

# The Almanac

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

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## Simitian announces bid to succeed Eshoo in Congress

Peninsula politician has already amassed more than \$600,000 in contributions

By Gennady Sheyner

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian formally announced on Wednesday, Nov. 29 his candidacy to replace U.S. Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, who will step away from Congress next year after nearly three decades of representing the Peninsula in Washington, D.C.

Simitian's Nov. 29 announcement has been widely expected, given his recent formation of a campaign committee and collection of more than \$680,000 in contributions for the Congressional run. He is expected to be one of the front-runners in the race to replace Eshoo, having represented portions of the 16th Congressional District over his decades of service at the local and county levels as well as in the state Senate and the state Assembly.

Simitian, whose political career included stints as a Palo Alto mayor and school board member, noted that he had

already represented 15 of the 16 cities in the 16th District, which includes the Midpeninsula area as well as portions of South Bay and San Mateo counties. He has been serving on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors since 2012 and is set to term out next year, when his third and final term expires.

As a supervisor, he has been at the forefront of the county's efforts to regulate growth at Stanford University and support new housing projects such as Palo Alto's new developments at 230 Grant Ave. (which targets educators), 525 Charleston Road (which focuses on individuals with disabilities) and 1237 San Antonio Road (which, once built, will accommodate homeless individuals and families).

Simitian is also well known locally for leading a successful effort in 2017 to save Buena Vista Mobile Home Park from shutting down. The Santa Clara Housing Authority ended up

See **SIMITIAN**, page 11



Veronica Weber

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian chairs a Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors meeting on April 17, 2018 in San Jose.

## Jury convicts man of brutal assault on Stevens Creek Trail

Attack against woman raised concerns about public safety in Mountain View

By Emily Margaretten

Nearly five years after a violent attack against a woman on Stevens Creek Trail in Mountain View, a jury convicted a 34-year-old man for a crime that authorities described as a "stranger assault" that put the community on edge when it happened.

Michael Wendy Adonis, a French citizen, was convicted on Nov. 14 of kidnapping and assault with the intent to commit rape, as well as other felony and misdemeanor charges.

The kidnapping conviction carries a minimum sentence of seven years to life in prison,

said Brian King, a Santa Clara County deputy district attorney, who prosecuted the case. With the remaining convictions, a judge could decide on 10 years to life at the next court trial, which is set for Dec. 14, according to King.

The case was notable for the brutality of the attack and for the way police nabbed Adonis. He was linked to the crime four days after it occurred because of bite marks that the victim inflicted on his right hand.

Early in the investigation, the Mountain View Police Department received corroborating reports from the victim and eye witnesses who came

to her aid during the assault, which occurred on Feb. 25, 2019, according to the police report.

On the evening of the attack, the victim, who was visiting Mountain View from Boston on a work-related trip, decided to use Stevens Creek Trail to reach her Airbnb rental after having dinner downtown. As she was walking on the trail, she noticed that she was being followed by a man, later identified as Adonis, near the Highway 85 overpass, the report said.

Adonis approached the woman, briefly spoke to her and grabbed her, according to the investigation. As she tried to call 911 on her cell phone, Adonis

wrestled the phone away and dragged her behind a utility box. The victim continued to fight Adonis who punched her repeatedly in the face and tried to muffle her screams with his hands. He also threatened to use a knife and tried to pull down her pants while pinning her on the ground, the report said.

During the altercation, the victim bit Adonis' hand, leaving deep lacerations. Adonis briefly eased his stranglehold, which provided the woman with an opportunity to escape. She saw a couple on the trail and ran to them for help, but Adonis left the area before he could be apprehended by police, the

report said.

Four days later, Mountain View police received an unrelated call about a domestic violence incident at a Santa Clara Avenue residence, where Adonis was staying with a female roommate. When questioning Adonis, police noticed numerous scabs on his right hand that looked like bite marks. Adonis provided different stories to the police about how he injured his hand. He also matched eyewitness descriptions of the trail assailant, which led the police to arrest him, the report said.

During the trial, authorities

See **ASSAULT**, page 7

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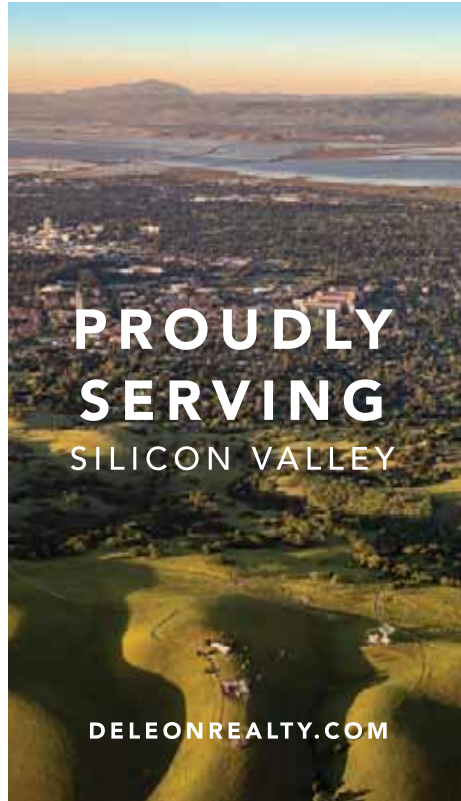
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Approximately 3,825 total square feet

– Main residence: 3,015 sq. ft.

– 2-car garage: 540 sq. ft.

– Unfinished storage: 270 sq. ft.

Main rooms: foyer; powder room; living room with fireplace; formal dining room; kitchen; casual dining area; family room; laundry room

Personal accommodations: upstairs primary suite; landing area with deck access; three upstairs bedrooms, one customized for an office; bathroom

2-car garage with outside access plus two convenient guest parking spaces

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Excellent Portola Valley schools



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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Courtesy Debora Ferrand

Mademoiselle Colette owner Debora Ferrand at her new Atherton cafe on Sept. 24.

## At long last, Mademoiselle Colette opens Atherton location

Local patisserie also lands new renowned French chef

By Angela Swartz

When you walk into the new Mademoiselle Colette in Atherton, you are greeted with pastel greens, handmade wallpaper, white marble and golds, in this pocket-sized gem of a cafe.

The newest branch of the local staple for French pastries opened its doors on Sept. 24 in a 250-square-foot space in the town library at 85 Fair Oaks Lane. The opening coincided with the town's 100th birthday celebration.

Owner Debora Ferrand said she'd hoped the cafe would

open in fall of 2022, but had difficulty securing a contractor for the project and shipping delays presented additional roadblocks.

"Atherton is mostly residential, so people are happy to have something in the

See **PATISSERIE**, page 11

## Don Horsley, former San Mateo County supervisor and longtime sheriff, dies

Local officials paid tribute to a 'tireless public servant' who took special interest in the community's most vulnerable populations

By Michelle Iracheta

Former San Mateo County Sheriff and County Supervisor Don Horsley has died at age 80, the sheriff's office confirmed the evening of Nov. 24.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's said in an Instagram post that Horsley died on the morning of Nov. 24.

"This is a very sad day for San Mateo County," said state

Assemblyman Marc Berman, D-Menlo Park, in a post on X. "Don Horsley was a remarkable man and a tireless public servant who always focused on helping the underserved. He was always there with advice (spend more time on the Coastside!), but was never pushy. I'm going to miss him."

An obituary posted on the San Mateo County website characterized Horsley as "a former teacher and beat cop whose bold

ideas for reforms propelled him" to two of the top elected positions in the county.

Horsley started at the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office in 1972, initially serving as a patrol deputy in East Palo Alto. In 1993, Horsley was elected as county sheriff, a position he held for more than a decade. He retired in 2007.

See **HORSLEY**, page 14

## Atherton strives to meet state mandates on housing plan and still protect town's character

By Neil Gonzales

As a Jan. 31 state deadline approaches, Atherton is still searching for ways to spur residential development that complies with California's housing mandate while at the same time preserving the town's historically large-lot, single-family character as much as possible.

To that end, limiting building heights and protecting residents' privacy are among the key objectives as town officials consider design and development standards for multifamily dwellings at sites previously identified for potential future housing.

"What we're trying to do is set the standards of how (developers) can build," Mayor Bill Widmer told The Almanac. "We've made some good progress on what we're going to do. We've said we would build multifamily houses, and we will meet the needs that (the state) identified to us."

Over the past several weeks, the town held community workshops and joint City Council and Planning Commission study sessions to go over design and development standards. Besides building heights and neighborhood privacy concerns, those meetings also covered issues related to landscape screening, parking, respecting existing setbacks and different housing types.

Town staff will take the feedback from all the public discussion to craft an ordinance and zoning changes that speak to the standards, City Manager George Rodericks told The Almanac. The hope is the council will be able to approve the ordinance and revised zoning before the town has to resubmit its housing element plan to the state by the end of January.

The state twice already sent back Atherton's Housing Element for further work. Atherton needs to plan for 348 net new housing units under the state Regional Housing Needs Allocation program for the current 2023-31 cycle — a considerable increase from the

93 dwellings required during the previous eight-year period.

The state is pushing jurisdictions to plan for increased numbers of residences to help tackle California's longtime housing crisis.

"We're trying to solve for more housing options," Atherton's Town Planner Brittany Bendix said during one of the study sessions.

Previously, the town focused on accessory dwelling units as a major approach in its housing element, but Bendix said that strategy doesn't address populations such as large families that multifamily development would be able to do.

**'Privacy is very, very important. We don't want to have multistory homes ... where then people can peer out the windows and see into the neighbor's yard.'**

MAYOR BILL WIDMER

Among the multifamily housing types that Atherton could permit are fourplexes, apartments and condominiums.

"We talked about different types of potential homes," Widmer said. "Some would be, for example, a single home like a fourplex, which would look like a very big house, but there'd be four apartments in there."

The town is also looking at, but has yet to adopt, a requirement for multifamily projects to offer at least 20% of their units at below-market rates, a staff report said.

A big concern from town leaders and residents is how high future residential buildings could rise. But the town has eyed a maximum limit of three stories for most structures while school sites such as Menlo College could allow for four, Widmer said.

See **ATHERTON HOUSING**, page 7

# Portola Valley's new town manager hits the ground running with review of town hall

By Angela Swartz

With the departures of top town staffers in 2023, and a town hall turnover rate reaching nearly 70%, Portola Valley's top manager is taking a step back and considering how to stabilize staffing amid concerns about the impacts to the town's ability to conduct business and serve its residents.

Portola Valley has a total of 19 staff positions. Currently there are six vacancies, with an interim director of building and planning filling in for a seventh vacancy, according to Town Manager Sharif Etman, who took over on Aug. 30 following the departure of Jeremy Dennis in March.



Sharif Etman

A November report, part of a plan called "Reset - Refocus - Restructure," from Pleasant Hill-based Krisch & Company detailed its fiscal findings and recommendations. One key finding was that the town is several years behind on finance audits.

"The biggest piece is helping Portola Valley get caught up (on finances) and get some stability," said Etman, who has a background in finance. "The No. 1 priority is the housing

element and getting finances back in line. ... It's a wonderful place to live and work. I'm in awe of all the passionate residents and volunteers."

Every eight years per state law, every city and town in California must update its housing element documents to prove how it will meet housing standards set by Sacramento. Each jurisdiction must create a sites inventory, or a list of properties that could reasonably be developed into housing in the next eight years, in order to meet the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), the number of net new housing units required. Like other cities in the state, Portola Valley's plan is overdue (the deadline for a compliant element was Jan. 31, 2023).

"We have a lot of vacancies (in Portola Valley)," Etman said. A senior management analyst, associate planner and development review technician position are unfilled. "It's been very difficult not only to recruit, but to retain staff here."

He said it's a good time to examine roles and see what could be changed or moved around.

Etman requested the report in hopes of having findings in his first 60-90 days on the job, he said. He most recently served as the interim assistant administrative services director in Redwood City, but has

also worked for the cities of Los Altos and Campbell, and the San Mateo County Human Services Agency.

Resident Betsy Morgenthaler said the report showed an "almost unbelievable absence of past oversight."

"There were so many red flags that got missed along the way," she said. "The former manager had full control over financials without oversight for

with town officials, seems hopeful that tensions can be smoothed over with new leadership at Town Hall. In a Nov. 8 newsletter, members wrote: "At PVNU we are optimistic that having a new Town Manager — Welcome, Mr. Etman — will help calm our troubled seas and bring us closer together."

## Other priorities

Aside from catching up on finances, the town needs to finalize its contract with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office for police services that are (expected to rise in cost this year); approve a compliant housing element; review how town committees are structured; and move forward with the Stanford Wedge housing development project on Alpine Road. Etman said he would like to put these priorities in order and put deadlines on each.

