

The Almanac

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

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Looking back at 2023

The year in photos

By Magali Gauthier

This year was marked by a number of notable news events. Flooding and downed trees damaged homes at the start of the year due to a series of winter storms. Communities and city governments debated over where to plan for state-mandated housing. And locals supported each other as the Israel-Hamas war persists in Gaza.

Our staff and freelancers captured these moments, but also turned their lenses to the instances in between. One photographer captured the first graduating class receiving their diplomas from Menlo Park's TIDE Academy; another spent the day photographing riders competing in the Junior Rodeo in Woodside. Our visual journalist memorialized the afternoon when hundreds of community members celebrated former Portola Valley mayor Sue Crane publishing a book on local women working in the wine industry.

These images illustrate the monumental year we've experienced. Take a moment to reflect. ■

See **LOOKING BACK**, page 16



Magali Gauthier

Menlo School freshman Laila Young shares a tender moment with former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Steve Young, her father and assistant coach, during a home flag football game against Skyline High School at Wunderlich Field in Atherton on Oct. 3.

Stories that got people talking in 2023

By Almanac staff

As the year comes to an end, The Almanac compiled a list of the most talked about stories of 2023, month-by-month.

City agencies grappled with how to plan for new housing. Applications began to trickle in for so-called "builders remedy" projects — a California provision that allows developers to bypass local land-use rules when cities fail to garner state approval for a long-range housing plan.

The community mourned farmworkers killed in a mass

shooting in Half Moon Bay.

Local students planned protests after an M-A student was pinned down by police officers.

All the while, massive storms hit the Midpeninsula, leading to millions of dollars worth of damage to classrooms and other spaces.

January: The Currys enter the NIMBY debate

In January, The Almanac broke the news that Steph and Ayesha Curry waded into the housing debate in Atherton when they wrote a letter to the town asking it not to allow their neighbor, at 23 Oakwood

Blvd., to build duplexes. The couple said they were hesitant to add to the NIMBY (not in my backyard) rhetoric.

The news went national and around 250 residents — a record number — and major news outlets headed to Atherton for a blockbuster City Council meeting about town housing plans. Residents largely spoke out against upzoning 23 Oakwood and other parts of town. The council gutted some of the multifamily housing zoning, but kept 23 Oakwood in the plan.

See **TOP STORIES**, page 19



Magali Gauthier

Attendees listen to Atherton council members speak about the town's housing plan during a Jan. 31 meeting.

INSIDE

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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 Almanac

This is the **END OF YEAR** **DOUBLE EDITION!**

We're wrapping up the year with a special double edition combining the Dec. 22 and 29 issues.

The Dec. 22 edition of The Almanac will be the final newspaper delivered in 2023. We'll be back in print on Jan. 5.

Unlike Santa, though, our journalists will not rest for long after the big day. Just because there will be no paper delivered Dec. 29, our staff will still be working and you can **keep up with the local news on AlmanacNews.com.**



Happy Holidays!

The Almanac

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Devin Roberts

Menlo Park Fire District board members, firefighters and other officials cut a red ribbon to commemorate the opening of the new Fire Station No. 4 in Menlo Park on Dec. 17.

Menlo Park Fire opens new fire house, replacing over 70-year-old station

Officials from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District held a ribbon cutting ceremony at its newest station, Station 4, at 3322 Alameda De Las Pulgas on Sunday, Dec. 17. The new 13,200-square-foot, two-story building will replace the existing single-story, 3,800-square-foot Station 4, the district's oldest, which is located at 3322 Alameda de las Pulgas at the

corner of Valparaiso Avenue. The new building includes 10 bedrooms for firefighters, an energy-efficient system including solar panels and an electric vehicle charging station; a conference room for training and meetings; earthquake and disaster features such as early earthquake warning and automatic gas shut-off; a drone aerial port for surveilling fires; an

emergency backup generator; and a 1,000-gallon above-ground fuel storage tank. Decontamination systems will help protect firefighters from cancer-causing chemicals brought into their quarters on gear and from spreading viruses within the firehouse, according to previous Almanac reporting. ■

— Almanac staff

Despite calls to rethink usual mayor rotation, Portola Valley sticks with custom

By Neil Gonzales

The typically ceremonial, low-key procedure to pick Portola Valley's mayor and vice mayor for the year became the topic of debate over who should be installed in the top spot last week.

In the weekend leading up to the vote, resident Bob Turcott posted a video on YouTube under his handle "This WUI Life," which refers to the town's placement in the wildland-urban interface, calling on the Town Council to nominate Judith Hasko for mayor. He cites the fact Hasko garnered the most votes during a high voter turnout election a year ago in his Dec. 10 video.

But the council unanimously voted Sarah Wernikoff, who most recently served as vice mayor, as mayor and Hasko as vice mayor during its meeting Wednesday, Dec. 13. The two will serve in these roles until December 2024.

Part of the contretemps perhaps stemmed from the previous council reshuffling when Wernikoff asked not to be nominated for mayor due to personal reasons. The council went on to keep Wernikoff as vice mayor for 2023 with a 3-2 vote and

unanimously chose Council member Jeff Aalfs to be mayor.

Several public speakers, including Leslie Kriese, called on the council to bypass Wernikoff.

"This is not a comment about Sarah," Kriese said, "but if Sarah goes forward at this point, she will take some other Town Council member's turn at leadership before they'll rotate off. ... Let's see Judith Hasko as mayor."

Community members and former council members voiced their support of following the typical mayoral rotation in comments to the town leading up to the meeting. Former council member Maryann Derwin said in a Dec. 12 letter to the Town Council that over the years, councils in other cities have made news with "combative re-org meetings and lengthy votes with results that split the council and left everyone in the room feeling disappointed."

"I was always proud that



Sarah Wernikoff

See **MAYOR**, page 11

'Builder's-remedy' project on Sunset Magazine site could go even higher

The tallest building at 80 Willow Road could be 421 feet tall

By Neil Gonzales

Menlo Park leaders and residents were already aghast over a proposal to build a towering, multi-building, mixed-use development on the former Sunset Magazine headquarters.

The latest revision to the proposal by the development company N17 has only deepened their anxiety and worry as it would go even denser and higher — up to 421 feet — compared to two previous iterations.

Council member Jen Wolosin described the project to The Almanac as "jaw-dropping" but not in admiration.

"Trying to think of additional

synonyms for shocking, outrageous and beyond acceptable," she said of the updated proposal for 80 Willow Road in the Linfield Oaks neighborhood.

N17, founded this year by real-estate professional Oisin Heneghan, is pursuing the project under the so-called "builder's remedy" — a California provision that allows developers to bypass local land-use rules when cities fail to garner state approval for a long-range housing plan.

Similar to other jurisdictions on the Peninsula and elsewhere, Menlo Park continues to work toward a state-compliant plan known as the housing element.

N17's revamped proposal "has a similar unit count and square

footage to the previous submittal," Heneghan said in an email. "Massing and height are still being designed and will be included in the final design when it is submitted later in 2024. The project will include 160 affordable units."

Heneghan did not respond to other questions from this publication about why he started his own company, what attracted him to building in Menlo Park, why he revised the proposal, the estimated project cost and timeline, and his reaction to the community's concerns about his project.

In a recent newsletter, Wolosin alerted residents to the changes in Heneghan's proposal.

"Incredibly, the height and scale of the project (have) increased," she wrote. "The tallest building proposed is now 421 feet tall."

In the new submission to the city, the project would include 305-foot and 371-foot buildings as well. The tallest structure in the previous proposals would top at 349 feet.

As a comparison, the Embarcadero Center in San Francisco features four office towers — two rising about 570 feet and the others at 413 feet.

Like the first two proposals for the Sunset site, Wolosin said in her newsletter, "I find this submission to be outrageously out of scale from what is reasonable. The City Council has worked

hard to designate sites for housing development throughout the city during the housing element process and rezoned land to enable that development. This project is completely inconsistent with what we had planned."

The project now would provide up to 805 residential units, fewer than the 1,150 dwellings from the last submission but about the same as the original proposal.

The new proposal would also build 300,000 square feet of offices, 15,000 square feet of retail space and a 128,635-square-foot hotel. Those numbers are up from the prior versions.

Linfield Oaks residents, already

See **BUILDER'S REMEDY**, page 22

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. M-280316

The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):

ART MY HEART

741 Manzanita Road

Woodside, CA 94062

FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:

02/07/2019

REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):

JEANNE A. GOLDMAN

741 Manzanita Road

Woodside, CA 94062

THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An Individual.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on

November 28 2023.

(ALM Dec 15, 22, 2023, Jan 5 and 12, 2024)

KYLTEN ENTERPRISES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-295988

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) KYLTEN ENTERPRISES, located at 140

FLYING CLOUD ISLE, FOSTER CITY, CA

94404, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

HERMAN WAN

140 FLYING CLOUD ISLE

FOSTER CITY, CA 94404

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

December 01, 2023.

(ALM Dec 15, 22, 2023, Jan 5 and 12, 2024)

TAO AUTO GROUP

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-295957

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) TAO AUTO GROUP, located at 315

HABOR WAY, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA

94080.

Registered owner(s):

LOTSO GLOBAL, INC.

315 HARBOR WAY

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

This business is conducted by: a

Corporation.

Registrant has begun to transact business

under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on 11/01/2023.

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on

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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

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(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

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BAY 1 DRIVING SCHOOL INC

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-296005

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) BAY 1 DRIVING SCHOOL INC, located at

795 4th Ave Suite 204, Redwood City CA

94063.

Registered owner(s):

BAY 1 DRIVING SCHOOL INC

795 4th Avenue #204

Redwood City, CA 94063

State of Incorporation/Organization: Ca

This business is conducted by: a

Corporation.

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

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PARC AGENCY

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-295948

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) PARC AGENCY, located at 704 Oak Grove

Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s):

PARC AGENCY CORPORATION

704 Oak Grove Ave

Menlo Park, CA 94025

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

This business is conducted by: a

Corporation.

Registrant has begun to transact business

under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on 11/19/2018.

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OCG SERVICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-295991

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) OCG SERVICES, located at 140 FLYING

CLOUD ISLE, FOSTER CITY CA 94404.

Registered owner(s):

OCG SERVICES

140 FLYING CLOUD ISLE

FOSTER CITY CA 94404

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

This business is conducted by: a Limited

Liability Company.

Registrant has begun to transact business

under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on 5/05/2017.

This statement was filed with the County

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JUAN CARLOS PAINTING MTB

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-295912

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) JUAN CARLOS PAINTING MTB, located at

533 DOUGLAS AVE, REDWOOD CITY CA.

94063.

Registered owner(s):

JUAN CARLOS GUZMAN PRADO

533 DOUGLAS AVE

REDWOOD CITY CA. 94063

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

This business is conducted by: an

Individual.

Registrant has begun to transact business

under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on 11/21/2023.

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on

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The Almanac

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Outreach to begin for \$10-20 billion regional housing bond

The Board of Supervisors voted 3-1 to begin outreach in early 2024

By Nicholas Mazzone

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved a community outreach plan for a regional housing bond measure on the November 2024 ballot that could bring in an estimated \$1 billion for affordable housing for the county.

In 2022, two regional agencies began the process for voters to consider a \$10 to \$20 billion general obligation housing bond with San Mateo County receiving around \$1.05 billion to build and preserve affordable housing, according to a staff report. The two agencies are the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) and the Association of Bay Area Governments, the latter of which represents the nine Bay Area counties.

At a Dec. 5 San Mateo County



Courtesy San Mateo County

Members of the 2023 San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, from left: Warren Slocum, Noelia Corzo, Dave Pine, David J. Canepa, Ray Mueller.

Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Noelia Corzo said the bond is an opportunity to advance equity within the county.

“Let me clearly state that over \$1 billion to support our county housing needs will be

life-changing for our residents,” Corzo said.

The outreach process aims to involve county residents and community housing partners beginning in early 2024. The outreach will detail the county’s needs, introduce the bond, and

discuss how the money will be divided and used if the voters approve the bond, according to the report.

The county’s Board of Supervisors approved the plan 3-1 with Dave Pine absent and Ray Mueller opposed. Mueller said he supports the bond but is concerned that the community outreach phase would happen too close to the election. He noted residents could perceive it as a campaign using taxpayer dollars, which is illegal.

“This has been structured to do all the community engagement when people are voting,” Mueller said.

If the bond passes, 80% of the bond’s net revenue will be returned to the nine counties based on each county’s share of assessed property values. The remaining 20% would be reserved for BAHFA to

distribute around the region.

San Francisco Bay Area Regional Housing Finance Act, created by BAHFA, would divide the potential bond revenue into sections: 52% for production, 15% for housing preservation, 5% for tenant protections, and 28% for flexible housing uses, according to the report.

For San Mateo County, the estimated \$1.05 billion would be divided for several housing purposes: \$52 million for administration, \$543 million for production, \$156 million for preservation, \$52 million for tenant protections and \$290 million for flexible funding, according to the report.

Corzo said the \$52 million for tenant protections is essential for county residents.

The state expects cities within

See **HOUSING BOND**, page 23

Hearing set to decide if Redwood City teen accused of fatal street racing crash will be tried as an adult

Accused driver Cesar Morales was 17 when crash killed parents of twin girls

By Nicholas Mazzone

One of two people accused of killing a San Carlos couple following a street race in Redwood City last fall will return to court next year to find out whether he will be tried as an adult.

Cesar Morales, 18, of Redwood City, and Kyle Harrison, 24, are accused of racing their vehicles on El Camino Real at Howard Avenue in San Carlos on Nov. 4, 2022, traveling south on El Camino Real at speeds over 80 mph.

Grace Spiridon, 42, and Gregory Ammen, 44, were in a Chevrolet Bolt vehicle with their twin 7-year-old daughters

in the backseat, turning left onto El Camino Real from Finger Avenue in Redwood City, attempting to drive north on El Camino Real when their vehicle was broadsided by a car allegedly driven by Morales, instantly killing Spiridon and Ammen, according to the DA’s Office. Spiridon and Ammen’s daughters survived the crash.

