

# The Almanac

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## Shiny shoes, fancy frocks

Menlo-Atherton High PTA hosts first prom closet and boutique

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Prom is a hallmark event for many high schoolers, a night to get dressed up in gowns, suits, glamorous makeup and shiny shoes — but attending can be expensive. That's why the PTA is stepping in to help at one local school.

On April 4, the Menlo-Atherton High School PTA hosted its first "Diamond and King M-A Prom Closet and Boutique," a program that supports economically disadvantaged students access to free prom attire.

The PTA expanded the prom closet from an existing program created in 2015 by Adrian

Perkins-Sledge, an M-A alumna who is now a data information specialist at the school. Perkins-Sledge started the school's cosmetology club. Students in the club collected dresses and did hair and makeup for their peers on the day of prom.

She noticed however, that "some of the students that were serving and helping out were also the students who would benefit from the opportunity as well."

This year, in partnership with the school's PTA, the prom closet has grown into a bigger project. With donations from the community and local retailers,

See **PROM**, page 20



Natalia Nazarova

M-A alumna and employee Adrian Perkins-Sledge initiated free prom attire events back in 2015. Now, she had many volunteers assisting her at Menlo-Atherton High School during the event on April 4.

## First candidate throws his hat in the ring for upcoming Menlo Park council race

By Eleanor Raab

Jeff Schmidt, vice chair of the Menlo Park Environmental Quality Commission, is running for Menlo Park City Council's District 3 seat, which is on the November ballot, he told The Almanac on April 3. Schmidt, who is the first candidate to announce their candidacy for the upcoming council race, said he's running on a platform of community building, bolstering climate policy and youth engagement.

His announcement comes in the wake of District 3 incumbent Jen Wolosin's recent decision to not run for reelection in November. Maria Doerr's District 5 seat will also be on the ballot, though Doerr hasn't announced if she will seek reelection.

District 3 includes the section

of Menlo Park between Palo Alto and Atherton. It includes the Caltrain station, the Civic Center, and the neighborhoods of Felton Gables, Linfield Oaks, Vintage Oaks and parts of Menlo Oaks.

Schmidt said that he thinks the role of a City Council member is "really to be the individual who shares the viewpoints of their district," he said.

"Anyone who focuses on just one issue won't be an effective council member," he said.

### Schmidt's background

Originally from Texas, Schmidt moved to Menlo Park four and a half years ago with his family. He resides in the

Menlo Oaks neighborhood. He works as the senior director of strategy and communications for Stanford University's Student Affairs Division.

He joined the Environmental Quality Commission in April 2022. He co-founded a local speaker series called Green, Blue, and You, which aims to engage the community on environmental topics.

He serves on the steering committee for the Environmental and Climate Change Literacy Projects, which aims to increase understanding of environmental topics in school-age children. He is also a member of the Menlo Park climate outreach team at 350 Silicon Valley, a local climate policy group.

### Policy priorities

Schmidt's first priority, if elected, would be building

community. He said he would help do that by championing "balanced, reasonable and affordable housing development," moving forward with the Caltrain quiet zone project and continuing to invest in safe street projects.

When asked about his thoughts on the proposed builder's remedy project at the former Sunset Magazine headquarters site, Schmidt said, "Since there's no formal application yet, it's hard to tell what's real, but like many residents, I'm going to keep a very close eye on it. In the meantime, our residents, students, city staff, school leaders, and nonprofits are leading lots of other amazing work every day to improve Menlo Park and that needs our energy and attention."

"My kids came up through (the) Menlo Park City School

District and they are at Menlo-Atherton (High School) now. Safe streets and making sure that the routes to school are safe for everybody who is driving, biking and walking is really important," he said.

Schmidt would also continue to prioritize combating climate change.

"Think about extreme heat, storms, power outages and wildfires. There are a lot of things we need to do to be ready for that," he said. "A lot's already going on, but there's a lot more to do."

As a council member, he would want to make environmental policy choices that would help slow carbon emissions "easier, faster and more affordable" for all residents.

His third concern is assisting

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# Local News

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## San Mateo County sheriff sued for alleged retaliation

By Neil Gonzales

A former San Mateo County sheriff's deputy has filed a lawsuit against Sheriff Christina Corpus, alleging that she retaliated against him in connection with a political endorsement she did not receive.

In his suit, David Wozniak alleged that a few months after he got promoted to acting sergeant, he was demoted in retaliation for Corpus not getting the backing from a political action committee he oversaw when she was running for sheriff in 2022.

Wozniak filed the suit on March 19 in San Mateo County Superior Court. The suit also named Corpus' chief of staff, Victor Aenlle, as a defendant.

Sheriff's Office spokesperson Gretchen Spiker dismissed the allegations in a statement emailed to this publication on Thursday, April 4.

"The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office has not yet been served in any lawsuit by former employee David Wozniak," Spiker said. "The Sheriff's Office has received a copy of a complaint and, in light of this, will vigorously defend itself from these false claims."

She added: "The Sheriff's Office wants to emphasize that an acting position is a temporary, out-of-class assignment with no



San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus

Sue Dreemann

guarantee of a promotion. This sheriff has consistently demonstrated her commitment to fairness, and people who display strong leadership skills and a desire for professional growth are promoted."

The Sheriff's Office declined further comment, citing pending litigation.

Wozniak had worked for the Sheriff's Office for 28 years in various capacities from correctional officer to acting sergeant, the suit said. For more than 15 years, he also served as president of the San Mateo County Deputy Sheriff's Association, the union for local deputies and

correctional officers.

At the time of the sheriff's election that pitted Corpus against incumbent Carlos Bolanos, Wozniak organized a PAC — which had been in place for more than 10 years — as part of his union leadership role, according to the lawsuit.

According to the lawsuit, the PAC sent questionnaires to Corpus and Bolanos to ascertain which candidate's platform aligned with the union's interests. As union president, Wozniak chose the questions.

While Bolanos answered the

See **SHERIFF**, page 17



Courtesy San Mateo County Libraries

## Eclipse shadows at the library

Locals gathered at San Mateo County libraries on Monday morning, April 8, to catch a glimpse of the solar eclipse, which was partially visible in the Bay Area. Above, shadows from the eclipse are seen in the San Carlos Library's rotunda.

San Mateo County Libraries gave out over 15,000 eclipse glasses to community members, according to library system Communications Specialist Kailey Fiscaro in an email. The library also provided glasses to local schools.

## M-A student arrest lawsuit adds Sequoia Union, vice principal to amended complaint

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

A federal lawsuit involving the arrest of a Menlo Atherton High School student now names two additional defendants after an amendment to the suit was filed earlier this week. The amended suit, filed April 1, now includes Sequoia Union High School District and M-A Administrative Vice Principal Nick Muys in addition to the town of Atherton, Atherton police officers and district wellness programs coordinator Stephen Emmi.

Filed by civil rights attorney John Burris and Christopher Dean from Oakland-based law firm Burris Nisenbaum

Curry & Lacy in partnership with special education attorneys Evan Goldsen and Carly Christopher, co-founders of the Special Education Collaboration Project, the suit alleges the excessive force and unreasonable arrest of two Menlo-Atherton High School students in April 2023.

The amended complaint restates the incident that reportedly occurred on April 28, 2023, involving the forceful arrest and detainment of two 16-year-old Black M-A students who the suit refers to as K.C. and D.B.

K.C. is named as a student of M-A's Successful Transition Achieved with Responsive Support program, which

provides special education students with academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support.

This is the first time that Burris has filed a lawsuit in collaboration with another law firm, said Dan Molieri, a retired police officer and lead investigator for Burris.

"Partnering with John on this case is really necessary," said Goldsen, who finds Burris's experience in discrimination and civil rights lawsuits essential to the case.

According to the lawsuit, the April incident began when K.C. asked the school office for his water toy that was confiscated earlier in the day. The toy was used for a game being played by

him and other students called "Senior Assassin." Despite his peers being able to retrieve their confiscated items, K.C. was singled out and denied, the suit says.

According to the suit, after refusing to return the toy, Emmi began to speak to K.C. in a demeaning manner which escalated the situation leading for Muys to intervene. While in emotional distress, K.C. asked both Emmi and Muys if they could talk elsewhere and both administrators denied his request and ordered him to leave the office, the suit says.

During the escalation, a school secretary allegedly called the police on the student and this eventually led to his

arrest at a bus stop outside of the school.

The case states that M-A staff failed to call in a special education teacher to deescalate the scene, despite the staff acknowledging that he was a "mental health student" who was "easily triggered."

The suit alleges that SUHSD, as a district that receives federal financial assistance, "discriminated against minor K.C. by failing to provide an appropriate education," violating his rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 — which prohibits discriminatory acts by organizations under federal funds.

See **STUDENT ARREST**, page 8



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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Weekend Caltrain service suspended in Menlo Park for two weekends

Weekend Caltrain service will be suspended in Menlo Park April 13-14 and April 20-21 while the rail service readies its 23 new electric trains that will replace 40-year-old diesel train sets in September, according to an April 8 city of Menlo Park press release. The trains will need to be tested for 1,000 miles before they're ready for passengers, according to Caltrain.

As part of the weekend service suspension, morning trains will be replaced by buses between San Francisco and Mountain View. There won't be replacement buses at the Menlo Park station, so riders are advised to take SamTrans to the Palo Alto or Redwood City stations and transfer to the replacement buses.

With electrification, there will be more weekday trains during peak hours, shorter travel times, and less pollution and noise from trains, according to Caltrain.

Caltrain will also host a tour of its electric trains on Saturday, May 11, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the San Carlos Caltrain station, 599 El Camino Real. In addition to the tour of the trains, there will be food trucks, games and a photo booth. More information is available at [caltrain.com](https://caltrain.com).

### Love Our Earth Festival on April 13 in East Palo Alto

Menlo Park and East Palo Alto will host a joint Love Our Earth Festival on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Bloomhouse, 2555 Pulgas Ave. in East Palo Alto. There will be a plant-based market, along with arts and crafts activities and story times for children.

The event will include a home electrification showcase where you can learn why and how to choose induction stoves, heat pump water and home heaters, electric clothes dryers, solar panels and battery storage. Homeowners who've already made the switch to electric home appliances will be around to chat with attendees.

There will also be an electric vehicle showcase with new and used EVs, electric motorcycles, e-bikes and manual bikes.

East Palo Alto and Menlo Park are cosponsoring the event with Peninsula Clean Energy, 350 Silicon Valley, Acterra and Menlo Spark.

Admission is free. Register at [tinyurl.com/LOE2024](https://tinyurl.com/LOE2024).

### Vouchers for electric landscaping equipment in Menlo Park

Menlo Park is now offering vouchers to eligible residents and businesses purchase electric landscaping equipment as the city readies for a ban of gas-powered landscaping equipment, which starts in July.

Gardening businesses are eligible for up to \$1,000 in vouchers and residents can save up to \$250.