"When everything is a priority, nothing is a priority, so we need to be clear on what our next steps are," Etman said during a Nov. 8 council meeting. "I want to be clear that we are not bankrupt, we are not broke. Our finances are fine. We are just behind (on audits)."

The town will continue working with Krisch regarding the financial matters until June.

There was no report out of a closed session meeting on Nov. 8 about a lawsuit brought against the town by resident Rusty Day over its handling of the housing element. The topic is expected to come back to the council at a January meeting, Etman said on Nov. 22. The next draft of the housing element is expected in January as well, he said. ■

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**'At PVNU we are optimistic that having a new Town Manager — Welcome, Mr. Etman — will help calm our troubled seas and bring us closer together.'**

PORTOLA VALLEY NEIGHBORS UNITED

his tenure."

Mayor Jeff Aalfs, who has been on the Town Council for 12 years, said he knows the town government can follow more up-to-date practices.

"People were sort of attached to the way things were done and people doing them," he said. "Some staff have been here 20 years and taken pride in that — continuity is good and institutional knowledge is good. The finance department is being asked to do things now it hasn't before, like new reporting requirements. They oversee a lot more transactions than they used to and are still trying to adapt to new software."

The OpenGov website that Portola Valley now uses has been a difficult to navigate, Aalfs noted.

Portola Valley Neighbors United (PVNU), a volunteer-led group that has at times sparred



Michelle Le

Portola Valley's new town manager is working to shore up Town Hall staffing and catch up on overdue audits.

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## OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

**Rita Catherine Brox**, 103, a Redwood City resident who worked in the city's finance department for many years, loved cooking and sharing her love of cooking with others, and was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, on July 3.

**Joel Alan Wolfberg**, 78, a Palo Alto resident and psychologist who lived to serve others, advocated for the homeless, volunteered on The Behavioral Health Board of Santa Clara County, and exercised his many artistic talents, on July 26.

**Dieter Folta**, 79, a long-time resident of Palo Alto and more recently of Berlin who had many friends near and far, including his faithful dog, Koda, and who enjoyed frequenting Douce France at Town & Country Village, on Nov. 7.

**Lucy Louise Lunt**, 15, a Menlo Park resident who lifted those around her with positivity and humor despite living with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, who started the Disabilities Awareness Club at her high school, served in the Young Women's presidency for her church and established deep and joyful relationships with others, on Nov. 18.

**Ron Tinseth**, 65, a Redwood City resident who served in the U.S. Marine Corps and earned meritorious distinctions, was a gifted painter, possessed an imaginative sense of humor as well as a legendary ability to recall details from long ago, on Nov. 24.

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

# Menlo Park council votes to allow development of up to 100 housing units per acre in downtown

With density bonuses, a project could go up to 150 units per acre

By Cameron Rebosio

Despite going back and forth at a Nov. 28 City Council meeting, the Menlo Park City Council passed seven resolutions to rezone the city, including allowing development of up to 100 housing units per acre in downtown.

The impetus to change zoning is part of the housing element update process that Menlo Park has undergone for the past year and a half. The original deadline to submit a housing element acceptable to California officials was Jan. 31, and its failure to get state approval has left the city open to penalties such as so-called builder's remedy projects — like the high-rise proposal at the former Sunset Magazine headquarters on Willow Road — that can bypass the city's development rules. Since Menlo Park still doesn't have an approved housing element, the city will be exposed to further state penalties unless the council passes zoning changes to expand housing development opportunities by Jan. 31 of next year.

At the meeting, Menlo Park resident Karen Grove approached the council with a sign saying local advocacy group Menlo Together and the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County had gathered online and in-person signatures. She then unfurled a list of names that reached the floor. The online petition advocates for the council to allow buildings up to eight stories high in downtown Menlo Park and as of Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 29, had 60 signatures.

One speaker, Michael, said that he's spoken before at a City Council meeting, but this time he was not speaking as a Menlo Park resident. He said that after a pipe burst in his Menlo Park apartment, he was forced to move. Faced with Menlo Park housing prices, he couldn't stay in the city.

"It has been frustrating seeing Menlo Park continue to fail housing elements and have to continue revising while I am in the middle of trying to find an apartment," Michael

said. "I hope that other people in similar situations don't have to move out of the city and are able to find more options."

Two speakers asked the council to not adopt the proposed resolutions without adding protections for current residents to stabilize rents and to offer market-rate compensation for residents if they are relocated during construction.

Increasing density was a focal point in the meeting, and the council looked at upzoning — increasing the size and height of buildings allowed — across the city. The council considered a proposal that would allow developers to combine density bonuses allowed by state law and the so-called affordable housing overlay (AHO) to permit as much as 150 units per acre density. For developments that are within half a mile of a transit stop, unlimited density is permitted under state Assembly Bill 1763, except that developers can go no more than three stories higher than existing height restrictions.

The council unanimously voted to approve the AHO, which allows the 150-unit per acre maximum to apply to all opportunity sites or areas designated in the housing element as good for developing housing.

In another of several motions regarding zoning changes, Council member Betsy Nash argued against increasing downtown density as proposed, saying that the city should not "supercharge" market rate housing, and should instead keep the focus on affordable housing.

"I do not believe that we have thought through the likely consequences of zoning for 100 units per acre for market rate housing," Nash said. "There will be no going back from this decision. Once these housing numbers are established, they cannot be reduced."

Nash said her concerns revolved around the Housing Accountability Act's mandate that cities cannot change laws in a way that creates a net loss of housing. Nash said she would be more comfortable with 70 units per acre, as the

city can always increase it but cannot easily bring it back down.

Council member Drew Combs agreed that 100 units per acre could be too high for market-rate housing in Menlo Park, but Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor argued that while she was on the fence, she believed if it worked for the Bayfront neighborhood, it should work for downtown.

"I think we should have the same policy in every area in Menlo Park," Taylor said. "So 100 units an acre was good for Bayfront, so 100 units an acre was good for the rest of Menlo Park. I do believe that."

The council passed the rezoning 3-2 with Nash and Combs dissenting.

The zoning changes passed at the meeting will return to the Menlo Park City Council for a second vote next week, Dec. 6, a step required before they can become law. ■

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## Caltrans opens new one-way traffic route along Highway 84 landslide near Woodside

By Angela Swartz

Caltrans has reconfigured the stretch of a severely damaged portion of Highway 84 near Woodside that has been reduced to one-way traffic since late July, according to a Nov. 27 Caltrans newsletter. The roadway was completely shut down

from March to July after a storm caused a 250-foot landslide.

The week of Nov. 20, Caltrans switched one-way traffic to the newly paved uphill side of Highway 84 to allow crews to continue repairs to the lower slope.

Caltrans also noted that work on the architectural "skin" (the

roadway facade) is being postponed so crews can focus on fixing the lower wall ahead of winter weather.

Ongoing work on the project includes installing connecting upper slope drainage systems, along with culvert and vegetation control along Highway 84

The roadway was shut down

completely from early March until July 27 following a 250-foot landslide during a storm. The damaged area, also called La Honda Road, is east of Highway 35, and traffic had to detour on Old La Honda and Kings Mountain roads during the full closure.

Two-way traffic isn't expected

to be reopened until March of 2024 at the earliest, and could take until May, according to Caltrans.

To sign up for the newsletter with updates on the project, email SR84slideupdates@dot.ca.gov.

For updates on slide repairs, go to dot.ca.gov/caltrans-nearme/district-4/d4-projects. ■

### ATHERTON HOUSING

continued from page 5

Town leaders also expressed concern about the state's Density Bonus Law potentially giving developers exceptions to the standards depending on the amount and type of affordable units they plan to build. In such a scenario, a developer could bring in a project with more units than the town would want.

"We could get double the density of what we've expected," Council member Rick DeGolia said.

But for the exceptions to be given, Bendix said, they have to contribute "to the facilitation of affordable housing. So if I were to deny a project or deny an exception, I would have to make that finding."

Another challenge is maintaining the privacy of residents close to where new housing could go up.

"Privacy is very, very important," Widmer said. "We don't want to have multistory homes — two or even three stories — where then people can peer out the windows and see into the neighbor's yard. So we talked about screening. We talked about how the windows should be established."

Tom Giorgi, who lives on East Oakwood Boulevard near a site for potential new housing, said he felt his privacy in jeopardy.

Giorgi told town leaders that he would be able to view a new development right over his fence. The height "should be as low as possible," he said. "I'm hoping we don't have a building and windows looming over our fence."

Jed Riddle, another resident who lives near sites targeted for future homes, implored the town to remove those areas — on Bay Road and Ringwood Avenue — for inclusion in the housing element.

"If you put six to 10 families adjacent to our area, you have stolen our property, you have stolen our character, you have taken the value of our homes away," Riddle said. "It is absolutely untenable for us to live with six to 10 families immediately behind our property. ... You're harming your local citizens, who have lived here, paid taxes here and have a certain lifestyle that we have all grown to love and support." ■

Email Contributing Writer  
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### ASSAULT

continued from page 1

said they used DNA and fingerprint evidence from the crime scene, which was taken from the victim's clothes and phone, that linked Adonis to the assault. The victim and other eyewitnesses also testified at the trial, The Mercury News reported on Nov. 16.

The jury took less than two hours to deliberate on the case before returning with a guilty verdict, according to court records.

Adonis was convicted of five felonies that included kidnapping and assault charges, as well as attempting to dissuade a witness by force and threats of great bodily injury. Adonis also was convicted of two misdemeanors,

one for obstructing the use of a wireless communication device and the other for battery against his roommate, according to the case file. ■

Email Staff Writer Emily  
Margaretten at mmargaretten@mv-voice.com.

**LEHUA GREENMAN**



*"All Gave Some. Some Gave All."*

December 7, 1941

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

**650.245.1845 COMPASS**

# From rent relief to subsidized child care, Fair Oaks Community Center offers range of services

By Angela Swartz

When a single mom in Redwood City lost one of her two jobs in October — and wasn't eligible for unemployment — she turned to a longstanding community organization to help her make rent.

Her landlord referred her to Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City. The center, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2024, was able to provide her with funds to pay rent for October and November while she looked for another job.

"It's exactly the way we want to be able to come in and help folks: to be able to maintain housing and get back on track," said Teri Chin, human services manager for the city of Redwood City, who runs the community center. Chin noted the woman has since been able to land another job. "It was created in response to



wanting to have a place, more in the community, where people could come for programs and services. It was a grassroots community initiative."

Chin said the community center, located at 2600 Middlefield Road, is unique in that it partners with both nonprofits and public agencies to provide services such as subsidized child care and older adult activities, food distribution, shelter referrals and citizenship classes, along with financial and legal assistance through San Mateo County's LIBRE. Chin finds it rewarding to help people who can't find services that quite fit with their needs.

"It's rewarding to know programs and services make a difference for folks," she said,

especially in extraordinary situations.

The center serves Redwood City, North Fair Oaks, Portola Valley, Woodside and Atherton, but most clients live in Redwood City and North Fair Oaks, according to Chin. Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, it served 6,500 people and almost 500 households sought some form of emergency financial assistance, according to Chin.

Funding for financial aid comes from a variety of sources: Measure K funds, the San Francisco Chronicle's Season of Sharing, the Samaritan House and more.

Fair Oaks Community Center is also one of the beneficiaries of The Almanac's Holiday Fund. Donations are divided equally among this year's 10 nonprofit organizations and 100% of the funds raised go directly to the recipients. Donations to the Holiday Fund can be made at [almanacnews.com/holiday\\_fund](http://almanacnews.com/holiday_fund). Chin said Holiday Fund contributions will go toward the center's holiday diaper program.

## Pandemic changes and getting back to normal

Financial emergency assistance from Fair Oaks Community Center skyrocketed during the pandemic. A breakdown of the funds, according to Chin, are as follows:

■ March 20, 2020-June 30, 2020: \$1.2 million (almost all rent relief)

■ July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021: \$2.1 million (mostly rent relief and deposit assistance)

■ July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022: \$358,684 (community center staff focused on assisting community members to access the California COVID-19 Relief



Courtesy Fair Oaks Community Center

Peninsula Family Service staff and participants at the Fair Oaks Adult Activity Center pumpkin decorating party in 2023.

Fund which ended on June 30, 2022. Redwood City residents alone received over \$13 million in funds from this relief effort.)

■ July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023: \$1.1 million (mortgage, rent, deposit and utility assistance)

The Fair Oaks Community center was deemed an essential service, so it was "really important we were able to keep our doors open" during the pandemic, Chin said. It shifted many of its indoor activities to outdoors and shifted some services to over the phone. The child care and senior programs only shutdown temporarily.