At a transfer hearing set for April, Judge Susan I. Etezadi will determine if Morales, who was 17 at the time of the crash, will be transferred to the San Mateo County Superior Court.

San Mateo County Assistant District Attorney Sean Gallagher said the DA’s office requested Morales’ case to be

transferred to adult court.

“The only cases we ever asked to be certified (transferred to adult court) in the last five to eight years are murder cases,” Gallagher said.

Morales, who is facing two second-degree murder charges, could face 30 years to life in prison if he is tried as an adult. But if his case remains in juvenile court, he can only be held in Juvenile Hall until he is 25, according to the DA’s Office.

Johanna Rasmussen, San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission’s incoming chair, said she believes charging juveniles as adults isn’t conducive to rehabilitating troubled youth and it doesn’t improve public safety.

“We feel we have the ability and capacity to rehabilitate all children in the juvenile justice system,” Rasmussen said.

Gallagher said during the hearing process witnesses will be called, and the Juvenile Probation Department will detail a report on Morales’ background, prior criminal history, and circumstances of the crime, including a recommendation as to whether he should be tried as an adult.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys can present evidence and argue which court Morales’ case suits best. Ultimately, the Etezadi will make the final

decision. Once the process resolves, the case will continue with its regular proceedings.

A wrongful death lawsuit, filed against Morales’ parents and Harrison, is also pending in court. It includes a demand for a jury trial. Attorney Niall McCarthy, who represents the plaintiffs, said the case is in the

beginning stages, and the trial is anticipated to begin next year.

Morales is detained until the case is resolved. He returns to court on April 15, 2024, according to the DA’s Office. ■

Email Staff Writer Nicholas Mazzone at nmazzone@rwcpulse.com.



Courtesy Liza Spiridon

Gregory Ammen and Grace Spiridon were beloved parents and members of the local community.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



How Much Work Should I Do to an Old House?

Dear Monica: I’m selling my mother’s house which is in original condition and will likely be torn down. Should I do any work to it before selling? -Sean H.

Dear Sean: A house is more appealing and attracts more buyers if it is nicely presented. Many buyers may want to live in or rent out the property for a few years as they prepare their plans for a new home. Find out how much it would cost to do cosmetic work at least and then decide if it is worth doing. If the cost is reasonable you should consider it.

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



Courtesy LifeMoves

Cristina and her sons play basketball at a LifeMoves facility in San Mateo. Following a divorce, the single mother became homeless and got help from LifeMoves.

Holiday Fund: LifeMoves

By Nacole Barth-Ellis

One year ago, Cristina — a local teacher, mother and survivor — was doing her best to make her temporary home festive for her three young boys. Christmas saw the family staying in a hotel room in Burlingame where they lived for three months. Cristina did her best to prepare her kids' favorite meals on a hot plate and decorated the room with the few holiday items she could find.

It had not always been this way. A series of milestone events and circumstances contributed to the family's predicament. Her husband's addiction, stolen savings, the end of a marriage, and eventually, an unexpected eviction, left this family without a home.

"I never imagined that we'd be homeless," she said. A life-long San Mateo County resident, born in Redwood City, she always had steady employment and a good education.

Struggling to find her path as a suddenly single mother, she was informed that she earned too much money as a teacher to qualify for a low-income two-bedroom apartment, but landlords were not able to rent a one-bedroom to a family of four. After more than three months in the hotel, she could no longer afford the cost of their stay as her savings had been lost during the breakup of her marriage.

Then, Cristina learned about First Step for Families, the LifeMoves emergency interim housing site in San Mateo. It was there that the family began to move forward with their lives in January 2023.

Over the course of several months, Cristina was able to focus on saving money and working with her case manager to plan for a life of independence. Her boys flourished, taking advantage of the library, computer lab and summer camp activities. Staff at First Step for Families helped Cristina and her boys heal from the trauma of being homeless.

Life Moves is one of the beneficiaries of The Almanac's Holiday Fund. Donations are divided equally among this year's 10 non-profit 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.

Since 1987, LifeMoves has given our neighbors experiencing homelessness a temporary place to call home while providing intensive, customized case management through both site-based programs and community outreach. In the most recent fiscal year, LifeMoves provided more than 308,000 nights of shelter and returned nearly 1,800 clients to stable housing.

On any given night, LifeMoves feeds, clothes and houses approximately 1,575 individuals across



our 26 shelter and service sites within San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, including Haven Family House, our interim housing site in Menlo Park that focuses on unsheltered families.

LifeMoves supportive services include employment counseling, housing locator assistance, financial literacy, benefits enrollment, health care referrals, substance use disorder counseling and behavioral health support services to our clients. Families are provided with all household necessities free of charge so that they can save money and build a nest egg for when they secure their own home. Items provided include nutritious meal components, clothing, access to laundry, school supplies for children, and diapers and formula for infants.

Because homelessness is especially traumatic for children, all LifeMoves interim housing sites serving families employ Children's Services Coordinators who assist families with locating childcare, connecting children to needed services and coordinating educational programs. Children receive access to tutoring, STEM-based educational workshops and more.

Last year, across all of locations, 92% of families and 66% of all individuals who engaged in LifeMoves programming returned to stable housing.

Christmas came a little early this year for Cristina's family. Earlier this month, she moved her family into their new two-bedroom apartment, where they are looking forward to making many happy memories. With this move, her children have stability and are able to continue their education and activities at their current schools.

Cristina is proud of how far they have come and all she accomplished during her time at LifeMoves: "I am going to school to further my career and increase my income. I was able to raise my credit score by 166 points in a year! Christmas looks a little different for us this year." ■

Nacole Barth-Ellis is senior grant writer for LifeMoves.

NOTIFICACIÓN DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA DE LA COMISIÓN DE FORMACIÓN DE AGENCIAS LOCALES DE SAN MATEO

POR LA PRESENTE, la Comisión de Formación de Agencias Locales de San Mateo le NOTIFICAN que se ha programado una audiencia pública para el día **16 de febrero de 2024 a las 2:30 pm**. La reunión se llevará a cabo en la Cámara del Consejo de East Palo Alto en 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA.

Los siguientes puntos serán considerados en la audiencia pública:

Expediente LAFCo Nro. 22-09 - Una propuesta para establecer el Distrito Sanitario de East Palo Alto (EPASD, por sus siglas en inglés), distrito especial independiente, como un distrito subsidiario de la ciudad de East Palo Alto (ciudad).

La propuesta arriba mencionada fue aprobada el 15 de noviembre de 2023 por la LAFCo de San Mateo en una audiencia pública notificada. La propuesta fue iniciada por resolución del Consejo de la ciudad de East Palo Alto. En la actualidad, EPASD brinda servicios de alcantarillado a clientes en partes de la ciudad de East Palo Alto y en la ciudad de Menlo Park. Conforme esta propuesta, el Consejo de la ciudad de East Palo Alto se convertiría en la Junta Directiva de EPASD. La aprobación de esta propuesta no alteraría el área de servicio de EPASD ni los servicios de alcantarillado que EPASD brinda a los clientes. Los ingresos cobrados por EPASD se separarían del fondo general de la ciudad y podrían ser usados únicamente para operaciones de alcantarillado y de mantenimiento. La razón fundada de la ciudad en relación a esta propuesta es la de facilitar la planificación coordinada del servicio de alcantarillado, infraestructura y capacidad para acomodarse al crecimiento planeado y para mejorar la transparencia, rendición de cuentas y salud ambiental, para cumplir con las necesidades actuales y futuras de todos los contribuyentes del distrito. El cambio de administración tendría lugar el 1 de marzo de 2024. La presente notificación y todos los documentos relacionados (informe de personal, resolución, mapas, etc.) se encuentran disponibles en el sitio web de LAFCo en <https://www.smcgov.org/lafco/proposal-city-east-palo-regarding-east-palo-alto-sanitary-district>.

El objetivo de la audiencia pública es brindarles a los propietarios y votantes registrados dentro del área de servicio afectada, la oportunidad de presentar una protesta por escrito a la propuesta. Las personas que sean tanto propietarios como votantes registrados deberían presentar dos protestas por escrito, pero deben usar formularios separados para cada protesta. Si bien no es obligatorio, se alienta a las personas que presenten protestas por escrito a usar los formularios de protesta que se encuentran en el sitio web de LAFCo, en <https://www.smcgov.org/lafco/forms>.

Las protestas por escrito deberán indicar si las mismas la realiza un propietario o un votante registrado. La protesta por escrito debe incluir el número de parcela del evaluador (APN, por sus siglas en inglés) si es presentada por un propietario O el domicilio de residencia si es presentada por un votante registrado. El formulario de protesta también debe incluir una firma original de tinta húmeda y la fecha y todas las firmas deben ser fechadas luego de la publicación de la notificación de audiencia pública, en los términos del artículo 57051 del Código de Gobierno. Se considerarán únicamente las protestas válidas.

Las protestas por escrito deben presentarse en la LAFCo antes de la finalización de la audiencia pública. Las protestas por escrito podrán presentarse por correo electrónico o entregarse en persona a:

San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission (Comisión de Formación de Agencias Locales de San Mateo)
455 County Center, 2nd Floor (2° piso)
Redwood City, CA 94063

Las protestas por escrito que se presentan por correo electrónico o en persona a la oficina de LAFCo deben ser entregadas antes de las 4:00 pm del 15 de febrero de 2024. Todo el resto de las protestas por escrito deben entregarse en mano al personal de LAFCo en la audiencia pública el 16 de febrero de 2024 a las 2:30 pm, previo al cierre de la audiencia pública.

Dentro de los 30 días luego de la finalización de la audiencia de protesta, el Director ejecutivo tomará la decisión en relación al cierre o a la aprobación del expediente LAFCo Nro. 22-09, de acuerdo con lo siguiente:

- Cerrar el expediente LAFCo Nro. 22-09 si la protesta por escrito se recibe por parte del 50% o más de los votantes registrados dentro del área temática;
- Llamar a elecciones a los votantes registrados si la protesta por escrito se recibe de al menos el 25% pero de menos del 50% de los votantes registrados o si al menos el 25% de los propietarios—que poseen al menos el 25% del valor total de los terrenos—presentan una protesta por escrito; o,
- Aprobar el expediente LAFCo Nro. 22-09 sin una elección si la protesta por escrito es presentada por menos del 25% de los votantes o por menos del 25% de los propietarios—que poseen menos del 25% del valor total de los terrenos—dentro del área temática.

Si tiene dudas contacte a Rob Bartoli, Director ejecutivo, al (650) 262-4224 o a través de correo electrónico a rbartoli@smcgov.org.

Fecha: 20 de diciembre de 2023

COMMISSIONERS:

ANN DRAPER, CHAIR, PUBLIC • KATI MARTIN, VICE CHAIR, SPECIAL DISTRICT • VIRGINIA CHANG-KIRALY, SPECIAL DISTRICT • HARVEY RARBACK, CITY • TYGARJAS BIGSTYCK, CITY • WARREN SLOCUM, COUNTY • RAY MUELLER, COUNTY

ALTERNATES:

CHRIS MICKELSEN, SPECIAL DISTRICT • ANN SCHNEIDER, CITY • JAMES O'NEILL, PUBLIC • NOELIA CORZO, COUNTY

STAFF:

ROB BARTOLI, EXECUTIVE OFFICER • SOFIA RECALDE, MANAGEMENT ANALYST • TIM FOX, LEGAL COUNSEL • ANGELA MONTES, CLERK

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East Palo Alto community survey shows room for improvement in disaster prep

By Joshua Picazo/
Bay City News Service

Barriers to emergency preparedness in East Palo Alto were uncovered by a survey conducted in October 2022, the county of San Mateo announced Wednesday, Dec. 13.

Completed in-person with residents over three days, the findings were part of a rapid needs assessment called Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER), which conducted interviews in English and Spanish.

The survey showed that only half of residents surveyed in the city had emergency supply kits for power outages, earthquakes, or other disasters. Moreover, just under 60% had signed up for the county's emergency alert system that warns of imminent threats and provides evacuation notices.

The county also referenced lower income levels and less access to health care as barriers many in the city face.

Only 32% said they had an emergency communication plan for family and friends to connect with if something were to happen, such as a natural disaster, the survey revealed. Just under

40% reported keeping copies of emergency documents.

"Our district's work is data-driven," said Brian Weber, district manager at San Mateo Mosquito and Vector Control District, in a Dec. 13 press release. "The data from this report will help us strategically strengthen our outreach efforts so residents are more aware of the taxpayer-funded services we offer to everyone living in the county."

Those services were not widely known in East Palo Alto, as the survey also found that nearly 75% were unaware of rebate programs for air conditioning and utility assistance.

Despite this, 75% of residents surveyed reported no barriers to receive communications during emergencies, meaning no hearing, vision or language challenges, however 16% of respondents did cite difficulty with English as a challenge.

The survey was developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and uses a methodology which broke the city up into clusters and randomly surveyed households within those clusters to ensure a random but geographically representative survey.

The findings are then used by

experts and local governments to better plan for emergency responses and to gauge community resources and needs.

"The data are really valuable in helping local governments and community organizations identify gaps and opportunities for further engagement," said Karen Pfister, County Health epidemiology program manager and one of the leaders of the CASPER project, in the press release. ■

Employment

The Almanac offers employment advertising.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Visit AlmanacNews.com/employment_ads/.

For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

NOTICE OF PROTEST HEARING BY THE SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission that a protest hearing is scheduled for **February 16, 2024 at 2:30pm**. The meeting will be held at the East Palo Alto Council Chambers at 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA.

The following item will be considered at the protest hearing:

LAFCo File No. 22-09 – A proposal to establish the East Palo Alto Sanitary District (EPASD), an independent special district, as a subsidiary district of the City of East Palo Alto (City).

