Woodside council opposes AT&T proposal to end landline services

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The Woodside Town Council has joined the chorus of opposition against AT&T’s application to the California Public Utilities Commission to leave its obligation as a “Carrier of last resort,” which would end traditional landline services for all of California. Woodside residents told the council how they would be largely affected by the lack of landline services because of spotty cellphone service in town.

During a March 12 meeting, the council voted 6-0 to approve a letter opposing AT&T’s move. Before the vote, AT&T representative, Brandon Baranco, asked the council to postpone the approval of the letter and invited the council to meet with AT&T to answer its questions. He also shared reasons why the company is pursuing relief as a carrier of last resort.

“Removing the carrier of last resort designation is the first step to create a plan to truly transition the remaining copper customers to a modern technology,” said Baranco. “The fact is a copper network will fail, not if but when. Simply put, the parts needed to repair the copper network are no longer being made.” AT&T has invested $8.6 billion from 2020 to 2022 and every year $1 billion are spent to maintain the copper network used by less than 1 million people in California, he said.

Resident experiences with cell service

Kings Mountain resident Bree-Anna Vail claims that she has difficulty using her cellphone for her regular everyday needs.

“If you want to come to my house and build me a smoke signal, I’ll use that, but at this point copper wire is what we need in an emergency,” said Vail. “I need to have that landline so that I know at least I have one way to reach out.”

Resident David Mittleman said that upon asking AT&T for landline services at his residence in the mountains, he was told that the service was unavailable.

“The fiber repeaters require power and so the reason why [copper] technology is such a

See LANDLINE, page 7

Fire marshal makes case for new ordinance to prevent wildfires in Woodside, Portola Valley

By Neil Gonzales

The devastating ordeal that Kimberly Giuliacci witnessed when she was deployed as a firefighter to the 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise is something she doesn’t want Woodside and Portola Valley residents to ever have to go through if she can help it, and she believes she can.

“It wasn’t just driving through the area and seeing what these homes looked like, which was basically nothing except down to the ground,” said Giuliacci, now the fire marshal for the Woodside Fire Protection District, which encompasses Portola Valley, Emerald Hills, Ladera, Los Trancos and other communities.

People fleeing the state’s deadliest and most destructive wildfire told her there that “they could see the fire in the rearview mirror as they’re trying to get out with their cars and their families,” she said. “I would never want a resident here to experience that.”

Giuliacci recounted the sobering scenes this past week during council meetings in Woodside and Portola Valley. She was addressing council members about the fire district’s proposed new ordinance whose requirements include making property owners have a defensible space around their home, that is, clearing brush and other combustible vegetation or material within 100 feet of a structure on their land.

Leaders and residents from the towns and surrounding communities have acknowledged the need for measures against potential wildfire disasters given their highly wooded, vegetated environment.

But many of them have raised concerns about the costs, compliance difficulties and other challenges they could face if the ordinance is ultimately adopted by the district board.

They have also contended that not enough people know about the pending ordinance and urged the board to give it additional time and public review.

“Nobody that I have spoken to knows anything about this,” Woodside resident Suzanne Fouche said during

See WILDFIRES, page 18
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Menlo Park reviews possible changes to Middle Avenue for cyclist, pedestrian safety

By Joshua Picazo

Menlo Park residents voiced their feedback on a pilot project that aims to make Middle Avenue from El Camino Real to Olive Street safer for cyclists and pedestrians alike.

During a virtual meeting on Tuesday, March 19, the city reviewed several proposals for Middle Avenue. Last October, the city installed a dedicated bike lane on a portion of Middle Avenue near Nealon Park through a pilot program, which led to the removal of most parking on both sides of the street at Nealon Park.

While many residents at the meeting supported bike lanes, some expressed concerns. There were complaints that "no parking" signs were not being adhered to, with some calling this situation a "disaster."

One resident at the meeting mentioned that cars have been parking on the bike lanes, and was concerned that because of the removal of most parking near Nealon Park, at 800 Middle Ave., visitors were parking in front of residences.

"There are always cars parked in the bike lanes," said Shannon Garrow, another Menlo Park resident. "I have never driven down the street where it has actually been a free bike lane."

Proposed plans

Proposals for Middle Avenue include a protected left turn, bike signals and partially protected intersections. The city is also considering the possibility of prohibiting right turns on red lights at the intersection of Middle Avenue and El Camino Real.

The changes are part of the Middle Avenue complete streets project, which is set to bring significant changes to the area. The undertaking began in 2022.

The city is in the process of finalizing the street data, which will be used to create the recommendation which will likely be presented at the next meeting on March 28, according to Menlo Park Senior Transportation Engineer Kevin Chen.

Chen said the city is looking to reconfigure the parking at Nealon Park, which could bring back limited parking spots.

There was also pushback to the idea of prohibiting turns on red at Middle Avenue and El Camino Real since there is a gas station on the corner which a speaker said could cause confusion and was unnecessary given the design.

Residents suggested various improvements, such as making the bike lanes clearer to drivers.

Menlo Park district considering facilities bond measure

District is looking at potential $161 million measure

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The Menlo Park City School District could go out for a facilities bond measure this coming fall for HVAC units, seismically safe new buildings, classroom improvements and more.

The district’s governing board discussed plans to put a potential measure on the Nov. 5, 2024 ballot during a March 7 meeting. Board trustees will make a decision on the measure by the end of June. Although dollar figures have not been nailed down, the district has floated the idea of a $161 million measure.

In December 2023, the board approved a contract for $30,000 with Oakland-based market and opinion research firm, EMC Research, to survey and evaluate the opinions of voters within the district to determine the viability of a bond.

EMC Research Senior Principal Sara Labatt presented data to the board on voter perspectives on the district’s need for funding and assess the likelihood of success of a bond measure.

Consultants conducted 300 phone, text and email interviews, from Feb. 6-19, of likely voters in the November election.

Recipients were provided a potential ballot description that included the potential amount of $161 million in bonds. It was noted that the intent of such a measure would be “to improve
The fight to rid the bay of red algae may cost $11B

By Ruth Dusseault

T en years. That’s how much it will cost to rid the bay of red algae, as officials announced on March 22.

The San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board plans to adopt the change as part of its authorization of a permit renewal, the requirement beginning in June 12. Previous permits did not require reductions, according to Lorien Fono, executive director of the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, which oversees the region’s wastewater treatment plants. She spoke from the Oro Loma Sanitary District in San Lorenzo on March 14. The facility is considered a model for upgrades.

The regulatory change follows a damaging algae bloom in 2022 and 2023. A brown algae species called Heterosigma akashiwo, which feeds off the nitrogen in wastewater, infected the Bay and damaged aquatic ecosystems.

“We don’t know the extent of fish kill, but thousands of white sturgeon and green sturgeon died, and many thousands of small fish died,” said Jan Wren, staff scientist with the environmental group San Francisco Baykeeper.

“Four-to-six-foot dead sturgeon, which the state categorizes as species of special concern, were all over the shoreline. The bloom got so big that all the oxygen in the South Bay was sucked up, none was recorded at many depths for several days,” Wren said.

Inmate dies at Maguire Correctional Facility

46-year-old man’s death may be suicide, sheriff says

By Bay City News Service

A 46-year-old man who was found unresponsive in a jail cell March 15 may have committed suicide, the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Department said.

The man, whose name was withheld until his family is notified, was found unresponsive at 3:30 p.m. in Maguire Correctional Facility, the department said in a statement.

Correctional officers and the jail’s medical staff were unsuccessful in saving his life, the sheriff’s department said.

The San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office, coroner’s office, and sheriff’s detectives are conducting independent investigations to determine the official cause of death, according to the sheriff’s department.

“At this time, initial information suggests the cause of death to be suicide,” the department said.

The coroner’s office will make the final determination.

This is the sixth death to occur at the jail in recent months.

On Jan. 15, around 8:45 a.m., a nurse noticed a 23-year-old man had difficulty breathing. Life-saving measures were taken, and first responders were called in from the Redwood City Fire Department, but the man died.

The man was housed in the 4 East Housing Detox Unit, which often houses people who are experiencing withdrawal symptoms from alcohol or drugs.

In October 2023, 64-year-old Peter McLaughlin of Pacifica died from a glioblastoma — a brain tumor. He was found unresponsive in his jail cell on Oct. 20, 2023, at 3:10 a.m. His death was determined natural, according to a coroner’s report. A toxicology report also “presumptively identified naloxone in the iliac blood sample.”

Just one day later, on Oct. 21, 2023, officers found 34-year-old man Ronald Simmons, a San Bruno resident, who was housed alone, unresponsive, hanging from a bedsheet in his cell. Authorities said officers began administering CPR until medical personnel at the facility arrived and pronounced the man dead. The inmate was housed in the jail’s behavioral health unit.

A toxicology report found no blood or alcohol in his system.

In January 2023, a 25-year-old woman, Maycara Fernando Sulapas, suffered a medical emergency in the jail’s intake and was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital about three hours later.

In October 2022, correctional officers found Matthew Britton, 34, unresponsive in his cell during a safety check. The sheriff’s office said at the time that he likely died of natural causes.

Former Palo Alto Weekly reporter Sue Dremann contributed to this report.
are the Whites, who are the current owners of Jelich Ranch; the Ciancuttis, who own FitzHugh Home; and the members of the Alpine Hills Tennis and Swimming Club.

The restoration of the Alpine Inn was a group effort, according to St. Claire.