The center was remodeled in the last year, with new spaces for video conferencing meetings, client services rooms that offer more privacy and a new kitchen.

Its holiday toy drive and book program, in partnership with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department and Redwood City, has been around for 40-plus

years and was hosted through drive-thru distribution during the pandemic. It's on track to have over 500 people from North Fair Oaks and another 200 from the Coastside participate in this year's drive, Chin said.

The client services at the center are available Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 9-11 a.m. and 3-4 p.m.

Facility hours are: Mondays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Friday from 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

To donate to the toy drive and book program, go to [tinyurl.com/fairoakstoydrive](http://tinyurl.com/fairoakstoydrive).

For more on the center, go to [tinyurl.com/holidayfundcommunitycenter](http://tinyurl.com/holidayfundcommunitycenter). ■

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



Courtesy Fair Oaks Community Center

North Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City held a diaper distribution on Nov. 27.

## County libraries giving out free diaper kits this winter

By Bay City News Service

San Mateo County Libraries have launched a pilot program offering more than 1,800 free diaper kits to support families in need. Each kit contains 80 diapers and 200 wipes.

The program, which launched on Oct. 28, has already provided over 9,500 free diapers to community members, the library system said in a statement. Funding for the pilot program comes from Measure K, San Mateo County's voter-approved half-cent sales tax from 2016 that is intended to support critical services.

"Free diapers and wipes can make a big difference for families

struggling with the high cost of living in the Bay Area, especially during the holiday season," Sara McDowell, Library JPA governing board chairperson said in the statement. "San Mateo County Libraries are a trusted resource in our communities, and we are honored to be the ones providing these essential items in a welcoming environment for families and their little ones."

The rising cost of diapers has created a challenge for families who need these essential items. Data show that low-income families spend approximately 14% of their post-tax income on diapers. The libraries hope to ease some of that financial

burden by passing out free diapers during special distribution events once a month.

Families can pick up kits at no cost on a first-come, first-served basis. No library card, proof of ID, income or any other information will be collected to receive diapers.

The three-month pilot program is offering diaper kits at 11 remaining events through January at Pacifica Sharp Park and Belmont libraries. Diapers will be available in sizes 1-6 while supplies last. Each event will also offer families a chance to enjoy fun, kid-friendly experiences.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved \$50,000 of Measure K funds to

support the program. Proposed by Supervisor Ray Mueller, the free diapers offering builds on the successful launch of other necessities the library system has made available for free to the public. Previously the libraries have launched free distribution of COVID-19 masks, test kits and period products.

"In these tough economic times we wanted to make certain people weren't choosing between nutritious food and essentials like diapers, for their children," Mueller said in the statement. "We've seen this work at other libraries in California and wanted to make it happen for our residents here in San

Mateo County. Hopefully, this makes the holiday season a little brighter for those in need."

Upcoming free diaper distribution events will happen at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Belmont Library, located at 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas, and the Pacifica Sharp Park Library, at 104 Hilton Way.

The Belmont Library will also host diaper kit giveaways at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 2; 2 p.m. on Dec. 16; 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 13; and 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 27.

The Pacifica Sharp Park Library will also hold diaper kit giveaways at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 30; 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 5; 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 16; 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 6; and 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 20. ■

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Menlo Park's annual tree lighting event**

Menlo Park will host its annual tree lighting ceremony in Fremont Park this Friday, Dec. 1.

The holiday celebration will feature performances from Menlo Park youth, wintery photo sets, free hot chocolate and other family-friendly entertainment. The celebration will also include the lighting of the tree in Fremont Park to kick off the holiday season.

Rain or shine, the event will take place from 5:30-7 p.m. at Fremont Park on the corner of University Drive and Santa Cruz Avenue.

**Belle Haven Child Development Center**

The Belle Haven Child Development Center is currently enrolling children between 3 to 5 years old.

The child development center at 415 Ivy Dr. is a city program to prepare children for kindergarten and build their self-esteem. The preschool operates from 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and children in the program are provided with organic breakfast, lunch and a snack. Tuition for a full-day program is \$1,042 a month for Menlo Park residents and \$1,407 a month for non-residents. Subsidized tuition is available through a sliding fee scale based on family income and size.

Parents can register their children for the program by emailing Library and Community Services Supervisor Kira Storms at knstorms@menlopark.org or calling 650-330-2270.

—Cameron Rebosio

**M-A Robotics team to host 'Mechanical M-Ayhem' on Dec. 2**

The Menlo-Atherton High School Robotics team is hosting a robotics competition, Mechanical M-Ayhem on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., according to organizers. In addition to M-A, three other high school robotics teams are participating: Carlmont High in Belmont, Gateway High in San Francisco and KIPP King Collegiate in San Lorenzo.

This event was created in 2018 to teach new members the process of designing and building a robot, organizers said in an email.

The theme this year is robosoccer. The matches will be set up in a two-versus-two form, with teams randomly paired together, "resulting in a suspenseful elimination bracket," organizers said.

The event will take place in M-A's Ayers Gym, 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton.

**Atherton holiday celebration and tree lighting ceremony is Dec. 7**

The town of Atherton will host its annual holiday celebration and tree lighting in partnership with the Atherton Library and Friends of the Library on the library gazebo from 3-5 p.m. on Dec. 7. Santa Claus will make an appearance and there will be activities for children, hot cocoa and more.

The library is located at 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane.

**Donate to annual Atherton toy drive by Dec. 20**

The Atherton Police Activities League and Atherton Police Officers Association are hosting their annual toy drive to serve the Adelante Selby Lane Spanish Immersion School in Atherton.

Drop off an unwrapped toy by Wednesday, Dec. 20, at the Atherton Police Station and Town Hall (both at 80 Fair Oaks Lane) or the Menlo Circus Club (190 Park Lane).

Toys needed include Lego sets, bicycles, science-gearred projects, dolls, craft projects, sports items, puzzles and books.

Contact Jennifer Frew, PAL coordinator, at jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us for more information.

—Angela Swartz

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# For more than 30 years, Ristorante Don Giovanni has been dishing up free Thanksgiving meals

Holiday tradition returns to downtown Mountain View after pandemic hiatus

By Emily Margaretten

With all the Thanksgiving fixings, Mountain View's Ristorante Don Giovanni served up plates of turkey, stuffing and sweet potatoes on Thursday, Nov. 23, much to the delight of patrons who lined up outside the front door to celebrate the annual tradition.

Dressed in his signature pink plaid blazer, long-time owner John Akkaya greeted families, friends and new faces, giving out hugs and fist-bumps as he ushered them into the restaurant to enjoy the complimentary holiday meal on Nov. 23.

For more than 30 years,

Akkaya has been serving the community a free Thanksgiving lunch, a tradition that started with his first restaurant, Cafe Figaro in Burlingame in 1989.

The idea began long before he opened his own restaurant, Akkaya said. As a server in Chicago, he saw another restaurant doing it, and vowed that he would do the same if given the opportunity.

That first year when he opened Cafe Figaro, Akkaya pulled out all the stops with a free Thanksgiving meal. "I didn't go broke," he laughed. And ever since then, he has continued the tradition, bringing it to Mountain View when he opened Ristorante Don Giovanni,

located at 235 Castro St., in 1997.

"Things you have, you share. And things you don't have, you work for," Akkaya said, explaining his motivation for feeding the community and his philosophy towards life in general.

This year's feast was particularly meaningful for Akkaya, as the Thanksgiving feast was put on hold for three years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regular customers, like Mountain View resident Jim Carroll Jones, who brought family members and friends with him, also appreciated the return of the Thanksgiving tradition. "I'll take my usual table," he said smiling.

At least 1,500 people would eat at the restaurant that day, Akkaya said, adding that the dining experience was open to the entire community.

Serving about 100 people at a time, a volunteer staff of family and friends brought in heaping plates of food to every section of the dining room, while Akkaya served glasses of milk and water to each table.

His son, Will Akkaya, who now runs Cafe Figaro, said that they have been preparing for weeks, with 150 turkeys ordered for the day.

"This is his happiest day of the year," he said, looking at his beaming father. ■

Email Staff Writer Emily Margaretten at [mmargaretten@mv-voice.com](mailto:mmargaretten@mv-voice.com).



Emily Margaretten

People line up outside Ristorante Don Giovanni in downtown Mountain View for a free Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 23.



Emily Margaretten

Patrons enjoy a complimentary Thanksgiving meal at Ristorante Don Giovanni on Nov. 23.

## TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

**Applicant: Martin Ramies**

**4170 and 4190 Alpine Road, File # PLN LLA 01-2022**

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Town of Portola Valley's Planning Commission to conduct review of an application for a lot line adjustment. The affected parcels are APN 079-074-200 and 079-074-190, both owned by the applicant.

This project has been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Section 15305 (a), which specifically states a lot line adjustment is exempt when it does not result in creating any new parcel.

The Planning Commission will review and discuss the project during a hybrid in-person and Zoom videoconferencing public meeting on **Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 7:00 PM**. You are invited to attend and provide written or verbal comments. Members of the public may attend virtually by utilizing the Zoom meeting info provided in the agenda linked below, or in person at the Town's Historic School House, 765 Portola Road in Portola Valley. Written comments may also be submitted to Planning staff.

### Remote Public Comments:

Public Hearings provide the general public and interested parties an opportunity to provide testimony on these items. If you challenge a proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at a Public Hearing(s) described above, or in written correspondence delivered to the Town of Portola Valley at, or prior to, the Public Hearing(s).

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. Please send an email to Jake Garcia, Consultant Planner at [planning@portolavalley.net](mailto:planning@portolavalley.net) by 12:00 PM on the day of the meeting. Comments received by that time will be sent to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting. All received questions and comments will be included in the public record. Members of the public can ask questions/provide comments using the "raise your hand" feature in the Zoom platform.

The agenda (including Zoom meeting info) and staff report will be posted on the Town's website by 5:00PM the Friday prior to the meeting at <https://www.portolavalley.net/town-government/planning-commission/minutes-and-agendas>.

Dated: November 22, 2023

Jon Biggs

Interim Planning and Building Director

By Thomas Hughes/  
Bay City News Service

The state is making nearly \$300 million in additional grant money available for local governments to clear homeless encampments, with a focus on areas near state highways and interstate highways, and provide housing options for people who are impacted.

About half of the "encampment resolution" money announced by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday, Nov. 27, will be dedicated to the effort to clear encampments on what the state refers to as rights-of-way, which are public roads, highways and interstate highways owned and maintained by Caltrans.

The \$299 million in grant money adds to the \$414 million already awarded from the

state's Encampment Resolution Fund, which was established through Assembly Bill 140 in 2021 to help local jurisdictions provide more re-housing options for people living in encampments near highways.

In a statement, Newsom said clearing the encampments was motivated by safety.

"Since day one, combatting homelessness has been a top priority. Encampments are not safe for the people living in them, or for community members around them. The state is giving locals hundreds of millions of dollars to move people into housing and clean up these persistent and dangerous encampments. And we are doing the same on state land, having removed 5,679 encampments since 2021," Newsom said.

Cities, counties and

continuum of care are eligible to apply for the grant money through the California Interagency Council on Homelessness through next June.

The money helps fund street outreach teams and facilitates partnerships between local governments and Caltrans to clear the encampments.

"Through the Encampment Resolution Grants, Caltrans is working to connect people experiencing homelessness on its right-of-way to more secure and stable housing situations offered by local partners," said Alisa Becerra, a Caltrans deputy division chief.

"The strength of this effort relies on collaboration, trust, and a shared commitment to creating real solutions that help the people who need it most," Becerra said. ■



Angela Swartz

Above: Mademoiselle Colette's Atherton location on Nov. 20. Mademoiselle Colette's ham and cheese sandwich, top right, and lemon tart, bottom right.



Courtesy Debora Ferrand

**PATISSERIE**

*continued from page 5*

neighborhood," said Ferrand, who is an Atherton resident. "It's a place for the neighborhood to meet."

Ferrand nabbed prolific French pastry chef Julien Arnaud, who previously had made desserts for 11 restaurants in France, according to a 2022 profile of him by the French daily newspaper *Le Dauphiné Libéré*. He arrived in November and plans to launch a new line of pastries.

Weekly chef specials will begin in December, Ferrand said. Customers can expect winter desserts like the Mont Blanc chestnut and whipped cream cake and *Bûche de Noël* this year, she said.

The latest location has more of a grab-and-go style given its tiny venue. With many children visiting the library, Ferrand now

has small treats for children: fruit, chocolate and jam and biscuit sandwiches. She plans to offer madeleines eventually as well.