The above proposal was approved by the San Mateo LAFCo at a noticed public hearing on November 15, 2023. The proposal was initiated by the East Palo Alto City Council by resolution. EPASD currently provides sewer services to customers in portions of the City of East Palo Alto and the City of Menlo Park. Under this proposal, the City of East Palo Alto City Council would become the governing board of EPASD. Approval of this proposal would not alter the EPASD service area nor the sewer services provided by EPASD to customers. Revenue collected by EPASD would be separate from the City's General fund and could only be used for sewer operations and maintenance. The City's stated reason for the proposal is to facilitate coordinated planning of sewer service, infrastructure and capacity to accommodate for planned growth, and to improve transparency, accountability and environmental health to meet the current and future needs of all District ratepayers. The governance change would take effect March 1, 2024. This Notice and all related documents (staff report, resolution, maps, etc.) are available on the LAFCo website at <https://www.smcgov.org/lafco/proposal-city-east-palo-alto-regarding-east-palo-alto-sanitary-district>.

The purpose of a protest hearing is to give landowners and registered voters within the affected service area the opportunity to submit written protest to the proposal. Individuals who are both a landowner and a registered voter may submit two written protests but must use separate forms for each protest. Individuals submitting a written protest are encouraged, but are not required, to use the protest forms on the LAFCo website at <https://www.smcgov.org/lafco/forms>.

Written protests shall state whether protest is being made by a landowner or registered voter. Written protest must include the assessor parcel number (APN) if submitted by a landowner OR the residence street address if submitted by a registered voter. The protest form must also include an original wet-ink signature and date, and all signatures must be dated after the publication of the notice of protest hearing per Government Code Section 57051. Only valid protests will be considered.

Written protests must be filed with LAFCo before the conclusion of the protest hearing. Written protests may be submitted by mail or in-person delivery to:

San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission
455 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063

Written protests that are submitted by mail or delivered in-person to the LAFCo office must be received by 4:00pm on February 15, 2024. All other written protests must be hand delivered to LAFCo staff at the protest hearing on February 16, 2024 at 2:30pm before the protest hearing is closed.

Within 30 days following the conclusion of the Protest Hearing, the Executive Officer will make a determination on whether LAFCo File No. 22-09 is terminated or approved, as follows:

- Terminate LAFCo File No. 22-09 if written protest is received from 50% or more of the registered voters within the subject area;
- Call an election of registered voters if written protest is received from at least 25% but less than 50% of the registered voters or if at least 25% of the landowners—who own at least 25% of the total land value—submit written protest; or,
- Approve LAFCo File No. 22-09 without an election if written protest is submitted from less than 25% of the voters or less than 25% of the landowners—who own less than 25% of the total land value—within the subject area.

Please contact Rob Bartoli, Executive Officer, if you have any questions at (650) 363-4224 or via email at rbartoli@smcgov.org.

Dated: December 20, 2023

COMMISSIONERS:

ANN DRAPER, CHAIR, PUBLIC • KATI MARTIN, VICE CHAIR, SPECIAL DISTRICT • VIRGINIA CHANG-KIRALY, SPECIAL DISTRICT • HARVEY RARBACK, CITY • TYGARJAS BIGSTYCK, CITY • WARREN SLOCUM, COUNTY • RAY MUELLER, COUNTY

ALTERNATES:

CHRIS MICKELSEN, SPECIAL DISTRICT • ANN SCHNEIDER, CITY • JAMES O'NEILL, PUBLIC • NOELIA CORZO, COUNTY

STAFF:

ROB BARTOLI, EXECUTIVE OFFICER • SOFIA RECALDE, MANAGEMENT ANALYST • TIM FOX, LEGAL COUNSEL • ANGELA MONTES, CLERK

'No party preference' voters must take action to vote in March presidential primary

By Bay City News Service

Registrar of voters offices across the Bay Area on Dec. 13 issued guidance to "No Party Preference" voters who will have to take action if they want to vote in the presidential primary contest in the March election.

A joint statement by 11 local county registrar's offices on Dec. 13 noted that the March 5, 2024 election will be the first in California in which party or No Party Preference ballots will be sent to every registered voter. No Party Preference means a voter didn't register with a qualified political party like the Democratic or Republican parties.

Notices are being sent via mail to people who registered as No Party Preference to let them know of their options to be able to cast a vote in a presidential primary contest.

People can request a cross-over ballot for the Democratic, American Independent or

Libertarian parties, which allow cross-over votes without changing one's party. To participate in the Republican, Green or Peace and Freedom parties' contest, voters will need to register or re-register with that party, according to the registrar's offices.

If No Party Preference voters don't take either action, they will not have presidential contests on their ballot, which will also include Senate, Congress, statehouse and local races in March.

"While it is important to take action to vote each election, it is particularly important during a Presidential Primary. All voters should take action and check their voter information (address and party) before the election," the county registrars said.

The joint statement was issued by the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma. ■

Holiday Fund: A winter feast for families in need

Ecumenical Hunger Program brings holiday cheer to low-income households in the neighborhood through its food boxes

By Ashwini Gangal

Leonora Martinez, 51, calls herself “blessed” despite the misfortune that has riddled her life in recent years.

Born and raised in East Palo Alto, where she currently resides, Martinez lost her father in 2014. Two years later, she lost her husband. A year later, her teenage son Austin was involved in a biking accident that robbed him of his speech and movement.

The following year, her mother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and a year later, her 25-year-old daughter died by



suicide. After that, the pandemic hit.

“When I say life has been crazy, it has been crazy,” Martinez said. “Every year, it’s been one big ordeal after another.”

Even so, the word “blessed” came up over four times during a 40-minute Zoom call with this publication.

Martinez lives with three of her five children, a daughter-in-law and three grandchildren, two of whom are the kids of her late daughter.

“I’m raising them,” she said. “I have pieces of her. That keeps me afloat.”

Also keeping her afloat is the timely support of the Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP), an East Palo Alto-based nonprofit that received a \$10,000 grant from The Almanac’s 2023 Holiday Fund.

The nonprofit was founded back in 1975. Today, its primary service area includes East Palo

Alto, Menlo Park and Palo Alto. Sometimes its programs extend to Redwood City and Mountain View.

“If it wasn’t for the community of EHP, the community of my church, the community of my kids’ after-school program, there’s no way I could have handled it,” she said. “I would not have been able to make it without pivotal people helping me.”

Help from EHP comes primarily in the form of food boxes that contain items like beans, rice, meat eggs, milk and canned vegetables, among other delights like tea, coffee, crackers and pastries. These boxes enable low-income families on a tight budget to prepare decent, wholesome meals, like shepherd’s pie, for instance.

“You can use those types of things to get your belly full and get as many meals out of it as possible,” Martinez said. “They do boxes by family size. Usually, their boxes last for about four days, depending on how you make a meal.”

The food boxes are especially helpful during the holidays — on Thanksgiving and



Devin Roberts

Leonora Martinez volunteers at Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto on Dec. 12.

Christmas — when groceries cost more than usual.

“You don’t want your kids to feel some type of way because they don’t have the type of food that other kids have,” Martinez said. “Turkey and ham — those things are expensive. You’d like to celebrate but if you can’t then you’ll eat chicken and rice and beans ... then Christmas is just another day. But to be blessed with it (turkey or ham) is huge. It gives you comfort. It’s very caring.”

This year at Thanksgiving, Ecumenical Hunger Program distributed food boxes with turkeys to over 1,050 families. The organization expects to exceed this number at Christmas.

Lesia Preston, executive director of the nonprofit, told this publication that the grant will be used to purchase hams for their holiday food boxes — a particular favorite because of its long shelf life.

“We purchase hams that do not require cooking (only reheating if desired) which is a boon to families who are unhoused or perhaps living in a place without a kitchen. Because this is an expensive item, hams are usually only distributed at Christmastime, but its versatility and longer refrigerator life ensures our families will have food between Christmas and New Year’s when EHP is closed,” Preston said.

Martinez’s association with EHP actually began in an entirely different context, many years ago.

“I volunteered, way back when I was 16. I loved it; I met the then-executive director, Nevada Butler. She was just an amazing spirit,” she said.

Then in her mid-20s, Martinez got back in touch with them.

“Life hit hard and I remembered the program and went back.”

EHP helps families like hers in ways that go beyond food packages; it provides things like furniture, diapers, wipes, clothing and household essentials as well. It also has support groups for people facing mental health issues. This year, the nonprofit is working to ensure low-income teenagers, a neglected cohort, receive holiday gifts.

The program is special to Martinez because of how close she feels to it. The staff and volunteers look at her as family and not as a client, she said.

“That’s really the essence of EHP,” she added. “It’s not — ‘Hey you’re just a number, hurry up, come get your box.’ You get — ‘Hey how’re you doing? I see the kids are getting bigger.’”

Martinez, a former social worker, is now full-time caregiver to her son Austin, who has been wheelchair-bound since his accident in 2017 and who turns 21 next year. Though his speech has improved over the years and he’s cognitively all right, he is still unable to move.

“Nobody wants to feel like they’re getting a hand-out or that I’m ‘lesser than’ because I can’t provide for my family,” Martinez said. “EHP is like a village; they care.” ■

The campaign to support Holiday Fund agencies is in full swing. Please consider giving a gift to help your neighbors in need today. With the Holiday Fund, 100% of each donation goes directly to local nonprofit agencies serving children, families and individuals in need. Read more about The Almanac Holiday Fund at almanacnews.com/holiday_fund.

LEHUA GREENMAN

“May the Joys of the Season remain with you through the Happiest of New Years!”

Merry Christmas!

650.245.1845 COMPASS

Menlo Park Monthly Market Report
November 1, 2023 - November 30, 2023

TOP 10 SALES

1. \$5,800,000 1056 Cascade Drive,	2. \$5,785,000 55 Vasilakos Way,	3. \$5,750,000 620 Magnolia Street,	4. \$5,365,000 2043 Sharon Road,
5. \$5,000,000 300 Claire Place,	6. \$4,400,000 2169 Gordon Avenue,	7. \$4,300,000 1398 Sherman Avenue,	8. \$4,100,000 520 Hermosa Way,
9. \$4,000,000 1025 Deanna Drive,	10. \$3,600,000 1201 N Lemon Avenue,		

ACTIVE LISTING Nov: 50 Oct: 67 -25%	AVERAGE SALES PRICE Nov: \$3,161,422 Oct: \$3,458,722 -9%	AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ FT Nov: \$1,408 Oct: \$1,392 1%
PENDING LISTING Nov: 15 Oct: 34 -56%	AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET Nov: 29 Oct: 28 4%	MONTHS OF INVENTORY Nov: 1.70 Oct: 1.90 -11%
SOLD LISTING Nov: 29 Oct: 36 -19%	SALE/LIST PRICE Nov: 100.10% Oct: 102.20% -2%	30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE 10/25/2023 8.01% 11/29/2023 7.41% -7%

★ November 2023 compared to October 2023

Source: MLS Listings for Single Family Properties | Townhomes | Condos

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MAYOR

continued from page 5

Portola Valley took the high road on re-org night with no drama, following established protocol," she said. "This has been an exceptionally difficult year for the Portola Valley Town Council, but you are all still standing! Please pay forward the recent stability our new town manager has brought to town and choose the vice mayor as mayor for 2024."

Derwin noted that, historically, those who have served on the Portola Valley Council are not seeking higher office nor are they looking for perceived status as mayor; they serve as unpaid volunteers to help the community. She noted that the top vote-getter in elections is often a newcomer who has yet to make controversial votes that angered a portion of the voting public.

"A fresh face has no baggage," she said.

History made, 2023 reflections

Wernikoff noted that this is the first time in the town's history that women have held the positions of mayor and vice mayor at the same time.

"So congratulations on that," she told those in attendance.

'This has been an exceptionally difficult year for the Portola Valley Town Council, but you are all still standing!'

MARYANN DERWIN, FORMER PORTOLA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER

"Slow but steady progress."

She also pointed out that with Council member Mary Hufty also on the council, this is the second time since the town's incorporation in 1964, nearly 60 years ago, that it again has a female majority council, Wernikoff said.

Wernikoff takes the mayoral reins from Aalfs, who finished his third term in that role. She thanked him for his lengthy, dedicated service.

"Jeff's second term was during COVID — say no more," she said. "His third term now has been through a year of incredible change, and I so appreciate (that) and I have big shoes to fill. The other thing I wanted to reflect on is, this year alone, my guess is Jeff has probably spent nearly 200

volunteer hours serving the town. ... So you've done it with good integrity and stability."

Before switching seats with Wernikoff, Aalfs briefly reflected on the tenure he just completed.

"I would like to thank a few people, namely mostly my colleagues from the council (and) our staff — old and new," he said, referring to the significant turnover in Town Hall. "It has been a difficult year. A lot of things changed over this year. We did not get as much done as I would have liked for obvious reasons. I think we have worked together. I hope I have shown patience. ... In spite of everything, I actually feel like we are putting the pieces in place for a much better path forward and a better future for everyone."

Wernikoff, who was elected to the council in 2020 and served as vice mayor the last two years, will now helm Portola Valley through some big challenges.

Among them is revising a housing plan to the satisfaction of state officials while trying to preserve the town's character as much as possible. Portola Valley has tried but failed three times to garner state approval for its housing element document. The town has finished a fourth draft and is expected to

submit that by the state's fast-approaching deadline of Jan. 31.

The state Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) program calls for Portola Valley to plan for 253 new units during the current 2023-31 cycle — a significant increase from the 64 in the last eight-year period.

Moreover, Town Hall is undergoing a potential restructuring following a high staff turnover rate the past year and to correct long-running deficiencies in financial operations.

In 2023, nearly 70% of the staff departed, and the town is way

behind on completing annual audit reports and bank reconciliations, among other issues. Still, Town Manager Sharif Etman has said that Portola Valley remains in good financial standing.

Other concerns facing Wernikoff's tenure include townwide emergency and evacuation planning in the event of a large wildfire or other widespread disaster. ■

*Email Contributing Writer
Neil Gonzales at ngonzales92@yahoo.com.*

Fayne Chupack Murphy

December 10, 1936 – November 8, 2023

Fayne Chupack Murphy succumbed to age and kidney failure at home in Menlo Park, as she had wished, on November 8, 2023. She was born December 10, 1936 to Steve Chupack and Julia Kozemko Chupack of Lopez and Williamsport, Pennsylvania.