"The three families Kohlbeg, Harman and Hunters who asked me to join the project could not be a more dedicated group to refurbishing and saving a gem in our community," St. Claire said in an email.

St. Claire owns Avenir Restaurant Group, which runs four popular eateries on the Peninsula — Town in San Carlos, Nola in Palo Alto, Milagros in Redwood City, and of course the Alpine Inn in Portola Valley.

Now 172 years old, the Alpine Inn is arguably the most storied eatery in the region, understandingly, given its multihued history.

In 1852, a few years after the Mexican-American War ended, Felix Buelna built the inn, on land that originally belonged to Maximo Martinez.

Strategically located along what was then known as the "Old Spanish Trail," it was meant to be a "casa de tabla" or gambling retreat for Mexican-Californios and Gold Rush era settlers.

Over the years, the owners — and consequently, the culture and name of the place — changed several times. In the late 1860s, Buelna sold the property to Irishman William Stanton, whose family subsequently leased it to a Portuguese man named Rodriguez Cavelle, nicknamed "Black Chapeta" because of his bushy handlebar mustache. Legend has it that Stanton won the place in a poker game against Buelna. Legend also has it that the game was rigged.

With the turn of the century came the German phase of the inn's history. It was called "The Wunder" in 1904 when Charles Schenkel ran it as a bar. He surreptitiously called it "Schenkel's Picnic Park" during the Prohibition era. A few years down the line, the inn was leased to a Croatian immigrant and farmer Walter Jelich Sr. who worked there as a bartender.

Then it became Rossoitti's, or more fondly "Zotts," when the lease was passed along to Enrico Rossoitti in the 1930s. The present day wood-fired pizza ovens reflect the Italian heritage of the place.

"This was an incredibly challenging refurbishment for us as there is literally so much history and so many personal memories for so many generations," said St. Claire, for whom the restoration was an endeavor that went beyond work.

"It was particularly personal for me as it was literally my fathers favorite place to go to," he said.

Like many of the long-standing loyalists of this historic watering hole, his father too went to Stanford University. In fact, 1852, the year Alpine Inn was built, happens to be the year Leland Stanford arrived in California.

He used to always tell stories of arriving at Stanford as a 17-year-old freshman and literally five minutes after finding his dorm room he was headed up to Zotts with his 23-year-old roommate who had just started his freshman year post military service, he said, about his father.

"Needless to say he told us that he spent more time at Zotts than at the library that freshman year."

In fact, physical remnants of the good times his father had back then are still present at the property.

He carved his name on that which first visit in 1952 and we found that table/carving when I started the refurbishment," he said. "I knew how special the place was as I grew up old PV going there with my dad. Every carving on a table or a wall means something to so many families."

That's why St. Claire brought more than his professional expertise to the project.

"I personally pulled in my own tools to help Midglen Studios (based in Woodside) to carefully save every carving, board and table top from all the years," he said. "We repurposed every possible board with carvings, saving as much history as possible."

Having experienced a slice of Alpine Inn's history through his father, St. Claire did his best to preserve it for posterity.

"Our goal was to save memories from every generation that graced the doors of this most awesome Tavern," he said. "My goal was to capture history while saving the structure and meeting current codes."

Not all aspects of history are tangible, though. The spirit of the Alpine Inn is best experienced through the lore that surrounds it. The only way to capture some of it is to visit the place.

As chef Laura Stec wrote in a 2014 Palo Alto Weekly article: "You must come visit. It's the perfect place to write your memoir, or find inspiration for your upcoming nonfiction release. Character study is endless at Zotts.

However, the way customers appraise a place is different from the way the ones who operate the kitchen do."

"The life of a restaurateur is an interesting one," St. Claire said. "Sometimes in the craziness of a remodel, the cost, the long hours and the extent we go to create a place for people to simply eat a hamburger and to drink a cold beer might seem insane to most people — but the sheer joy on customers' faces and a packed beer garden make it all worthwhile."

LANDLINE continued from page 1

"To convince us that we need to transition to better and more reliable technology, when we’ve been fighting with AT&T to try and get high speed internet to parts of the town is really disingenuous."

Council member Ned Fluet recalls that five years ago the town was unsuccessful in receiving help when asking AT&T and Comcast to provide internet to Old La Honda Road, which has no reliable internet.

"The idea that all of a sudden they’re not going to provide us with excellent service, I am very doubtful of that because I saw firsthand that we could not even get internet for some of our Woodside residents," said Fluet.

Woodside Council member Ned Fluet
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Woodside class offerings

The town of Woodside is offering a variety of recreation activities ranging from basketball, softball and soapbox derby.

The town’s Recreation Committee is currently looking for new softball players to add to the team for their summertime Woodside Co-Ed Adult Softball League. The committee is also hosting its annual May Day Fun Run and Walk on May 4 at 8:30 a.m.

Qi Gong classes are also offered to the community every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Independence Hall for $10 per class. Qi Gong is a Taoist practice and exercise that involves slow flowing movements that build strength and flexibility, breathwork to improve lung capacity and energy and reduces stress.

Recreation basketball for adults is available for drop-in play in the Woodside Elementary School gymnasium, 3195 Woodside Road, on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and Sundays from 9-11 a.m.

Registrations for the 2024 Woodside Soapbox Derby are open for the event on May 5. Children ages 6 to 12 will be able to participate in the soapbox derby that will take place in the Woodside town center parking lot. The annual event teaches children skills in building and auto engineering and brings the community together for a race day.

For more information on the listed activities and more, visit the recreation page on woodside.town.org.

Menlo Park seeking members to fill commission vacancies

The city of Menlo Park is calling for residents to fill advisory vacancies. Currently there are openings for Complete Streets, Environmental Quality, Finance and Audit, Housing, Library, Parks and Recreation and Planning Commissions.

All applicants must be residents of Menlo Park, 18 years or older and able to commit to attending scheduled meetings.

Applications are open until March 27 at 5 p.m.

For applications and more information visit the “committees and commissions” page at menlopark.gov.

Neurodiversity speaker series launches

On March 26 from 5:30-6:30 p.m., the Neurodiversity Speaker Series launches with a workshop by Sam Drazin, educator, founder and executive director of Changing Perspectives. This online event will discuss inclusive and equitable learning environments for student success.

Drazin has experience as a student with a disability and as a teacher in an inclusive classroom, giving him the ability to recognize the need to improve the public’s understanding around diversity and disability.

Parents, caregivers, educators, community members and mental health professionals are all welcome to join the free webinar. The Zoom link will be provided upon online registration on The Parent Venture’s Eventbrite page at tinyurl.com/parentventureevents.

Mental health and teen substance use

Bonnie Halpern-Felsher, founder and director of Stanford Medicine’s Halpern Felsher REACH Lab, is hosting a webinar on March 27 from 5:30-6:30 p.m., to help parents understand the signs of substance use, misuse and abuse in teens.

Halpern-Felsher will also be discussing the relationship between substance use and mental health as well as ways to communicate about commonly used substances by teens such as cannabis, nicotine and opioids.

Parents, students, educators, and community members can register for the free online event on The Parent Venture’s Eventbrite page at tinyurl.com/parentventureevents.

Local groups and individuals awarded by Sustainable San Mateo County

Sustainable San Mateo County will be honoring “five local sustainability champions and two green buildings” on April 10 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. during its 25th annual awards celebration, according to a press release.

The Sustainability Award, Youth Sustainability Award, Ruth Peterson Award and Green Building Award will be presented to local groups and individuals who have made efforts towards sustainability for the community:

- Byrd’s Filling Station, as the county’s first and only grocer to reimagine no products with single-use plastics and focus on sustainability in each product and supply chain. They will be awarded the Sustainability Award for their efforts to eliminate single-use plastics, selling organic products and using reusable or recyclable packaging.
- Sam Herzberg, a San Carlos resident, will receive the Sustainability Award for his role in protecting shorelines from offshore drilling as he worked in the Parks, Public Works and Planning Departments of San Mateo County.
- Youth Climate Ambassadors Leadership Program (YCA) is being presented with the Sustainability Award for their efforts in training high school students in the county to become future climate leaders. 273 students have participated in the seven-month program completing a total of 113 community impact projects since its inception five years ago.
- Kayla Ling, a 15-year-old sophomore at The Nueva School, will be awarded the first Youth Sustainability Award. Ling has led and co-led several environmental and climate clubs, organized rallies and a youth environmental film festival, has hosted social justice and eco-workshops and volunteered as a photographer for local nonprofits.
- San Mateo resident Bernard Bruand will receive the Ruth Peterson Award for his work as an SSMC volunteer. After his retirement in 2012, he joined the SSMC’s Indicators Report team and has played a strong role in assisting the growth of many core programs.
- The Nueva School’s Science and Environmental Center in Hillsborough is being awarded the Green Building Award. In 2021 the center opened to support the mission of sustainability and environmental stewardship within student education. The building is entirely electric, promotes outdoor education and has zero net energy and carbon.

SafeSpace receives $750,000 grant to expand to the East Bay

SafeSpace Center, a youth-led mental health organization based in Menlo Park received a grant of $750,000 from the state for a new mental health startup in Alameda County, according to a press release.

“We are deeply grateful for the state of California’s commitment to mental health initiatives,” said Susan Bird, co-founder at SafeSpace Center, in a statement. “This grant will empower SafeSpace Center to make a meaningful impact on the lives of youth and young adults in Alameda County, fostering a community where mental health is prioritized and supported.”