Vouchers are redeemable toward the purchase of electric leaf blowers, hedge trimmers, chainsaws, lawnmowers and more.

For more information, go to [tinyurl.com/menloparkgardenvoucher](https://tinyurl.com/menloparkgardenvoucher).

### Menlo Park Safe Routes to School poster and video contest open

The Menlo Park Safe Routes to School Program is holding its third annual poster and video contest. Students who submit a piece of artwork or video for a chance to win prizes from local businesses (gift certificates to Kepler's Books, Sports Basement and Coldstone Creamery), according to a city press release.

Children can team up with friends or siblings to create their posters. The artwork should reflect school travel themes such as different transportation modes families use to commute to school or what they enjoy most of their travel to school.

The video challenge is open to middle and high school students. The theme is biking safety and bike etiquette.

Examples of past posters and videos from the 2023 winners are posted on the SRTS website.

Students have until May 31 to submit their posters or videos here. For more information, go to [tinyurl.com/SRTScontest2024](https://tinyurl.com/SRTScontest2024).

### Submissions open for Menlo Park's Youth Poetry Voices contest

The city of Menlo Park and the Menlo Park Library Foundation are hosting their annual Menlo Park Youth Poetry Voices contest and exhibition for aspiring poets in grades 1-12.

All poets will have a chance to share their work at a

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 17

# Atherton Police say DNA evidence led to burglary arrests

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The Atherton Police Department hosted a community meeting on March 28 to present residents with a deeper look into the department's work in the recent string of burglaries reported in the beginning of the year. Police also announced that officers found traces of blood after a burglar cut themselves while ripping down shelves during a break-in in town, which led to several arrests.

"We have one of the lowest crime rates in the state of California and probably across the state," said Atherton Police Chief Steve McCulley.

This year, the town has reported a total of 12 burglaries since Jan. 1. McCulley explained that burglaries are one of the most common property crimes and are a "very frustrating crime to investigate."

The meeting overviewed the department's new Burglary Prevention Bait House Program, tactics on catching burglars, a resident volunteer program, burglary prevention, automatic license plate readers and its drone program.



Courtesy Atherton Police Department

The aftermath of a burglary in an Atherton resident's bedroom closet.

## Bait house program gains attention

According to McCulley, the bait house program was inspired by a similar tactic used in Texas. As of March 28, 50 residents have expressed interest in getting involved. Residents that volunteer in the program will have decoy devices installed in their homes, which can include GPS trackers placed in luxury purses or other valuable items.

When one of these homes

is burglarized, officers will be immediately alerted to check the home and will be able to track the burglars after they've left the scene. Police have asked media to publicize the program in hopes that burglars will steer clear of Atherton knowing that they could be caught through a decoy device.

"When the burglars come, they're not going to know that this GPS tracker is there and once they take that property, we

will be notified of it and be able to track that property's whereabouts," explained Cmdr. Dan Larsen.

## Burglars identified in break-in

During the meeting, Detective Sgt. Jeff Taylor said police found traces of blood after a burglar cut themselves while ripping down shelves during a break-in. The blood sample was used to successfully identify the suspects who are in custody in San Diego County.

"The suspects were charged for numerous burglaries down there (San Diego), our burglary up here (Atherton) and a few other crimes against persons," Taylor said.

He clarified that although it was a great win for them, cases where DNA and blood are found in a burglary are extremely rare.

The department is also utilizing their ALPR cameras and drones to identify and track suspects.

With ALPR cameras being used by many law enforcement agencies in the county, McCulley says that they have been helpful in tracking suspect vehicles as they travel through different cities.

If a crime is reported in South San Francisco, cameras can follow the suspect as they get closer to Atherton and officers are alerted on their whereabouts and are ready to apprehend them.

## MO's and burglary prevention tactics

Atherton police report that burglars aim to break into houses by smashing first floor and second floor balcony windows and doors. They look for households with minimal exterior or interior lighting and houses without activated alarms. Burglars target safes, jewelry, purses, wallets and cash.

McCulley adds that burglars are coming into town in cars that fit into the neighborhood.

Atherton police are offering a service called Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design for residents to get an evaluation of their home and how they can improve their security.

Sgt. Taylor encouraged residents to add outdoor motion sensor lights, surveillance cameras and window security film to reinforce glass. He also states that burglars are aware that safes

See **BURGLARIES**, page 13

# Richard Vaughan, Hillview teacher, musical director for 23 years, to retire

By Joshua Picazo

When Richard Vaughan, who was a teacher and was the musical director at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park for 23 years, reflects on his career, he recalls the many trips he and his students went on.

"Going on the field with my daughters who went to Hillview, for the (San Francisco) Giants and doing the national anthem with the Giants with them was wonderful," Vaughan said, who is retiring at the end of the school year. "Going to Disneyland with them was also fun!"

Vaughan, who grew up in Portola Valley, was first hired by Hillview Middle School in 2001.

Under his leadership and with a constant push, the school built a new performance space that can be used for multiple purposes, but what excites him the most about the space is the ability to hold concerts in it.

"When they rebuilt Hillview, there were people who were going, 'we need another gym,'" he said. "And I made a pretty concerted effort to say 'no, we need a performance space, but



Courtesy Linda Sako

Richard Vaughan leading the Hillview band outside of Kepler's in Menlo Park in 2002.

one that's flexible."

The space can now be used on rainy days, for science fairs, dances, theater and for concerts.

"One of the nice things that we are doing in these shows is that we incorporate the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Everyone's doing SpongeBob right now and it's pretty cool," Vaughan added.

When asked about his favorite instrument, Vaughan quickly replied "cello," adding that he had originally wanted to be part of an orchestra.

"I was a cellist before I was

ever a teacher," he said. "If you had told me when I was 25 that I was going to be a music director, I would have laughed."

But the fulfillment he gets from teaching students about the arts and music is not lost on him.

Vaughan thinks about how he has guided students and their musical experiences which he hopes will follow them for the rest of their lives, beyond class.

Other memories he reflects on during his tenure include

See **VAUGHAN**, page 13



## PUBLIC NOTICE FIVE-YEAR REVIEW INSTALLATION RESTORATION SITES 26 AND 28 FORMER NAVAL AIR STATION MOFFETT FIELD MOFFETT FIELD, CALIFORNIA March 2024



The United States Department of the Navy (Navy) is currently conducting the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Five-Year Review for Installation Restoration Sites 26 and 28 at Former Naval Air Station (NAS) Moffett Field, California. Former NAS Moffett Field is located 35 miles south of San Francisco and 10 miles north of San Jose. The Navy is conducting the Five-Year Review in accordance with the requirements of CERCLA Section 121(c). The Five-Year Review will evaluate and document whether each remedy's performance remains protective of human health and the environment, and will make recommendations for improvements if the remedy is not performing as designed.

The Navy plans to issue a Draft Five-Year Review Report of findings to the United States Environmental Protection Agency and California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region for review. The Navy will issue another Public Notice announcing the completion of the Five-Year Review, which is anticipated to occur in February 2025. Questions or comments on the preparation of this CERCLA Five-Year Review or other Navy environmental activities at the Former NAS Moffett Field may be directed to:

### Christopher Yantos

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC)  
Base Realignment and Closure Environmental Coordinator  
33000 Nixie Way, Building 50, Suite 207  
San Diego, CA 92147 (619) 524-4603  
christopher.yantos.civ@navy.mil

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional information and key documents for sites at the Former NAS Moffett Field are available at [www.bracpmo.navy.mil](http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil) and at the locations listed below.

#### Information Repository

Mountain View Public Library  
585 Franklin Street  
Mountain View, CA 94041  
(650) 903-6887

#### Administrative Record

Contact: Ms. Diane Silva  
NAVFAC Southwest  
Naval Base San Diego  
2965 Mole Road, Bldg. 3519  
San Diego, CA 92136-5696  
(619) 556-1280

# Last-minute recount requests pending in Silicon Valley congressional race

By Jana Kadah / San José Spotlight

Two recount requests are pending for the highly anticipated race to replace Rep. Anna Eshoo's Silicon Valley congressional seat — potentially changing who advances to the November runoff.

County election officials have confirmed Jonathan Padilla, a former finance director for Sam Liccardo's San Jose mayoral campaign, and Dan Stegink, a former San Mateo County supervisor candidate, have each requested Santa Clara and

San Mateo counties conduct a recount for the Congressional District 16 race.

Steve Goltiao, spokesperson for the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters, said county counsel is exploring whether the request is valid. In order for it to qualify and the recount to begin, requesters must be California registered voters and identify which candidate it was requested for.

"(Requesting for a candidate) means if the recount finds changes in favor of that candidate, then the requester would not have to pay for the recount," Goltiao told San José Spotlight.

It doesn't inherently mean the requester coordinated with the candidate or the campaign, Goltiao said. It just means if the election result changes for the candidate the recount was requested for, then the requester does not have to pay for the recount.

Both Goltiao and San Mateo County Assistant Chief Elections Officer Jim Irizarry did not share who Padilla or Stegink requested recounts for.

"We just got (recount

requests) within 24 hours of one in just several minutes from the other," Irizarry told San José Spotlight. "So we are in the process of reviewing the applications as to the form and format of the request."

The closely-watched congressional primary wrapped up in an extraordinary matter with three candidates advancing to the general election because two tied for second place. Assemblymember Evan Low and Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian tied for second, each with 30,249 votes or 16.6%. The two have seasawed between razor-thin margins for weeks, vying to join former San Jose Mayor Liccardo, who secured the top spot with 38,489 votes or 22.13%.

But in a primary race with 182,135 votes split between 11 candidates, some argue it's possible at least one ballot was miscounted — and there only needs to be one miscounted ballot between Low or Simitian to change the race.

Those who request a recount must also identify whether

they want ballots reticulated by machine or by hand. Manual recounts tend to be more accurate and can change results because teams of four work together to ensure accuracy and transparency, allowing for team members to check each other's work and to make sure no single person is making the decision of how to count ballots. However, they are more expensive than electronic recounts.

Goltiao said it would take approximately 10 days to tally votes by hand, at an estimated cost of \$32,000 per day for a total of \$320,000. If the requester asks for a machine recount, it would take about five days to rescan all ballots at an estimated cost of \$16,840 per day for a total of \$84,200. For San Mateo County, which accounts for 18% of the district, a manual recount would cost roughly \$85,000.

Low and Simitian previously said they won't ask for a recount, but Liccardo's team has been silent. Some politicians believe Liccardo's team was exploring a recount after a mysterious poll circulated the

district over the weekend asking residents who they would vote for if the election was held today, according to screenshots obtained by San José Spotlight. It also asks residents who they would vote for if Liccardo ran only against Low or Simitian.


"According to the Santa Clara County Registrar, more than 100 ballots were not included in the 'final' tally because voter signatures could not be verified before certification among a variety of other issues," a spokesperson for Liccardo's campaign told San José Spotlight. "We understand why, under these extraordinary circumstances, there would be an effort to make sure these votes are fully considered."