She leaves her husband of 58 years, Fred; her elder son Fred S. Murphy of Mountain View, and his companion Donna Gullo; her younger son Matthew B. Murphy of Oneonta, New York, Matthew's wife Jennifer Hill, their daughter (and her grand-daughter) Alexandra Fayne Murphy; Jennifer's parents and our good friends Ken and Yvonne Hill of Winchester, VA; her brother Stephen F. Chupack and his wife Jeanette of Punta Gorda, Florida and their son Stephen T. Chupack of Burlington, Vermont; her Baltimore connections including John C. Murphy and his wife Frances Lewis, their daughters Mary-Elizabeth and Maggie, Paula Murphy and her daughter Julia, Virginia Kirk; her dear cousins Joyce Piasecki and Andrea Wells; our old friends Terence Bailey and Kathryn Puffett; and many other friends, in-laws, cousins and nieces.

Fayne spent her first decade in Lopez, then moved to Williamsport with her family and attended the excellent public schools. The formative experience of her younger years was Marywood College in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where she majored in Psychology, eventually obtaining an MS and certification in Educational Psychology under her mentor, Sister M. Bernardina McAndrew, IHM. After a few years in the Office of Testing and Guidance at American University in Washington, D.C., she returned to teach and practice in the Psychoeducational Clinic at Marywood.

Fayne and Fred married in 1965 and, after two years in Princeton, moved to Menlo Park.

Here she volunteered many hours at the Stanford Hospital Gift Shop, the Community Association for the Retarded, and our local public library and schools. She treasured her close relationship with her mother, who followed her to this neighborhood, and her loving friendships with other volunteers, neighbors (especially the Beckstrom, Sciarini, and Simonian families), former classmates, and visitors. All knew she would welcome them warmly and generously into our home. She was most proud of our two sons. Fayne was a life-long Catholic, recently estranged from the institutional Church by its rejection of the special gifts and leadership potential of women.

Her struggles with various ailments were supported by Drs. Martin Bronk, Eileen Byrne, and Luis Alvarez, and by the sensitive staff and caregivers of PAMF, SUMC, Sutter Hospice, and TheKey.

Burial of her ashes will be private; memorial donations can be made to NOW, ACLU, or any group that supports constructive feminism.

"Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale / Her infinite variety"

PAID OBITUARY

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Lanalee (Cissy) Lewis, 73, a former Bay Area resident who at one time worked as academic dean and assistant head of school at Castilleja School in Palo Alto, where her Baccalaureate talks were long cherished by graduates and she was twice recognized with the Distinguished Teacher Award, on Dec. 9.

Elisabeth (Betty Lou) Nordman, 93, a Palo Alto resident who worked as a report writer for city planning consultants in Menlo Park and whose activities included the Democratic Party, The Garden Club of Palo Alto, Gamble Garden and the Vi at Palo Alto Library Committee, on Dec. 4.

Kenneth W. Fields, 84, a professor emeritus at Stanford University's Department of English and Creative Writing Program known as a renowned wit, storyteller and collector of jokes, whose works include six poetry collections and who took great pride in his participation in the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, on Dec. 6.

Katherine "Kay" B. Philips, 95, a longtime Palo Alto resident and former executive director of the Mid-Peninsula YWCA whose leadership in the

community earned her a Tall Tree Award and The Woman of the Year Award from the California State Legislature and who will be remembered for promoting diversity and racial justice as well as for her quiet strength and infinite kindness, on Nov. 25.

Cynthia Dillon, 82, a longtime Palo Alto resident whose life was filled with love for family, close friendships, an unstoppable work ethic, a deep appreciation for food, travel and the arts, who was Dow Chemical Company's first female quality control engineer in Denver and who later started a business providing database services to small companies, on Dec. 2.

Carol E. Reade, 62, a free-spirited Mountain View resident who became an early Silicon Valley entrepreneur with her own company, It's About Time, and later became a five-star Airbnb host, whose many activities included assisting doctors from Soviet Georgia to find local internships and who always looked for and found the best in people, on Dec. 1.

Fayne C. Murphy, 86, a Menlo Park resident who taught and practiced in the Psychoeducational Clinic at Marywood College in Pennsylvania and who

volunteered many hours at the Stanford Hospital Gift Shop, the Community Association for the Retarded, local public library and schools and who treasured many loving friendships with other volunteers, neighbors, former classmates and visitors, on Nov. 9.

Robert E. McLean, 96, a Cupertino resident who was the inaugural principal of Gunn High School in Palo Alto in 1964 and later assistant superintendent of schools and director of personnel, who then became a Realtor in Soquel and enjoyed volunteering with Meals on Wheels, the Volunteer Transportation Program of Santa Cruz County and Seacliff State Park as a docent, on Dec. 1.

Dorothy H. Forsythe, 92, a Menlo Park resident whose full life included active contributions at Bethany Lutheran Church in Menlo Park, a retail career that eventually led her to volunteer at the Filoli Garden Shop in Woodside, travel adventures with longtime friends and who loved spending time with her family, her dogs and in her garden, on Nov. 24.

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

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:
AlmanacNews.com/holiday_fund

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

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.

Please consider donating online, which enables your gift to be processed immediately. The secure website is:
AlmanacNews.com/holiday_fund

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I wish to designate my contribution as follows: (select one)

In my name as shown above

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OR: In honor of: In memory of: As a gift for:

(Name of person)

The Almanac

The Almanac Holiday Fund 2023

All donors and their gift amounts will be published in The Almanac unless the boxes below are checked.

I wish to contribute anonymously.

Please withhold the amount of my contribution.

Please make checks payable to:
 Embarcadero Media Foundation

Send coupon and check to:
The Almanac Holiday Fund
450 Cambridge Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94306

The Almanac Holiday Fund is sponsored by the Embarcadero Media Foundation and Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Both are 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organizations, allowing your donation to be tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



The Almanac Holiday Fund 2023

**THANK YOU FOR DONATING
TO THE HOLIDAY FUND**

Almanac Holiday Fund Donor List

As of December 20th, 105 donors have contributed \$277,585 to the Holiday Fund.

20 Anonymous.....	\$19,193	Susan Kritzik & Bruce McAuley.....	*
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		Menlo Rotary Community Foundation.....	10,000

* Donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.



Courtesy Ravenswood Family Health Network

Dr. Phan works with client Maria for a routine eye appointment.

Ravenswood Family Health Network helped get one woman on her feet

By Lourdes Sanchez



A decade ago, our patient Maria's life took a drastic and unexpected turn: Maria suffered a stroke. This life-altering event left her with various challenges, including mobility impairment, difficulty carrying out daily tasks and multiple surgeries. Since her stroke, she has been a patient of Ravenswood Family Health Network where she now utilizes many of the services, including family medicine, optometry, social services, and the laboratory and pharmacy.

Social services have played a pivotal role in Maria's health and well-being. In March of 2023, she missed medical appointments, had overdue labs, and was at risk of losing state In-Home Support Services (IHSS). Ravenswood's social services manager, Karla, made a visit to Maria's home and noticed Maria lacked motivation to attend to her medical needs. Jacqueline, Ravenswood's medical social worker, began making regular visits to help Maria overcome any health challenges.

The biggest barrier Maria was facing was transportation to and from the clinic, which was why she was missing appointments. Ravenswood's transportation coordinator, Zack, began coordinating her rides, and eventually showed her how to order a ride online through Redi-Wheels, a transportation service assisting the mobility impaired people traveling in San Mateo County.

Maria said: "Being able to schedule my own rides to the clinic helps make me feel more

self-reliant." She is also excited to be able to order a ride to her physical therapy where she is learning to walk again.

Another struggle Maria faced was food insecurity. For some time, Maria's mother would walk to the closest grocery store, which is about a mile away. Maria would sit in her bed and worry when her mother went to the store because she had a bad knee and grocery bags were heavy. To help the family, Jacqueline connected them to Second Harvest of Silicon Valley. Through one of the food bank's programs, Maria has been receiving bi-weekly grocery drop offs to her front door.

"Having food delivered to my home has helped me feel more secure and relaxed about my health," shared Maria.

The latest obstacle that our social services team is working on overcoming with Maria is creating a comfortable and safe place to shower. Each day, Maria's sister commutes from San Jose to help her get cleaned up. Since her bathroom has a really high tub that she has not been able to get into safely, Maria sits in a chair in her kitchen where she gets lathered and washed. To help Maria feel more independent, Jacqueline has been working with Maria's insurance company, the apartment landlord, and contract workers to reconstruct her bathtub. Maria looks forward to

having more privacy after the reconstruction.

Maria enjoys having in-home visits with Jacqueline and receiving care at Ravenswood. She feels good about being an advocate for her own health.

Karla said: "She has been a beautiful evolving patient. The biggest thing for me is her motivation. Going from depressed to hopeful and determined."

With the help of our social services team, Maria has regained hope, mobility, strength, and determination to attend to her medical needs. She has been attending all medical appointments and has built a strong relationship with Karla, Jacqueline, and the entire social services team.

Ravenswood Family Health Network is dedicated to supporting the overall health and well being of all our patients. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a higher demand for necessary resources to reduce health disparities. A few of the care gaps our patients face are access to food, safe and affordable housing, domestic violence resources, and more.

The Ravenswood Family Health Network is one of the beneficiaries of The Almanac's Holiday Fund. Donations are divided equally among this year's 10 non-profit 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. ■

Lourdes Sanchez is a fundraising and marketing supervisor for Ravenswood Family Health Network.



DONATE ONLINE:
[AlmanacNews.com/
holiday_fund](http://AlmanacNews.com/holiday_fund)



Because of your support, seniors can live longer, happier and more fulfilled lives. -Peter

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Who is overlooked right here in our own community?

We are living through extraordinary and uncertain times with many worthy concerns vying for your attention and support. One that is often overlooked and neglected: **The well-being of our senior adults and their essential daily needs**, even right here in our own community. They are your parents, grandparents, neighbors, and friends—the ones who have contributed so much to the communities we enjoy today. Where would we be without them?

The growing challenges of aging intensify during the holiday season

We hope you enjoy a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. For many local seniors this will not be so. Older adults on fixed incomes are disproportionately **vulnerable to inflation** and **struggling to stay afloat** with rising costs—running out of funds for food each week and **facing impossible choices now** between paying for food, medications, transportation, or other critical needs. **Senior hunger**, widespread **loneliness**, and **social isolation now** reach more deeply into every corner of our diverse community putting more seniors at risk.

Now in our 76th year, PVI is here with meaningful programs for critical needs like these, **enabling seniors to age in place** with essential services that also help to reduce the use of costly health care services. And we cannot do it without you.

Your generous impact matters!

We live in a community that counts on each other and our most vulnerable are looking to you. Because you care, PVI can freshly prepare and home deliver over **179,000 life-changing nutritious meals** annually to seniors in need; re-open our Café for nominal cost **weekday lunches**; offer therapeutic **care to those with Alzheimer's** and Aging Life Solutions for **overwhelmed family caregivers**; provide daily **meaningful activities and social connections** for otherwise isolated older adults; and provide **10,500 essential transportation rides** for daily needs. PVI's fast-growing weekly **"Got Groceries"** program is providing over **450 seniors** per month with a vital **weekly lifeline** of over **6,000 pounds** of protein, dairy, fresh produce, and pantry staples. Please take a moment to visit 1pvi.org to learn more about those whose lives are changed because you care.

Join us as we transform aging and reach more seniors in need

PVI is changing the way seniors are cared for and treated as respected and vital members in our local communities. Together we can fill empty plates with nutritious food and provide Alzheimer's and caregiver support, stimulating wellness activities, and on-demand transportation to your neighbors who need us most. Help us **protect our local seniors and families** and create a future where no senior in our community is isolated or hungry. We are inspired by the community support that can make this possible.

Yes, I want to make a difference today: Your special year-end gift of an amount that is right for you* means everything to the **thousands of local families relying on us** for their daily health and well-being. Please help us close our current Meals on Wheels waitlist and Got Groceries gap this holiday season. You may give securely online at www.1pvi.org/donate or by scanning the QR code. Give this message to friends who share your passion to help extend senior health and independence. We are so grateful for your support.

* **\$500 funds** one month of PVI Meals on Wheels for two at-risk seniors; or a fitness membership for one year; or helps fund Aging Life Solutions; **\$700 funds** one week of Adult Day Services; ***\$2,500 funds** an iPad and training for a senior; or Ride PVI transportation services for one month for five seniors.

With hope and gratitude,

With your help, we are making a critical difference to our seniors with support for food, transportation, and important personal connections with others. -Georgie

Peter Olson
Chief Executive Officer

Georgie Gleim
Board President

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



800 MIDDLE AVENUE • MENLO PARK, CA 94025 • (650)326-2025



NUTRITIOUS MEALS, INDEPENDENCE, AND PEACE OF MIND

Your help gives hope this holiday season and all year long! - Rebecca Matteson Nelson

When Lily's caregiver daughter moved to Sacramento, Lily found herself relying on soup or costly microwave meals. She was afraid she might have to move from her home and her Redwood City community of 53 years. Now PVI's Meals on Wheels "is a true lifesaver"! Lily is so thankful for the healthy food and those who deliver the meals and talk with her. She can remain in her home and **"now I won't be lying to my daughter when I tell her I have something good for dinner!"**



Carlos

SAFETY, NURTURING CARE, AND RESPITE

Carlos started coming to PVI's Adult Day Services Program in August, suffering with Alzheimer's. His daughter, Nadia, was very anxious to find help for her dad and give her mom much needed relief from overwhelming daily care needs. She cried happy tears when she was referred to PVI's program and staff who would care for her dad. She returned to her work teaching school reassured. Carlos recently wrote to PVI about how he feels about Rosener House. **"I feel that I am alive again, it is like a new dawn. Thanks from the bottom of my heart to each of you."**



Lily

COMMUNITY, FRIENDSHIP, AND COMPASSION

Pawan's father passed away 10 years ago from cancer, leaving his mother, Shanti, a grieving widow after more than fifty years of marriage. Shanti has been a giver all of her life, and as a teacher, touched thousands of lives. With her husband no longer by her side, Shanti showed-up at the front door of PVI's Little House not knowing a single soul. She started teaching others how to knit. In no time, she had a support system of friends with common interests and who had also lost loved ones. The COVID lockdown significantly impacted Shanti, yet her mood and anxiety symptoms improved once Little House re-opened and she could rejoin her friends. Pawan and other experts strongly believe that socialization and community have a greater impact on quality of life than any other medication. **"Our family is so grateful for the immeasurable impact that PVI and Little House has on our mother and surely for all of the those who call PVI their second home."**



Angel

HEALTHY FOOD, KINDNESS, AND GRATITUDE

Angel has been coming to PVI's Little House for help with her taxes for several years. On one visit, she noticed a long line of people for PVI's weekly Got Groceries? program for those struggling with the high cost of food. Angel asked if she could sign up to participate. Now Angel comes each Wednesday to pick up her bag of grocery items and enjoys talking with others who come to PVI for the same support. She says "we even swap recipes with each other and everyone is so nice to me." **"It is an absolute lifeline for me—and a real community blessing for sure."**

DAILY SENIOR IMPACT:

1 in 6 seniors is facing hunger

1 in 2 seniors living alone are without the finances for basic needs

1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's

1 in 4 seniors live alone and feel lonely

Nearly 1 in 5 spousal caregivers passes away before their loved one



SCAN TO DONATE FROM YOUR SMART PHONE FOR AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT.