The organization is focused on meeting and connecting with consumers for wellness, education, peer certification, family and caregiver support and fostering peer connections for young adults aged 18 to 25. The grant will empower SafeSpace Center to further promote mental health awareness, advocate for resources and establish prevention and early intervention strategies.
Bay Area voter turnout trending low for March 5 primary

By Bay City News Service

Bay Area voter turnout for the March 5 primary election is hovering at about 35%, a number that could grow slightly when the total count is finalized on April 4.

The turnout percentage is about the same for the nine-county region as it is when including numbers from Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Joaquin counties, according to data released March 14 by the California Secretary of State’s Office.

"Early vote-by-mail was surprisingly low," said Marin County Registrar Lynda Roberts. "But on Election Day, we received about 45,000 vote-by-mail ballots, from the post office, ballot drop boxes and returns from vote centers."

"It’s looking like our final turnout will be about 53%,” Roberts said.

On Thursday, Marin County was reporting a 46% turnout of registered voters, the highest percentage for the greater Bay Area.

San Francisco was a close second with 45%, which Registrar John Arntz was in line with historical averages for his city/county.

"The March 2024 primary election will likely be near 47%, which is within 3% of the average for presidential primary elections since 1972," Arntz said.

In Alameda County, voter turnout was reported at just 25% as of Thursday, the lowest for any county in the region.

"Across the state we have been seeing low turnout, this is a primary election which normally sees a lower turnout than the General Election,” Alameda County elections officials said in an email. "This election tends to be heading to a turnout in the 30 percentile, which is lower than our March 2020 Presidential Primary Election."

Statewide, voter turnout was clocking in at about 32% as of Thursday morning.

California State University East Bay associate professor of political science Elizabeth Bergman said the low numbers aren’t surprising given the general lack of marquee issues or competitive races.

"At the county level this was not an exciting primary," Bergman said.

Given the fact that both President Joe Biden, a Democrat, and his presumptive Republican challenger Donald Trump walked away with easy primary wins in California, there wasn’t much on the March 5 ballot to excite voters’ interest besides Proposition 1.

The hotly contested Prop. 1 is Gov. Gavin Newsom’s $6.4 billion mental health treatment ballot initiative, which was narrowly leading with 50.2% of the vote Thursday.

And while Bergman said turnout for Prop. 1 was impressive given the lackluster nature of the March 5 ballot, it clearly wasn’t enough of a spark to ignite widespread voter turnout.

"It has to do with competitiveness and people are smart about their time," she said.

"They don’t want to waste their time, so they feel like if their vote matters, they’ll turn out."

Bergman also said that people tend to avoid casting a ballot on issues they don’t understand or for or against candidates with whom they are unfamiliar.

"People are very uncomfortable about voting if they don’t know what to vote on and so they’re looking at the ballot this time and saying I don’t recognize any of this," she said.

"Infrequent voters are not stupid voters. That’s a mistake that I think a lot of media make," Bergman said. "They’re rational about their time and their knowledge. They know what their time and their knowledge is. They’re making a rational decision."

She also noted that demographics play a large role in election participation totals, with low-income voters and voters of color casting ballots less frequently than higher-income voters and white voters.

Email Contributing Writer Joshua Picazo at joshuadpicazo@gmail.com.
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  - $2,350,000 | 3 Bed | 2 Bath
  - 650.906.0162
  - Lynne Mercer | DRE 00796211

**Open Sat & Sun 2pm-4pm**

- **251 Polhemus Ave, Atherton**
  - $10,500,000 | 5 Bed | 2.5 Bath
  - 650.333.3833
  - Tim Trailer | DRE 00426209

**Sold**

- **1770 Guinda St, Palo Alto**
  - $4,698,000 | 3 Bed + Office | 3 Bath
  - 650.387.2716
  - Lori Buecheler | DRE 01859485
  - Olivia Maggi | DRE 02180306

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Compass is a licensed real estate broker 01527235 in the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit properties already listed. *Represented buyer.
ACADEMICS

STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research
Stanford Explore biomedical science at Stanford through lectures from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science including bioengineering, neuroscience, immunology and other topics. July 8-26. Registration begins March 1st. The program is virtual.
Explore.stanford.edu/explore-series@stanford.edu

Summer@Stratford
Palo Alto/Bay Area
Stratford infuses its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) curriculum into an innovative and enriching summer camp experience. Younger campers engage in hands-on learning projects, while elementary-age students collaborate to tackle real-world problems. At the middle school level, individual subject-based enrichment classes are offered and tailored for each grade level.
StratfordSchools.com/Summer
(650) 493-1151

ACADEMICS

7EDU Impact Academy
Cupertino
Join 7EDU for an unforgettable volunteer abroad summer camp experience in Costa Rica (6/12-7/2), where you’ll travel overseas, explore the world, make lifelong friendships, and make a meaningful impact in local communities. Alternatively, join our Youth Entrepreneurship Summer Camp (6/12-7/2) to learn startup & business fundamentals, industry research, problem-solving skills, public speaking skills, and explore business college majors. For younger grades, 7EDU offers Designer Life Simulation Camp (4/4-7) and All Day Art Camp (G2-5). On-campus in Cupertino. Mention Camp Connection to receive a $50 discount.
7edu.org
(408) 876-2144

Early Learning Institute
Palo Alto, Pleasanton
AN AMAZING SUMMER WRITING PROGRAM. Every year, Emerson Montessori School offers its three Write Now! courses — camp-like sessions designed to improve students’ writing and public presentation skills. Each one-week course features a different genre: Expository Writing (prose forms used in school assignments), Creative Writing (stories, plays, poems), and Presentation Skills (“Debate” this year). Parents are welcome at the afternoon “Authors’ Workshops” and “Speakers’ Forums.” EmersonMontessori.com Emerson: (650) 424-1267 Hacienda: (925) 485-5750

Harker Summer Programs
San Jose
Harker summer programs for preschool - grade 12 children include opportunities for academics, arts, athletics and activities. Taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff, our programs offer something for everyone in a safe and supportive environment. Register as soon as possible.
Harker.org/Summer
(408) 553-5737

Lydian Academy
Menlo Park, Burlingame
Lydian invites 6th-12th Neurodiverse learners, 2E students, and those in need of credit remediation or advancement to complete UC-approved courses in our personalized 1:1 setting in as few as 2.5 weeks. Executive Functioning, Personal Finance, and Life Skills electives are popular, in addition to our Design Thinking and Engineering (STEAM) camps and Middle School day camps.
LydianAcademy.com/Admissions/Summer-at-Lydiain
(650) 405-1312

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

ARTS, CULTURE & ENRICHMENT

Camp Integrity
Palo Alto & Cupertino
#1 AH-AR STEM & Art Camp. Ages 3-18. Dive into AI, Holographic AR, coding, Robotics, 3D, game design, STEM art, animation, Space/Nature Exploration and more. ACS WASC Accredited & NVIDIA-partnered camp. Great instructors, small classes! Since 2018, thousands of students have joined the Camp. Use the code PAW24 to save.
Camp.Integrity.com
(408) 459-0657

Captivating Dance Summer Program
Menlo Park
Join us for fun-filled weeks of dance! CDBN’s summer camps are designed for dancers ages 4-12. Email for 12+ intensives. Campers will learn dance techniques in ballet, jazz, tumbling, lyrical, hip-hop, and musical theater. Camps are filled with excitement, games, arts, crafts, weekly performances, and more! CaptivatingDanceByNona.com/
Summer-2024
(650) 339-0034

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls
Palo Alto
Casti Camp offers girls entering grades 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, writing, crafts, cooking, drama, music and more! Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9.
Castilleja.org/SummerCamp
(650) 470-7833

City of Sunnyvale
Sunnyvale
Offering 100+ camps for ages 2-17 featuring traditional, visual arts, performing arts, theater, sport and STEM camps. Full and half day options run June 10 - Aug. 9. Check out swim lessons for all levels also starting in June and enjoy recreation swim at our aquatic facilities.
Sunnyvale.ca.gov/Activities
(408) 730-7350

Community School of Music and Arts
Mountain View
40+ creative camps for ages 5-15! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Wearable Art, Digital Art, Musical Theater and more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Financial aid offered. After Camp available.
Arts4All.org
(650) 917-6800 ext. 0

Hidden Villa
Los Altos Hills
Hidden Villa is a 1,600 acre refuge in Los Altos Hills and home to an organic farm, gardens, beautiful hiking trails, and farm animals. Our Summer Camp program blends nature, farming and social justice, while encouraging a diverse, compassionate, and eco-conscious youth community in a fun and age-appropriate environment.
HiddenVilla.org/SummerCamp
(650) 949-8650

Oshman Family JCC Camps
Palo Alto
At J-Camp, we build a spirited community where campers are immersed in joyful camp activities and develop meaningful relationships with others while engaging in individual personal growth. Our exciting day camp offers programming for incoming grades K-10.
OFJCC-Jcamp.com
(650) 223-8622

Rieskes Center
Menlo Park
Explore all your interests this summer with Rieskes Summer Camps! Enrolling now for camps in Nature, Music, Art, and Digital Media. There’s something for every camper! For ages 5-18 with locations across the Peninsula.
RieskesSummerCamps.org
(650) 364-2509

Stanford Jazz Workshop
Stanford
Stanford Jazz Workshop week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (Giant Steps Day Camp, starts July 8), High School Jazz Camp, starts July 14 or July 21, and adults/advanced teens (Jazz Institute, July 28). All instruments and vocals. On the Stanford campus.
StanfordJazz.org
(650) 736-0324