A campaign spokesperson for Low doesn't see the potential recount the same way.

"This is a page right out of Trump's political playbook using dirty tricks to attack democracy and subvert the will of the voters," Low's campaign spokesperson told San José Spotlight. "Sam Liccardo, who does not live in the district, did not file a recount himself. Instead, he had his former staffer do it for him. What's he afraid of?"

Simitian's campaign did not respond to request for comment. ■

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## Menlo Park Quarterly Market Report

January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024



TOP 10 SALES*			
1. \$8,501,000 2315 Crest Lane	2. \$8,286,525 2308 Loma Prieta Lane	3. \$7,195,000 922 OLIVE Street	4. \$6,675,000 531 Grace Drive
5. \$6,398,000 1165 Hillview Drive	6. \$6,000,000 120 Royal Oaks Court	7. \$5,700,000 2158 Clayton Drive	8. \$5,660,000 1221 Hobart Street
9. \$5,350,000 20 Elmwood Place	10. \$4,990,000 145 Glorie Circle		

<b>ACTIVE LISTING</b> Q1 24: 126 Q1 23: 99 ↑ 27%	<b>AVERAGE SALES PRICE</b> Q1 24: \$3,022,102 Q1 23: \$3,500,000 ↓ -14%	<b>AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ FT</b> Q1 24: \$1,418 Q1 23: \$1,498 ↓ -5%
<b>PENDING LISTING</b> Q1 24: 82 Q1 23: 68 ↑ 21%	<b>AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET</b> Q1 24: 34 Q1 23: 28 ↑ 21%	<b>MONTHS OF INVENTORY</b> Q1 24: 1.10 Q1 23: 1.30 ↓ -15%
<b>SOLD LISTING</b> Q1 24: 71 Q1 23: 58 ↑ 22%	<b>SALE/LIST PRICE</b> Q1 24: 101.90% Q1 23: 98.40% ↑ 4%	<b>30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE</b> Q1 24: 7.01% Q1 23: 6.48% ↑ 8%

\*Q1 of 2024 compared to Q1 of 2023. Source: MLS Listings for Single Family Properties | Townhomes | Condos

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### STUDENT ARREST

continued from page 5

"The kid has been deprived of an education for his entire education," said Paula Canny, defense attorney working alongside Burris and Goldsen. "Everything is going to be brought to light how [K.C.], a young man of color, has basically been denied educational opportunities by the school district."

The lawsuit alleges that the district "acted with deliberate indifference to K.C.'s rights ... by knowingly failing to provide K.C. the supports and services he required to benefit from his education."

K.C.'s confidential school records, protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, were also released to the Atherton Police Department, according to the suit. The records were not allowed to be disclosed by the district without a court order or parental consent, it says.

"This case is really going to enlighten a lot of people in California as to the treatment of students with disabilities and students with disabilities of color," Goldsen said. "I think the public will have a better view of what is lacking from the public school system and

how that is directly harming students of color and students of color with disabilities."

The school district did not provide an immediate statement and Muys declined to comment on the lawsuit.

"I hope [this case] means that the district will seek to provide alternative needs to a disabled kid instead of automatically calling the police," said Burris. "The police is not the best answer when it comes to these kind of issues. If they had called a special education teacher none of this would have happened."

Attorneys on the case say they have obtained all video footage and evidence of the events that took place on April 28.

"If this was a white kid, this wouldn't have happened," Canny said. "What I think the videos are going to show is that children of color and special needs students haven't been legally treated by the district."

K.C. will be enrolled in a new school on April 15, after being homeschooled since the incident and D.B is still a student at Menlo-Atherton, according to Molieri. ■

Email Staff Writer  
 Jennifer Yoshikoshi at  
 jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.



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## Over 3,000 cans of food collected for Menlo Senior Center

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Every February, members of Burgess Pool's Menlo Masters participate in the "Can Do Challenge," an annual event to encourage swimmers to kick off the year with a strong swimming record while also giving back to the community.

For every 2,000 yards swam by each swimmer, one can of food is donated to the Menlo Senior Center's lunch program. Participants of the Can Do Challenge are responsible for collecting the cans after the challenge and adding them to a pile in the pool lobby.

The Menlo Masters are led by Tim Sheeper, swim coach and operator of Menlo Park's Burgess Pool and Palo Alto's Rinconada Pool.

Swimmers in Menlo Masters are a diverse group, with ages ranging from 19 to 90-years-old and experience levels from

ex-Olympic swimmers, college water polo players and those simply swimming for fun.

"It's become a little competition within the team and so every year you just don't know who is going to really devote themselves to spending a lot of time in the water," said Sheeper.

The Can Do Challenge has been an annual tradition since the early '90s. This year, a total of 115 swimmers participated in the challenge and a total of 6,669,891 yards were swam. The team was able to collect and donate 3,344 cans.

"I came over to Menlo Park and just wanted to carry on some sort of community service tradition," said Sheeper. "[The Can Do Challenge has become this legacy annual event that our team really looks forward to."

This February, 75-year-old Tony Spencer placed first in the challenge, swimming 278,150 yards over 25 days. He started swimming under Menlo Masters

in 2010 when training for a triathlon and since then completed an Ironman and was in the top three of the Can Do Challenge in 2023. He was determined to place higher this year.

"The thing I love about Masters Swim at Burgess is Tim Sheeper as the coach and the people who swim in my lane. It's a fun group and Tim is an incredible coach and athlete," Spencer said.

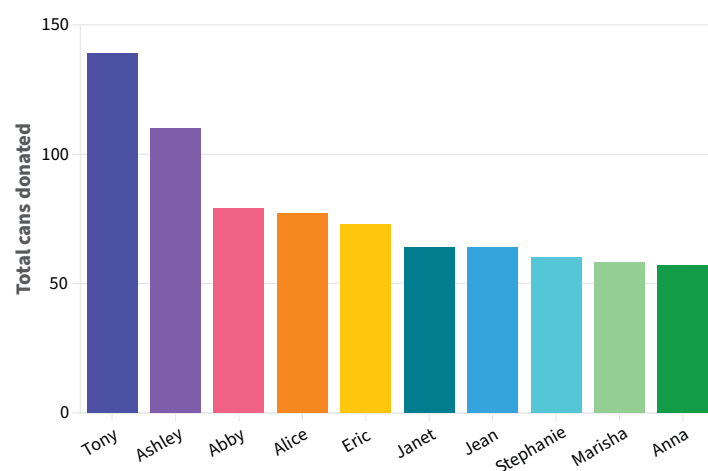
Jeff Starr, who has been swimming with Sheeper for over 20 years, recorded 53,125 yards for the challenge this year. He says Sheeper is a "very underappreciated asset to our community."

As a recreational swimmer, Spencer dedicated four to six hours of swimming at a time. He said his wife was his biggest supporter, bringing him pizza for a mid-swim snack while he worked on reaching his initial goal of 200,000 yards — which he successfully exceeded.

Spencer was recently diagnosed

### Can Do Challenge: 2024 Top 10 finishers

For every 2,000 yards a participant swims, one can of food is donated to the Menlo Senior Center's lunch program



Source: Menlo Masters • Graphic by Zoe Morgan.

with prostate cancer and is getting treatment. However, his diagnosis won't keep him from his joy for swimming.

"I'm gonna keep swimming there for as long as I'm upright," said Spencer, who plans to keep up his strength while undergoing treatment.

Sheeper has created a

welcoming space in the Menlo Masters swim group where experience doesn't matter. The swimmers on the team appreciate his coaching methods, philanthropy and look up to him as an athlete. ■

Email Staff Writer  
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## Menlo Park greenlights program to electrify Belle Haven homes

By Neil Gonzales

Menlo Park is moving forward with state money for a home-electrification program focused on the Belle Haven neighborhood.

During its April 2 meeting, the City Council unanimously greenlighted forging an agreement with local power provider Peninsula Clean Energy to launch

the program using \$2.2 million of a \$4.5 million state grant awarded to Menlo Park in 2022.

At no cost to homeowners, the program would electrify homes by replacing gas water heaters and stovetops with electric alternatives like induction stovetops. It would also provide other energy-efficient measures, minor home repairs and electrical work such as installing new circuits.

The program could begin in late May and would target up to 60 low-income homes in Belle Haven with the \$2.2 million from the state, according to a presentation by city staff. But as part of the effort, PCE's Home Upgrade program would serve about 40 other qualifying properties elsewhere in the city.

"Once the state funds have been spent, then PCE funds would be

used to continue to do projects within the Belle Haven neighborhood," city management analyst Ori Paz said during the meeting.

The city received the grant from the California Energy Commission after Menlo Spark, a local nonprofit that advances sustainability issues, sought funds from the office of state Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, for electrification upgrades benefiting Belle Haven residences.

"This has been a long time coming," Menlo Spark Executive Director Brian Schmidt said, addressing the council. "It's great that we're starting very soon. We might be able to actually get installations in time to help people for the summer heat and get some climate resilience this summer out of this project, which is really exciting."

The program aligns with the council making climate action a priority for fiscal year 2024-25, city staff said. The program is also in keeping with the city's Climate Action Plan, which provides a roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and calls for Menlo Park to electrify 95% of existing buildings by then.

Once the city submits a progress report of the home-electrification program, staff said, the state would send the rest of the funds. However, Menlo Park has to spend the full \$4.5 million by June 30, 2026, or return any remaining amount to the state.

"So I'm, as everyone else is, very excited about this program," Council member Betsy Nash said

before she and her colleagues voted to proceed with the project. "I think the biggest thing that we need to do at this point is get it off the ground and get moving."

Although council members ultimately supported going ahead with the program, they did bring up some concerns, including the suggestion for a \$100,000 workforce-development offering related to home electrification.

Adding workforce development could take away resources from the main program, Council member Jen Wolosin said before the vote. "I think we have to be stewards of our staff's time and our other priorities and making sure we don't take on too much."

The council decided to hold off on workforce development for now but expressed willingness to revisit it down the line.

The council also raised an issue with the fact that the program would not reach the large rental community in Belle Haven.

"My concern is that, since the Belle Haven neighborhood is majority renters — roughly 70% — that are facing increased utilities costs like everyone else, that's not the population that's going to be served by this electrification," Mayor Cecilia Taylor said.

Responding to the council, PCE manager Alejandra Posada acknowledged that the program is aimed at homeowners and does not have plans at this time to incorporate rental units.

Among the reasons why that's

See **BELLE HAVEN**, page 20

### OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

**Larry P. O'Neill**, 89, a Menlo Park resident, who was director of golf at the Stanford University Golf Course, a Navy Veteran, and known for his remarkable storytelling abilities, weaving captivating tales that held his listeners spellbound, and for his "never give up" attitude, on March 10, 2024.