Pawan & Shanti

Looking back at 2023

Continued from page 1

Clockwise from top right: Las Lomas Elementary School mascot “Roary” welcomes students on the first day of school on Aug. 16; TIDE Academy student Akya Burell gives a speech during commencement on June 6; Crews work to remove a downed tree that damaged a power line on Atherton Avenue in Atherton on Jan. 9; Tsahala David, left, and her daughter Shenhav David sing songs at a pro-Israel solidarity event at the Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto on Oct. 10.



Lizzy Myers



Magali Gauthier



Devin Roberts



Magali Gauthier



Devin Roberts



Magali Gauthier

Clockwise from top left: A child searches for eggs during the annual Egg Hunt at Flood Park in Menlo Park on April 8; attendees listen to council members speak about the housing plan at a City Council meeting in Atherton on Jan. 31; Junior Rodeo contestants ride through the arena during the Grand Entry at the 71st annual Junior Rodeo in Woodside on July 4.

Continued on page 18



Lizzy Myers



Devin Roberts



Lizzy Myers



Magali Gauthier

Continued from page 17

Clockwise from top left: Members of the Korean Culture Center Urisawe perform a traditional dance at the Atherton Library in Atherton on Jan. 28; Helen Bigelow, left, and Sue Crane laugh while answering audience questions about their book “Behind the Barrels: The Women of Ridge” at a launch event held at The Sequoias in Portola Valley on March 30; Kids pass out treats at the 101th Woodside May Day Parade in Woodside on May 7.



A downed tree along Portola Road in Portola Valley on Jan. 5.

Magali Gauthier

TOP STORIES

continued from page 1

February: Huge storms hit Midpeninsula

The year kicked off with a series of large storms.

A late January atmospheric river was particularly destructive, with windy weather knocking down power lines, shutting off electricity for days at a time to some residents. It caused flooding throughout the region.

Gusty weather in March took the life of one man, Javier Ivan Cruz Diaz, 29, of San Jose, as he was driving on Alpine Road in Portola Valley when a tree fell on his work truck.

Portola Valley residents called on Stanford, to better manage its eucalyptus trees along Alpine Road since one of its trees fell on his work van.

March: Menlo Park school district say Stanford funds won't offset enrollment spike from development

Menlo Park City School District board members spoke out about the fact that a \$2.5 million endowment slated to cover the costs of extra students from Stanford University's new Middle Plaza housing project won't be enough.

The district's main source of funding is property taxes, but as a nonprofit, Stanford is exempt from paying taxes on the housing development. That means the project is expected to add students to Menlo Park schools, but it will not generate tax revenue that would help pay for their education.

April: A very good dog, or a very bad one?

In April, readers chewed over the saga of Bär, a golden retriever belonging to Menlo Park residents Tobias Kunze and Liliana Kunze Briseño. As far as the couple is concerned, Bär is a sunny, friendly dog who is eager to please. But after an incident with a husky that resulted in a wound, the city declared 3-year-old Bär a dangerous animal. That "quasi-criminal" designation includes restrictions the Kunzes deemed onerous, so they petitioned San Mateo County Superior Court



Courtesy the Kunzes

Bär, the 3-year-old golden retriever.

to overturn the city's decision, including 29 character affidavits from those who know the dog and were willing to attest to the court that he's a very good boy.

May: M-A teens organize against police brutality

In the spring, Menlo-Atherton High School students led protests over the Atherton Police and school administration's handling of a teen's arrest in April. The teen was pinned to the ground at a bus stop just outside the school's Atherton campus.

Students' videos of the arrest circulated widely online, and the case spawned youth-led protests against police misconduct and grabbed headlines.

In October, lawyers filed a discrimination claim against administrators on behalf of the student over the arrest.

June: Wealthy towns called out by Grand Jury for trying to use granny units to fulfill housing mandates

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

Among the Grand Jury report's recommendations is that the county and each city should stop using ADUs to meet housing targets until they have also proposed an effective monitoring system that verifies how newly developed ADUs will be used.

See **TOP STORIES**, page 20



Courtesy Carol Espinosa

Stanford University crews take down at least seven trees along Alpine Road near the Highway 280 south onramp in Portola Valley on March 30.



CITY ADVISORY BODY CURRENT VACANCIES

The City is seeking applicants for advisory body vacancies on the Library Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission and Planning Commission. Help examine issues of community concern and provide guidance to the City Council.

CURRENT COMMISSION VACANCIES

- Library Commission: Advise the City Council on matters related to programs and operations of the City's libraries
- Parks and Recreation Commission: Advise the City Council on City programs and facilities dedicated to recreation
- Planning Commission: Review development proposals on public and private lands for compliance with the General Plan and zoning ordinance

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Apply by 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 29
- Menlo Park resident
- Over 18 years of age
- Committed to attending scheduled meetings

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit menlopark.gov/commissions
- Email jaherren@menlopark.gov
- Call 650-330-6620

Developing **leaders** within the community

TOP STORIES

continued from page 19

July: This time, the Manhattan comparisons are pretty apt

In July, Menlo Park officials reacted with dismay when Texas-based developer Oisin Heneghan's company N17 filed plans to raze the former Sunset Magazine headquarters at the corner of Willow and Middlefield roads and replace it with a high-rise complex with housing, a hotel, office and retail space, including a 28-story building that would rise 20 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty.

Under normal circumstances, a developer with such outrageous plans could expect a swift denial based on Menlo Park's building regulations. But because the city has yet to get state approval of its housing element, a mandatory plan to accommodate new housing over the next eight years, officials' hands could be tied.

Under "builder's remedy," cities and towns without a housing element accepted by the state could be required to approve any project that has 20% of its units designated as affordable for low-income households or 100% for moderate-income households, even if the project exceeds the zoning and general plan density requirements.

By August, state Sen. Josh Becker and County Supervisor Ray Mueller added to the chorus of disapproving locals, releasing a joint statement.

This month, the plans got even more grandiose. Mayor Jen Wolosin announced on Dec.

14 that N17 filed revised plans increasing the tallest building's height by about 70 feet to 421 feet tall, even closer to the modern definition of a skyscraper (150 meters or about 492 feet). "I find this submission to be outrageously out of scale from what is ... reasonable," Wolosin said in an email to constituents.

August: COVID-19 cases spiked again in the summer

In July and August, the Stanford Sewer Coronavirus Alert Network (SCAN) found that COVID-19 was making a comeback.

Still, numbers were nowhere near where they were the year prior.

September: Atherton social club eyed for potential housing

Atherton officials looked at various properties in town for possible new multifamily and workforce dwellings to help meet a state requirement for cities to plan for future housing.

Leaders of one such property, the Menlo Circus Club at 190 Park Lane, expressed dismay that their property came up for consideration in an environmental study that's part of the town's ongoing effort to craft a state housing element.

The club doesn't "have the ability to build additional structures as we can no longer add impermeable surfaces due to maximum hardscape limits within our existing footprint," club leaders wrote to the town. "With nearly 450 member-owners, it is also safe to say that there would never be a consensus to agree to subdivide any portion



Courtesy Daniel Lanier

Menlo-Atherton High School students stage a walkout on May 11 in response to an incident between Atherton police and a student off campus.

of our property for a potential sale to a developer, even in the unlikely event that a developer would be prepared to pay fair market value for the property."

October: Native American graves found in Redwood City

In the fall, it was discovered that Redwood City's vast Elco Yards development is the site of an ancient Native American burial ground, and for at least a year, an undisclosed number of skeletal remains — some perhaps hundreds or thousands of years old — were uncovered while excavating for the underground parking structure.

The burial grounds, which were uncovered between 2022 and 2023, shed light on a potentially significant ancient site that is a long-forgotten part of Redwood City's history and one that seemed to be largely discounted and thought to have been destroyed long ago.

Jennifer Yamaguma, deputy city manager, said in October that aside from information that is protected and exempt from disclosure under state law, the landowner is required to consider the most likely descendant's recommendations for treatment of the remains in accordance with Public Resources law.

November: Nazi swastikas or anime? Symbols found at Woodside High prompted investigation

In November, two symbols that appeared to be swastikas were found on the Woodside High School campus, prompting an investigation that included the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

An investigation by school administrators and the sheriff's office determined the school wasn't under a threat, Principal Karen van Putten said. Instead, the school confirmed the drawings were not intended to be hate speech targeted at anyone or any group.

At least one member of the school community told this news publication that they were deeply upset by the symbols and questioned the explanation.

"What a crock of !#%\$," the community member said. The school knows "full well how painful it is for Jewish students and staff to see but then goes and has it painted over if it's only anime?"



Courtesy Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley

A female beaver found in Matadero Creek in Palo Alto was being treated for hypothermia at the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley.

December: Rare Palo Alto beaver found in local creek dies

A beaver that was recolonizing the Matadero Creek in Palo Alto died in December after being treated for an unknown ailment.

The beaver, found in late November, represented a hopeful sign for Matadero Creek's ecology. Beavers haven't been seen in the creek for more than 160 years. A pair were first captured on a trail camera in 2022. A beaver kit was also spotted in the summer.

Other significant stories in 2023

West Menlo Park residents get the mailbox blues

This year, patrons of the West Menlo Park United States Post Office branch on Avy Avenue near Alameda de las Pulgas reported missing and stolen checks. After The Almanac ran a story about one man's woes

See **TOP STORIES**, page 21



VACANTES ACTUALES DEL ÓRGANO CONSULTIVO DE LA CIUDAD

La ciudad está buscando solicitantes para tres vacantes en órganos asesores. Ayudan a examinar asuntos de interés comunitario y proporcionan orientación al Consejo Municipal.

- Comisión de Biblioteca: Asesorar al Consejo Municipal en asuntos relacionados con el funcionamiento y los programas de las bibliotecas de la ciudad
- Comisión de Parques y Recreación: Asesorar al Consejo Municipal en asuntos relacionados con los programas de la ciudad y las instalaciones dedicadas a la recreación
- Comisión de Planificación: Revisar propuestas de desarrollo en terrenos públicos y privados para garantizar el cumplimiento del Plan General y la ordenanza de

REQUISITOS DE ELEGIBILIDAD

- Aplicar antes de las 5 p. m., viernes 29 de diciembre
- Debe ser residente en Menlo Park
- Mayor de 18 años
- Comprometido a asistir a las reuniones programadas

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN

- Visite menlopark.gov/commissions
- Escriba a jaherren@menlopark.gov
- Llame al 650-330-6620

Desarrollando líderes dentro de la comunidad



Leah Worthington

Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks at a news conference on Jan. 24 in Half Moon Bay regarding the shooting that killed seven a day earlier.

TOP STORIES

continued from page 20

when bills went AWOL, more residents reported similar thefts when they posted mail in the blue curbside box outside the post office.

United States Postal Inspector Matthew Norfleet recommended that people send out their mail from inside a U.S. Post Office location, telling *The Almanac* that mail should not be left unattended in outdoor mailboxes any longer than necessary.

“There’s no such thing as a mailbox that can’t be broken into,” Norfleet said. “It’s not a bank vault, right? It’s just like a temporary convenient place for your mail to be for a short time.”

Lawsuit alleges ‘pay-to-play’ in construction projects under former college district chancellor

The San Mateo County Community College District filed a 120-page lawsuit in February against several construction companies for “fraud, bribery, and kickbacks.” The district alleges the scheme was led by disgraced former Chancellor Emeritus Ron Galatolo, who was charged with 21 felonies in April 2022 for

misuse of public funds during his leadership of the district.

Girl Scouts take on Woodside over bus restrictions

Leading into the busy summer camp season, the Peninsula Girl Scouts squared off with the town of Woodside over restrictions on busing hundreds of children to summer camp at Huddart Park.

A new Woodside law that prohibits large vehicles from driving the last half-mile of Kings Mountain Road to the entrance of Huddart Park because of the road’s curves and narrowness.

The new rule affected other groups and town officials said they would work with groups to come up with a solution.

Farmworkers killed in mass shooting in Half Moon Bay

In January seven people were killed during a shooting at a mushroom farm in Half Moon Bay.

The tragedy also drew attention to the plight of farmworkers living in housing in “deplorable” condition.

Citing poor living conditions, inadequate pay and nonexistent health care, officials, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, come out to demand change. ■



Devin Roberts

Peninsula Girl Scouts attend a Woodside Town Council meeting on June 27 to oppose changes to bus restrictions that apply to their popular summer camp.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Courtesy Celine Chien

Menlo-Atherton High School hosted its 25th annual canned food drive at Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto on Dec. 9.