Ventana School Summer Camp
Los Altos
Keep your child active and busy this summer at Ventana’s Elementary Summer Camp! With engaging week-long themes, campers will immerse themselves in hands-on activities that will boost their creative confidence and stimulate their minds. Join us for one or all of the following weeks: Masterchef Junior, Arts & Crafts, Game Creation, Mad Scientist, Musical Theater and Wonderful Water. Open to students who will have completed K-5th grade by the summer.
VentanaSchool.org/Elementary-Summer-Camps-2024
(650) 948-2121

ATHLETICS

Bald Eagle Camps
Bay Area
The first camp ever approved by The Positive Coaching Alliance for campers entering grades 3-11 with programs dedicated to building strong character and Jewish community through sports.
MaccabiSportsCamp.org/wp
(415) 997-8844

Spartans Sports Camp
Mountain View
Spartans Sports Camp offers a wide variety of sports and academic enrichment camps for kids entering grades 1-9. Experienced staff ensures everyone has fun. Daily on-site swimming is offered for all camps. Camps run weekly from June 10 - August 2 at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available.
SpartansSportsCamp.com
(650) 479-5906

Stanford Water Polo Camps
Stanford
New to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or full day options for boys and girls ages 7 and up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games. Session 1 – June 10-13, 2024. Session 2 – June 17-20, 2024.
StanfordWaterPoloCamps.com
(650) 725-9016

To advertise in print and online, call (650) 326-8210.

To view the full Camp Connection 2024 guide, visit AlmanacNews.com/camp-connection/
Man arrested for allegedly swindling San Mateo County elderly resident

Law enforcers arrested a man for allegedly swindling a senior San Mateo County resident last week by sending malware to the victim’s computer, the Sheriff’s Office said.

According to the Sheriff’s Office, a 62-year-old resident was scammed through ransomware, which was successfully conducted by the suspect by first contacting him through email, which led to phone calls, and eventually gaining control of his computer remotely.

Authorities said the suspect allegedly posed as a representative of a large antivirus and cyber security software company and told the elderly man for a refund. Over a few hours, the victim was told he needed to pay a large sum of cash to supposedly correct an error in the refund amount.

According to investigators, the suspect arrived at the victim’s residence a few hours later and collected the money. The following day, the victim contacted the Sheriff’s Office and reported having been victimized by a scam. Deputies immediately began investigating and identified the suspect as a 38-year-old from Southern California.

The man was later arrested and booked into the Maguire Correctional Facility on suspicion of various crimes, such as obtaining money by false pretenses and conspiracy to commit crime.

Investigators believe this is part of a larger international scam, saying they are working to identify other perpetrators involved in this scam and believe there may be more victims. The public is advised to use caution and avoid sharing personal banking details with anyone who solicits that online or over the phone, especially when they ask for money.

Those with further information about this case are encouraged to contact Det. Matthew West at mwest@smcgov.org or 650-363-4050. Anonymous tips can also be provided through the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office tip line at 800-547-2700.

—Bay City News Service

THE “PASSPORT TO DESIGN”
DISCOVER A WORLD OF HOME POSSIBILITIES
( AN EXPERIENTIAL AND COMPLIMENTARY EVENT )

Learn about the magic of the best products and materials on the market for your next home remodel or upgrade. With pop-ups by Emser Tile, Kohler, Plato Woodworks, Haven and Wire, and more!

Stop by anytime. Hors d’oeuvres and drinks served all evening. Raffle prizes to be won!

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 • FROM 4-7PM
HARRELL DESIGN + BUILD • 2284 OLD MIDDLEFIELD WAY IN MOUNTAIN VIEW
LIST WITH THE DELEON TEAM FOR

3.5% OR LESS

Total Commission

And still enjoy COMPLIMENTARY access to our vast experience and top-notch services in:
• Marketing
• Home Prep
• Inspections
• Staging
• Legal Services through Integra Law Group, LLP
... and much more!

We’ve entered a new era in real estate, where Sellers do not need to pay 2.5% or more for the Buyer's Agent. Most of our Sellers elect to offer only $10,000 to the Buyer's Agent. Should the agent seek additional compensation, the Buyer can cover the difference. Alternatively, the DeLeon Buyer’s Team will represent that Buyer on our listings without any charge. Yes, we’re even waiving the $10,000!

This client-centric approach not only saves our Sellers money but also draws more Buyers to our listings. It's no wonder we are the #1 Listing Team in Silicon Valley!

Caution: Despite a recent court case, some other agents still advocate for high commissions.

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com
Equal Housing Opportunity | 中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 1:30 – 4:30 PM

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

47 PLACITAS AVENUE
ATHERTON

$4,788,000 | 4 Bd | 4.5 Bth
47Placitas.com

100 ALAMOS ROAD
PORTOLA VALLEY

$5,788,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
100Alamos.com

215 HAIGHT STREET
MENLO PARK

$1,988,000 | 3 Bd | 2 Bth
215Haight.com

1120 MAY BROWN AVENUE
MENLO PARK

$3,988,000 | 3 Bd | 3 Bth
1120MayBrown.com

868 SOUTHAMPTON DRIVE
PALO ALTO

$4,488,000 | 4 Bd | 2 Bth
868Southampton.com

SATURDAY ONLY

7 ODELL PLACE
ATHERTON

$6,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
7Odeil.com

1420 MARINOVICH WAY
LOS ALTOS

$3,988,000 | 4 Bd | 2.5 Bth
1420Marinovich.com

717 GARLAND DRIVE
PALO ALTO

$3,988,000 | 3 Bd | 3 Bth
717Garland.com

815 UNIVERSITY AVE
PALO ALTO

$3,788,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
815University.com

SUNDAY ONLY

481 STOCKBRIDGE AVE
ATHERTON

$12,988,000 | 6 Bd | 9 Bth
481StockbridgeAve.com

197 GREENOAKS DRIVE
ATHERTON

$7,988,000 | 5 Bd | 5.5 Bth
197Greenoaks.com

6 SARGENT LANE
ATHERTON

$9,488,000 | 7 Bd | 17 Bth
6Sargent.com

Notice to Buyers: Although a good buyer’s agent can add significant insight and value, you are not required to use one to purchase a DeLeon listing. If you would like to submit an offer to us directly, please contact the DeLeon Buyer’s Team at 650.543.8528 and we will waive 100% of the buyer’s-side commission.

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com | Equal Housing Opportunity
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March 22, 2024 ■ AlmanacNews.com ■ The Almanac ■ 17
TOWN OF WOODSIDE
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062

PLANNING COMMISSION
APRIL 3, 2024  6:00 PM

TELECONFERENCE LOCATION:
COMMISSIONER LYLE WEAVER - TELECONFERENCING FROM HAMPTON INN:
ROOM 211, 9870 BALTIMORE AVE, COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND, 20740, UNITED STATES.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT WISH TO ATTEND AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING MAY DO SO IN PERSON OR BY JOINING THE ZOOM MEETING HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/86068472736. PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED BOTH IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM MEETING. ANY EMAILS SENT TO SHARPER@WOODSIDECA.GOV PRIOR TO 5:00 PM, ON THE DATE OF THE HEARING WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

IN THE EVENT THAT ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION PARTICIPATES IN A MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE OR VIDEO CONFERENCE, PURSUANT TO THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT, ANYbody remoted may comment on items during the meeting. Members of the public participating remotely may comment on items during the hearing.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING:
Dial by your location
+1 669 900 9128
+1 346 248 7799

Note: Callers dial *9 to “raise hand” and *6 to mute/unmute.

Meeting ID: 860 6847 2736

PUBLIC HEARING
1. Town of Woodside
Multi-Family Housing Standards

APNs
072-041-040/ 068-100-220/ 069-170-450

Sage Schaan, Planning Director
068-320-330/ 068-320-410

Planning Commission review of development standards, zoning revisions, General Plan revisions, Emerald Lake Hills Specific Plan revisions, and Objective Design Standards (ODS) on sites designated for multi-family housing in the Town’s Housing Element as described below.

A. Review of a Resolution of Intention to amend the Zoning Code and Zoning Map: amending Municipal Code Chapter 185 (Zoning) for new Multi-Family (MF) zoning district development standards, and changes to existing standards for the Multi-Family Residential Development Overlay Zone (MFROZ) at Cañada College; amending Zoning Map designation for Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 072-041-040 (Raymond Drive) from Open Space (OS) to MF; amending Zoning Map designation for a portion of APN 068-100-220 (773 Cañada Road) from Suburban Residential (SR) to MF; amending Zoning Map designation for APN 069-170-450 (High Road) from Open Space for Preservation of Natural Resources (OSNR) to MF; and, amending Zoning Map designation for portions of Cañada College Campus, APNs 068-320-330/410 from SR/MFROZ to Multi-Family Residential Zone (MFZROZ).

B. Review of General Plan designation revisions to parcels as follows: APN 072-041-040 (Raymond Drive) from Open Space (OS) to Residential (R); and, APN 069-170-450 (High Road) from Open Space/Environmental Sensitive Area (OS/ESA) to Residential (R).

C. Review of new multi-family ODS for the following multi-family sites identified in the Town’s Housing Element: APN 072-041-040 (Raymond Drive); portion of APN 068-100-220 (773 Cañada Road); APN 069-170-450 (High Road); and, portions of Cañada College Campus, APNs 068-320-330/410.