Ferrand also operates Mademoiselle Colette cafes in Redwood City, Palo Alto and Menlo Park, along with a ghost kitchen in Mountain View.

**Colette's other new offerings**

In the summer of 2024 Ferrand plans to expand cafe hours to allow for happy hours.

She is applying for a liquor license and would like to host musical performances on the 2,000-square-foot deck and terrace that fronts the cafe space.

In 2023, Ferrand began offering handmade sorbets with novelty flavors like grapefruit and rose, lemon meringue, banana and passionfruit, and lychee and raspberry. She hopes to get her

ice cream in local stores in the near future.

"I've been thinking about it (ice cream) for years," she said. She serves the treats from an ice cream cart in front of the cafe.

The storefront is stocked with goods from France. There's Alain Milliat juices, Traou Mad biscuits, Labeille Diligente candies, Mariage Frères teas and more.

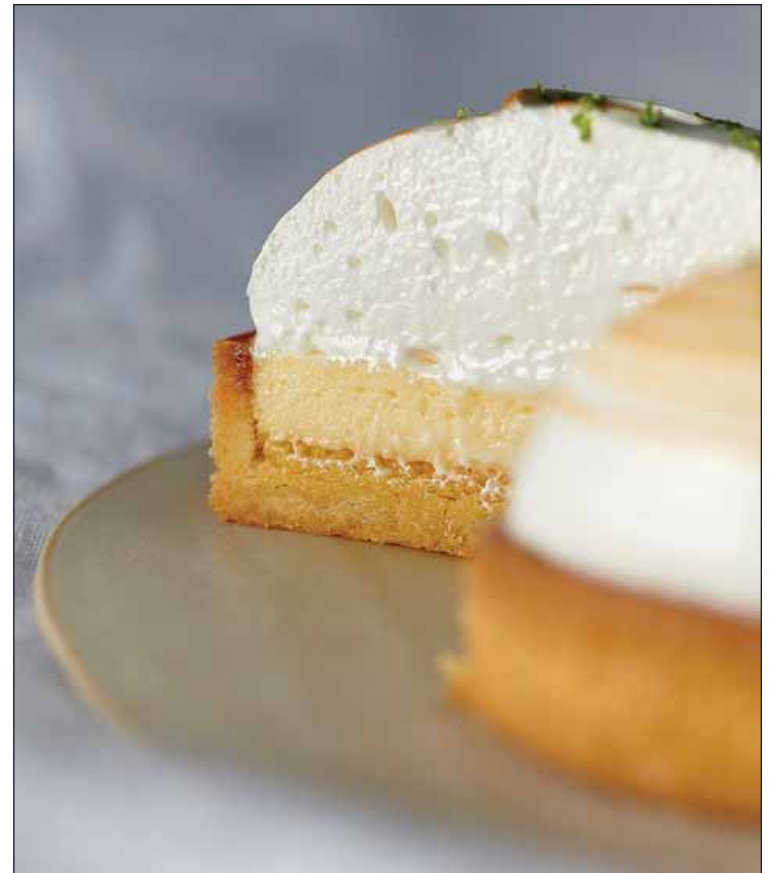
Ferrand said she also has plans to do more catering and sell her almond croissants to high-end wholesalers in the near term.

**More information**

The Atherton location is open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sundays.

More information is at [mademoisellecolette.com](http://mademoisellecolette.com). ■

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Courtesy Debora Ferrand

**SIMITIAN**

*continued from page PB*

purchasing the Palo Alto mobile home park and is now in the process of redeveloping the site and repairing the park's damaged infrastructure.

In making his announcement, Simitian said he believes the community has been served "exceptionally well" by Eshoo and that he plans to "follow her tradition and my own practice of prioritizing constituent service."

"I will advance the values and issues that are the hallmark of our Valley: innovation, inclusion and fairness," Simitian said.

Simitian isn't the only candidate seeking to succeed Eshoo. Rishi Kumar, a former Saratoga council member who had challenged Eshoo in the past two elections, is now planning another Congressional run. While Simitian is emphasizing his experience as a legislator, Kumar is underscoring his role as a change agent. His campaign priorities include creating term limits in Washington and banning "congressional insider trading."

"This change signals a significant opportunity for new leadership and fresh perspectives," Kumar, a Democrat,

said in a statement after Eshoo announced her retirement last week.

Palo Alto resident Joby Bernstein has also filed paperwork to challenge for the open seat. So have Republicans Karl Ryan and Peter Ohtaki, a former Menlo Park mayor, according to the Federal Elections Commission.

Other local politicians whose names have been thrown around for a possible challenge, including former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, state Sen. Josh Becker and state Assembly member Evan Low, have not entered the race as of Wednesday. Becker

told this publication last week that he values his current role in Sacramento but that he plans to discuss a possible challenge for the Congressional seat with his family.

Even before Simitian's announcement, his entry into the race seemed like a foregone conclusion to most political observers. His campaign has amassed a war chest of \$681,000, according to FEC records. Kumar, by contrast, had raised about \$20,921, while other candidates have yet to report any contributions.

Simitian also touted in his announcement endorsements

from local elected leaders throughout the district, a list that includes Palo Alto Vice Mayor Greer Stone, Mountain View Mayor Alison Hicks, Portola Valley Mayor Jeff Aalfs and Los Altos Mayor Sally Meadows, among others. He called the support from local officials "really gratifying."

"I am offering a passion for public service and proven legislative skill to address the pressing issues facing our communities and our nation," Simitian said. ■

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# Give back locally

## WITH A GIFT TO THE HOLIDAY FUND

Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$310,000 from more than 170 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed on this page.

**DONATE ONLINE:**  
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The organizations below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.



Rotary Club of Menlo Park

*The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation*

*The David and Lucile Packard Foundation*

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**[AlmanacNews.com/holiday\\_fund](https://AlmanacNews.com/holiday_fund)**

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The Almanac



The Almanac  
**Holiday Fund**  
2023

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### Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, college and career access, and mental health programs to more than 5,000 low-income youth at 29 locations from East Palo Alto to Daly City.

### Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

### Fair Oaks Community Center

This multi-service facility, serving the broader Redwood City community, provides assistance with child care, senior programs, citizenship and immigration, housing and employment, and crisis intervention. Programs are available in Spanish and English.

### LifeMoves

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

### Literacy Partners

Supports literacy programs and projects through fundraising and community awareness. Helps community members enhance their reading, writing and related skills and education to improve their economic, professional and personal wellbeing.

### Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

### Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

### St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

### StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people and families, with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

### Upward Scholars

Upward Scholars empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

**DONATE ONLINE: [AlmanacNews.com/holiday\\_fund](https://AlmanacNews.com/holiday_fund)**



The Almanac  
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2023

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# StarVista's Daybreak program helps San Mateo County youth find stable future

StarVista is one of 10 local nonprofits supported by contributions to The Almanac's Holiday Fund

By Sara Larios Mitchell



**H**ello Almanac readers! We at StarVista would like to share our sincerest appreciation for your support of The Almanac's Holiday Fund. Our collective impact continues to shine as we help nearly 40,000 individuals of all ages every year persevere through different kinds of life struggles.

We are committed and passionate about working with unhoused youth and have done so for decades. Thanks to donors like you, we can ensure that San Mateo County youth feel supported as they encounter life's challenges, like unstable housing and mental health issues, and empower them to build the lives they envision.

This year, we are pleased to introduce you to Michael McBride, a former residential client of StarVista's Daybreak program. Before Daybreak, Michael was a youth in

transition from a broken home — living out of his car with big hopes and dreams to find housing stability and a fulfilling career path. Through our strength-based program, Michael not only had a place to live, but he also received our unwavering support in reaching his occupational and professional goals. We also partnered with him as he focused on his overall personal development that would prop him up for success. While he is no longer a resident, Daybreak continues to provide Michael with a sense of community, and we are proud to continue to provide resources to help him achieve his goals. The future of many



Courtesy StarVista

Star Vista Sara Larios Mitchell with former client Michael McBride.

individuals in San Mateo County is brighter with you in it. Your generosity helps StarVista clients like Michael receive quality services to

support them in reaching their fullest potential. ■

*Sara Larios Mitchell, Ph.D., MACP, is StarVista's chief executive officer.*

# Massive airship debuts at Moffett Field, but don't call it a blimp

Next-generation aircraft will be the largest of its kind to float in the skies

By Emily Margaretten

**R**eviving an early 20th-century ambition, an experimental airship debuted at Moffett Field this month, albeit for only a few minutes before technicians rolled the massive aircraft back inside its cloistered hangar.

Almost double the size of a Goodyear blimp, the floating aircraft is a modern take on an old concept to revolutionize the skies with "lighter-than-air" ships. LTA, an aerospace research and development company, has taken this to new heights with its prototype, Pathfinder 1, which it tested for

the first time in direct sunlight on Nov. 8.

"The Pathfinder 1 proof of concept aircraft combines the best historical design, modern materials, and new, patented engineering and manufacturing techniques to create a next-generation airship that is safer, stronger, and more efficient than ever before," LTA said on its website.

LTA, which got its start in 2016, is backed by Google co-founder Sergey Brin and on a mission to develop zero-carbon airships. At 400-feet in length, Pathfinder 1 has the potential to transport massive amounts of cargo and passengers over large

distances, making it a good fit for humanitarian purposes, too.

The airships can speed up disaster and relief efforts since they don't require much infrastructure, LTA said. If runways, roads or ports are damaged, they still can deliver what communities need.

While it looks a lot like a blimp, Pathfinder 1 is a dirigible. It has a rigid framework, made of welded titanium hubs and carbon fiber reinforced tubes, that keeps its shape — unlike blimps, which have no internal structure and can deflate.

The airship also is safer than its 20th century predecessors, such as the ill-fated Hindenburg dirigible that burned in Lakehurst, New Jersey with passengers aboard in 1937. Pathfinder 1 lifts without burning fuel. Instead of using flammable hydrogen, like the Hindenburg, it floats with helium-filled bags.

The airship's outer covering, developed by LTA, also draws on a novel technology, meant to minimize combustibility. It is made of a laminated Tedlar material, which is lightweight, nonflammable and UV-resistant, the company

website said.

The wheeling out of Pathfinder 1 was designed to test some of these features in direct sunlight. As hoped, the exterior cover "superheated" when warmed by the sun, causing the airship to expand and lighten, The Mercury News reported on Nov. 14.

The exercise also provided an opportunity to test the airship's electric motors. Attached to the airship's side and tail, the motors are designed to help with directional control, a longstanding issue for dirigibles that often are at the mercy of inclement winds. The motors use an advanced fly-by-wire system that combines commands from pilots with sensor feedback data, according to the company website.

Altogether, these airship advancements can "move more people and cargo — further, faster and longer," LTA said.

While tight-lipped on the timeline, LTA plans to roll out more outdoor testing, including low-altitude flights, in the next year. ■

*Email Staff Writer Emily Margaretten at mmargaretten@mv-voice.com.*



Courtesy LTA Research

Pathfinder 1 during outdoor flight testing at Moffett Field, Mountain View on Nov. 8.

**HORSLEY***continued from page 5*

During his time in the Sheriff's Office, Horsley spent extensive time upgrading the training of deputy sheriffs and correctional officers, and played a key role in planning for a new correctional center, including mental and medical health care facilities, according to the county's obituary.

"I ran for San Mateo County Sheriff in 1993 because I saw the need for innovative leadership, modernization and upgrading the tools for law enforcement officers," Horsley was quoted as saying.

In 2006, Horsley was elected to the board of Sequoia Healthcare District, after running to unseat contrarian board member Jack Hickey, a longtime critic who vowed to dissolve the district.

At age 66, he won a seat on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in 2010. After being reelected twice, term limits prevented him from running again in 2022.

"Don's life was dedicated to public service. His tremendous legacy and impact will not be forgotten," said Supervisor Ray Mueller in a post on X. Mueller was elected to Horsley's District 3 seat in 2022. District 3 represents Atherton, Half Moon Bay, Pacifica, Portola Valley, Woodside and part of Belmont, along with large unincorporated areas.

State Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, called Horsley a "pioneering figure in San Mateo County" in a post on X and remembered him as a devoted public servant who improved the lives of many people in the community he served.

"Don was a class act and a man who cared a great deal about the most vulnerable in our community," said County Executive Mike Callagy in a statement.

"Don was a caring man with a great sense of humor, and he lived a full and distinguished life. He made a great difference in this county and his legacy will live on through all of the great projects and work that he was involved

in," he said.

Horsley traced his concern for the treatment of the mentally ill to his boyhood, when his grandmother was confined to a mental health hospital, according to the county's obituary.