Menlo-Atherton canned food drive feeds nearly 500 families

Menlo-Atherton High School hosted its 25th annual canned food drive at the Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto on Dec. 9.

M-A students and staff served nearly 300,000 pounds of food to around 500 families, students, teachers, parents, and community members united in a yearly project that lasted from the start of November through Dec. 7, according to organizers.

The Atherton school’s canned food drive began in 1999. Football coach Ben Parks started the drive initially by collecting canned food for his students during the holiday season.

“Having such a supportive community was a great help to get the drive all started,” said Abigail MacLeod, a junior at M-A and distribution day organizer, told the *M-A Chronicle*. “The people at Ecumenical Hunger — LaKeshia (Roberts) and Donald (Hunter) were very helpful too.”

Local artist completes mural at Laurel School

Palo Alto artist Flo deBretagne painted her latest mural in Laurel School’s Lower Campus library. She completed the mural at the Atherton school in mid-November.

Her “My Seeds” series was born after she saw an exhibition 30 years ago of tapestries from artist Dom Robert, a Benedictine monk who became one of the masters of contemporary tapestry. His tapestries depict playful animals immersed in lush grasses and flowers.

“Inspired by this vibrant liveliness, I created my signature work, marked by bubbles, intense colors, and rhythmic patterns,” she said in an email. “Each painting represents a bountiful garden with seeds that will blossom and become beautiful flowers or fruits. They are seeds of hope, seeds of light, seeds of tomorrow. They are a metaphor for fruitfulness. It is up to the beholder’s mind to imagine what they might become. My Seeds have traveled from personal homes to health facilities and school walls, sowing joy wherever they go.”

Her work has also appeared at Oak Knoll School in Menlo Park, Adelante Selby Spanish Immersion School in Atherton and Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School in East Palo Alto.



Courtesy Flo deBretagne

Palo Alto artist Flo deBretagne with her latest mural, “My Seeds,” in Laurel School’s Lower Campus library. She completed the mural at the Atherton school in mid-November.

No print edition of *The Almanac* on Dec. 29

See you on Jan. 5

Today’s paper will be the final *Almanac* print edition of 2023, as we opted for a larger special issue with our Year in Review this week and take a break from the newspaper production between Christmas and New Year’s Day.

Our print paper will be back as usual on Jan. 5.

The news coverage won’t stop in the interim, however. Our journalists will be hard at work reporting articles online over the next week. Visit AlmanacNews.com to see all of the big stories, and we will see you again in print in 2024. Happy Holidays!

—Angela Swartz



RESOLUTION NO. 2396 (2023)

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

Lands of Jonathan L. Eng and Joanna Y. Kim, as Co-Trustees of the Kim-Eng 2020 Revocable Trust dated October 20, 2020

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

- A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.
- B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.
- C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:
 - X All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or
 - Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.
- D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.
2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: January 10, 2024
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices
 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025
 & via Zoom

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i.).
4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.
5. The General Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

Exhibit A

APPROVED
 SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY
 FORMATION COMMISSION
 455 COUNTY CENTER
 REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

EXHIBIT "A"
 Date: August 19, 2022
 Annexed to: West Bay Sanitary District
 Name of Annexation: West Bay Sanitary

EXHIBIT A PAGE 1 OF 3

Geographic Description
 Lands of Eng and Kim

All that certain real property, situate in the Town of Portola Valley, County of San Mateo, State of California, being all of Lot 9 and a portion of the right of way of Grove Way (50 feet wide), as shown on that certain map entitled "Stonegate Meadows, Town of Portola Valley, San Mateo County, California", filed in the office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County on June 21, 1966 in Book 65 of Maps at Pages 4 and 5, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the East corner of West Bay Sanitary District Resolution No. 1894, said corner also being on the Westerly line said lot;

Course 1.) Along the Easterly line of said resolution coincident with said westerly line North 12°02'00" West, 33.11 feet, thence,
Course 2.) Continuing along last said line, North 04°48'00" West, 52.79 feet, thence,
Course 3.) Leaving last said line North 85°12'00" East, 25.00 feet to the centerline of said Grove Way, thence,
Course 4.) Along said centerline, along a non-tangent curve to the left with a radius of 100.00 feet, from which a radial bears South 85°12'00" West, through a central angle of 56°37'38", an arc length of 98.83 feet, thence,
Course 5.) Leaving last said centerline, South 28°46'00" West, 25.00 feet to the general Easterly line of said lot, thence,
Course 6.) Along last said line, along a non-tangent curve to the left with a radius of 15.00 feet, from which a radial bears North 28°46'00" East, through a central angle of 130°48'00", an arc length of 34.24 feet, thence,
Course 7.) Continuing along last said line, South 12°02'00" East, 50.03 feet, thence,
Course 8.) Continuing along last said line, South 20°15'00" East, 112.51 feet, thence,
Course 9.) Continuing along last said line, along a curve to the left with a radius of 100.00 feet, through a central angle of 35°03'13", an arc length of 6.12 feet, thence,
Course 10.) Continuing along last said line, South 55°18'13" East, 96.84 feet, thence,
Course 11.) Continuing along last said line, South 78°20'50" East, 32.77 feet, thence,
Course 12.) Continuing along last said line, South 27°02'46" East, 20.00 feet, thence,
Course 13.) Continuing along last said line, South 03°46'57" East, 21.68 feet, thence,
Course 14.) Continuing along last said line, South 65°59'38" East, 92.31 feet, thence,
Course 15.) Continuing along last said line, South 19°45'08" East, 46.38 feet, thence,
Course 16.) Continuing along last said line, South 15°07'00" East, 58.30 feet, thence,
Course 17.) Continuing along last said line, South 72°47'00" East, 113.16 feet, thence,
Course 18.) Continuing along last said line, South 29°34'00" West, 113.04 feet, thence,
Course 19.) Continuing along last said line, South 68°04'30" West, 106.30 feet, thence,
Course 20.) Continuing along last said line, South 43°51'30" East, 71.81 feet, thence,
Course 21.) Continuing along last said line, South 15°10'30" West, 59.29 feet to the Southerly line of said lot, thence,
Course 22.) Along said southerly line, South 72°13'30" West, 76.94 feet to the general Westerly line of said lot, thence,
Course 23.) Along said general westerly line, North 24°06'30" West, 105.71 feet, thence,
Course 24.) Continuing along last said line, North 06°12'00" East, 48.93 feet, thence,
Course 25.) Continuing along last said line, North 33°47'00" West, 204.35 feet, thence,
Course 26.) Continuing along last said line, North 12°02'00" West, 420.35 feet to the Point of Beginning containing 2.30 acres, more or less.

For assessment purposes only. The description is not a legal property description as defined in the Subdivision Map Act and may not be used as the basis for an offer for sale of the land described.

APPROVED
 SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY
 FORMATION COMMISSION
 455 COUNTY CENTER
 REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

EXHIBIT A PAGE 2 OF 3

Exhibit B

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT
 EXHIBIT "B"
 SITE LOCATION
 350 GROVE DRIVE
 PORTOLA VALLEY, CA
 GRINDER PUMP SYSTEM

BUILDER'S REMEDY
continued from page 5

upset about the project's possibility in their neighborhood, were livid to hear what N17 now wants to do.

"This newest proposal is talking about three buildings that would be considered skyscrapers in San Jose, San Francisco or Oakland," JoAnne Goldberg said, "but at least in those cities, they'd be located in a nonresidential area like the Financial District. They don't belong in any residential area anywhere."

Goldberg argued that the latest configuration would only worsen — not help close — Menlo Park's housing deficit because of the increased office space.

"Remind me why we need more office space?" she asked, noting that many employees continue to work remotely.

In addition, Vincent Bressler said, the project would mangle traffic flow in and around the intersection of Middlefield and Willow roads — a key transportation node serving a larger area.

"This project will damage quality of life in my neighborhood," said Bressler, a former planning commissioner.

Residents lambasted the builder's remedy law and urged the city to fight it.

Patti Fry, also a former planning commissioner, contended that the law allows builders "to thumb their nose at the community." She implored the city to join efforts and lobby state-level decision-makers to overturn the law.

Like other cities, Menlo Park is navigating through builder's remedy concerns.

"There remain many unknowns about builder's remedy projects," Wolosin told residents in her newsletter, "and I don't really have any more information about what this means at this time."

Mayor Cecilia Taylor is taking more of a wait-and-see approach to the proposal.

"The city has not taken a position on this project because we have not yet received a complete development application," she said in an email. "The city has only received a preliminary application. As such, whether the project is damaging or beneficial remains to be seen. Additionally, the city has not taken a position on the applicability of the builder's remedy to this project because we have not received a complete development application."

For more on the project, go to housing element webpage at menlopark.gov/housingelement and go to the Frequently Asked Questions tab. Then, navigate to the tab asking if city received any builder's remedy applications. Finally, go to the project site address, 80 Willow Road. ■

Email Contributing Writer Neil Gonzales at ngonzales92@yahoo.com.

HOUSING BOND

continued from page 7

the county to plan for more than 19,000 homes in the next eight-year Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) cycle, a state mandate that addresses the housing jobs imbalance and the need for more affordable housing.

Supervisor David Canepa said the county currently has around 1,800 homes in predevelopment. This is less than 10% of the county goal.

“It’s not like we are trying to Manhattan-ize your city,” Canepa said. “What we are trying to do is help you with those strong RHNA numbers, and this is the tool to do that.”

Ken Chan, a senior organizer for the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County, said if the bond is approved, the funds can only be used for affordable housing in the low, very-low and extremely-low income categories.

“Because of how the income targets need to be utilized, it will help lower-income residents stay within their communities and close to work, as opposed to living across the Bay or even further out,” Chan said. “I think it’s an important tool to have, and we should explore any available options to help the housing jobs imbalance.”

According to the county’s website, the county’s average median income is around \$140,000 per year. Homes in the low-income category would need to make 80% of the average median income (AMI), or \$119,680 annually, to qualify for the affordable housing unit. The very-low category is reserved for individuals who make 50% of the county’s AMI, or \$74,800 annually. The extremely-low income category is for individuals who make 30% of the county’s AMI, or \$44,880.

Passage requirements

A regional housing bond requires a two-thirds supermajority of all Bay Area voters to pass. However, if Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 passes in November, it could reduce the two-thirds supermajority to 55% for bonds that support public infrastructure, affordable housing or permanent supportive housing, and it would apply to a measure on the November ballot, according to the report.

“ACA 1 is important for every single part of our community. I wanted to elevate that,” Corzo said. ■

Email Staff Writer Nicholas Mazzoni at nmazzoni@rwcpulse.com.



RESOLUTION NO. 2395 (2023)

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

Lands of Lands of Michael C. Trigg and Leslie L. Trigg, Trustees of The Trigg 2002 Revocable Trust dated December 30, 2022

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

- A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District’s “Zone Master Annexation Resolution” (“ZOMAR”), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.
- B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the “Parcel”) to the District’s On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the “Zone”). The Parcel is described in Exhibit “A” attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit “B” attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.
- C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes “real property” for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:
 - X All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or
 - Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit “B” and are incorporated by reference.
- D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

- 1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.
- 2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: January 10, 2024
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices
 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025
 & via Zoom

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

- 3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i).
- 4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.
- 5. The General Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

Exhibit A

RECEIVED
 SEP 06 2023
 APPROVED
 SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY
 FORMATION COMMISSION
 455 COUNTY CENTER
 REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

Date: August 9, 2023
 Annexed to: West Bay Sanitary District
 Name of Annexation: West Bay Sanitary

Geographic Description
 Lands of Trigg

EXHIBIT A PAGE 1 OF 3

All that certain real property, situate in the Town of Portola Valley, County of San Mateo, State of California, being all of Lot 113 and a portion of the right of way of Westridge Drive (70 feet wide), as shown on that certain map entitled “Tract No. 687, Westridge Subdivision No. 5”, Town of Portola Valley, San Mateo County, California” filed in the office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County on April 7, 1954 in Book 38 of Maps at Pages 30 through 37, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the North corner of said lot;

Course 1.) Along the Northeast line of said lot, South 53°00’00” East, 452.22 feet to the East corner of said lot, thence,
Course 2.) Leaving last said line, South 37°36’54” East, 35.00 feet to the centerline of said Westridge Drive, thence,
Course 3.) Along said centerline, along a non-tangent curve to the right with a radius of 400.00 feet, from which a radial bears South 37°36’54” East, through a central angle of 4°28’53”, an arc length of 31.29 feet, thence,
Course 4.) Continuing along said centerline, South 56°52’00” West, 54.45 feet, thence,
Course 5.) Continuing along said centerline, along a curve to the left with a radius of 200.00 feet, through a central angle of 41°18’09”, an arc length of 144.17 feet, thence,
Course 6.) Leaving last said centerline, North 75°38’00” West, 34.21 feet to the extension of the general Southwesterly line of said lot, thence,
Course 7.) Along last said extension line, along a curve to the right with a radius 270.00 feet, through a central angle of 6°47’41”, an arc length of 32.02 feet to the most Southwesterly corner of said lot, thence,
Course 8.) Along said general southwesterly line coincident with the Northeastly Right of Way line of Mapache Drive (60 feet wide), along the continuation of last said curve to the right with a radius of 270.00 feet, through a central angle of 18°52’19”, an arc length of 88.93 feet, thence,
Course 9.) Continuing along last said general southwesterly line coincident with said northeasterly right of way line, North 49°58’00” West, 150.04 feet, thence,
Course 10.) Continuing along last said general southwesterly line coincident with said northeasterly right of way line, along a curve to the left with a radius of 330.00 feet, through a central angle of 18°59’57”, an arc length of 109.43 feet, thence,
Course 11.) Continuing along last said general southwesterly line coincident with said northeasterly right of way line, along a curve to the right with a radius of 30.00 feet, through a central angle of 89°40’59”, an arc length of 46.96 feet to the general Northwestery line of said lot, said point also being on the Southeastery Right of Way line of Larguita Lane (50 feet wide), thence,
Course 12.) Along said general northwesterly line coincident with said southeasterly right of way line, along a curve to the right with a radius of 375.00 feet, through a central angle of 16°16’58”, an arc length of 106.57 feet, thence,
Course 13.) Continuing along last said general northwesterly line coincident with said southeasterly right of way line, North 37°00’00” East, 143.70 feet to the Point of Beginning containing 2.71 acres, more or less.