**Susie Perkins**, 78, a Mountain View resident, who was a medical technician who cloned blood cells at Stanford Medical Center and worked on publications that were at the forefront of monoclonal antibody research, who loved jigsaw puzzles and ballet, who was a prolific cookie baker known for doing Tai Chi in goofy cow slippers, and who loved singing quirky lyrics for birthdays and special occasions, on March 9, 2024.

**Barbara Jackson**, 82, a Palo Alto resident since

1968, who earned a master's degree in language education from Stanford, who taught for the Palo Alto Unified School District's Adult School and Spanish at Sequoia High School, specializing in English as a second language courses, and who was a proud mom and nurturing friend, on March 27, 2024.

**Patricia McEwen**, 100, a native Californian and former longtime resident of Palo Alto, who formerly owned Felix, a giant tortoise who eventually escaped and made a new life for himself at the fire station on Embarcadero Road, who played Snow White in the Palo Alto Children's Theatre's first production in 1932 and eventually served on the organization's board, who earned a bachelor's degree from Stanford University, a member of the Palo Alto Historical Association, who was an avid reader and researcher, on March 16, 2024.

**Lambert Dolphin Jr.**, 91, who worked at SRI International (formerly Stanford Research Institute) in Menlo Park for almost 30 years, who was voted "Most likely to succeed" in high school, who studied physics and electrical engineering in graduate school at Stanford University, and who was a member of Peninsula Bible Church in Palo Alto, on Jan. 1, 2024.

**Rosie Cole**, 87, a former Menlo Park resident, who graduated from Stanford University, who was involved with Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. for many years, who was a former Wells Fargo Bank employee, who was a skilled seamstress, a talented craft maker, gift wrapper, home decorator, cook, and gardener, and ballroom dance teacher, on Dec. 29, 2023.

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



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**Castilleja.org/SummerCamp** **(650) 470-7833**

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## ATHLETICS

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**BaldEagleCamps.com** **(888) 505-BALD**

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**SpartansSportsCamp.com** **(650) 479-5906**

### Stanford Water Polo Camps **Stanford**

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

**BURGLARIES**

*continued from page 7*

are typically located in master bedrooms and recommends that they be kept in other places where there's a camera or motion sensor and be built into something solid.

The Atherton police suggest residents undertake these security measures to ensure their home will be safe from a break-in:

- Lock all doors and windows
- Use the alarm system and understand how they work
- Install a camera system
- Notify the police department when you leave for vacation and officers can do regular checks
- Keep exterior and interior lights on during hours of darkness to make it look like someone is home
- Build camaraderie with neighbors and look out for each other's homes

During the meeting, residents asked about using self-defense tools like pepper spray, which Larsen affirmed could be used within homes. He stated that when it comes to tools like baseball bats and firearms, individuals should reflect on whether they are proficient enough to use them.

"Research has shown that more often than not, especially with a firearm, it's going to be taken from you and used against you," said McCulley.

In most cases, burglars are not looking for confrontation and when they discover that residents are home they will flee the property, Larsen said.

**Community policing**

The police department promoted their existing Resident Volunteer Program to Atherton residents during the meeting. Anyone in the community can volunteer and the

police department will provide each participant with comprehensive training, support, and resources.

Larsen describes the volunteers as "an extra set of eyes and ears for us."

While wearing a high visibility vest, volunteers get involved with conducting neighborhood patrols to deter crime and ensure public safety. They work closely with Atherton police to report suspicious activities, hazards and other concerns.

An April 4 news bulletin stated that there are currently 41 members. In the last year "they conducted 1,606 walking patrols with 2,588 hours of walking patrol time," according to police.

Contact Sergeant John Fong at 650-688-6500 or at [JFong@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:JFong@ci.atherton.ca.us) to volunteer. ■

*Email Staff Writer  
Jennifer Yoshikoshi at  
[jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com](mailto:jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com).*

**VAUGHAN**

*continued from page 7*

playing at the San Francisco City Hall and playing for then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The Hillview band also played for the Giants last month, after an 11-year absence. Vaughan felt was a great send-off.

Even in retirement, Vaughan hopes to keep his local ties intact.

"I taught at Woodside Elementary for nine years. I grew up in Portola Valley, so I'm kind of a local kid," he said. "I went to Menlo [School] and Woodside High School and I graduated from Menlo and then I taught there."

Vaughan said he will be going back to his roots as a cellist in retirement.

"We're building a house in Oregon and there's a huge arts community up there and so I'm looking to make connections up there but then also keep my connections down here in terms

of playing in local symphonies," he said.

Hillview Music Alumni are invited to sit and play with their alumni ensembles at the Hillview Spring Concert, to be held Wednesday, May 1, at 6 p.m. in the Hillview PAC, 1100 Elder Ave., and/or with their 7/8 band or strings ensemble outside Bistro Vida in Menlo Park on Sunday, June 9, from 4-6 p.m. Individual performances will also be welcome on June 9 for any alumni that would like to participate.

For the May 1 concert, RSVP no later than Saturday, April 20. For the June 9 Bistro Vida event, RSVP no later than Monday, May 20.

Email Linda at [mrvretires@gmail.com](mailto:mrvretires@gmail.com) to RSVP or ask questions about the upcoming performances. ■

*Email Contributing  
Writer Joshua Picazo at  
[joshuadpicazo@gmail.com](mailto:joshuadpicazo@gmail.com).*

**CANDIDATE**

*continued from page 1*

the city's youth. He wants young Menlo Park residents to participate in the city's programs, planning and projects, as well as in volunteer work.

"Our city is changing for them too, and they have great ideas and insights," Schmidt said on his campaign website.

He also wants to focus on workforce development for local students. He said that it's important to ensure that rewarding careers, such as in data science, are visible to students.

Though this run for council is his first campaign for public office, Schmidt said his time serving on the Environmental Quality Commission and attending council meetings has given him the right background to be an effective council member.

"I think it's really educated me. I've had the chance to interact with the council a lot, and it's moments of collaboration and working together where things really get done," he said.

Schmidt plans to embark on a walking tour of District 3, starting next week, to hear what residents are thinking.

"If you get a knock on the door and it's from me, I'm just here to listen," he said.

No candidates have pulled nomination papers for the election thus far, according to the City Clerk's office. Schmidt intends to do so soon, he said.

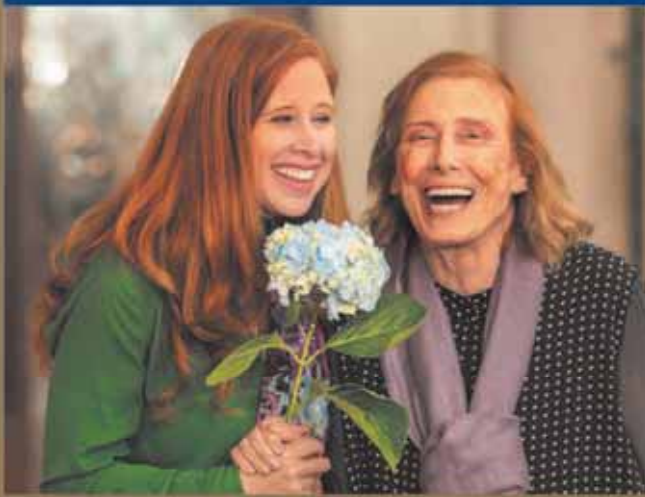
For more information on Schmidt, go to [jeffmenlopark.com](http://jeffmenlopark.com). ■

*Email Contributing Writer  
Eleanor Raab at  
[eroseraab@gmail.com](mailto:eroseraab@gmail.com).*

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449AddisonAve.com

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805 LA MESA DRIVE  
PORTOLA VALLEY



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\$2,988,000 | 3 Bd | 2 Bth  
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\$3,988,000 | 3 Bd | 3 Bth  
1120MayBrown.com

481 STOCKBRIDGE AVE  
ATHERTON



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

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6 SARGENT LANE  
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6Sargent.com

1449 UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
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\$6,988,000 | 5 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
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\$3,988,000 | 3 Bd | 3 Bth  
717Garland.com

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\$5,995,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth  
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76 MELANIE LANE  
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76Melanie.com

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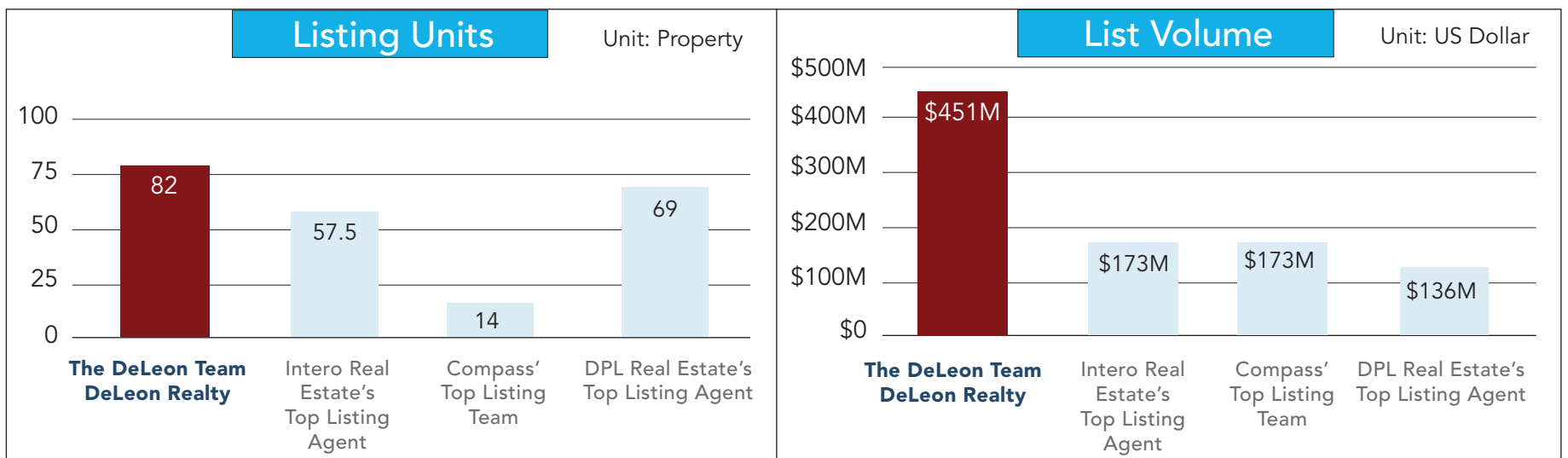
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# ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

## 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:

## 2024 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT

### Project Number: 56091

1. **Scope of Work:** Performing of Type II micro-surfacing per Town specifications on the listed streets, which includes notifications, traffic control, prep work, micro-surface seal installation, compaction, sweeping, and re-stripping/pavement markings (as needed) with a 1-year guarantee.
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. No Planholders list will be made be available.
3. **Project Schedule:** The work shall be completed within Thirty (30) working days from the First Day of Construction as defined in the Notice to Proceed.
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 Standard Time May 1, 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: **\$343,000.**
6. **Bid Requirements:** Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for 2024 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT, Project No: 56091", 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, or "C-12" Earthwork and Paving, or "C-32" Parking and Highway Improvement or any specialty required** 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 informalities 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](mailto: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 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 to 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 non-responsible, 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 here with) 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, or a Subcontractor licensed by the State of California who, under subcontract to the prime Contractor, specifically fabricates and installs a portion 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.