"It was all concrete and slamming doors," Mr. Horsley recounted in April 2021 at the groundbreaking for a new mental health center he championed. "Because of that, being a little boy, seeing a state hospital and women who are essentially locked up in a concrete monstrosity, I guess touched something inside me such that I was always interested in doing better for people who have mental health issues."

Born in San Francisco, Horsley moved with his family to Daly City, where he attended Westmoor High School, according to the statement released by the county. He earned a bachelor's degree from San Francisco State University, worked for the Daly City Police Department, then became a juvenile counselor for the San Mateo County Probation Department and a middle school teacher.

When he returned to a career in law enforcement, his first stop was the Pacifica Police Department before joining the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office in 1972 as a deputy.

According to the sheriff's office, Horsley began the Sheriff's Activity League (SAL) in 1997. The SAL program is focused on improving interactions between law enforcement and youth.

In an article on Horsley's retirement from the Board of Supervisors, former County Manager John Maltbie said, "Don represents what good government is all about, a caring individual wanting to serve his community."

Information on services and survivors was not available as of The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline. ■

*Almanac Senior Editor Andrea Gemmet contributed to this report.*

*Email Editor Michelle Iracheta at miracheta@rwcpulse.com.*



# Meet the Winners

**Check out the best places to eat, drink and play this holiday season**

Soon holiday lights will be twinkling and friends and family will gather to celebrate, so this is the perfect time to shine a light on what our readers say are the best places to eat, drink, shop and spend time with family and friends in and around Menlo Park, Woodside, Portola Valley and Atherton.

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The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

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

# Winter 2023 Class Guide

## Business & tech

### CareerGenerations

2100 Geng Road, Suite 210,  
Palo Alto  
[info@careergenerations.com](mailto:info@careergenerations.com) /  
[careergenerations.com](http://careergenerations.com)

CareerGenerations offers group workshops to meet the career needs of a variety of individuals, including college students looking for internships, and graduates and professionals exploring career options or looking for employment. Workshops are currently being held via Zoom.

### ReBoot Accelerator for Women

1865 Camino a los Cerros,  
Menlo Park / 650-387-3743 /  
[reboot@rebootaccel.com](mailto:reboot@rebootaccel.com) /  
[rebootaccel.com](http://rebootaccel.com)

ReBoot Accelerator for Women keeps local women current, connected and confident about re-entering the workforce through workshops taught by social media experts and instructors from companies such as LinkedIn, Google, Apple and Enjoy.

## Culture

### Joy Culture Foundation

934 Santa Cruz Ave., Suite A,  
Menlo Park / 650-272-6915 /  
[info@thejoyculturefoundation.org](mailto:info@thejoyculturefoundation.org) /  
[thejoyculturefoundation.org](http://thejoyculturefoundation.org)

The nonprofit Joy Culture Foundation operates the Little Bookworm Library to provide families a place to immerse in Chinese culture and language. The center has children's books in Mandarin and English available for check out, as well as bilingual language and culture classes.

## Dance

### Dance Connection

Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield

## 'Tis the season for learning and exploring

By Karla Kane

For many, winter is a time for reflection and resolutions; the perfect season, perhaps, in which to consider picking up a new skill, delving deeper into a special interest or continuing one's education. The winter Class Guide includes offerings from a range of local schools and organizations for all ages and skill levels, from tap dance to language lessons to tech training. So whether you're an expert or a newbie, there's something to tickle your fancy and pique your interest. Take a look and make the most out of winter — who knows, it could be the perfect chance to give yourself a great holiday gift and set up for a wonderful new year ahead.

The Class Guide is published quarterly by The Almanac and the Palo Alto Weekly.

Road, Palo Alto /  
650-322-7032 / [info@danceconnectionpaloalto.com](mailto:info@danceconnectionpaloalto.com) /  
[danceconnectionpaloalto.com](http://danceconnectionpaloalto.com)

Dance Connection offers combination and graded classes for youth (age 3 and up) and adults, and other programs to meet dancers' needs. Ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, lyrical, Pilates and other instruction are available for students at various levels of ability. Registration is ongoing.

### Mannakin Theater and Dance

en Avant School of Dance,  
1841 Bay Road, East Palo Alto  
415-519-7171 /  
[info@mannakindance.org](mailto:info@mannakindance.org) /  
[mannakindance.org](http://mannakindance.org)

Mannakin Theater and Dance offers youth ballet and dance classes at en Avant School of Dance studio in East Palo Alto, which opened in March 2022. Registration is open and school-year classes are held through May 31.

### Victoria Ballet

370 California Ave.,  
Palo Alto / 650-720-2643 /  
[webmaster@victoriaballet.dance](mailto:webmaster@victoriaballet.dance) /  
[victoriaballet.dance](http://victoriaballet.dance)

At this ballet studio, students from age 4 to adult are learning the art of dance from instructor Victoria Lee and other dance faculty who

have danced professionally with the San Francisco Ballet. The classes offered include all experience levels — from beginners who have never stepped up to the barre to pre-professional dancers. Regular classes run through May.

### Zohar School of Dance & Company

Cubberley Community Center,  
4000 Middlefield Road,  
Room L-4, Palo Alto /  
650-494-8221 /  
[zohardance@gmail.com](mailto:zohardance@gmail.com) /  
[zohardancecompany.org](http://zohardancecompany.org)

With roots going back to 1979, Zohar School of Dance holds a range of adult dance classes including jazz, modern, ballet, voice and tap. Registration for workshops and ongoing dance classes for adults of all skill levels is now open.

## Disability services

### Bay Area Friendship Circle

3921 Fabian Way, Suite A023,  
Palo Alto /  
650-858-6990 /  
[info@bayareafc.org](mailto:info@bayareafc.org) /  
[bayareafc.org](http://bayareafc.org)

The Bay Area Friendship Circle offers programs for children, teens and young adults with special needs ages 2-22 year-round. Trained teen

volunteers provide one-on-one friendship and support.

## Health & fitness

### Equinox

440 Portage Ave., Palo Alto  
650-319-1700 / [equinox.com/clubs/northern-california/paloalto](http://equinox.com/clubs/northern-california/paloalto)

Equinox's Palo Alto location offers a variety of fitness and wellness activities including yoga, cycling and high-intensity interval training classes.

### One Heart Yoga

[oneheartyyoga.com](http://oneheartyyoga.com)

One Heart Yoga offers weekly classes in Kundalini yoga and meditation, aimed at helping students increase flexibility and strength and learn breathing techniques to calm and focus and reduce anxiety and depression. Hybrid (in-person and online) classes available. Check website for location and format.

### SoulCycle

669 Stanford Shopping Center,  
Room C-12, Palo Alto  
650-784-7510 /  
[soulpaloalto@soul-cycle.com](mailto:soulpaloalto@soul-cycle.com) /  
[soul-cycle.com/studios/palo/28](http://soul-cycle.com/studios/palo/28)

SoulCycle combines inspirational coaching, high-energy music, indoor cycling, choreography and more to create an enjoyable, full-body workout.

### Taijiquan Tutelage of Palo Alto

Cubberley Community Center,  
4000 Middlefield Road,  
Room U-7, Palo Alto /  
650-327-9350 /  
[mjchan@ttopa.com](mailto:mjchan@ttopa.com) / [ttopa.com](http://ttopa.com)

At Taijiquan Tutelage of Palo Alto, established in 1973, students learn the classical Yang Style Taijiquan Slow Form style of tai chi. Sunday outdoor classes take place at Rinconada Park, 777 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto.

## Music & visual arts

### Community School of Music and Arts

Finn Center,  
230 San Antonio Circle,  
Mountain View  
650-917-6800 /  
[info@arts4all.org](mailto:info@arts4all.org) /  
[arts4all.org](http://arts4all.org)

The Community School of Music and Arts offers year-round classes in music, visual and digital arts, with courses suited for adults and children as young as preschool-age. Students are encouraged to sign up for classes at least two weeks in advance.

### EPACenter

1950 Bay Road,  
East Palo Alto / 650-313-2626  
[epacenter.org](http://epacenter.org)

The 25,000-square-foot space offers a wide range of artistic disciplines for youth ages 6-25. Students can participate in classes such as character design, drawing, culinary arts, digital music production, drumming, guitar, hip-hop, painting, piano, ukulele, 3D clay forms and more. Winter/spring classes open in mid-January.

### Midpen Media Center

900 San Antonio Road,  
Palo Alto /  
650-494-8686 /  
[hello@midpenmedia.org](mailto:hello@midpenmedia.org) /  
[midpenmedia.org/classes](http://midpenmedia.org/classes)

See CLASS GUIDE, page 16

**CLASS GUIDE**

continued from page 15

The center offers workshops for a range of media arts, including video production, filmmaking, on-camera acting and sports broadcasting.

**Music Together Menlo Park**

75 Arbor Road, Suite N, Menlo Park / 650-799-1624 / admin@mt-mp.com / mt-mp.com

Music Together Menlo Park holds classes exploring music and movement for children from birth up to age 5 and their guardians at the Allied Arts Guild. Winter session runs January through March.

**New Mozart School of Music**

2100 El Camino Real, Suite C,

Palo Alto / 650-324-2373 / info@newmozartschool.com / newmozartschool.com

New Mozart School of Music offers music lessons year-round to students of all ages and abilities. Piano, violin, viola, cello, voice, guitar, flute and early childhood music classes are available.

**Pacific Art League**

668 Ramona St., Palo Alto 650-321-3891 / info@pacificartleague.org / pacificartleague.org

The classes and workshops at the Pacific Art League are taught by qualified and experienced instructors for children and adults with varying experience. Instructors teach many media, including drawing, painting, watercolor, digital art and more. In-person and live online classes are offered year-round.

**Palo Alto Art Center**

1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto 650-329-2366 / artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org / cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Community-Services/Arts-Sciences/Palo-Alto-Art-Center

Palo Alto Art Center classes and workshops — teaching children, teens and adults — cover such areas as ceramics, painting, drawing, jewelry, sculpture, Adobe PhotoShop and more.

**Silicon Valley Boychoir**

600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto info@svboychoir.org / svboychoir.org

Silicon Valley Boychoir offers rehearsals, musicianship classes and performance opportunities to boys ages 7 and up. Auditions by appointment are available.

**Older adults**

**Avenidas**

Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Room H-5, Palo Alto / 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto / 650-289-5400 / info@avenidas.org / avenidas.org

Avenidas offers many classes, as well as lectures and workshops, for Midpeninsula seniors focusing on topics such as general health, physical fitness, languages, humanities, computing, music and writing. Classes are held in person, online via Zoom or are a hybrid of both.

**Little House Activity Center**

800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park 650-272-5000 / lpvi.org/littlehouse

Little House Activity Center offers classes for adults of all ages on various topics and activities, including health and wellness for seniors; fitness exercises like line dancing and Pilates; ceramics, drawing and other arts; languages; history and culture; and computer skills. Check the website for the calendar of classes.

**Parent education**

**Children's Health Council**

650 Clark Way, Palo Alto 650-326-5530 / careteam@chconline.org / chconline.org

Children's Health Council holds a variety of classes touching on child-behavior issues, dyslexia, anxiety and depression, attention deficit hyperactivity



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disorder, autism and other topics related to encouraging all children's success.

School days

Amigos de Palo Alto

1611 Stanford Ave., Palo Alto / 650-493-4300 / info@amigosdepaloalto.com / amigosdepaloalto.com

Amigos de Palo Alto is a Spanish-immersion preschool for children 2 and older. Students are a mix of native and new Spanish speakers and the program combines reading, writing, art and play to develop a love of learning.

Athena Academy

525 San Antonio Ave., Palo Alto / 650-543-4560 / anne@athenaacademy.org / athenaacademy.org

Athena Academy educates dyslexic and twice-exceptional students in first through eighth grades.

Emerson School

2800 W. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto / 650-424-1221 vbarberis@headsap.org / emersonmontessori.com

Emerson School provides a year-round program for grades one to eight, teaching a personalized, Montessori curriculum. Lessons draw from classical subjects and other areas, including art, music, foreign language, physical education, communication, life skills and more. Emerson also offers an infant center and a preschool program.

Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School

450 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto / 650-494-8200 / info@hausnerschool.org / hausnerschool.org

Instructing children in kindergarten through eighth grade, Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School provides strong academics, instruction in Jewish studies and the Hebrew language, enrichment opportunities and after-school programs.

Kehillah Jewish High School

3900 Fabian Way, Palo Alto / 650-213-9600 / admissions@kehillah.org / kehillah.org

This college-preparatory high school (grades nine through 12) features modern science and computer labs, art and music studios, a drama program, a full range of academic courses with small class sizes, sports teams and more. Visit the website for a virtual open house and to register for the 2024-25 school year.