D. Review revisions to the Emerald Lake Hills Specific Plan associated with a new MF Zoning at a portion of APN 068-100-220 (773 Cañada Road).

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared for the proposed multi-family housing sites as part of the Town’s Housing Element update. The Planning Commission will review the EIR at a later date at which time the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the EIR and project described above.

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING AT SSSCHAAN@WODSIDECA.GOV.

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:
Katherine Franger, 95, a longtime Mountain View resident who sang in the choirs at Saint Joseph’s and Saint William’s churches, and who taught drawing, painting and printmaking at Lasting Memories at AlmanacNews.com/obituaries.

Michael Willemsen, 86, a graduate from Stanford Law School who served as a staff attorney for the California Supreme Court, helping to draft significant opinions under Justice William O. Douglas, an advocate for social justice and civil rights.

Adele Seltzer, 86, who received a degree in Educational Psychology only to return to school for a master of fine arts at San Jose State University, beginning a lengthy art career that involved teaching printmaking and painting for three decades, establishing her own design studio as an independent artist, and works on display across the country and internationally including SFOMA, on March 15, 2024.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at AlmanacNews.com/obituaries.
SPACIOUS AND BRIGHT WITH A GREAT LOCATION

A brick-lined pathway leads to the front door of this bright and spacious 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom home set on nearly ¼-acre on a peaceful non-through street in Central Menlo. The traditional floorplan offers 2,000 square feet of living space and includes refinished hardwood floors, the expansive living room with a centerpiece fireplace, the family room with backyard access, and the dining room that adjoins the kitchen for easy entertaining. The primary suite includes a private outdoor entrance, while the home’s additional bedrooms provide comfort and convenience for friends and family alike. The sizable backyard offers excellent space to relax and unwind with a large patio, colorful plantings, and a newly planted lawn. And for added convenience, this home includes a 2-car garage, plus a large paver driveway for ample parking. Just moments to downtown Menlo Park, this great location is also convenient to downtown Palo Alto, Stanford University, and Caltrain, and is served by top-ranked Menlo Park schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE
SAT & SUN 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

1120MayBrown.com
Listed at $3,988,000

Notice to Buyers:

Although a good buyer’s agent can add significant insight and value, you are not required to use one to purchase a DeLeon listing. If you would like to submit an offer to us directly, please contact the DeLeon Buyer’s Team at 650.543.8528 and we will waive 100% of the buyer’s-side commission.

Listed by the DeLeon Team
Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com | Equal Housing Opportunity
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Daniel Silvio Boicelli
September 1st, 1943 – February 26, 2024

Daniel Silvio Boicelli, beloved husband, father, grandfather, passed away peacefully on February 26, 2024, at Stanford Hospital. He was born on September 1st, 1943, at Hoover Pavilion, Stanford Hospital, in Palo Alto, California, to Anita and Silvio Boicelli.

A skilled carpenter by trade, Daniel dedicated his life to his craft, following in the footsteps of his father and passing down his skills to his children. He successfully managed his father’s business and built numerous homes for his family, leaving behind a legacy of craftsmanship and hard work.

Daniel was a dedicated family man and a pillar of strength for his loved ones. He married Catherine, and together they raised three children, Rebecca, Daniel Jr., and Timothy. He was also the proud grandfather of Luciano, Madeline, and Elizabeth.

A passionate sports enthusiast, Daniel found joy in cheering for his favorite team, the Cal Bears. He loved following their games and proudly supported them.

Known for his kindness and generosity, Daniel had a special place in his heart for his grandchildren, whom he loved with the same affection that he showed his family.

Daniel leaves behind to shower with gifts and affection. His memory will forever be cherished by his family and friends. Daniel leaves behind a legacy of love, dedication, and craftsmanship that will continue to inspire those who knew him.

Norma Bernice Pettersen
October 17, 1932 – March 2, 2024

Norma Bernice Pettersen, Washburn, Schleunes, passed from this world to the Kingdom of Heaven on March 2nd 2024 at 3:45 AM. She was 91 years old. Born on October 17th 1932. She is survived by older sister Greta 93 years young and brother Freddy at 86. Norma, Greta, and Freddy were born and raised by Father Erling Pettersen and Mother Bernice Sophia Bush. Norma had two children Mark Washburn and Karyn Jensen. Karyn gave Norma two grandchildren Taylor and Brooke. Norma had a very full life and was very stunning. After a college education, she started out as a stewardess for T.W.A. Airlines back in the 1960s. She met her husband Norma in 1965 and they both fell in love and had two children. Frank built her a beautiful house in Woodside, Ca. The house and gardens were a major part of her life. She loved to paint and interior decorate. Her dinner parties were legendary. She also had a boatload of Loyal friends. She worked for many years as head secretary for the president of Saga, a prominent business in the Bay Area. Norma then started her own business of interior decorating, called Designs by Norma. In retirement she proudly made a model house and beautiful gardens that would rival world renowned Filoli Gardens, where she also volunteered and donated generously. Also in retirement she traveled to many destinations worldwide with her significant other, Bill Jennings. She lived in her beautiful home for 60 years. She will be greatly missed, but nothing could make her happier than being with God and Jesus. She was deeply Spiritual and gave generously to Unity. If anyone deserves God’s grace it would be Norma.

Please make any donations to “Unity”. Services for Norma will be in Reno.

Adele Seltzer
April 29, 1937 – March 15, 2024

Adele was born in New Jersey on April 29, 1937, to William and Muriel Wishnow and was raised in the Bridgewater, New Jersey with her two sisters, Rhoda and Reba. She met her husband of 61 years, Ronald Anthony Seltzer, while receiving a BS and MS in Educational Psychology at University of Pennsylvania. Ronald was an intern at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital when they met. Adele is survived by her two children, Lauren, her husband, Robert Roskopf, and Jeff, his wife Marilyn Hartnett, and her five beloved grandchildren, Adin, Myles, Shayna, Cameron, and Mia.

Driven by a life-long love of the Arts, Adele returned to school for a Master of Fine Arts at San Jose State University. For more than three decades, she not only taught printmaking and painting, she also worked in the Art Department at Stanford University, taught at Art institutions and established her own design studio as an independent Artist. Throughout the course of her professional journey, Adele participated in a plethora of group exhibits at institutions throughout the US and in Germany.

Additionally, Adele’s work was featured at solo exhibitions throughout the US from Palo Alto to Chelsea NYC to Washington DC. Adele’s work can be found in many public and private collections in the United States and Europe. For over twenty years her art has been represented by Katherine Markel in NYC, in the Haasner in Germany, and in the SFMOMA Artists Gallery.

In June 2021 Adele was included in the Marquis Who’s Who in America. Adele also won accolades from the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and was nominated twice for their prestigious SICA award. In addition to her passion as an Artist, she also enjoyed mentoring other artists. She also contributed to her community through her involvement with Together Women Rise, the SLV for the San Francisco Symphony, the Palo Alto Women’s Group and the Smuin Dance Company. Adele’s love of dance and music flowed through her work.

Adele and her late husband, Ron, shared their love for travel with their extended family. Adele cherished her time at the beach and ocean and instilled this love and connection with her children and grandchildren. Her fondest memories are of her time at Stinson Beach, and she is eternally grateful for the community.

Contributions can be made in Adele’s honor to Peninsula Open Space Trust, Silicon Valley League, San Francisco Symphony and or the Palo Alto Art Center.
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
TOWN OF ATHERTON
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Notice: The Town of Atherton (Town) hereby gives notice that it will accept bids for construction of the following public work:

FAIR OAKS LANE/LLOYDEN DRIVE/DINKELSPIEL LANE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS
Project Number: 56093

1. Scope of Work: The scope of work consists of pedestrian improvements including tree trimming, tree removal, sidewalk, pathway grading, signing, striping, street lighting, solar powered RFFB implementation, solar powered streetlight, curb and gutter, curb ramp, milling, AC Tabletop, bioswale and bioretention area construction; including planting and irrigation system installation.

2. Plans & Specifications: Plans & Specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton’s website at: http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/bids.aspx at no cost. Additional information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which are available at: http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/285. Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town’s website.

3. No Plan holders list will be made be available.

4. Bid Submission: SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, California 94027, until 1:30 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time March 28, 2024, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All proposals must be submitted not later than the date and time prescribed. The Bidder is wholly responsible to ensure its Bid is submitted on the date and at the time and place designated for the opening of bids. Any Bid received after the time and date specified shall not be considered. Any Bid may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled time for opening bids.

5. Engineer’s Estimate for the project is: $255,451.11

6. Bid Requirements: Bids must be for the entire work and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: “Bid of (Contractor) for FAIR OAKS LANE/LLOYDEN DRIVE/DINKELSPIEL LANE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS, Project No: 56093”, along with date and time of bid opening. Bidders shall refer to the Bid Requirements section of the project Plans and Specifications for additional information and requirements.

7. Required Contractor’s License: Bidder must possess a current California Class “A” General Engineering contractor’s license issued by the State of California, at the time the Bid is submitted. The Contractor and all subcontractors shall be licensed by the State of California in the class appropriate for the work contemplated. Failure of Contractor or his/her subcontractors to possess such current license at the time of bidding may be deemed sufficient cause for rejection of the bid.

8. Portion of Work to be Performed by the Contractor: The General Contractor shall perform, with his own organization, work of a value amounting to not less than 50% of the total contract, excluding specialty items as may be indicated on the bid schedule.