If 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Ovadia, P.E., City Engineer

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

*continued from page 6*

reception hosted by the library, be published in a commemorative anthology which will be displayed in the Local Authors Collection.

Submissions will be accepted until April 30. Featured poets will be invited to present their poem to the council on May 21.

Apply at [menlopark.gov/youthpoetry](http://menlopark.gov/youthpoetry).

— *Angela Swartz*

**Compost giveaway for Portola Valley residents**

The town of Portola Valley is hosting a free compost giveaway in collaboration with GreenWaste on April 19. The giveaway will take place at the Portola Valley schoolhouse parking lot in the afternoon for residents.

Each household is entitled to one bag on a first-come, first-serve basis. The town is aiming to promote sustainable waste management and the positive impacts of composting on the soil and environment. The compost is made from recycled green and yard waste to be used as a supplement for your soil.

For more information on the GreenWaste’s composting facilities visit [greenwaste.com](http://greenwaste.com).

**Rotary Club of Menlo Park awards grants to nonprofits**

The Rotary Club of Menlo Park granted 12 local nonprofit agencies with a total of \$43,000 in community grants. Each grant ranged from \$1,500 to \$5,000 from the Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the club’s foundation and Tour de Menlo, the club’s annual bicycle ride.

Grants were focused on youth and senior food insecurity, arts and culture, human trafficking and education. The recipients of the grants include:

- CoolineKids will be using the grant for a summer program in East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park for K-8 students. The program will provide kids with a safe space to learn skills in communication, science, leadership and more.
- Ecumenical Hunger Project is an East Palo Alto organization that will use the grant to provide bagged meals to children struggling with food insecurity.
- Foundation for a College Education plans to use the grant to support low-income East Palo Alto students graduate from a four-year college. The program provides support in tutoring, financial aid, test preparation, scholarships and the cost of

college applications for five high school seniors and community college transfer students.

- LifeMoves, an organization that supports unhoused families, will provide students of the 23 Haven Family House in East Menlo Park with educational resources to support academic success.
- Live in Peace will be helping at risk high school students with reclaiming their vision of the future by mentoring, tutoring and one-on-one coaching.
- Meals on Wheels will be using the grant to continue their program that delivers nutritious

foods to seniors and adults with disabilities.

- Menlo-Atherton Learning Center plans to partner with organizations that support veterans, the elderly, the environment and public health.
- Menlo College is supporting students by providing Safeway gift cards and stocking their community kitchen to address food insecurity on campus.
- Peninsula Bridge will be using the grant to help 38 highly motivated low income students from East Palo Alto achieve college and career success. The grant will also be used to pay

teachers in the summer and for after-school programs.

- Ravenswood Education Foundation will be providing arts education to all K-8 students at Ravenswood Elementary School. The grant will fund materials and salaries for the art and music program at Belle Haven Elementary School.
- St. Anthony’s Kitchen plans to create a 5-minute video on building compassion and awareness for the organization’s services and to attract volunteers to help in their kitchen and dining room.

— *Jennifer Yoshikoshi*

**SHERIFF**

*continued from page 5*

questions, the suit said, Corpus sent a written response to the PAC indicating that she would not participate.

“Corpus thought that the questions selected by the PAC were hostile and not relevant to the process because they had been selected by Mr. Wozniak,” the suit said.

Based on the information gathered and in accordance with union bylaws, the suit said, the PAC voted to back Bolanos. However, the union’s board decided to remain neutral throughout that election race and not explicitly support either candidate.

Corpus went on to win the election and was installed as the new sheriff in January 2023.

Aenlle — who became part of a team to help Corpus transition into office — “was vocal about his dislike of Mr. Wozniak to multiple employees within the Sheriff’s Office,” the suit said. Both he and Corpus saw Wozniak being union president as a “problem” and “headache” for the Sheriff’s Office.

Meanwhile, Wozniak was promoted from deputy to acting sergeant in August 2022, the suit said.

“Mr. Wozniak was successful in the role of acting sergeant and received a positive performance

review from his supervisor,” the suit said. Just before leaving office, Bolanos also commended Wozniak’s work in his new position.

However, the suit said Wozniak received a letter from Corpus informing him that he would return to the designation of deputy in February 2023.

“From August 2022 through February 2023, there were no issues with Mr. Wozniak’s performance in the role of acting sergeant,” the suit said, “and by all appearances, he was headed towards a promotion to sergeant after completing his probationary period in the acting sergeant role. Based on information and belief, it is unprecedented for Mr. Wozniak to have been demoted back to the deputy sheriff role after being promoted to acting sergeant.”

Because of Corpus and Aenlle’s actions and behavior, the suit said, Wozniak also suffered discrimination, reputational harm, humiliation, lost wages and other damages.

He seeks a court order “retroactively instating” him to a sergeant ranking, coverage of court costs and other relief, the suit said.

The suit is scheduled for a hearing on Aug. 19. ■

*Email Contributing Writer  
Neil Gonzales at  
[ngonzales92@yahoo.com](mailto:ngonzales92@yahoo.com).*



**Town of Atherton**

Planning Commission, April 24, 2024

REGULAR MEETING, 6:00 P.M.

This meeting is held virtually and in-person at the Council Chambers, 80 Fair Oaks Lane

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

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

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that said application is set for hearing by the Planning Commission at its meeting on **April 24, 2024, at 6:00 PM** in-person and via teleconference accessible through the information provided below, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the projects listed in the public hearing section should or should not be approved. This meeting will be held via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The public may participate in the Planning Commission Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

**Topic:** Atherton Planning Commission Regular Meeting

**Time:** April 24, 2024, 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**In person Option:** 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027

**Zoom Meeting Option and Details:** <https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/84150249099>

**Meeting ID:** 841 5024 9099

**One tap mobile:**

+13017158592 (Washington DC)  
+13052241968 (US)

**Find your local number:**

<https://ciathertonca.zoom.us/j/kglcVN4cq>

**Remote Public Comments:**

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

**Email:** [planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us)

**Projects under Public Hearing:**

- A. Request for a Front Setback Variance** (Application VAR24-0001) to construct a detached garage within the required front setback area at **123 Hawthorne Drive (APN 061-151-040)** and within the R1-A zone. Zoning Code Section 17.40.040(A) requires that accessory buildings must be setback 120 feet from the front property line, or 30 feet behind the front line of the main structure, whichever is less. The main structure of the subject property is setback 60 feet from the front property line, therefore the required front setback for all accessory buildings is 90 feet. The project proposes construction of a detached garage that is setback 75-feet 2-inches from the front property line and therefore, requires a variance from Section 17.40.040(A).

This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to: CEQA Sections 15303 (New Construction) and 15311 (Accessory Structures).

If you have any questions on the item please contact If you have any questions on the item please contact Sean Manalo, Associate Planner, at [smanalo@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:smanalo@ci.atherton.ca.us) or (650) 752-0542.

The agenda for this meeting with links to related staff reports can be found online by **Friday, April 19, 2024**, here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

**IF YOU CHALLENGE** the listed projects in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing. Planning Commission decisions are appealable by any aggrieved person to the City Council within 10 days of the date of the decision. If you have any questions on an item please contact the Planning Commission Contact: [planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us)

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

ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION  
/s/ Brittany Bendix  
Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner



## LIST WITH THE DELEON TEAM FOR **3.5% OR LESS** TOTAL COMMISSION

We have entered a new era where sellers no longer need to pay 2.5% or more to the buyer's agent. Most of our sellers now offer **only \$10,000 to the buyer's agent**, and if the agent wants more, the buyer covers the difference – if not, the DeLeon Buyer's Team will represent the buyer on our listing at no charge, even waiving the \$10,000! This client-centric approach saves our sellers money and boosts buyer interest.

Our sellers work directly with Michael Repka, Audrey Sun, and our team of talented in-house professionals. They also enjoy access to our robust list of complimentary services, industry-leading marketing, and targeted outreach to the Chinese and Indian communities. Our record of success sets us apart from the competition. **Schedule an appointment today** to experience firsthand why so many Silicon Valley residents have entrusted us with selling their homes!

## SUCCESSFUL SALES WITH LESS COMMISSION



**764 PARMA WAY**  
LOS ALTOS

SOLD FOR  
**\$4,200,000**

RECEIVED 24 OFFERS  
SOLD FOR \$1.2M+ OVER ASKING  
**ONLY \$10K PAID TO BUYER'S AGENT**



**40 SANTA MARIA AVE**  
PORTOLA VALLEY

SOLD FOR  
**\$4,000,000**

RECEIVED 6 OFFERS  
SOLD FOR \$500K+ OVER ASKING  
**1% PAID TO BUYER'S AGENT**



**963 VAN AUKEN CIRCLE**  
PALO ALTO

SOLD FOR  
**\$2,700,000**

RECEIVED 17 OFFERS  
SOLD FOR \$700K+ OVER ASKING  
**ONLY \$10K PAID TO BUYER'S AGENT**



Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 |  
650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com  
中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274  
電話: 650.785.5822 | Equal Housing Opportunity |  
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## THE EPITOME OF LUXURY IN SHARON HEIGHTS

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Listed by Michael Repka and Audrey Sun of 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

# Stanford names Jonathan Levin, business school dean, as new president

By Sarah Wright

Stanford University announced April 4 that Jonathan Levin, current dean of the Graduate School of Business, will be the new university president starting in time for the fall term.

Levin will succeed Richard Saller, who has been serving as president on an interim basis since September 2023. Saller took over for Marc Tessier-Lavigne, who resigned as president last summer after a panel of experts found significant flaws in numerous studies that he had supervised more than a decade ago.

The resignation of Tessier-Lavigne, a neuroscientist, was sparked by a series of articles that the student newspaper, The Stanford Daily, had published about Tessier-Lavigne's

research, which included allegations that some of the papers included falsified data.

In response, Stanford appointed a panel of scientists and other experts to review 12 of the papers that Tessier-Lavigne and his team had published. The panel concluded that there were "serious flaws in the presentation of research data" and that at least four of the five papers in which he was a principal author had "apparent manipulation of data by others," but it did not conclude that Tessier-Lavigne had knowledge of the manipulation.

While Saller served as interim president, the university had a 20-member committee search of his successor. The Presidential Search Committee had spent seven months recruiting and assessing candidates, according to the university.

Jerry Yang, president of the university's Board of Trustees, announced on April 4 that Levin was the unanimous choice of both the search committee and the trustees.