Learning Links

3864 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto / 650-618-3342 / enroll@learninglinks.org / learninglinks.org

Learning Links, formerly Milestones Preschool, offers year-round programs for junior preschool and preschool, pre-kindergarten and special education students to foster social, emotional, cognitive and physical development.

Living Wisdom School of Palo Alto

456 College Ave., Palo Alto / 650-462-8150 / livingwisdomschool.org

Offering daily yoga, meditation and experiential, project-based learning, Living Wisdom School serves students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade. It offers a low teacher-student ratio, an integrated arts program, a balanced approach to technology and after-school care.

Lydian Academy

815 El Camino Real, Menlo Park / 650-535-8711 / staff@lydianlink.com / lydianacademy.com

Lydian Academy is a middle and high school offering year-round individualized instruction to prepare students for college. Lessons include a mix of one-on-one teaching and group sessions. It also offers tutoring and after-school programs. Both in-person and online instruction available.

Mustard Seed Learning Center

650-494-7389 / info@mustardseedlearningcenter.org / mustardseedlearningcenter.org

Mustard Seed Learning Center is an after-school tutoring and care program that teaches local youth to speak Mandarin Chinese, in addition to emphasizing social development and excellence in academics. After-school programs are held at 3048 Price Court, Palo Alto, and Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. The center also offers a preschool program that takes place at the Price Court address.

Oshman Family JCC Leslie Family Preschool

3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto / 650-223-8788 / earlychildhood@paloaltojcc.org / paloaltojcc.org/preschool

The Oshman Family JCC's Leslie Family Preschool program

See CLASS GUIDE, page 18

Public Notices

METROPOLITAN HOTEL  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-295773  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) METROPOLITAN HOTEL, located at 220 Linden Ave, South San Francisco, CA 94080.  
Registered owner(s):  
SF10, LLC  
1252 Mission Rd  
South San Francisco, CA 94080  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
Registrant has not yet begun 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 November 01, 2023.  
(ALM Nov 24, Dec 1, 8 and 15, 2023)

PACIFIC PLACE MEDIA  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-295908  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) PACIFIC PLACE MEDIA, located at 2918 Fernwood St., San Mateo, CA 94403.  
Registered owner(s):  
DAVID LOUIE  
2918 Fernwood St.  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
State of Incorporation/Organization: California  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has not yet begun 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 November 20, 2023.  
(ALM Dec 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

DEVONSHIRE LITTLE STORE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-295903  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) DEVONSHIRE LITTLE STORE, located at 20 Devonshire Blvd, San Carlos, CA 94070.  
Registered owner(s):  
SHEILA WANG, TRUSTEE, DAVID AND SHANG LING HUANG IRREVOCABLE TRUST  
125 Sheridan Way  
Woodside, CA 94062  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Trust.  
Registrant has not yet begun 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 November 20, 2023.  
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AMIKERS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-295836  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) AMIKERS, located at 350 Sharon Park Dr. APT H302, Menlo Park, CA 94025.  
Registered owner(s):  
JIN SOO DAVID KIM  
350 Sharon Park Dr. APT H302  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has not yet begun 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 November 09, 2023.  
(ALM Nov 17, 24, Dec 1 and 8, 2023)

MIGHTY TRANSPORT  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-295626  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Mighty Transport, located at 50 North San Mateo Dr. Unit 112 San Mateo, CA 94401.  
Registered owner(s):  
BENDITU INC.  
50 North San Mateo Dr. Unit 112  
San Mateo, CA 94401  
California  
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 October 17 2023.  
(ALM Nov 10, 17, 24 and Dec 1, 2023)

OLLIN REMEDIES HEALING CENTER  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-295802  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) OLLIN REMEDIES HEALING CENTER, located at 915 Oak Lane, Apt 2, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
OLLIN REMEDIES LLC  
2710 Crown Canyon Rd, 1180  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
Registrant has not yet begun 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 November 03, 2023.  
(ALM Nov 10, 17, 24 and Dec 1, 2023)

OLLIN REMEDIES BODEGA AND BOTANICA  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-295801  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) OLLIN REMEDIES BODEGA AND BOTANICA, located at 915 Oak Lane, Apt 2, Menlo Park, CA 94025.  
Registered owner(s):  
OLLIN REMEDIES LLC  
2710 Crown Canyon 1180  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
Registrant has not yet begun 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 November 03, 2023.  
(ALM Nov 10, 17, 24 and Dec 1, 2023)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON

FOR JACKSON COUNTY  
Juvenile Department  
In the Matter of

XADRIEN BALCITA-LOPEZ,  
A Child.  
Case No. 22JU03899

PUBLISHED SUMMONS

TO: Ivar Lopez  
IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON:  
A petition has been filed asking the court to terminate your parental rights to the above-named child under ORS 419B.500, 419B.502, 419B.504, 419B.506 and/or 419B.508 for the purpose of placing the child for adoption. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PERSONALLY APPEAR before the Jackson County Court 100 S Oakdale Ave, Medford, OR 97501, on the **12 th day of January 2024 at 1:00 P.M.** for a hearing on the allegations of the petition and to personally appear at

any subsequent court-ordered hearing. YOU MUST APPEAR PERSONALLY in the courtroom on the date and at the time listed above. AN ATTORNEY MAY NOT ATTEND THE HEARING IN YOUR PLACE. THEREFORE, YOU MUST APPEAR EVEN IF YOUR ATTORNEY ALSO APPEARS. This summons is published pursuant to the order of the circuit court judge of the above-entitled court, dated 11/03/2023. The order directs that this summons be published once each week for three consecutive weeks, making three publications in all, in a published newspaper of general circulation in San Mateo County.

**NOTICE**  
**READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY**  
IF YOU DO NOT APPEAR PERSONALLY BEFORE THE COURT OR DO NOT APPEAR AT ANY SUBSEQUENT COURT-ORDERED HEARING, the court may proceed in your absence without further notice and TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS. **RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**  
(1) YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY IN THIS MATTER. If you are currently represented by an attorney, CONTACT YOUR ATTORNEY IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING THIS NOTICE. Your previous attorney may not be representing you in this matter. IF YOU WISH TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY, please retain one as soon as possible to represent you in this proceeding. If you need help finding an attorney, you may call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-7636.

IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY and you meet the state's financial guidelines, you are entitled to have an attorney appointed for you at state expense. TO REQUEST APPOINTMENT OF AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU AT STATE EXPENSE, YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY CONTACT the Jackson County Circuit Court at 609 W 10th Street, Medford, OR 97501, phone number 541-776-7171, extension 585, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for further information.. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH YOUR ATTORNEY AND TO KEEP YOUR ATTORNEY ADVISED OF YOUR WHEREABOUTS.

(2) If you contest the petition, the court will schedule a hearing on the allegations of the petition and order you to appear personally and may schedule other hearings related to the petition and order you to appear personally. IF YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR, YOU MUST APPEAR PERSONALLY IN THE COURTROOM, UNLESS THE COURT HAS GRANTED YOU AN EXCEPTION IN ADVANCE under ORS 419B.918 to appear by other means including, but not limited to, telephonic or other electronic means. An attorney may not attend the hearing(s) in your place.

**PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY**  
Kimberly S.T. Bolen  
Sr. Assistant Attorney General  
Oregon Department of Justice  
1555 E. McAndrews Rd, Suite 200  
Medford, OR 97504  
Phone: (541) 414-1030  
ISSUED this 8th day of November 2023.

Issued by: /s/ Kimberly S.T. Bolen, OSB # 964420  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
(ALM Nov 17, 24 and Dec 1, 2023)

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

- Fictitious Business Name
- Abandonment of Fictitious Business Name
- Name Change
- Partnership Withdrawal or Dissolution
- Petition to Administer Estate - Probate Hearing
- Notice of Bulk Sale
- Legal Summons
- Trustee Sale

**The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.**  
**Visit AlmanacNews.com/legal\_notices/**  
For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

**CLASS GUIDE**

continued from page 17

provides various scheduling and program options for children 18 months to 5 years old, with an emphasis on experiential learning, family involvement and play. Registration and tours are available.

**Peninsula School**

920 Peninsula Way,  
Menlo Park /  
650-325-1584 /  
info@peninsulaschool.org /  
peninsulaschool.org

Peninsula School is a progressive institution teaching students from nursery through eighth grade, with an emphasis on choice and experience. Classes cover core subjects as well as instruction in music, physical education, drama, ceramics, woodshop and more.

**Sand Hill School**

650 Clark Way,  
Palo Alto /  
650-688-3605 /  
info@sandhillschool.org /  
sandhillschool.org

Located at the Children's Health Council, Sand Hill School teaches children from second through eighth grade with language-based learning differences, school-based anxiety and ADHD.

**Silicon Valley International School**

151 Laura Lane, Palo Alto /  
475 Pope St., Menlo Park  
650-251-8500 /  
school@svintl.org / svintl.org

Silicon Valley International School offers bilingual immersion day school with two nursery-to-fifth-grade programs in French, German and Mandarin as well as middle and high

school programs. Some programs include media and technology, music, gastronomy and athletics classes.

**Something for everyone**

**JobTrain**

1200 O'Brien Drive,  
Menlo Park /  
650-330-6429 /  
info@jobtrainworks.org /  
jobtrainworks.org

JobTrain has a variety of training programs for adults — providing instruction in the culinary arts, business administration, health care, web technology, construction and other fields — as well as programs specifically for young adults, to help with GED diploma preparation, job placement and vocational training. The center also offers onsite preschool with

income-based fees. Open entry GED/high school equivalency classes run on weekdays.

**Palo Alto Adult School**

Palo Alto High School,  
Tower Building,  
50 Embarcadero Road,  
Palo Alto /  
650-329-3752 /  
adultschool@pausd.org /  
paadultschool.org

Classes on computer skills, language, cooking, art, outdoors, and many others are available through the Palo Alto Adult School. Both online and in-person classes are available.

**The Riekes Center**

3455 Edison Way,  
Menlo Park  
650-364-2509 /  
info@riekes.org / riekes.org

The Riekes Center offers year-round programming in fitness, arts and nature for individuals of all ages and abilities. The center also provides programs for home-schooled students.

**Sequoia District Adult School**

3247 Middlefield Road,  
Menlo Park /  
650-306-8866 /  
seqsas.org

Sequoia District Adult Education holds classes in English as a second language and computer and business skills. Students can also earn a high school diploma or GED certificate. Counselors are available to help students transition to college programs. Registration for high school diploma and high school equivalency classes is open.

**Stanford Continuing Studies**

Littlefield Center,  
365 Lasuen St.,  
Stanford.  
continuingstudies@stanford.edu  
continuingstudies.stanford.edu

Stanford Continuing Studies organizes in-person and online classes in liberal arts and sciences, creative writing, and professional and personal development.

**Sur La Table**

Town & Country Village,  
855 El Camino Real, Suite 57,  
Palo Alto /  
650-289-0019 /  
slt073@surlatable.com /  
surlatable.com

Sur La Table offers hands-on cooking classes, guiding students in making regional cuisines, themed meals or bread, croissants and other baked goods.

**Sports & outdoors**

**Baylands Golf Links**

1875 Embarcadero Road,  
Palo Alto / 650-856-0881 /  
baylandsgolfinks.com

Private lessons teaching golf techniques, rules and etiquette are available for sign-up at any level of experience throughout the year.

**Kim Grant Tennis Academy**

3005 Middlefield Road,  
Palo Alto /  
650-752-8061 /  
admin@kimgranttennis.com /  
kimgranttennis.com

The Kim Grant Tennis Academy organizes an array of tennis classes and programs for adults and children at several locations. Winter season runs through February.

**Spring Down Equestrian Center**

725 Portola Road,  
Portola Valley /  
650-851-1114 /  
springdowneqcenter@gmail.com /  
springdown.com

Spring Down Equestrian Center educates children (beginning at age 6) and adults on horses and horseback riding. Classes and camps held year-round, including a winter-break Holiday Horsemanship class in December.

**Webb Ranch Riding School**

2720 Alpine Road,  
Portola Valley /  
650-854-7755 /  
summer@webbranchinc.com /  
webbranchinc.com

Instruction for beginning and intermediate riders in both group and private settings, including camps for kids age 7-18. Specialties include Western riding, dressage and hunt-seat riding.

Class Guides are published quarterly in the Palo Alto Weekly and The Almanac. Descriptions of classes offered in Palo Alto, Stanford, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Atherton, East Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Portola Valley and Woodside are provided. Listings are free and subject to editing. Due to space constraints, classes held in the above cities are given priority.

