

CEQA: The proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA 15303 (e) New construction or conversion of small structures.

D. Review and accept the Sacred Hearts Schools 2023 Master Plan Update for the Sacred Heart School with Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Sports field protective netting at Dollinger Field and Gavello Fields at 150 Valparaiso Avenue, zoned PFS (APN 070-390-010 / Permit MPL 23-00001)

CEQA: The proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA 15301 Existing Facilities

E. Review and accept the Menlo School 2023 Master Plan Update for the Menlo School with Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Childcare renovation project update at 50 Valparaiso Avenue, zoned PFS (APN 070-360-080 / Permit MPL23-00002)

CEQA: The proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA 15301 Existing Facilities

A copy of the Planning Commission staff report and application materials can be found online, by **Friday, June 23, 2023**, here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the Planning Commission at its meeting on **June 28, 2023, at 6:00 PM** in-person and via teleconference accessible through the above-described information, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the projects listed in the public hearing section should or should not be approved.

IF YOU CHALLENGE the listed projects in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Planning Commission decisions are appealable by any aggrieved person to the City Council within 10 days of the date of the decision. If you have any questions on the item please contact If you have any questions on the item please contact Radha Hayagreev, Senior Planner, (408) 796-4370 at rhayagreev@ci.atherton.ca.us or directly to the Planning Commission at planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us

Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Date Posted: June 16, 2023

ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION
/s/ Radha Hayagreev
Radha Hayagreev, Consulting Senior Planner

94027

ATHERTON



**1.37+/- Gated Acres
28 SARGENT LANE
ATHERTON**

- / Completed in 2020; Architecture: Richard Manion, Beverly Hills; Builder: Markay Johnson; Landscape: Hoffman Ospina, West Hollywood
- / Three levels with 6 bedrooms, office, 6 full baths, and 3 half-baths
- / Pool house with 1 bath
- / Solar-powered electricity for the home; backup generator
- / Attached 5-car garage with 2 EV charging outlets
- / Recreation room, bar, theatre, fitness center, and wine cellar
- / Pool and spa, vast entertainment terrace, fireplace, outdoor kitchen, playground, and raised vegetable beds
- / Las Lomas schools

- / Offered at \$25,800,000
- / 28Sargent.com

COMPASS



GULLIXSON.COM



BRENT 650 888 4898
DRE 01329216
BRENT@GULLIXSON.COM

MARY 650 888 0860
DRE 00373961
MARY@GULLIXSON.COM

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)

Compass is a RE broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License #01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.