"Jon brings a rare combination of qualities: a deep understanding and love of Stanford, an impressive track record of academic and leadership success, the analytical prowess to tackle complex strategic issues, and a collaborative and optimistic working style," Yang said in the news release announcing the appointment. "He is consistently described by those who know him as principled, humble, authentic, thoughtful, and inspiring. We are excited about Stanford's future under Jon's leadership."

Levin joined the Stanford faculty in 2000 and has also won awards for his work in

economics. He is a member of President Joe Biden's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and has served as dean of the business school for the last eight years, according to the university.

"I am grateful and humbled to be asked to lead Stanford — a university that has meant so much to me for more than three decades," Levin said in a statement.

Dr. Bonnie Maldonado, co-chair of the Presidential Search Committee, described Levin as "a leader who drives change in a way that engages faculty, students, and other stakeholders."

"Moreover, Jon's academic background, analytical skills, and experience have provided him with the skillset and ability to oversee this incredibly complex institution," Maldonado said in the statement.

Levin, 51, attended Stanford as an undergraduate, completing bachelor's degrees in English and in mathematics in 1994. He later went on to earn a master's degree from Oxford University and a doctorate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"When I was an undergraduate, Stanford opened my mind, nurtured my love for math and literature, and inspired me to pursue an academic career," Levin said in a statement. "In the years since, it has given me opportunities to pursue ideas in collaboration with brilliant colleagues, teach exceptional students, and bring people together to achieve ambitious collective goals around the university." ■

Email Editor Sarah Wright at [swright@paweekly.com](mailto:swright@paweekly.com).

## PROM

continued from page 1

the PTA has collected around 300 dresses, half of which are new with tags, and around 50 suits and tuxedos.

"Before this big event, we only had about 70 dresses and it was nothing like it is today," said Perkins-Sledge. "It makes my heart so happy that so many

people came together and the love from our PTA dropping everything and working late nights to collect dresses has just been inspiring."

Macy's also granted the PTA \$2,500 to provide students with gift certificates. Sephora donated 75 gift bags. There were also donations from the Men's Warehouse and Rin Bridal and an anonymous donation of 100

\$65 vouchers for manicures at Ivy's Nail Salon in Menlo Park. Dame the barber, owner of Xclusiv Cutz in Menlo Park is also donating \$60 haircuts to students.

"Prom is really a highlight for some students in their high school lives and we want to make prom available for everyone," said PTA Co-president Paige Wernikoff.

The prom closet was a two-day event where "personal shoppers" helped students choose their dresses and suits and get fitted. Volunteer seamstresses pinned and altered garbs, using their sewing skills to help students feel comfortable in their attire.

Yvonne Murray, an M-A parent and volunteer seamstress, said her mother sewed her prom dresses back in the day and she's excited to have a full circle moment.

"I'm really happy and grateful to be able to help make some kids' dreams a reality," said Murray.

On the day of prom, Friday, April 26, the PTA will also host a prom boutique for students to get their hair and makeup done by volunteers while serving hors d'oeuvres and sparkling cider. They also plan to provide transportation to the prom in San Francisco.

M-A junior Alessia Bolanos was able to find a dress, shoes and a purse while perusing the closet. She said it was "cool" to see a lot of different sizes and colors offered.

Parents of students are also loving how much money they can save through the PTA's efforts. M-A parent Patricia Harris said that the money they save on dresses and shoes will go toward a vacation instead.

As the prom closet has

expanded, teachers and students from TIDE Academy in Menlo Park and East Palo Alto Academy have also expressed interest in the program. Students from these schools were invited to the closet as well.

"This school (M-A) is a huge melting pot between a very wide range of socioeconomics," said Suzanne Buerchner, an M-A parent and alumna. "I think the amount of need in the student body can sometimes be invisible and we're giving them a safe space to do something new and help them feel special."

Perkins-Sledge hopes that in the future, M-A leadership, community members, teachers and staff will contribute to the prom closet to make prom accessible to everyone. ■

Email Staff Writer Jennifer Yoshikoshi at [jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com](mailto:jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com).

## Flood Park construction began Monday, April 8

By Almanac staff

Flood County Park near North Fair Oaks in Menlo Park closed on Monday, April 8, as demolition begins prior to construction of the first phase of the "Realize Flood Park" project, according to an April 4 San Mateo County press release.

Construction crew work hours will be Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. There won't be construction on weekends and holidays.

In December 2023, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties granted the 21-acre county park, located at 215 Bay Road, \$1.3 million. The money came from the \$10.3 million Santa Clara County Stanford Mitigation Fund.

The first phase is expected to last most of 2024, according to the county. It includes construction of picnic areas, a multi-use sports field and sports courts that include

basketball, tennis, pickleball and volleyball courts.

On April 15, the county will install security fencing. The same day, it will begin heavy demolition of the site and bring in construction equipment. The bike pump track is scheduled to close during this week while the surface is sealed.

The pump track — a mountain/dirt bike course that debuted in October 2023 — will be open throughout most of the project. There will be periods when flaggers halt car and bike traffic to move materials and equipment. The pump track will be closed for several weeks this summer while parking areas are paved.

The park is expected to partially reopen with some restrictions to newly landscaped areas in the fall.

Officials plan to fully reopen the park next winter.

For more on the project, go to [smcgov.org/parks/realize-flood-park](http://smcgov.org/parks/realize-flood-park). ■

## BELLE HAVEN

continued from page 10

the case, Posada said, "there are a lot of complexities with rentals that we would want to make sure" receives attention before they could possibly be included.

### In other matters, the council heard updates on:

#### • The new Belle Haven Community Campus:

The project earned a temporary certificate of occupancy March 7, staff said in a report. The final certificate of occupancy is expected mid-April.

But wrap-up work is still being done inside the complex such as furniture and equipment

installation, inspections, and staff training and orientation to prepare for public opening possibly by the end of May, staff said.

#### • City-run child care programs:

Preschool enrollment has been going up slowly but has yet to match pre-pandemic levels, staff said in another report.

The Belle Haven Child Development Center, for instance, consistently saw enrollment at or near its maximum capacity of 96 children before the pandemic, according to staff. But for the past year, the center's monthly enrollment has hovered between the 40s and 60s.

Several factors could be at play for the lower enrollment, staff said, including continuing concerns

about the spread of communicable illnesses and the work-from-home trend.

The city is exploring strategies to bolster enrollment such as expanding subsidized child care to Menlo Children's Center through state grant funding and establishing an afternoon transitional kindergarten program at public schools for families that need continued service later in the day, staff said.

The council is expected to delve further into the issues involving the city's child care programs at a future study session. ■

Email Contributing Writer Neil Gonzales at [ngonzales92@yahoo.com](mailto:ngonzales92@yahoo.com).

# Public Notices

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. M-289527

The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S): RESTAURANT MITSUNOBU 325 Sharon Park Dr. Menlo Park, CA 94025 FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON: 11/22/2021

### REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):

K & T FOODS INC  
325 Sharon Park Dr., SUITE A-2  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY A Corporation.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on April 03 2024.

(ALM Apr 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 2024)

## CHAMBER MUSIC BY THE BAY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-297055

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) CHAMBER MUSIC BY THE BAY, located at 2007 Poplar Avenue, E. Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Registered owner(s):

JESSICA CHANG  
2007 Poplar Avenue  
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/08/24.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 01, 2024.

(ALM Apr 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 2024)

## BAYSPO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-297107

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) BAYSPO, located at 433 Airport Blvd. Suite 103, Burlingame, CA 94010.

Registered owner(s):

INTER-PACIFIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.  
433 Airport Blvd. Suite 103  
Burlingame, CA 94010

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/26/1996.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 05, 2024.

(ALM Apr 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 2024)

## LONE FOX GAMES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-297014

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) LONE FOX GAMES, located at 105 Alta Vista Way, Daly City, CA 94014.

Registered owner(s):

JACOB JOHN PLACHTA  
105 Alta Vista Way  
Daly City, CA 94014

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/11/2022.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 26, 2024.

(ALM Apr 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 2024)

## EXPRESS HAULING

JUNK EXPRESS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-297073

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

1.) EXPRESS HAULING, 2.) JUNK EXPRESS, located at 30 N. FREMONT ST, SAN MATEO, CA, 94401.

Registered owner(s):

SAT NARAYAN  
30 N. FREMONT ST  
SAN MATEO, CA 94401

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 02, 2024.

(ALM Apr 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 2024)

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY WINDOW CLEANING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-297048

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) SAN FRANCISCO BAY WINDOW CLEANING, located at 611 N CLAREMONT ST, SAN MATEO, CA 94401.

Registered owner(s):

CHRISTIAN SPONCHIADO  
611 N CLAREMONT ST  
SAN MATEO, CA 94401

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/29/2024.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 29, 2024.

(ALM Apr 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 2024)

## A P M CONSTRUCTION FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-297092

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) A P M CONSTRUCTION, located at 324 Winchester St, Daly City, CA, 94014.

Registered owner(s):

YUN LUN ANTHONY MAK  
324 Winchester St  
Daly City, CA, 94014

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 4/1/2024.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 03, 2024.

(ALM Apr 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 2024)

## SUPER DUPER BURGER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-297032

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) SUPER DUPER BURGER, located at 1100 PARK PLACE, BLDG 2, STE 20, SAN MATEO, CA 94403. Mailing Address: 2020 Union Street, San Francisco, CA 94123.

Registered owner(s):

SUPER SAN MATEO LLC  
2020 UNION ST  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 28, 2024.

(ALM Apr 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 2024)

## REPAIR CARPET CALIFORNIA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-296961

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) REPAIR CARPET CALIFORNIA, located at 1451 Beach Park Blvd, Unit 201, Foster City, CA, 94404.

Registered owner(s):

AHMED KHELFAH  
1451 Beach Park Blvd, Unit 201  
Foster City, CA, 94404

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 19, 2024.

(ALM Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

## MB POOL SERVICE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-296836

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) MB POOL SERVICE, located at 1035 Bradley Way, East Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Registered owner(s):

AGUSTIN MACIAS BARRAGAN  
1035 Bradley Way  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 05, 2024.

(ALM Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

## FRESH FOCUS FILMS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-296954

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) FRESH FOCUS FILMS, located at 45 Tintern Lane, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

Registered owner(s):

NICHOLAS CHURCHILL TIDMARSH  
45 Tintern Lane  
Portola Valley, CA 94028

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 18, 2024.

(ALM Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

## PAMILYA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-296947

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) PAMILYA, located at 756 Woodside Rd, Redwood City, CA, 94061. Mailing Address: 68 SELBY LANE Atherton, CA 94027

Registered owner(s):

JGY HOLDINGS L.L.C  
68 Selby Lane  
Atherton, CA, 94027

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 15, 2024.

(ALM Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

## MENLO PSYCHOLOGY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-296959

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) MENLO PSYCHOLOGY, located at 420 Santa Rita Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Mailing Address: PO BOX 441, 655 Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s):

CAROLINE FULLERTON STONE  
PO BOX 441, 655 OAK GROVE AVE  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 19, 2024.