To inquire about submitting a listing for the next Class Guide, email editor@pawebly.com. To place a paid advertisement in the Class Guide, call the display advertising department at 650-326-8210. ■



**Town of Atherton**

Planning Commission, December 13, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING, 6:00 P.M.  
This meeting is held virtually and in-person at the Council Chambers  
80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027

**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:** December 13, 2023,  
06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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

**Meeting ID:** 841 5024 9099

**One tap mobile**  
+13017158592,84150249099# US (Washington DC)  
+13052241968,84150249099# US

**Find your local number:**

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

**Remote Public Comments:**

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

**Email:**  
planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us

**Projects under Public Hearing:**

A. **Description:** **Tree Protection Zone Exception** for one heritage tree at 6.7x the tree's diameter for a Garage at **39 Barry Lane**, zoned R1-A (**APN 070-192-070 / Permit PTPZ23-10**).

CEQA: This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to: CEQA Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land.

B. **Description:** request for removal of one (1) 26.5-inch DBH Coastal Live Oak at **9 Betty Lane (APN 070-022-720)** as part of a new single-family residence with JADU.

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.

A copy of the Planning Commission staff report and application materials can be found online, by **Friday, December 8, 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 **December 13, 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. For the TPZ exception update, kindly contact Sean Manalo at smanalo@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:** November 28th, 2023.

ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION  
/s/ Radha Hayagreev

Radha Hayagreev, Consulting Senior Planner

# Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

## LETTERS

Our readers write

### Open letter to the Menlo Park City Council

On behalf of the over 800 public commentators who overwhelmingly supported naming the new multi-generational community complex “Onetta Harris Community Campus,” we are writing this letter to express our deep disappointment and hurt related to the Menlo Park City Council’s 4-1 vote to adopt the name Belle Haven Community Campus on Nov. 14. This decision was reached in bad faith, and we are appalled that the City Council disregarded the voice of the community and its own commissioners.

Hundreds of community members, family members, and Belle Haven and Menlo Park residents across color lines and ethnic backgrounds dedicated time and effort to attend the meetings and have their voices heard, including elderly people, those with mobility issues, and those with health issues. A large number of African Americans spoke about the history of racism in Menlo Park and in the United States; the erasure of Black history, Black people, and our contributions; and, the displacement and silencing of Black voices.

After being tasked by the City Council and listening to hundreds of public commenters, the Library Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission made their recommendation in a 10-2 vote that the City Council name the new overall campus “Onetta Harris Community Campus” or “Onetta Harris Community Campus at Belle Haven.” We thought that the City Council would adopt the recommendation and land on the right side of history. We felt that our voices and stories would actually make an impact and be heard. We thought that the overwhelming outpouring of support to place Onetta Harris’s name on the new community center complex would be honored.

Instead, the City Council, led by Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor, decided to ignore the hundreds of public commenters, the hundreds of signatures (110 resident and 240 non-resident), and the vast majority of people who advocated to keep Onetta Harris’ name. Not only did Taylor

disregard the voices of community members, family members, and Belle Haven and Menlo Park residents; but she also chose to personally thank at the meeting Cheryl Bims and Rose Bickerstaff, who had launched a mean-spirited, untruthful and defamatory campaign against Onetta Harris. Taylor’s decision to honor the wishes of a small minority flies in the face of true democracy. Taylor’s decision to place allegiance to a small group over the voices of the Black community and residents, and Betsy Nash’s, Drew Combs’ and Mayor Jen Wolosin’s decision to support Taylor is not only shameful; it’s a scandal. It was deeply disappointing that even after Wolosin voiced her surprise and confusion at Taylor and Nash’s recommendation (due to it being in stark odds with the resounding support of having Onetta Harris’ name on the overall community center), she decided to go along with Taylor’s back-door plan to name the community center Belle Haven Community Campus. The majority of the Library Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission vocally opposed erasing Onetta Harris’ name and naming it Belle Haven Community Campus.

The decision to name entities within the facility holds significantly less impact to the public since the entire facility will now be in one building.

Several commissioners and City Council members remarked that this has been a painful process for Menlo Park. It was particularly painful for Black people who have endured centuries of oppression and lack of power to have our heroes celebrated and our legacies honored with our names on important buildings. Menlo Park could have decided to become the only municipality in Silicon Valley with a building’s name honoring a beloved Black woman, community leader, mentor, and inspirational figure. Instead, they chose to minimize Onetta Harris’ name from the overall campus. This shows that the number of community voices and their opinions do not matter. Only the opinion of Cecilia Taylor and Betty Nash who cited “tens of people” who are unnamed and unknown, who haven’t spoken, attended a meeting or filled out an online survey, mattered more than the 800-plus members of the public who supported

naming the campus Onetta Harris Community Campus.

Onetta Harris’ great-granddaughter spoke at the City Council meeting and said the younger generation is watching and listening. Sadly, instead of the City Council setting the precedent that the voices of the community matter, the City Council chose the status quo where elected officials are able to turn their backs and close their ears to their constituents and sideline Black voices. In 2019, we were told by a few long standing members of the community to not bother advocating because Menlo Park officials would just do what suits them best. In the end, they were correct. The City Council could have spared all of us the grief and wasted time spent over the years if they were honest, upfront and acknowledged they had no intention of honoring the wishes of the people.

To sign this letter, go to [tinyurl.com/Onetta-Harris](https://tinyurl.com/Onetta-Harris).

Israel Harris  
(grandson of Onetta Harris)  
Ormsby Drive, Sunnyvale

### Sand Hill and El Camino need a traffic safety solution

The northern bike/pedestrian crossing on El Camino Real at Sand Hill Road is extremely dangerous. I cross at that intersection either on foot or on bike at least twice a day and have close calls with southbound traffic making a right onto Sand Hill nearly every day. The westbound crossings on bike are particularly bad since stopped traffic blocks the view. I have had to make emergency stops on many occasions for cars who either ignore the no-right-on-red sign entirely, or stop on or

past the pedestrian zone.

Among other things, this is most likely due to the limit line being located so far away from



Courtesy Bill Wohler

Bill Wohler recommends more visible signs governing right turns, like these located near the train tracks in Mountain View.

the corner. Also, since the current non-standard no-right-on-red sign has too much text, it is largely ignored.

I had a few ideas to improve the safety of this crossing:

1. Add a red arrow above the yellow and green arrows. That will make it much clearer that there is no right on red.
2. Even better, add another much clearer light like they have done in Mountain View. In addition, the current lights are so far away from the limit line that they are largely ignored. Thus, another pole should be installed **before** the limit line for maximum effectiveness.
3. Add Botts’ dots or pavement grooving well before the intersection to alert drivers.
4. Move the limit line at least a half-car length back from the crossing, add yield triangles like elsewhere on El Camino, and add very loud yellow hashmarks in the pedestrian area.
5. Replace the current no-right-on-red sign with a “Stop here on red” at the limit line at least a half-car length back from the crossing.

Some of these ideas should be applied to the lane for cars turning right onto northbound El Camino as well. Because that lane has a limit line that is far from the crossing and a “Stop here on red sign,” there are fewer offenses. However, I have still had to jump out of the way from autos there.

Bill Wohler  
Partridge Avenue, Menlo Park

### Time to enjoy the winter sun

It is mid-November now. We have been having sunny days and cold, long nights. Isn’t it time to get those tall, bushy trees pulled down and opened up so we can all reap the many benefits of the sun?

Is there any reason for us to prevent the bright, cheery, warm rays of the sun from coming into our own homes and especially the homes of neighbors? Do we really want to be burning \$50 and \$100 bills just to keep warm and comfortable on cold sunny winter days, in addition to contributing to global warming and rising tides? How many of us enjoy cleaning our gutters and downspouts out more than once a year — especially when the house is two stories? It is expensive if a tree damages one’s own structure, but also embarrassing if it harms someone else’s.

The sun is always shining and free to all. We need only take advantage of it. There is no reason to live in darkness. As we trim our trees so the sun can fill our homes with warmth and light on the shortest day of the year, we might see more beauty that the over grown trees had been hiding for how many years?

Jackie Leonard-Dimmick  
Walnut Avenue, Atherton

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# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Inside Margo Cilker's new album 'Valley of Heart's Delight'

Los Altos-raised musician reflects on her roots in sophomore release

By Karla Kane

To listen to Margo Cilker's latest album, "Valley of Heart's Delight," is to travel down a trail with a seasoned Rambler; to hear a fresh voice with an old soul; and to reckon with nostalgia both real and imagined. And the title, locals will likely recognize, is a reference to the nickname for pre-silicon Silicon Valley, when it was known for its apricot orchards, not its tech companies. It's a setting that still tugs at the Santa Clara-born, Sunnyvale- and Los Altos-raised musician, no matter how far she roams.

"I remember California, San Francisco Bay" she sings on the album, lyrics to which surely many artists struggling to make it on the Peninsula can relate: "All my buddies live in Oakland. You know the arts don't pay."

Cilker, now based in the Pacific Northwest, is a rising star in the Americana and folk-country world thanks to her highly regarded debut album "Pohorylle," released in 2021. Her follow-up, written during the pandemic's peak and released this September, is earning a similarly warm reception. Songs like "Mother Told Her Mother Told Me" — about the ebb, flow and friction of family relationships — pack an emotional punch, while "Keep It on a Burner" offers a world-weary, clear-eyed optimism.

The album, like its predecessor, was produced by Sera Cahoone, with the help of many of the same backing musicians, including Cilker's sister Sarah on harmony vocals and The Decemberists' Jenny Conlee-Drizos on keys. Instruments like horns, pedal steel and banjo enhance, but Cilker's voice is at the heart.

"I like really elemental stuff; a simple patchwork. It's just kind of whatever suits the songs," she said of her sound, which she likened to a "shapeshifter" for its mix of traditional twang and "Northwest indie" vibe.

She wasn't always a country fan in her younger days.

"I didn't see a honky tonk band until I left the Bay Area, I think. I didn't really know about it. I knew what pop country music was — and I hated it," she said. Instead, the burgeoning songwriter loved 1960s folk and rock icons, including Bob Dylan.

"You start with early Bob and it just gets progressively obscure. He got older and wonderfully weirder," she said. But in Dylan's early material, "he was emulating country blues. A door opened there for me."

Using the patterns of country music as a framework, "gives my songwriting some parameters that are satisfying for me to meet," she said. "I like having some structure. It feels good to have some order."

Naming her album "Valley of Heart's Delight" speaks to Cilker's genuine and ongoing curiosity about her former homeland's history, as well as agricultural issues in general.

"I'm really interested in agriculture, and I think it just kind of started out with a fascination, like any young humanities student who learns about farming would have," she said.

"Wow, there's a big wide world out there! There's more to life than Safeway!" That was kind of a thread I kept pulling. It was really cool for me to work on farms and see how real food comes to the table."

Those connections to the land, she said, are often obscured in suburban and urban centers. Growing up in affluent Silicon Valley, she was aware of "a lot of material wealth," but also "kind of a more insidious suffering. I'm not a social scientist. All I know is what I feel. There's a dis-ease among the people, whenever there is a severance from the land," she said. "That's what's so precious about places like the Packard orchard in Los Altos Hills," and the heritage apricot orchards in Sunnyvale and Los Altos.

"It's important to keep those flourishing and have a remembrance," she said.

Her father attended Los Altos High School with Robin Chapman, author of several books about local agricultural history, and Chapman's work has helped fuel Cilker's interest in and appreciation for the area's



Courtesy Bandcamp

The cover art for Margo Cilker's "Valley of Heart's Delight."

pastoral past. She was surprised to discover "this depth of nostalgia I didn't think was right in my literal backyard. ... I had to see it through the lens of other places, and I came back and was like, 'Whoa, this is very visceral for people that remember it.'"

Of course, her choice of album title is also somewhat tongue-in-cheek.

"It's easy to look back 50, 60, 100 years ago and say, 'Oh, it was such simple times!'" she said, but to do so risks romanticizing the inequalities and hardships that existed for many.

"Part of the nostalgia is a farce. There's no 'valley of heart's delight' — there wasn't then, and there sure as sh-t isn't now," she said. "Real life is messy, it's ugly, and just not black-and-white; there's a gray area. There's no grand marketing slogan that can blur away all the imperfections."

Still, "I can look back, and when people reminisce, I believe them — that there was beauty in the life that they lived."

Growing up, Cilker's family sang hymns and folk songs together around the campfire. She got involved with music at church and in school, and started playing at local coffee-house open-mic nights, including at the venerable Red Rock Coffee in downtown Mountain View, where as a teen, she and her friends would also busk on Castro Street.