9. Department of Industrial Relations Registration: A Contractor or Subcontractor shall not be qualified to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal, subject to the requirements of Public Contract Code 4104, or engage in the performance of any contract for public work, as that term is defined in Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1 of the Labor Code, unless currently registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5. (http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html)

10. Reservation of Rights: The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids; to make any awards or any rejections in what it alone considers to be in the best interest of the Town and waive any irregularities or irregularities in the bids. If there is a reason to believe that collusion exists among any bidders, none of the bids of the participants in such collusion will be considered and the Town may likewise elect to reject all bids received.

11. Substitution of Securities: The successful bidder may substitute securities for retention monies withheld to ensure performance of the contract, in accordance with California Public Contract Code, Section 22300.

12. Prevailing Wage Rates: Bidders are hereby notified that provisions of California Labor Code regarding prevailing wages and apprentices are applicable to the work to be performed under this contract. Pursuant to Section 1773 et seq. the general prevailing wage rates have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations and appear in the California Prevailing Wage Rates. Copies are on file at the office of the City Engineer and are available to interested parties upon request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of the wage rates at the job site.

13. Bid Preparation Cost: Bidders are solely responsible for the cost of plan and specification printing and preparing their Bids.

14. Town Contact: Questions regarding the project should be directed to Robert Ovadia, PE, by written Requests for Information (RFI) to: Public Works Department, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027, no later than eight (8) business days before bid opening. RFIs may be emailed to rovadia@ci.atherton.ca.us.

15. Understanding: By submitting a bid in response to this advertisement for bids, the bidder shall be conclusively deemed to have read, understood and agreed with all of the information and materials contained in the bid documents, including but not limited to the standard specifications, the special provisions, the required nature and amount of insurance and the documentation evidencing said insurance.

16. Bid Protests: The lack of a prompt procedure to resolve disputes regarding the bidding process would impair the Town’s ability to carry out its purpose of constructing this project in a timely manner. Therefore, to the maximum extent authorized by law and notwithstanding any other procedures specified in documents referenced herein, all disputes and/or protests regarding the bidding process shall be subject to the following procedure. In submitting a Bid to the Town for this project, the Bidder agrees to comply with and to be bound by this procedure.

Any Bid protest must be submitted in writing to the Office of the City Clerk, Atherton Town Hall 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027, before 5:00 p.m. on the fifth (5th) working day following Bid opening.

The initial protest document must contain a complete statement of the basis for the protest, and all 5 supporting documentation.

The party filing the protest must have actually submitted a Bid for the Work. A Subcontractor of a party submitting a Bid for the Work may not submit a Bid protest. A party may not rely on the Bid protest submitted by another Bidder, but must timely pursue its own protest.

The protest must refer to the specific portion of the Contract Documents which forms the basis for the protest.

The protest must include the name, address and telephone number of the person representing the protesting party.

The party filing the protest must concurrently transmit a copy of the initial protest document and any attached documentation to all other parties with a direct financial interest which may be adversely affected by the outcome of the protest. Such parties shall include all other Bidders who appear to have a reasonable prospect of receiving an award depending upon the outcome of the protest.

The Town will give the protested Bidder five (5) working days after the receipt of the protest to submit a written response. The responding Bidder shall transmit the response to the protesting Bidder concurrent with delivery of the Town.

The procedure and time limits set forth in this paragraph are mandatory and are the Bidder’s sole and exclusive remedy in the event of Bid protest. The Bidder’s failure to comply with these procedures shall constitute a waiver of any right to further pursue the Bid protest, including filing a Government Code Claim or legal proceedings.

If the Town determines that a protest is frivolous, the protesting Bidder may be determined to be nonresponsible, and that Bidder may be determined to be ineligible for future contract awards.

17. List of Subcontractors: Each Bidder shall set forth in its Bid (on the form provided herewith) the following information in accordance with the provisions of Public Contract Code sections 4100-4113: The name, Contractor’s license number, public works Contractor registration number and the location of the place of business of each Subcontractor who will perform work or labor or render service to the prime Contractor in or about the construction of the work or improvement according to the Contract Documents, in any amount in excess of one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the prime Contractor’s total Bid, or ten thousand dollars ($10,000.00), whichever is greater.

The portion of the work which will be done by each such Subcontractor. Only one Subcontractor shall be listed for each such portion of the work as defined in the Bid.

The Bidder is considered the Prime Contractor and shall perform at least fifty percent (50%) of the work, as determined by a percentage of the value of the work.

The Bidder fails to specify a Subcontractor for any portion of the work to be performed under the Contract, the Bidder agrees to perform that portion of the work itself.

By:

Robert Ovadia, P.E., City Engineer

Date: March 22, 2024
STYLISHLY REMODELED EICHLER ON MORE THAN ½-ACRE

In this stunningly remodeled Eichler home nestled on more than a half-acre of land, sophisticated luxury seamlessly intertwines with the enduring spirit of midcentury modern design. Stylish interiors of over 2,800 total square feet cater to every aspect of a contemporary lifestyle while still adhering to the principals of Joseph Eichler’s vision – open living space, an abundance of natural light, and a harmonious connection to the outdoors. Enjoy generous gathering areas, a fireplace, elegant finishes, the kitchen equipped with top-tier appliances, and the expansive primary suite that opens to the backyard. Outside, the gated grounds provide an outstanding venue for al fresco entertaining with gorgeous landscaping, a pool, and a studio ADU with a full bathroom. Enhancing the appeal is a fantastic location with convenient access to downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, Stanford University, accessible commute options, and renowned Menlo Park schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE
SAT & SUN 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

47Placitas.com
Listed at $4,788,000

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

Notice to Buyers:
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An incredible lot of over 2.5 acres offers tremendous possibilities and plays host to this spacious home with spectacular views towards Felt Lake and the Western Hills. Highlights include 2 fireplaces, large gathering spaces, the kitchen with appliances from brands including Viking, a flexible-use room perfect for a gym or office, and numerous glass doors opening to the grounds for a true indoor/outdoor lifestyle. A guest house offers comfortable, modern living space for friends or extended family, while sweeping grounds take full advantage of Portola Valley's verdant beauty and provide peaceful venues for entertaining or play. Adding the finishing touch is a great location close to numerous nature preserves, a 5-minute drive from the shops and restaurants of Ladera Country Shopper, within 1.5 miles of Interstate 280, and with access to highly sought-after Portola Valley schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

**OPEN HOUSE**
SAT & SUN 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

100Alamos.com
Listed at $5,788,000

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Pickleball players’ perspectives

By Jim Schott

A number of views were expressed in the March 1, 2024 Almanac article, “Menlo Park council takes up possible pickleball expansion.” Unfortunately, the author did not address the high — and so far, unmet — demand for more pickleball court capacity, nor did it include the perspective of pickleball players.

Highest in importance, is for the city to NOT spend $85,000 on a proposed study, after numerous studies and surveys, while a sound barrier and other essential items are needed,” reflected Menlo Park resident Doug Strauss. The article failed to address why the expansion is problematic — unlike tennis, pickleball is played as a “drop-in” sport where players show up, and join the queue for the next game. Judy Tanita, an active pickleball and tennis player offered that “In contrast, tennis is arranged among friends, two, or four players to agree on a time, or set a reserve system to play on one of the courts.”

Highlighting the need for expansion, more than 700 players have registered with the Nealon Park pickleball group. Play happens on “Court 5” with four undersized nets by more than 1,200 player hours per week based on a September 2023 survey of court use. In contrast, Nealon’s tennis courts were in use 100 player hours per week, per court.

Thi Thumasathit, a 10-year resident of Menlo Park, commented that “the sense of community at Nealon Park is abundant. Nearly everyone knows everyone’s name, shares tips, and is willing to help beginners.” The temporary courts at Nealon Park have been so popular, that during prime hours, they are overflowing with 16 players playing and as many as 12 or more players waiting. Nonetheless, some of the tennis community have acted as entities to their “courts” and yet, the survey reflected that at least one of Nealon’s four tennis courts is empty 90-95% of the time. The results were reinforced by a follow-up survey conducted by the city.

Despite the city’s noise ordinance listing an exemption for athletic activities in city parks, the pickleball community supports steps to address the “noise problem.” Brian Kissel, a resident and Pickleball player has said, “There are a number of solutions to consider, including installation of a noise barrier on the fence, or as a simpler solution, to move the Pickleball court to another court, further from nearby residents.”

Billy Chow, a local player added he is not aware of whether the city has surveyed the noise levels along the perimeter of Nealon Park for noise created by resident dogs, the dog-park, traffic and other park users.

“It is not clear that pickleball is noisier than other activities in Nealon Park but I stand with a majority and support noise-dampening on the fence,” he said.

Discussion of moving the courts raised the concern for Hillview Middle School’s use of Nealon Park.

“No one in the pickleball crowd has suggested that the Hillview Tennis team should be displaced or that their access to courts should be limited,” said Nate Gardner, a Menlo Park resident, who noted that shared use is possible by painting to add two pickleball courts to a tennis court, per U.S. Tennis Association guidelines. Nate observed that unfortunately, Menlo Park has not enforced the 2012 joint-use agreement with Hillview Middle School Tennis for use of two courts with payment of maintenance fees, up to $10,000 for each 10 years of use.

Recent e-mails to the City Council support changes to improve pickleball play at Nealon Park, with sound barriers, permanent court lines, repairs to lights, maintenance on all courts, and outside seating for players while they wait to play. Let’s play, together!