(ALM Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

## ELIO ACADEMY OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-296950

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) ELIO ACADEMY OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, located at 2108 N ST, STE N, SACRAMENTO, CA 95816.

Registered owner(s):

SOL SCIENTIFIC LLC  
2108 N ST, STE N  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 15, 2024.

(ALM Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

## PRETTIEHAIR FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-296846

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) PRETTIEHAIR, located at 37 E 3RD AVE, SAN MATEO CA, 94401. Mailing Address: 97 LAKEWOOD CIR, San Mateo, CA 94402

Registered owner(s):

XIAOMING XU  
97 LAKEWOOD CIR  
SAN MATEO, CA, 94402

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/06/2024.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 06, 2024.

(ALM Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

## FULLBRAND LEGAL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-296953

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) FULLBRAND LEGAL, located at 2806 Hillside Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010.

Registered owner(s):

AMANDA MITCHELL RINKOFF  
2806 Hillside Drive  
Burlingame, CA 94010

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 18, 2024.

(ALM Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

## INNER OAK WELLNESS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-296717

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) INNER OAK WELLNESS, located at 222 8th Ave. Apt 314, San Mateo, CA 94401.

Mailing Address: 700 El Camino Real, Suite 120, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s):

DEBORAH J. MENET  
700 El Camino Real, Suite 120  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 22, 2024.

(ALM Mar 22, 29, Apr 5 and 12, 2024)

## ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: 24-CIV-01355

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Serena Yu-Ching Yeung-Levy filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

SERENA YU-CHING YEUNG-LEVY TO SERENA YUCHING YEUNG-LEVY

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: 05/09/2024, 9:00am, Dept. 17, Master Calendar, Courtroom 2K of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

ALMANAC

Date: 03/11/2024

Hon. Judge Elizabeth Lee  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Apr 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 2024)

## ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: 24CIV01395

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: POLINA MOISEEVA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

POLINA MOISEEVA to POLINA REZHETS

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: 05/09/2024, 9:00 AM, MC of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

ALMANAC

Date: 03/11/2024

NEAL I TANIGUCHI  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Mar 22, 29, Apr 5 and 12, 2024)

### The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

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

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# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Where to celebrate *Earth Day* on the Peninsula

*Celebrate the Earth and learn how to help take care of the planet at these local events*

By Julia Brown

Although April 22 is officially Earth Day, many Earth Day-themed events now take place all throughout April, making it Earth Month — and why not? — the planet could always use some extra love. Here's where to find Peninsula cities and community groups celebrating our big blue marble and highlighting the ways we can help the Earth.

### Love Our Earth Festival, East Palo Alto

350 Silicon Valley hosts this event featuring a home electrification showcase, clean vehicle expo highlighting new and used electric vehicles, electric motorcycles, bikes and more, a market of plant-based food and drink, community groups sharing their expertise, crafts and activities for

families, including a live reptile encounter, plus live music and performances.

*April 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Bloomhouse, 2555 Pulgas Ave., East Palo Alto; free admission. eventbrite.com.*

### San Mateo county libraries: ongoing

The San Mateo County Libraries mark Earth Month with activities at various branches, including an online event on food preservation (April 13), a storytime and sunflower seed planting (April 23, Woodside), Earth Day-themed escape rooms (multiple dates and locations), a craft workshop to make plantable paper seed balls (San Carlos, April 23) and a trash-to-art competition (Foster City, April 27).

*Throughout April at various county library locations. smcl.bibliocommons.com.*

### Stanford, ongoing

Stanford University hosts a variety of events to celebrate Earth Month, including Earth Tones, a day of music, food and speakers at O'Donohue Family Farm (April 23); film screenings (April 24 and 25) talks on activism and a service day in the Arizona Cactus Garden.

*Throughout April at various Stanford University campus locations. sustainable.stanford.edu.*

### Sunnyvale Earth Day Festival

The city of Sunnyvale marks Earth Day with the grand opening of its new civic center in an event that features family-friendly, sustainability-focused activities and information from local organizations. Activities include sustainable arts and crafts for kids, a cooking demonstration from the



Zero-Waste Chef, Anne-Marie Bonneau, live entertainment, guided urban canopy tours, a display of electric vehicles and info on home composting from master composters.

*April 20, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Sunnyvale Civic Center, 456 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale. sunnyvale.ca.gov.*

### Arbor and Earth Day Celebration

The city of Mountain View combines its celebrations for Arbor Day and Earth Day into an event that features booths with Earth-friendly resources and information, workshops, an electric vehicle showcase, live music and animal programs, kids' activity area and rock-climbing wall, plant-based food, tree walks and a group bike ride and a tree planting by the mayor.

*April 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Rengstorff Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. mountainview.gov.*

### Earth Day Author Event: Heather Ferranti Kinser

The Palo Alto Library hosts author Heather Ferranti Kinser who reads from her new book "In a Cave" at this event geared for toddlers and young children.



Photos by Lizzy Myers

Above: Participants register for Mountain View's 2023 Earth Day Celebration. The city of Mountain View is combining its Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations at an event taking place April 20 at Rengstorff Community Center. Top: Sally enjoys the festivities at Mountain View's 2023 Earth Day Celebration.

Visitors can take part in a craft activity as the author demonstrates entertaining cave props.

*April 20, 3-4 p.m. at Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Free, but registration is required at tinyurl.com/EarthDayAuthorPA.*

### Atherton Earth Day Festival

The town of Atherton celebrates the planet and promotes sustainable living with an event featuring green technology demonstrations, plant-based food,

exhibits and activities.

*April 21, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave., Atherton. ci.atherton.ca.us/625/Earth-Day.*

### Palo Alto Earth Day Festival

Families can join the city of Palo Alto for a celebration with live animal encounters, pollinator garden tours, eco-bingo, a live cooking demonstration and an upcycled art show. Plus,

See **EARTH DAY**, page 24



Sammy Dallal

A service day to help weed and clean up Stanford's Arizona Cactus Garden on April 24 is among a variety of Earth Month events taking place on the Stanford University campus.

# Back with 'Burner'

Portola Valley author Mike Trigg's second novel combines technology, politics and internet culture with a star-crossed love story

By Ashwini Gangal

**I**'m not sure yet if this is a memoir or a manifesto, a love letter or a suicide note."

That's the first sentence of Mike Trigg's new novel "Burner," a thriller set in San Francisco that captures the present day zeitgeist of political unrest, wealth inequality, social media addiction and high tech.

The ethos of the present era is brought out through a tragic love story between Shane, the leader of a populist movement run amok

and Chloe, a tech billionaire's daughter who is abducted by the same group.

While the opening line came to Trigg in what he calls "a fever dream," the idea to write this book is something he has lived with for many years. Before he became an author, he spent over two decades in the tech industry, prior to which he worked for several years on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.



Mike Trigg

"I was there during a very tumultuous time in the early '90s — it was the rise of right-wing radio, it was the rise of Newt Gingrich's 'Contract With America,' the 'Unabomber' happened around then, the Oklahoma City bombing happened around then, we had ricin mailed to the Capitol around then," he said. "It was sort of the first time in contemporary politics where we really saw the seeds of

what has become even more extreme politics in our country."

That's when his interest in the subject began to grow. "I've been very fascinated, in a good and bad way, with the intersection of technology and politics, how technology platforms have been used and abused for driving political polarization, driving extremism," he said about his inspiration for the book.

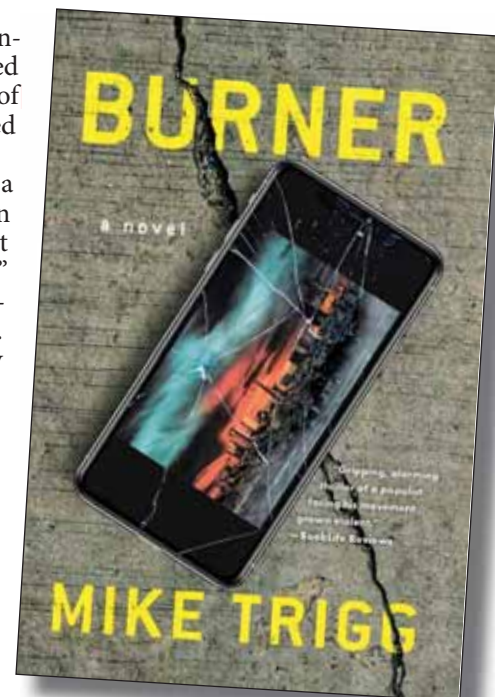
After percolating through his consciousness for years, the idea crystalized on Jan. 6, 2021, when a riotous mob of Donald Trump's supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol building.

"When that happened, I think it was a wake up call for everybody — both on the left and the right, I hope — about the dangers of populism untethered," he said, about toxic realities that eventually formed the basis of his fiction. "What happens to democratic society when you don't have a common definition of the truth? The core question we wrestle with in America right now is 'what are the limits of free speech?'"

Trigg feels strongly about the sway that wealthy individuals and foreign governments have over the democratic process and is disturbed by the way social media platforms are exploited for propaganda.

"When I wrote the book, I thought it would be a retrospective critique," he said. But in the run up to this

See 'BURNER', page 24



Courtesy Mike Trigg

"Burner," a novel by Mike Trigg, is set to publish on April 16.

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## AUTHORS Salon

Sunday, April 21, 2024 | Rosewood Sand Hill

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**EARTH DAY***continued from page 22*

city staff will be on hand with games, giveaways and resources to help residents make their homes and daily lives more sustainable.

April 21, 1-4 p.m., Rinconada Library, 1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto. [cityofpaloalto.org](http://cityofpaloalto.org).

**CuriOdyssey's Earth Day Celebration**

Kids' science museum and zoo CuriOdyssey hosts a day of eco-activities for kids of all ages that also features Earth Day vendor market, music, food from Satay

on the Bay and Mozzarella and a chance to learn about conservation at CuriOdyssey and get ideas and information on how to team up to help take better care of the planet.

April 21, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at CuriOdyssey, 1651 Coyote Point Drive, San Mateo. [curiodyssey.org](http://curiodyssey.org). ■

Find more Earth Month events at [almanacnews.com/arts-culture](http://almanacnews.com/arts-culture).

Email SixFifty Editor Julia Brown at [jbrown@embarcaderomedia.org](mailto:jbrown@embarcaderomedia.org).

**'BURNER'***continued from page 23*

year's elections, as he pointed out, a lot of the same issues are being discussed in the news every day.

"I have tremendous anxiety about the 2024 elections," he said. "I worry about that for our country, I worry about that for our children. That was a big inspiration for the book."

"Burner" will publish on April 16. This is Trigg's second literary endeavor. His first novel, "Bit Flip," which was published in August 2022, is a Silicon Valley-based satire of local tech culture.

"My lane as a writer is contemporary thrillers that examine the impact of technology on modern life," he said, classifying his books as "cautionary tales."