For assessment purposes only. The description is not a legal property description as defined in the Subdivision Map Act and may not be used as the basis for an offer for sale of the land described.

RECEIVED
 SEP 06 2023
 LAFCO

APPROVED
 SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY
 FORMATION COMMISSION
 455 COUNTY CENTER
 REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

EXHIBIT A PAGE 2 OF 3

Exhibit B

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT
 EXHIBIT "B"
 SITE LOCATION
 118 MAPACHE DRIVE
 PORTOLA VALLEY, CA
 STEP SYSTEM

Legend
 — Main_Extension
 — OWDZ Force Main

APN: 077-021-200
 118 Mapache Dr
 Portola Valley, CA
 Main Line Extension from 118 Mapache Dr

© OpenStreetMap (and) contributors. CC-BY-SA

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

It's hard to say goodbye

By Andrea Gemmet

I first joined The Almanac as a cub reporter on the Menlo Park beat and went on to cover just about every beat the newspaper had to offer. After leaving in 2010 to spend 10 years as editor of sister publication the Mountain View Voice, I returned during the early days of the COVID-19 lockdown to lead The Almanac as well. This month, 27 years later, I'm signing off to become editorial director at Menlo Park-based Punch magazine.

I'd like to say that this past month has been one of quiet reflection as I wind down at a thoughtful pace, but instead, my last week at the helm of The Almanac has been a lot like every other week: a seven-day sprint to keep up with the myriad demands of running a small publication.

When you're fresh out of college, it's hard to imagine spending the next quarter-century of your career at the same company, but doing so has been both a privilege and the education of a lifetime. The great thing about journalism, especially community journalism at a place like Embarcadero Media, is that it's never boring. Every day there's something new to learn, an unexpected roadblock to overcome, a fascinating new person to meet or a thorny problem to expose.

Over the years, I've profiled some of the Midpeninsula's fascinating people, covered murders, fires and council meetings, and broke the news of beloved bookstore Kepler's phoenix-like rise after its abrupt closure. I've developed the ability to translate into plain English arcane jargon from traffic studies, court cases, public education budgets and the California Environmental Quality Act.

When I started in the mid-1990s, The Almanac



Andrea Gemmet

was a print newspaper, with an archive of bound copies and boxes of index cards to help you find an old story. Instead of Google, we had the reference librarian at the Menlo Park Library on speed-dial. A copied page from the newsroom Thomas Guide mapped your route to an assignment, a phone book helped you contact a potential source and your Rolodex was your most precious possession.

That changed very quickly as we evolved into the digital-first news organization we are today. Even though I know exactly how we used to report stories before the internet was an easily accessible trove of information and story tips flowed in from social media, I still can't quite believe that we actually managed to pull it off every week.

My longtime boss, Almanac Editor Richard Hine, used to say every week was like putting out a paper for the very first time, because it never got easier. I thought he was joking until I found myself sitting in his chair and discovered exactly what he meant. The joy of this profession, and the hell of it, is that you are always trying to hit a new moving target, and your reputation depends on getting a bullseye every time. You are always challenged. It is always challenging.

And it can feel like an uphill battle. Independent, ethical journalism is under relentless attack. The struggle to find a business model to support the hard work of reporting is fairly well known. Less so is the gut-punch of finding your work on creepy fake news sites, reproduced without permission to mask whatever propaganda they're peddling, generating revenue for faceless entities with no accountability.

Real journalism allows itself to be held accountable, to its readers, its sources and its community.

The lifeblood of a functioning democracy is an informed electorate, and I've been proud to belong to a news organization that has always taken that role very seriously. Being informed enough not to be manipulated, well-versed enough about your fellow humans to vote for the common good, occasionally at the expense of your own self interest. That used to mean regularly getting news from your choice of reliable media outlets. Today, that means reading your

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

local paper if your community is lucky enough to have one, and bucking the algorithm to expose yourself to a range of ideas and issues, rather than submissively going down a self-

reinforcing rabbit hole.

I am heartened by our local Assembly member Marc Berman's media literacy bill to teach California school children to discern the difference between reliable information and enticingly packaged garbage. I wish that curriculum could be expanded, across the country and to all age groups.

For those dark days on the job, when it feels like I can do nothing right in the eyes of our readers, when the hours are long and the right decision hard to discern, I have Francis Lam's quote about journalism on my cubicle wall: "It's a tough job with insane pressure and pretty crappy pay. On the other hand, everybody hates you." It's the kind of dark humor frequently found in newsrooms. The relentless pace and the knowledge that when you do your job properly, somebody is always going to be upset with you, breeds the kind of camaraderie among journalists similar to that ascribed to soldiers in combat.

Leaving my buddies in the newsroom trenches is the hardest part of moving on. One of the most satisfying aspects of my career has been collaborating with my intelligent, funny and dedicated colleagues at The Almanac and its sister publications. I think everyone who has ever left has said that they miss the people and the office culture most of all, and I expect I will be no different. The camaraderie, friendship and teamwork is unmatched.

I've cheered as our reporters got promoted and became editors themselves, like former Almanac assistant editor Julia Brown who now edits The SixFifty and reporter Kevin Forestieri, who took over as Mountain View Voice editor earlier this year. The newest member of those ranks is reporter Angela Swartz, who replaces me as Almanac editor this month. I know Angela will carry on The Almanac's mission of serving the community as both a watchdog and a reflection of the diverse people who make this lovely corner of the world so special. I can't wait to see what she accomplishes. ■

LETTERS

Our readers write

Woodside risks defacing historic Town Hall built in 1848

Woodside's Town Council is once again seeking to place an ugly solar array of sparkling glass and aluminum on the steep roof of our Town Hall. This idea was defeated a number of years ago but was brought up again at the council meeting on Dec. 13. There is no need for Woodside to risk spending money on the complex financial scheme presented at the meeting.

Most importantly it would deface our historic Town Hall

and there is no need for it because Woodside already uses 100% green energy. Most significantly it would be an insult to a generation of Woodsiders who spent a significant amount of time and money to move the building, built in 1848, to its present site and renovate it into our present day Town Hall. It is currently on the National Register as Independence Hall #78000772.

It would save little money based on unsupportable projections that would be insignificant to the wealthy Town of Woodside. It'd be far better to contribute this money to local charities.

Ed Kahl

Whiskey Hill Rd, Woodside

Appreciation for Rep. Anna Eshoo

Regarding "Silicon Valley congresswoman Anna Eshoo announces retirement" (Nov. 21):

California Sen. Josh Becker told the San Jose Spotlight: "She is a combination we've never seen before of warmth, strength and effectiveness. She's so hard working, and with the utmost integrity and love of America and our institutions."

I couldn't agree more. Rep. Eshoo has been unwavering in her dedication to supporting and improving the lives of not only her constituents, but of all Americans. I feel honored that Rep. Eshoo has been my representative these past 30

years. I've enjoyed attending her numerous town hall meetings, telephone town halls and fundraiser gatherings. Plus, her Friday weekly report is always chalk full of helpful and important information about her work in Congress.

But the thing that stands out most in my mind is the time, dedication and support that Rep. Eshoo has given to the volunteer members of Citizens' Climate Lobby, a grassroots advocacy organization working on solutions to climate change.

Referring to climate change as an 'existential threat,' Rep. Eshoo takes time out of her busy schedule to meet with CCL volunteers twice a year. The meetings are working

sessions with active discussions regarding the information that CCL volunteers provide. We always leave each meeting feeling energized knowing that we have an ally in Congress who has listened, shared her insights, and shown us the utmost respect.

Eshoo's support for the Inflation Reduction Act and the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act make her a climate hero in my mind. She will certainly be a hard act to follow.

I look forward to our final meetings with Rep. Eshoo in the coming year, and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Paula Danz, Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteer
Morton Ave, Los Altos

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

STITCHING IT TOGETHER

Coastside Quilt Studio offers crafting and community

By Karla Kane

A quilt is a multilayered thing, both physically and, in many cases, metaphorically. In the right hands, it can be a functional, warm blanket, a work of art, and a way of stitching together memories and nurturing community all in one tidy textile project.

That's the philosophy of Dana Miller, who recently opened Coastside Quilt Studio in Pacifica as not only a spot to make and sell her own designs, but also as a gathering place for quilters and crafters — and those who are interested in learning those skills.

"I had always wanted to do something like this but never actually thought it would happen," she said. "It's a hobby that has turned into a business."

Miller has been sewing since childhood, learning around age 9 or 10, inspired by her mother and grandmother. But she didn't venture into quilting until 2009, when she suddenly had the thought one day, "You know, I really want to learn how to make a quilt." Literally, it was random," she said with a laugh. She enrolled in a class at Joann Fabrics in Redwood City (where she ended up being the only student) and has been quilting ever since.

"I don't know what it was about it, but I absolutely loved it," she said. "It came very naturally to me. I kind of got hooked."

When her three children were little, Miller quilted on and off during those busy years.

"I just kept making quilts and I thought, 'What am I going to do with all of these?'" She started participating in craft fairs, starting with Pacifica's Fog Fest in 2011 and selling via Etsy, and was heartened by the response.

And though she never expected to become a teacher, shortly before the pandemic she began leading a beginning sewing class and found it extremely rewarding.

"Something I'm so passionate about, seeing the enthusiasm and the light in another person's eyes when they walk in not knowing how to use a sewing machine at all and then walk out with a pillow they made," she recalled. "That sense of accomplishment. I just love that feeling."

After the pandemic years, Miller thought her brief teaching days were done, but last autumn a post popped up on a Pacifica locals Facebook page, looking for a local sewing instructor. To her amusement, friends repeatedly began tagging Miller on the post, and while she was hesitant at first, she found herself mulling the possibilities. The space in which she had previously taught had closed, and she began to consider the feasibility of opening a place of her own someday.

In the meantime, her custom quilt business was taking off, especially once she got into making T-shirt and memory quilts. For these projects, she takes a collection of T-shirts or other items of special significance to a client and turns them into a



Magali Gauthier

Dana Miller opened Coastside Quilt Studio in Pacifica in August. The business serves mainly as the studio for her custom quilt projects, as well as community classes. The public can also book studio time for their own creative projects.

one-of-a-kind memento quilt. She often makes quilts from outgrown-but-beloved baby clothes and then, with the help of her mom, makes a special teddy bear from the leftover scraps.

Especially meaningful to Miller is when she is able to create a comforting memorial quilt for someone whose loved one has died.

"As sad as it is, I'm really touched by people who bring me clothing from someone who's passed away," she said. "I love listening to their stories, to see the other person pull out each shirt and look at them and read them. It's really special, to be able to take that box of shirts that's been sitting in a closet and turn those into this treasured keepsake."

By last winter, she'd outgrown her small home studio, with boxes of fabric and quilts in progress crowding her in and leaving her little room to maneuver. She also taught a few very successful classes at Sanchez Art Center. The timing seemed right for expanding into her own space where she could both work on her own projects as well as invite others in.

"I was really sensing a strong need for something like this here," she said, noting that quilt shops are few and far between

around the coast and in San Francisco these days (with Always Quilting in San Mateo being the closest). Getting involved with the San Francisco Quilters Guild and Pacifica Quilter's Club helped bolster her desire to "bring together a community of creatives."

Coastside Quilts opened in August, conveniently close to Miller's home and housed in a former construction-company building.

"I walked into it and I felt immediately that this was it, this was my space," she said.

The grand opening was held in September.

The experience so far has been "absolutely fantastic, and a bit surreal," she said. "The support I have seen from the quilting community alone has been tremendous."

The business serves mainly as the headquarters and studio for her custom quilt projects, as well as community classes. She also offers a small selection of fabric for sale.

One of the other offerings that makes her space especially useful to local quilters is its longarm services. The longarm, as she described it, is a large, computerized sewing machine that

can hold up to a king-size quilt and significantly cuts down the amount of hours it takes to put a quilt together.

She also offers the option to book open studio time for anyone looking for space to work on their own creative projects.

In terms of classes, she offers introductory sewing and quilting and also invites friends to lead monthly craft sessions. With refreshments provided and a convivial atmosphere, she said, it becomes a fun, social hangout in addition to a learning experience. Past classes have included beaded bracelet making, wreath making, and mosaics. Coming up are workshops on macrame, Christmas shutters, no-sew fabric ornaments and another (already sold-out) mosaic class, and the schedule for 2024 is in the works.

"I invite anybody who teaches any aspect of sewing, or any type of craft, to come in," she said. ■

Email Assistant Lifestyle Editor Karla Kane at kkane@almanacnews.com.



Magali Gauthier

Dana Miller, owner of Coastside Quilt Studio, operates her longarm sewing machine in her Pacifica studio.

Coastside Quilt Studio,
1305 Palmetto Ave., Unit E,
Pacifica; 650-733-7200, Instagram: @coastsidequiltstudio,
coastsidequiltstudio.com.

Chronicler of concerts

Author Ray Robertson pays homage to The Grateful Dead with a close look at 50 of their shows in 'All the Years Combine: The Grateful Dead in Fifty Shows'

By Ashwini Gangal

Author Ray Robertson feels strongly about the music of The Grateful Dead, the rock 'n' roll band founded in Palo Alto in the 1960s. In fact, he feels strongly enough to have spent the bulk of his time during the pandemic sitting in his backyard listening to recordings of 50 of the band's most prominent live shows on loop.

The result of 18 months of tireless musical toil is a book titled "All the Years Combine: The Grateful Dead in Fifty Shows." This is the Toronto-based Robertson's 15th book; his oeuvre so far comprises nine novels, five non-fiction collections and a book of poetry.

Published last month by Biblioasis, a Canadian literary press, his latest work is delightfully genre-fluid — part critique, part review, part biography, part journalism. "I think it's more of a story that uses novelistic techniques," said Robertson, filling in the missing descriptor. "There are a lot of Grateful Dead biographers. I'm not one of them. But I tell the story of their music."