Jon Schott is a Menlo Park resident and pickleball player.

Setting the record straight

The families in the State of California were promised a high-quality, free, and inclusive pre-kindergarten program for all with 4-year-olds, was to add another year of education to public schools. An education system that is already overburdened and under-resourced. In these new transitional kindergarten classrooms are credentialed teachers whose skills and education are desperately needed in the K-8 system, not to teach pre-kindergarten.

Why throw the baby out with the bathwater? I believe the logical step would have been to strengthen and fund the already successful CalHHS licensed Pre-K programs. In doing so, a true mixed-delivery system would have been created. Instead, the licensed pre-kindergarten system is being obliterated and quality programs are shutting their doors as the 4-year-olds head into a public school system not designed for them.

Respectfully, Christine Shreve, director of Holy Cross Preschool in Belmont

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT
500 LAUREL STREET
MENLO PARK, CA 94025

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the District Board of West Bay Sanitary District will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the District’s Board Room located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park and by Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88590473267?pwd=mEvOTkaa561aew9Yg09KuHTLUEbN1 Meeting ID: 885 9040 7326 Passcode: 549236

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider a proposed increase in sewer services charges for fiscal years 2024/2025, 2025/2026 and 2026/2027. Additional information is available through the District’s website at www.westbaysanitary.org and on the official notice that was mailed to every parcel address that pays District rates.

The proposed rates are $1,371 per Single Family Residence for fiscal year 2024/25 (a $65 per year increase), $1,440 for fiscal year 2025/26 (a $69 per year increase), and $1,512 for fiscal year 2026/27 (a $72 per year increase). For customers in the On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone, the proposed rates are $2,337 for fiscal year 2024/2025, $2,454 in fiscal year 2025/2026 (a $117 per year increase), and $2,577 for fiscal year 2026/2027. Additional information is available through the District’s website at www.westbaysanitary.org and on the official notice that was mailed to every parcel address that pays District rates.

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LETTERS

Our readers write

Protests against the proposed rate increase must be submitted in writing by 4:00pm on May 8, 2024, and signed by the property owner, must identify the owner(s) of the property for which the protest is entered, and must include the property address and assessor’s parcel number (APN).

/s/ Sergio Ramirez
Sergio Ramirez
General Manager
For nearly 40 years, El Camino Reelers square dance club has been the heart of Palo Alto’s LGBTQ square dancing community, offering locals the chance to hone their dance skills and forge lasting friendships in a safe, inclusive environment.

The long-running organization, a member of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs, was founded back in 1985, in part as a way to combat discrimination faced by LGBTQ dancers at the time.

“The first LGBTQ square dance clubs in the area were in San Francisco, and those were originally formed because we weren't welcome at the straight clubs,” said caller and teacher Kurt Gollhardt, who’s also the president of the Santa Clara Valley Callers Association. “Clubs had trouble getting straight callers to call for them, too. That was the relationship with gay folks at the time,” he said.

El Camino Reelers — with its logo of an El Camino mission bell against a rainbow squares background — has always prided itself on being open and welcoming to all, free from some of the strict rules that have sometimes been in place elsewhere.

“Our policy has always been, you don’t need to have a partner. Even if we are coupled, we dance with other people every dance,” caller Michael Levy said. “In the straight community, in particular years ago, you came as a couple, you danced as a couple, you didn’t get to dance with other people. When somebody’s spouse died they were almost thrown out.”

“Some clubs literally did that!” Gollhardt added. “Married couples only, and once you were not married, you were asked to leave the club. That’s very sad and amazing from our point of view.”

In square dancing choreography, board secretary Oliver Vogel said, “We have roles. You can dance as a boy or a girl. In our club, it doesn’t matter what you present as. You can dance as a girl — and it’s actually my preferred way — but I can dance as either one, and that also has lots of appeal.”

Especially in the early days, members said, other clubs often insisted on a formal dress code — ladies in petticoats and crinolines for example — which can be cost-prohibitive in addition to uncomfortable in some. El Camino Reelers have always been welcome to dance in whatever feels right for them (although the club does sometimes host fun theme nights).

Attendees who associate the scene with barns and hoedowns may be surprised to learn that the Reelers like to dance to pop tunes, “which also has more appeal to hopefully younger people, and general people as well. I’m not a country western person, so I’m glad I don’t have to endure it while square dancing,” Vogel laughed.

While many mainstream clubs, especially in progressive areas, have evolved with the times and have become more casual and flexible, gay clubs like the El Camino Reelers, Gollhardt said, have always been ahead of the curve.

“Just the general attitude is much more open and friendly and welcoming, we think. It’s those
kinds of aspects that draw people to us even if they're not LGBT,” Levy said.

Square dancing — if your only experience has been your middle school P.E. days and it’s been a while — is a type of traditional social group dance that involves four couples arranged in a square configuration. In most cases, the dancers are cued by a live caller, who calls out the steps along with the music. El Camino Reelers practice what's known as modern western square dancing, which draws upon a shared knowledge of calls and definitions (they follow the programs of Callerlab, the International Association of Square Dance Callers, which are organized into levels). It’s up to each caller to decide on the choreography, with the dancers following along in real time.

Modern square dance is “unlike a line dance or a traditional square dance format, where you learn over and over what are the steps for a particular song,” Gollihardt said. “We don’t have preset steps for a song. Instead we learn a bunch of movements by their names, and we get to react on the fly.” That, dancers said, is part of the fun.

A good caller, Levy said, offers choreography with a good flow, and is a charismatic entertainer, building rapport with the dancers and keeping them engaged.

“They bring that nice balance of, it’s successful for the dancers, they feel like they’re capable but they’re stretched a bit and challenged,” he said.

“And you’ve got to be a good singer! That’s a lot of it too,” Wilson added, noting that Levy calls at events all over the country. As popular callers like Levy build up a reputation and a following, they become in demand on the circuit.

“Dance clubs will bring in guest callers from all over the country,” Levy said. “People will fly in across the country from other clubs.”

Each Reeler has their own story of how they fell under square dancing’s spell.

Gollihardt was living on the East Coast when he started in the early ’90s.

“At the time, the opportunities for activities that were focused on gay people were small,” he recalled. A free trial class in New York City was his introduction. “I completely fell in love with it right off the bat. It had the sort of community aspect where there was no smoking, no drinking, a relaxed environment,” he said. “Over the years, I’ve realized it’s sort of fundamental because we’re dancing cooperatively in a group of eight, so it keeps a group of people who are cooperative people rather than aggressive people. It’s a comfortable environment.”

Vogel, who’s originally from Germany, was first inspired to square dance after seeing his mother enjoy it. Levy, who’s been dancing for 27 years, was invited to try it by someone he met in a leather bar.

“I just could not stop smiling the whole night. The choreography, the flowiness of the dance just brought me a lot of joy. I was hooked really quickly,” he said.

El Camino Reelers board president Michael Golden was living in Kansas City with a housemate who tried for over a year to convince him to give square dancing a shot.

“I thought it was the holiest thing you could possibly do,” he laughed. But eventually he was persuaded to attend a gay square dance convention and soon enough he was a convert, joining his local club.

“They drew me into square dancing just by their own personalities and joining a friendly group of people,” he said.

Wilson’s first exposure was at a pride parade in the late ’90s. A friend who was a square dancer needed someone to haul a caller in a pickup truck, which Wilson happened to have. It became a more integral part of his life after his partner passed away following a long illness in 2000. Wilson recalled talking to a friend over the phone, telling him “how I didn’t know anybody... sort of at a loss,” he said. “I didn’t know what I was doing with my life and he said, ‘Well, why aren’t you square dancing?’ And so I am. I’ve been ever since.”

The Reelers meet to dance most Tuesday evenings at St. Andrew’s United Methodist Church in Palo Alto (depending on who turns up, the difficulty levels of the dances may vary). Annual membership is $50 and attendance at club nights is $10. Multi-week classes in varying levels, with new sessions usually begun annually, are led by callers, with the help of experienced dancers. The club also holds special events from time to time, which draw people from the wider square dance community, and periodic open houses, when people with any experience level can check out what the Reelers are all about.

Attendance at square dancing clubs in general has declined over the past few decades, club members said, and as longtime members reach retirement age and move out of Silicon Valley to more affordable areas, it’s been difficult to keep membership levels up. The COVID-19 pandemic didn’t help matters, although the group kept active and connected by meeting up and dancing over Zoom. The group tries to reach out to potential dancers via social media in addition to good old-fashioned flyers and word of mouth. One of the challenges in recruiting newbies, members said, is that to be proficient, dancers need to commit to learning the moves and terminology.

Unlike some social dance activities, Gollihardt said, modern square dancing doesn’t really work well as an occasional event for folks who aren’t already familiar with the basics. “It’s a cumulative knowledge where you have to learn this set of calls that belong to this particular program,” he said.

Square dancing, Wilson said, “takes a lot of repetition, and a lot of memorizing. If you do it enough to really get to a competent level it’s going to take you a while; it’s going to take you the better part of the year.”

Those who get hooked and are able to put in the time to learn, though, become “a group of people who are really invested in the club, invested in each other. There’s almost an assumption that once you start square dancing, you will continue your square dance dance until you drop,” he said. “Many people do. Many people do it for the rest of their life.”

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

The El Camino Reelers practice modern square dance, in which there aren’t pre-determined steps for a song, so members learn different movements and react as the moves are called.