Her father's side of the family has deep roots in the South Bay, with the first Cilker emigrating from Germany in the late 1800s. Her grandparents started Pine Cone Lumber in Sunnyvale, which continues to be family-owned, and where Cilker has worked in the past. She's also performed there, booked by her dad to play at the business' annual special event: "April Tools Day."

"I convinced him to hire me one year. I cashed in my nepo baby card," she said, laughing.

As a student at Pinewood School, Cilker was a keen athlete, as archives from this news organization show (she would have preferred to be gigging, "but sports are good too," she said). And while grateful for her supportive family, she was eager to move on from her suburban Los Altos life.

"I was kind of curious to go experience another part of the country. I needed to spread my wings ... to step outside my family world in the proverbial prodigal-daughter sense and pray they let me come crawling back when I ran out of money," she recalled. "I needed a big departure."

She went to college in South Carolina, fell in love with Spain, and worked on a dairy farm in



Courtesy Jen Borst

Margo Cilker, who grew up in Los Altos, is interested in the area's pastoral past. The title of her sophomore album, "Valley of Heart's Delight," speaks to Cilker's curiosity about her former homeland's history.

# Worth a Look



Courtesy Camilla Greenwell

London-based Akram Khan Company blends classical Indian Kathak and contemporary dance in a reimagining of “The Jungle Book,” presented Dec. 2-3 at Stanford Live.

## ‘Jungle Book Reimagined’

Stanford Live presents Akram Khan’s dance-theater adaptation of Rudyard Kipling’s classic tale “The Jungle Book,” reimagining the story of the human child Mowgli and his wild friends and foes as a climate-change narrative set in the near future. In this production, according to Stanford Live, Mowgli is a climate refugee in an abandoned city, where non-human animals have emerged to take over the urban jungle. The show includes a cast of 10 dancers, animation and an original

musical score. The Akram Khan Company blends classical Indian Kathak and contemporary dance in innovative ways, and is based in London. These Stanford performances are the last stop on the North American tour for “Jungle Book Reimagined.”

Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 3 at 2:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium, 551 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford. Tickets start at \$35. [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu).

## ‘Elf The Musical’

“The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear,” as the unfailingly cheery hero of the film “Elf” often proclaims. Taking that character’s advice to heart is “Elf The Musical,” a Broadway show adapted from the favorite holiday film, which marks its 20th anniversary this year. Los Altos Stage Company presents the lighthearted musical, which tells a fish-out-of-water story about a human raised as an elf in Santa’s workshop and the holiday spirit he spreads when he visits New York to find his biological father, who’s on Santa’s naughty list.

Through Dec. 23 at the Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Tickets are \$22-\$45. [losaltosstage.org](http://losaltosstage.org).

## Nueva Day and Night

The steel drum bands of Nueva School (a private school based in Hillsborough and San Mateo) will offer a world music showcase featuring guest steel drum player Jeff Narell and guitarist Chris Camozzi. Steel drum ensembles from both the middle and upper schools will perform. Narell is a longtime Bay Area Afro-Caribbean percussionist and educator who, according to his website, studied in the 1960s with the inventor of the modern steel drum, Ellie Mannette.

Dec. 3 at 6 p.m., Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Tickets are \$25. [guildtheatre.com](http://guildtheatre.com).

## ‘The Velveteen Rabbit’

A beloved children’s favorite gets a world-premiere adaptation this season when the Palo Alto Children’s Theatre presents a new version of Margery

Williams’ “The Velveteen Rabbit,” with book and lyrics by Adam Tobin and music by Deborah Wicks La Puma. The play features three original songs. If it’s been a while since you’ve read the touching tearjerker, the story features the titular velveteen rabbit — the beloved stuffed companion of a child — who dreams of becoming a real bunny. Palo Alto Children’s Theatre is offering a few special performances during the main stage show’s run: a “sensory and spectrum friendly” performance Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. and an American Sign Language-interpreted show Dec. 16 at 7 p.m.

Through Dec. 17, Palo Alto Children’s Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$17. [cityofpaloalto.org](http://cityofpaloalto.org).

## A Candlelit Homecoming

At this time of year, stepping out of the cold into a warmly lit place can feel just about as welcoming as it gets — the exact cozy, uplifting vibes that the Peninsula Women’s Chorus looks to channel with their winter concert, “A Candlelit Homecoming.” The chorus performs contemporary and classical works celebrating winter, including R. Murray Schafer’s “Snowforms,” Veljo Tormis’ “Talvemustrid” (Winter Patterns) and Carol Barnett’s “Winter, Snow.” Among other works on the program are Michael Bussewitz-Quarm’s setting of “Nigra Sum,” dedicated to refugees worldwide and Giovanni Gabrieli’s “O Magnum Mysterium” for double chorus. The concert concludes with carols, such as “Silent Night” and John Rutter’s “Candlelight Carol.”

Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. The chorus performs the same program Dec. 9 at Mission Santa Clara. Tickets are \$10-\$50. [pwchorus.org](http://pwchorus.org).

## MARGO CILKER

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Petaluma, among other forays. She lived in Oregon for a while, has toured all over the U.S., and is currently settled in rural eastern Washington with her husband, the songwriter and actual cowboy Forrest VanTuyt (along with their horses and dog).

“I’ve had to go very far and wide to have any semblance of booking shows, of having an audience at all,” she said.

Last year, she played at Menlo Park’s Guild Theatre for the first time. Her mom brought takeout from the Los Altos favorite Chef Chu’s to the green room, which Cilker said was the swankiest she’d ever seen.

Her journeys, both physical and metaphorical, find their way into her music.

“A lot of my life experiences obviously inspire the songs but I take some liberty here and there,” she said. “I sought out the experiences that would become the narratives I wanted to tell, in a sort of backwards way.”

For more information about Margo Cilker’s music, visit [margocilkermusic.com](http://margocilkermusic.com). ■

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## FIRED UP

*Peninsula dining destinations offering fireside seats*

Magali Gauthier

Kelly Parisi, left, hangs out with Taylor Falls Olson, right, by the outdoor fireplace at the President's Terrace, the rooftop bar at The Graduate, in downtown Palo Alto.

**By Karla Kane**

It's the time of year for long, dark nights and finding fun ways to light them up. When the air is chilly and the sun sets early as the winter solstice draws nearer, one way to celebrate the season is by enjoying a relaxing meal or tasty beverage by the warm glow of a fire. To quote Olaf the "Frozen" snowman, "The hot and the cold are both so intense. Put 'em together it just makes sense!" If you're hoping to find cozy dining and/or sipping destinations with a warm glow, you may want to give these a try.

### **FILOLI, Woodside**

The holidays are a special time at Filoli (where President Joe Biden recently visited), with the gardens and grounds alight in twinkling splendor. While the historic house boasts a whopping 17 fancy fireplaces, they're no longer actively in use. However, those seeking an extra helping of luxury can reserve a private outdoor fire pit space. Each 90-minute reservation includes bottomless drinks from a private bar and optional snack platters for up to 16 guests.

Filoli, 86 Cañada Road, Woodside; 650-364-8300, Instagram: @filoli. Open daily 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Check online for available fire pit reservations (still available at press time but booking up quickly). [filoli.org](http://filoli.org).

### **VINO LOCALE, Palo Alto**

Downtown Palo Alto's Vino Locale offers happy-hour snacks and dinner

entrees, live music, and, of course, wine. It's housed in a charming historic Victorian, but the back patio features year-round outdoor seating complete with

fire pits, heaters and covered gazebos in case of rain.

Vino Locale, 431 Kipling St., Palo Alto; 650-328-0450, Instagram:

[@vinocalepaloalto](https://www.instagram.com/vinocalepaloalto). Open Tuesday-Thursday 3-9 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 3-9:30 p.m. Sunday through Monday available for private events. [vinocale.org](http://vinocale.org).



Courtesy Jettywave Distillery

Guests at Half Moon Bay's JettyWave Distillery can sip on cocktails made with small-batch bourbon, California botanical gin and more while they warm up at the distillery's "outdoor bonfire lounge."

### **TWELVEMONTH, Burlingame**

Burlingame's Twelvemonth, with its fire pit-studded outdoor area, is a must for vegans — or anyone craving some plant-based deliciousness — with offerings including tofu banh mi, "not paella," and, on the dessert menu, the extremely tempting-sounding "brownie batter." Sustainability is a major part of Twelvemonth's ethos; its building and grounds received a platinum LEED rating.

Twelvemonth, 330 Lorton Ave., Burlingame; 650-443-7111, Instagram: @twelvemonthburlingame. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-10 p.m. [twelvemonthburlingame.com](http://twelvemonthburlingame.com).

### **OCEANCIDERS, Half Moon Bay**

Sure, the old holiday song mentions "chestnuts roasting on an open fire," but at OceanCiders it's s'mores instead, perfect for toasting and snacking on while sipping local ciders and devouring soft pretzels with cider cheese dip by the sea at Pillar Point Harbor. Weekends often feature live music.

OceanCiders, 2 Pillar Point Harbor Blvd., Half Moon Bay; Open Wednesday-Friday from 3-8 p.m. and noon to 8 p.m. on weekends, weather permitting. [instagram.com/oceanciders](https://www.instagram.com/oceanciders).



Magali Gauthier

A fire warms up the interior of Jim Burg's in Belmont. The newly rebranded eatery also offers fire pits on the back patio.



Courtesy OceanCiders

Customers can enjoy warming snacks that include s'mores at OceanCiders in Half Moon Bay.

**PRESIDENT'S TERRACE, Palo Alto**

Get killer views of the surrounding city and hills while staying warm by the classy fireplace at the rooftop bar and dining space of the Stanford-themed Graduate Palo Alto hotel. Cocktails by Bad Birdy include "The Peninsula," featuring mezcal, lime, pink guava and gardenia essence.

*President's Terrace, 488 University Ave., Palo Alto; 650-843-9755, Instagram: @presidentsterrace. Open every day from 4-11 p.m. graduatehotels.com/palo-alto.*

**FIELDWORK BREWING COMPANY, San Mateo**

This beer garden in San Mateo's Bay Meadows area has fire pits and a lengthy tap list, and even sells beanies to help

patrons stay extra snug when the temperature drops. Sandwiches and snacks round out the offerings.

*Fieldwork Brewing Company, 3030 S Delaware St., San Mateo; 650-242-1280. Instagram: @fieldworkbrewing\_sanmateo. Open Monday-Thursday noon to 9 p.m., Friday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. fieldworkbrewing.com/san-mateo.*

**JIM BURG'S, Belmont**

Formerly named Waterdog Tavern (then The Tavern), this Belmont spot rebranded just this week, under the same ownership. Now called Jim Burg's, it has a new menu, featuring cocktails, burgers, pastas and salads. Fire pits are available in the back.

*Jim Burg's, 1015 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont; 650-622-4642. Winter hours are*

*Monday-Thursday 4-8:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.*

**THE SWELL LOUNGE AT JETTYWAVE DISTILLERY, Half Moon Bay**

According to Jettywave Distillery, another cool spot (pun intended) at Pillar Point Harbor, "there is no such thing as foggy weather — just bad clothing." Its "outdoor bonfire lounge" — along with its award-winning libations like small-batch bourbon and California botanical gin — could be just the thing to tempt you to bundle up and head Coastside.

*Jettywave Distillery, 155 Broadway, Half Moon Bay; 650-291-883, Instagram: @jettywavehmb. Open first Thursday of*

*the month for Locals Night from 3-7 p.m., Friday from 3-7 p.m., Saturday from noon to 7 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. jettywave.com.*

**OAK + VIOLET, Menlo Park**

Oak + Violet (at the Park James Hotel) has plentiful ambience, fire pit access in its elegant courtyard and a menu full of locally sourced, seasonal bites, including blistered shishito peppers, truffle fries and housemade pasta.

*Oak + Violet, The Park James Hotel, 1400 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; 650-304-3880, Instagram: @oakandviolet. Open Monday-Saturday 5-9 p.m. (happy hour Monday-Friday 3-6 p.m.) parkjames.com/oak-violet. ■*

*Additional reporting by Magali Gauthier.*

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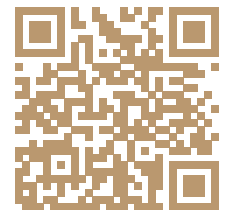
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### REAL ESTATE SEMINAR

Although it is best to meet with Michael Repka in person, we will be hosting an informative seminar to discuss this case, a similar case against other brokerages (such as Compass, eXp Realty, and Redfin), and potential DOJ action.



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