The concerts he writes about took place between 1966 and 1995. "You'll see a narrative about their rise, peak and fall — the music changes, the world changes, the kind of drugs they take change, the amount of money they make changes," said Robertson about the band's evolutionary arc he draws through 50 essays.

The idea to take on this unusual project came from the intellectual residue of his recent work. Last year, he published a novel called "Estates Large and Small" in which his lead character is a Deadhead. "But I don't think I got it out of my system," he said.

Besides, he felt an intense need to better understand their music and journey. "I only write books that I really, really want to write. It's never an obligation, never a job. I needed to write it. It was a process of discovery."

He also wanted to challenge the way The Grateful Dead are perceived. "They weren't really hippies; they were beatniks," he said, underscoring the influence of Beat Generation writers like Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg on the band. "Palo Alto was a haven for the Beatnik movement. And that informed their musical philosophy."

Despite its specialized subject and arguably esoteric appeal,



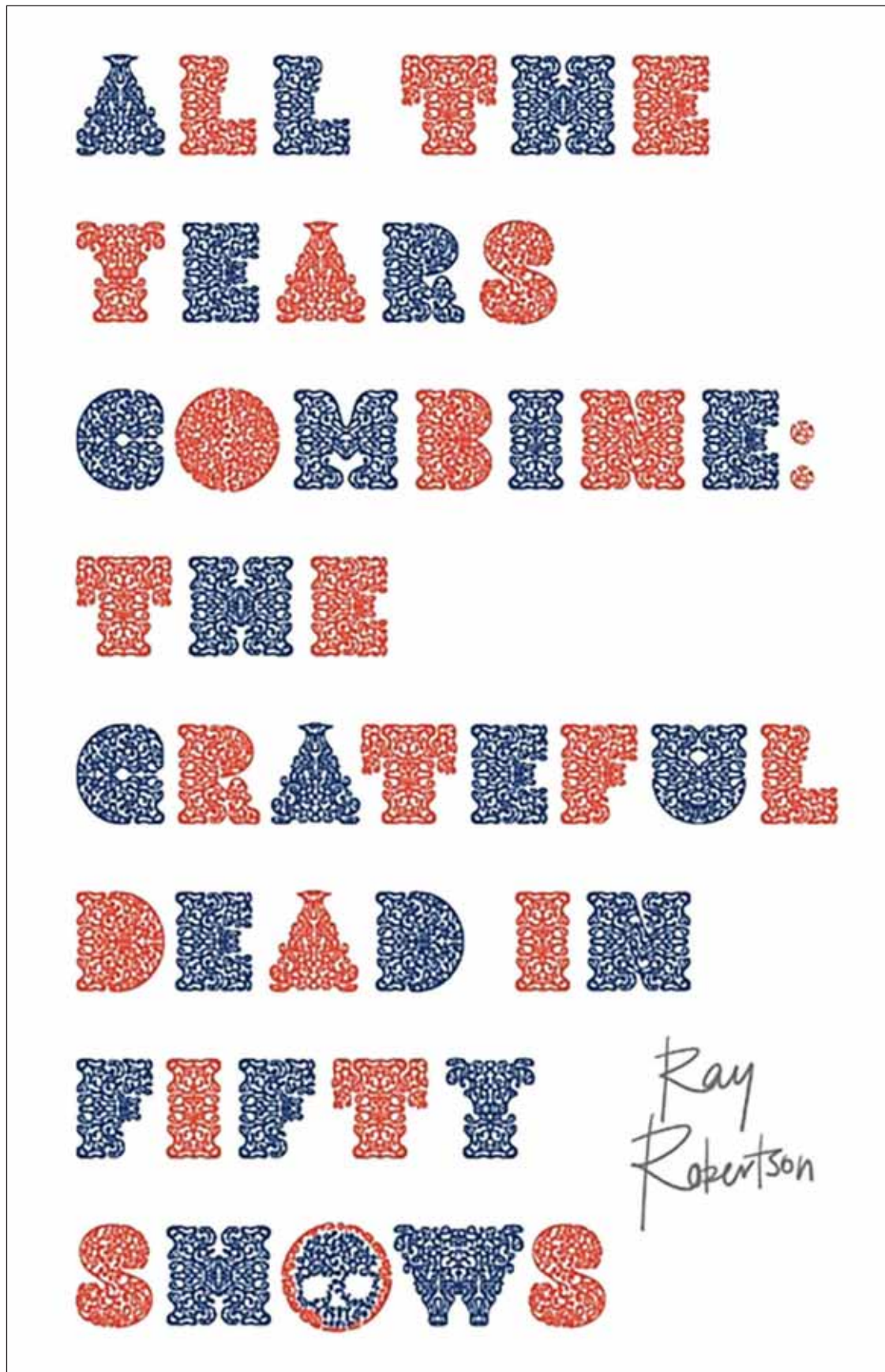
the book has found a market outside of the circles Robertson usually finds himself in. "What's refreshing is that it has resonated with people outside the narrow world of literary fiction," he said.

There's a flipside to the popularity, however. Passionate fans of the band have objected to Robertson's critical analysis. "I got into some trouble. A lot of Deadheads are very protective of the music. For them it's a religion. They think if you criticize it, you're a 'hater,'" he said. In the literary world, though, critiquing art is a big part of appreciating it. "It doesn't mean you're being nasty."

Some readers with technical knowledge of music are not very pleased either. But Robertson thinks his lack of musical expertise is an advantage, one he discovered seven years ago, when he wrote a book titled "Lives of the Poets (with Guitars): Thirteen Outsiders Who Changed Music." When a writer who is not a musician writes about music, Robertson said, he is better able to create the "immediacy of the music" for the reader through meaningful similes or metaphors that help the reader experience the music thoroughly.

Robertson talks about The Grateful Dead in an almost spiritual way. He likens the process of listening to their music with Zen concepts like meditation and mindfulness. "I think listening to The Grateful Dead will make you a better person. You have to intensely listen to the minutiae, sometimes there's long periods of boredom even, some points are insipid, some inspirational ... just like life."

With a year and a half of



Courtesy Biblioasis

Above: The cover of Ray Robertson's exploration of 50 Grateful Dead concerts. Left: Author Ray Robertson.

listening to and writing about The Grateful Dead's music now part of his own life story, this publication asked Robertson how the process of writing this book changed him.

"I realized how difficult it is to maintain your artistic integrity

in the big business world of popular music," he said. "When The Dead began in Palo Alto in the '60s, they were just a bunch of Bay Area friends playing in clubs and restaurants."

Robertson hopes his book will help people either revisit or

discover their music and keep their legacy alive. ■

For more information, visit rayrobertson.com.

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Food & Drink



HOW TAI ZHAN EVOLVED FROM A POP-UP TO A BRICK-AND-MORTAR BAKERY SELLING VEGAN PINEAPPLE BUNS AND KOUIGN-AMANN

By Karla Kane

At Saratoga bakery Tai Zhan, which opened in October, baking expertise, family tradition and innovative, scratch-made vegan delectables (some inspired by Hong Kong classics) come together to form a plant-based paradise for those seeking tasty treats that are also kind to the planet.

Tai Zhan's co-founder Wendy Chan took time out from her busy life as a hands-on baker and business owner — and mom of two young children — for an email interview with this publication to share her bake shop's story and offer a tip on trying out vegan recipes. This conversation has been edited for clarity and brevity.

THE ALMANAC: How has Tai Zhan evolved from a bake sale to now a shop of your own?

WENDY CHAN: Tai Zhan started as a bake sale for my partner's grandparents, who lost their home in the Paradise fires in 2018. We wanted to help them but had no funds to contribute so thought of holding a bake sale for them. At that time, Vegan Republic (now closed, but it was a vegan grocery store in Berkeley) hosted many pop-up food creators, so we reached out and they kindly hosted us. The feedback was so positive we decided to continue baking since then. We have had two little ones in our family since we started doing pop-ups, so some years we have done it more often than others.

I was at a crossroads with my baking journey and was considering not continuing at the beginning of this year. My partner was driving home one day in March and saw that there was a for lease sign in the shop we are at now. The space felt so inviting and we decided to go for it. We signed the lease in May and officially opened in the beginning of October.

THE ALMANAC: How do you decide what items to include on your menu?

WENDY CHAN: We offer around 12+ items every week using organic flours, sugars, oils and milks. We have our staple items that always stay and rotate some of the others. We decide the menu on what's in season and what simply sounds tasty to offer that week.

THE ALMANAC: What are some of your specialties?

WENDY CHAN: Some of our regular items are pineapple bun, classic Hong Kong-style bun with a cookie topping, green onion bun, a savory bun with green onion toppings, kouign amann, croissant made with our housemade plant-based butter laminated with organic sugar, and focaccia pizza topped with organic pizza sauce, vegan cheese and plant-based pepperoni.

THE ALMANAC: The name Tai Zhan comes from a shop your grandparents had for many years. Can you tell me a bit more about that?

WENDY CHAN: The name Tai Zhan is from my grandparents' butcher shop they had in Cheung Shan Wan, Hong Kong, for over 50 years. The direct translation of the name means big inn, inn being a place to stop and rest along the roadside. My grandparents were at the shop every day with the same butchers working there for the majority of the time they were operating. The shop was on a corner spot and had a strong sense of knowing their community and knowledge of the neighborhood. They provided quality, hand-crafted food with family values expressed through the way they carried themselves and worked, and that was my inspiration when I started my baking journey.

THE ALMANAC: What got you interested in cooking and baking?

WENDY CHAN: I have always loved visiting bakeries, especially Asian bakeries when I was younger. I felt such pure joy seeing all the cookies lined up alongside the huge variety of fluffy buns and cakes being offered. One of my favorite moments in Hong Kong to this day is smelling the fresh pineapple buns as you walk past the local cafes. My mom had also worked at a Chinese bakery in Saratoga and would always bring home tasty treats every week.

Both sides of my family have always been in food. My dad's side had the butcher shop and my mom's had a food factory that is still operating in Hong Kong today. At one point my grandparents even operated a bakery in Hong Kong. My interest in food has always been around since I was young, but I really started my journey in it after college. I was interested in working in the farm-to-table movement and had worked in different places around the Bay Area that was related to that. I then discovered I had

a true enjoyment for baking and started to pursue my baking career.

THE ALMANAC: I'd love to know more about your journey to veganism.

WENDY CHAN: I had been vegetarian on and off throughout college and my friend and I decided to go vegan together for a year in 2011 for environmental reasons. After the year was up, we decided to continue and now we are both still vegan today with our little ones being plant-based as well.

THE ALMANAC: And vegan baking?

WENDY CHAN: Vegan baking started just baking for fun for the holidays and special occasions. I started to take it more seriously in 2017 when I was pregnant with my first little one. Things seem to slow down a bit in those moments for me, so I had time to test and develop many recipes. In that time, I discovered my own baking style and figured out what worked and didn't for me. There was lots of research and testing trials done throughout the years that continue to today.

When thinking about textures and taste, I usually think about the replacement of milk, butter and eggs and what plant-based ingredients would give the same results. The ingredients I would look for to give moisture and rise from a bread to a cake is greatly varying. So every recipe has to be looked at individually and tested multiple times to find what works and doesn't. All our recipes continually go through a reconsideration on what improvements can be made.

THE ALMANAC: What are some of the most important things you've learned?

WENDY CHAN: Some of the most important things I have learned as a vegan baker is that it is definitely a journey. There are moments of flow and friction as in everything. I have learned to be so grateful to my family who supports us in this baking endeavor with much gratitude for their help and time they share with us. Without them, Tai Zhan would not be possible. Almost at the end of every bake, I have doubts and a list of improvements that could have been better. But I always just try to remind myself that I did the best I could do, and tomorrow is another day. Also to remember that in moments of doubt, not to take it too seriously at the same time. As much as I want to perfect upon everything we do, I try to remember we are simply making food to share and delight our palates.

THE ALMANAC: What are your hopes

Courtesy Tai Zhan
Green onion buns, above left, and pineapple buns, above right, are regular menu items.

and plans for Tai Zhan's future?

WENDY CHAN: My plan for Tai Zhan is to expand our hours and days. We hope to also expand our menu to include drink and sandwich offerings. I hope we can make it into a successful bakery that is around for many years. Tai Zhan is made up of my partner, Keith, and I. It takes us a week to prepare for one bake currently, with production starting on Tuesday. We make all our plant-based butters, fillings and doughs from scratch so it takes time. My partner and I hand-laminate all our croissant dough right now with a rolling pin. In our current environment, it seems more rare for food establishments to have the owners be the ones to make and sell their creations personally. We truly enjoy being able to make our treats and sell it ourselves. I feel like it makes us feel more connected with people who come by the bakery and with our creations.

THE ALMANAC: What do you do when you aren't working on Tai Zhan, and how do you manage to balance your busy life with the bakery?

WENDY CHAN: When I am not working on Tai Zhan I am with my little ones. We have two boys that are 3 and 6 years old. Our time outside of the bakery goes to being with them. I am still figuring out how to find balance with the bakery. Every week we continually make adjustments to our schedules to work toward finding a better flow for our family.

THE ALMANAC: Any tips for successful plant-based recipes?

WENDY CHAN: There are many amazing plant-based recipes out there now! I would recommend starting with finding a strong base recipe, then tweaking it to your preference from there. When considering how to change it, think about what you are looking to change, for example: taste, texture or appearance, focus on one element at a time and take notes after every trial on what was successful and what wasn't. ■

Tai Zhan, 14572 Big Basin Way, Saratoga. Currently open on Saturdays noon-4 p.m. Instagram: @taizan.bake. For more information, visit taizhanbake.com.



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Happy Holidays

The holidays are a time to show appreciation to those who are important to you. Here at DeLeon Realty, our thoughts turn to our amazing clients. You are a huge part of our success and have helped make us Silicon Valley's top real estate team.

We sincerely wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and a healthy, prosperous New Year. Cheers to a great 2024!

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