Spring Family Day

Spring is in the air, and the Palo Alto Art Center is celebrating with its Spring Family Day, an afternoon of family-friendly, food-themed art activities in conjunction with its “In Feast or Famine” exhibition. The schedule includes activities such as DIY recycled produce prints, dish art and a mini pot decorating station; “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” storyline led by a Palo Alto librarian, and an upcycled art project that will become part of a citizen art installation for Earth Day.

March 24, 2-4:30 p.m., Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto, free, cityofpaloalto.org/Events-Directory/Community-Services/Spring-Family-Day.

Jazz@The Guild

The Mid-Peninsula League of the San Francisco Symphony holds a benefit jazz concert that offers the best of two musical worlds. The concert showcases a jazz quartet featuring Scott Pingel on bass, Edward Stephon on timpani and drums, Mike Olmas on trumpet, and Adam Schulman on piano. Pingel and Stephan are both principal players with the San Francisco Symphony, but also have well-honed jazz chops, while Olmas and Schulman are well-known in the Bay Area jazz community. The ensemble performs a program of classical jazz at this event to raise funds for the SF Symphony’s community engagement and education programs. To make the evening that much sweeter, guests can enjoy desserts at intermission.

March 24, 7:30 p.m., at The Guild, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, $75-$200, guildtheatre.com.

‘Stellar Axis: Antarctica’

In 2006, artist Lisa Albuquerque led a team that created a work truly astronomical in scale. Albuquerque and her team journeyed to a spot near the South Pole to create an installation that would track the Earth’s rotation. For the piece, “Stellar Axis: Antarctica,” Albuquerque placed 99 blue spheres in the sky, corresponding to the positions of 99 stars in the Antarctic sky that would slowly trace an invisible spiral as the Earth moved along its orbit, according to a description of the work. The Anderson Collection at Stanford is showing one of the surviving spheres, plus videos and photos from Albuquerque’s time working in Antarctica and a signature painting. Albuquerque herself will be on hand April 24 for a lecture about the piece.

March 27-Aug. 18 at the Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive, Stanford, free, anderson.stanford.edu.
Set against the sought-after backdrop of West Atherton, this bright and refreshed 5-bedroom home rests on a picturesque lot within a peaceful cul-de-sac. Stylishly appointed interiors totaling more than 4,000 square feet provide captivating venues for both entertaining and daily life, and an outstanding use of glass fills the home with natural light and creates an airy, inviting ambiance. A fireplace centers the living room, the spectacular kitchen features two islands, granite slab countertops, and top-of-the-line appliances, and the expansive primary suite enjoys its own fireplace and spa-like bathroom. Step into the gorgeous backyard and experience true California outdoor living, complete with a pool, fire pit, and a winding pathway through stunning landscaping. Plus, this home offers an office, as well as detached guest quarters. This prime location is just minutes away from downtown Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Stanford University, and Sand Hill Road, along with proximity to the area’s top public and private schools (buyer to verify eligibility). The perfect blend of luxury and convenience awaits – welcome home.

**OPEN HOUSE**
SAT & SUN 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
7Odell.com
Offered at $6,988,000

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STYLISHLY UPDATED IN THE WILLOWS

Step into contemporary style and sophistication in this beautifully updated home, ideally situated in the peaceful Willows neighborhood. Follow a brick pathway through vibrant landscaping to discover 1,800 square feet of meticulously designed living space featuring an open floorplan ideal for both entertaining and everyday living. Enjoy luxurious details, lofty ceilings, generous gathering areas, and the chef's kitchen equipped with top-tier appliances. Three bedrooms accommodate family and friends comfortably, with the primary suite opening to the expansive backyard offering patio space, colorful foliage, and two versatile sheds for use as an office, exercise room, and more. As a finishing touch, relish the convenience of being approximately 10 minutes from downtown Menlo Park as well as the offices of Meta, with easy access to Highway 101, and eligibility for esteemed Menlo Park schools (buyer to verify).

OPEN HOUSE FEATURING LIVE MUSIC
SAT & SUN 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

215Haight.com
Listed at $1,988,000

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Listed by the DeLeon Team
Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com | Equal Housing Opportunity
中文咨询服务请联系Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 | 電話: 650.785.5822 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Food & Drink

Five new Asian eateries to explore along the Peninsula

Where to find high-end kaiseki, quick-service dumplings and loaded Korean-style shaved ice

BY EDWINA DUENAS

Sunshine HK Cafe, San Carlos

Sunshine HK Cafe is a new eatery along San Carlos’ Laurel Street paying homage to the comforting flavors of Hong Kong-style cuisine. The cafe previously operated as a ghost kitchen in San Mateo beginning October 2022 and transitioned to a brick-and-mortar space in November 2023. Jane Lau and her brothers, James and Joe, manage the restaurant and have previously worked in accounting and engineering, respectively. Their passion to serve Hong Kong cuisine in the Bay Area led them to start this venture, which they say has been a rewarding journey to provide the community with affordable, convenient and family-friendly meals.

In an email interview, Jane described Hong Kong-style food as having many sauces, flavors and ingredients influenced by the British when the city became a colony of the United Kingdom in 1842. For an introduction to this fusion of flavors, try out the cafe’s top entrees of baked pork chop with cheese and tomato sauce, spaghetti bolognese, garlic and pepper wings and chicken with Portuguese sauce, which are each available as a discounted combo meal due to their popularity. Other offerings include handcrafted beverages of classics such as Hong Kong-style milk tea, yuen yang (a mix of coffee with milk tea) and Hong Kong-style lemon tea.

Sunshine HK Cafe, 635 Laurel St., San Carlos; 650-590-4821, Instagram: @sunshinehkcafe. Open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

Hashiri Bettei Kaiseki Aoki, Saratoga

For a dining experience steeped in tradition and seasonality, visit Hashiri Bettei Kaiseki Aoki in historic downtown Saratoga. Formerly based in Burlingame, the new space opened in December. The restaurant specializes in Japanese kaiseki, a multicourse meal complete with a specific name and cooking method for each dish plus a traditional tea ceremony. Courses can include sakizuke (appetizer), yakimono (grilled course), mushimono (steamed fish and mizukashi dessert), to name a few. Recent course offerings have included Hokkaido wagyu A5 tenderloin (yakimono), live lobster with Bafun uni (mushimono) and persimmon with shine muscat (mizukashi).

Chef-owner Shinichi Aoki is at the helm of the restaurant, and his partner Yuko Nammo specializes in the tea ceremony. Unlike omakase, where the multi-course menu is selected by the chef, seasonal ingredients inform the menu of kaiseki, which the restaurant sources locally to infuse with diverse flavors. Another essential element of Hashiri Bettei Kaiseki Aoki’s service is presentation, and the owners have built a growing collection of fine plates to deliver each course. The aesthetic of the intimate restaurant is key to the dining experience; according to the restaurant’s website, the space is “designed to allow dishes to remain the focal point of the experience (and) our space represents the endless potential for an intimate dining experience.” The restaurant is open for dinner seatings of their kaiseki tasting menu, with reservations available through Tock.

Hashiri Bettei Kaiseki Aoki, 14417 Big Basin Way, Saratoga; 650-885-1242, Instagram: @aoki_kaiseki.aoki. Open Wednesday through Sunday for 6:30 p.m. seating.

Dainty Cuisine, Cupertino

Open since December, Dainty Cuisine is an eatery in 99 Ranch’s Eat Up! Food Court that serves Northeastern Chinese family-style food with a focus on value. Notable features of this style of cuisine includes preserved foods and hearty ingredients due to the short growing season and harsh winters in the region.

Chef Duan, who asked to keep his first name private, brings the menu to life at Dainty Cuisine. Master trained in China, Duan has over 40 years of experience in China, Russia and the United States. He and his wife fell in love with the entrepreneurial spirit of the Bay Area after moving here six years ago and teamed up with the proprietors of Dainty Cuisine to pursue their American dream.

A few popular dishes include beef wraps, beef/pork/chicken cheese pancakes, Chinese leek pockets and a variety of dumplings (which are a staple Northeastern Chinese food). These dishes can be ordered a la carte or as part of value combo meals, with the special three-item combo priced at $10.99 and four-item combo priced at $12.99. Sides of congee (Chinese rice porridge) and pickled vegetables round out the meals.

Dainty Cuisine, 10445 S. De Anza Blvd., Suite 106, Cupertino; 408-564-4409. Open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Snowtime Dessert Cafe, Campbell

Snowtime Dessert Cafe in Campbell offers bingsu (above), soft serve ice cream, taiyaki mochi waffle cones, boba tea and coffee.

Open since December, Snowtime Dessert Cafe in Campbell offers a wide menu of traditional entrees and even some fusion options. The restaurant had its soft opening Feb. 12 and is currently open for dine-in only, with plans to offer takeout in the future.

Staff recommend the kalguksu, a traditional noodle soup with knife-cut wheat flour noodles served in a large bowl with broth and other ingredients. Ondam offers six kalguksu variations, such as chicken, seafood, and algoni (fish roe). A popular appetizer has been the mini cheese teok sticks, which pack a sweet and salty bite thanks to American cheese, mozzarella rice cakes and a light drizzle of condensed milk. The menu includes shareable dishes such as gaji short ribs, fried chicken platters, jeongol (Korean-style hot pot) and kimchi fried rice served on a sizzling plate with egg poured to cook on the outer perimeter. For an American-inspired meal, the restaurant serves up a prime gabi burger with fries.

Ondam, 2450 El Camino Real, Santa Clara; 408-747-9003. Open daily from 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

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