While his work is crafted to entertain readers, it also bears a stamp of his personal brand of activism. "Both books very much have a message to them," Trigg said. He is genuinely concerned about the potentially toxic side to technology.

His concern is not unfounded. Social media connects people but also creates virtual alter egos with fractured identities. The internet has a wealth of information but also brings with it the dangerously murky dark web. "This is kind of why I became an author — to affect the conversation, to offer my opinions," he said.

He's happy expressing his views through his fiction. "Having been in the tech industry for 20 plus years, I was there. I saw first hand how these things spawned, not in a nefarious way; just that there've been so many unintended consequences to these platforms and bad actors who've been able to exploit them," he said.

While writing "Burner," he spent a lot of time researching cases of domestic terrorism and consulting experts such as FBI agents and prison wardens. The book begins with one of his central characters narrating his

side of the story from prison. "I always had this epistolary framework in mind," he said, referencing literary tools like court transcripts and newspaper articles that pepper the narrative.

The book lends itself readily to being adapted for screen. "It does have a cinematic quality to it," he said in agreement with the critique. "It hasn't been optioned yet."

The audiobook version is nearly complete, though. The process of bringing his characters to life, he said, was very gratifying.

Trigg has finished writing his third novel, a story about an internet and mobile phone outage. "It has a lot of the same notes — technology, politics," he said about his next thriller.

He reads novels at the staggering pace of a book a week. "I read 52 books a year," he said. Books he enjoyed in recent times include "Wellness" by Nathan Hill, "Wandering Stars" by Tommy Orange and "Chain-Gang All-Stars" by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah.

Actively participating in the literary world is an important part of Trigg's life as an author. He is part of International Thriller Writers, an honorary society of writers from this genre. The group organizes an annual conference in New York called Thrillerfest. They also give away an annual book prize for which Trigg judges the e-book competition. ■

Email Contributing Writer Ashwini Gangal at [ashwinigangal@gmail.com](mailto:ashwinigangal@gmail.com).

"Burner" is published by Sparkpress. On April 18, 6:30 p.m., Trigg will appear at a book launch event at Books Inc. Palo Alto, Town and Country Village, 855 El Camino Real #74, Palo Alto, where he will discuss the book with renowned author Chris Yeh. For more information, visit [booksinc.net](http://booksinc.net).

# Worth a Look

*Courtesy 3rd Thursday*

Bluegrass musician Jack Tuttle performs at 3rd Thursday on April 18.

## 3rd Thursday

For the April edition of California Avenue's 3rd Thursday event, Palo Alto's own Earthwise Productions is presenting an evening with a "Latin and local" theme and featuring eight musical acts on three stages. Artists include Jack Tuttle and Friends Quintet; Harvey Wainapel's ALEGRIITUDE: Midtown Dreamers; the Stanford student-run salsa group Cien Mil Mangos de Estanfor; Roberta Donnay Rainforest trio; Beti Masenqo; Keith Lawrence Quartet; and members of Los Panaderos. A photo booth, an art-sharing table, 3rd Thursday swag, and special offers from local businesses are also being offered, according to 3rd Thursday's website.

April 18, 6-9 p.m., California Avenue between El Camino Real and Birch Street, Palo Alto; [3rdthursday.fun](http://3rdthursday.fun).

### 'The Skin of Our Teeth'

Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "The Skin of Our Teeth" follows the archetypal Antrobus family, representing humanity throughout history, as it deals with disasters such as climate change, plague and war. The comedy broke theatrical conventions when it debuted in 1942 and involves farce, burlesque, satire and elements of the comic strip, according to a press release by Los Altos Stage Company, which is offering its take on the evergreen-yet-timely classic, directed by Chris Reber.

Through May 5, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos; \$22-\$45, [losaltosstage.org](http://losaltosstage.org).

### Cubberley Open Studios and ART for ALL Family Day

Take a peek into the workspaces of Palo Alto's Cubberley Artist Studio Program artists, who open their doors to the public twice annually to show and discuss their projects and artistic processes, including on Saturday, April 13. And on Sunday, April 14, hands-on art activities for kids and families, gallery conversations and live music outdoors are offered for visitors of all ages during Stanford University's next ART for ALL Family Day, held between the Cantor

Arts Center and its next-door neighbor Anderson Collection, both of which will be open for visiting.

Cubberley Open Studios, April 13, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Cubberley Community Center (E, F and U wings) 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; [cityofpaloalto.org](http://cityofpaloalto.org).

ART for ALL Family Day, April 14, activity sessions run 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m., Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford; [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).

### Manchester Collective with Abel Selaoe

Britain's Manchester Collective and South African cellist Abel Selaoe join forces to present "Sirocco," described by the collective as a celebration of folk traditions around the world. The high-energy program includes original South African music and new takes on Western traditional and classical tunes, featuring Selaoe's standout cello solos. Manchester Collective was formed in 2016 with the goal of pushing classical music's boundaries and has released three albums. Selaoe, a rising star, is also a boundary pusher, crossing genres with his cello and aiming to bring classical music to more diverse audiences.

April 13, 7:30 p.m., Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford; \$32; [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu).

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# Food & Drink

# Loretta

Bistro Vida's owner is ready for an encore – opening a new cocktail bar in a spot made famous by the Grateful Dead

By Adrienne Mitchel  
Photos by Devin Roberts

Our fourth annual Peninsula Restaurant Week is almost here! From April 19-27, celebrate the Peninsula's restaurant scene with special prix fixe menus and offers at dozens of local eateries. I'm catching up with three restaurateurs participating in Peninsula Restaurant Week. This is the first interview in this year's series.

For more information on Peninsula Restaurant Week, go to [peninsularestaurantweek.com](http://peninsularestaurantweek.com).

After 26 years since opening Bistro Vida, owner Ali El Safy is “having a new baby.” The due date is in June, and El Safy has already picked out her name: Loretta.

“I want next door to be a little bit more free, more casual, fun,” he said. “Bistro Vida is like my oldest son — he went to Cornell, he's academic. My youngest son goes to (University of) Oregon — very free and hippie personality. So I based this identity of the two places on my two sons.”

El Safy opened Bistro Vida in downtown Menlo Park in 1998, specializing in classic French dishes like cassoulet de toulouse and boeuf bourguignon. Running Bistro Vida is not just about food for El Safy — it's also about community. El Safy has given back to the fire district, local schools and more, started a weekly outdoor

French market that's been operating since 2021, and state Sen. Josh Becker and the California Small Business Association recognized Bistro Vida as the Small Business of the Year in 2021. Now, El Safy is looking forward to adding more nightlife in Menlo Park with a bar connected to Bistro Vida called Loretta in the former Harvest Furniture space next door.

“There's really no place to go for younger people when you think about it,” he said. “This was also for everybody to come and really enjoy it. Even the kids who have grown up and moved away and come home for the holidays, sometimes there's nothing for them to do.”

While El Safy doesn't know anyone named Loretta and said he picked the name for its old, classic feel, he visualizes Loretta like this: “Natural-looking hair, very earthy, very hippie, easy-going, maybe vegan, maybe vegetarian...She's just free.”

Slated to open in June, Loretta will offer classic cocktails as well as seasonal specialty cocktails, beer, wine, snacks, tapas and charcuterie, said El Safy. Guests will be able to order food from Bistro Vida and use Bistro Vida's outdoor seating. While Loretta will not be offering happy hour, El Safy says he aims to keep prices affordable, with a typical cocktail priced around \$15-\$16.

“I see some places now charge \$20 for drinks,” he said. “That's too much. Most of the drink is ice.”

El Safy's two sons will also be involved with Loretta, he said, with his older son

helping on the business side and the younger son managing as the head bartender.

“He can stay up late because maybe I like to go home early, so he can close,” El Safy said.

El Safy plans to have Dead Night on Wednesdays, when the playlist will be entirely that of the Grateful Dead, who began their career in the same building as Loretta at Magoo's Pizza Parlor. On other nights, music will depend “on the mood,” El Safy said.

“I could play the Eagles,” he said. “I could play Fleetwood Mac. I could play hip-hop. It can be anything.”

Loretta is currently undergoing construction, with workers laying down hardwood floors, installing a marble bar countertop and hanging chandeliers. The largest undertaking was plumbing, El Safy said, as the original building only had one toilet. Bistro Vida and Loretta are now connected via two large doors, and the dishwashing areas are also connected. Loretta's tentative hours will be Wednesday through Sunday from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m., El Safy said.

“The vibes are very loungey, kind of chic city, but casual neighborhood-y, comfortable seating, a comfortable place to go,” El Safy said.

El Safy grew up in Egypt and attended French school. At 15 years old, he left for London by himself despite barely speaking English. He didn't like London, so he took the train to Paris and started a job making pomme frite.

“I was around potatoes all day long,” he said. “Sacks and sacks of potatoes.”

He worked in restaurants in Paris for four years before moving to New York, where he continued to work in the restaurant industry. When asked why he left Paris for New York, he said, “A woman.” Why he left New York for California? “A woman,” he said.

He worked in restaurants in San Francisco before heading south to work at La Tour, a French restaurant on University Avenue in Palo Alto. While working at Il Fornaio in Palo Alto, he often would eat at a Mexican restaurant in Menlo Park called La Luna. The owners wanted to retire and asked El Safy if he would buy the restaurant, so he and a friend at Il Fornaio decided to take over in 1994. They kept the name but introduced tapas and live Spanish music.

“We took over the whole sidewalk, and we threw parties every night,” he said. “It was crazy. And people were smoking cigarettes so there were cigarette butts everywhere. And then people complained to the city. It was fun.”

Not long after taking over La Luna, El Safy came across nearby ice cream and hot dog shop Stanford Ice Cream. The owner was ready to retire, and El Safy decided to take over the place, transforming it into Bistro Vida.

“I always wanted to do something really French,” he said. “When people think about romance and they think about food, they always think about Paris.”

El Safy decided to focus entirely on Bistro Vida and sold La Luna, which is now Singaporean restaurant Shiok. The two most popular dishes at Bistro Vida are the moules frites (mussels with French fries) and the French onion soup, said El Safy.

“Our mussels are really nice and plump because the Italian family in San Francisco who I buy my fish from, they hand-pick them for me,” he said. “We make the best French onion soup because it's actually a recipe that I got from a chef friend when I was living in Paris.”

For Peninsula Restaurant Week, Bistro Vida is offering a prix fixe menu for \$40 a person. Diners have the choice between French onion soup and salad laitue for the appetizer, moules frites, boeuf bourguignon (beef stewed in red wine with mashed potatoes) and risotto aux saint jacques (scallop risotto) for the entree and tarte tatin (caramelized apple tart) for dessert.

After Loretta, El Safy said he's not planning on having any more “daughters.”

“(I plan to) run the business and continue until I lose interest and I don't have the energy for it anymore,” he said. “Do other things, but not golf. I don't golf. Definitely not golf.” ■

Email Food Editor Adrienne Mitchel at [amitchel@almanacnews.com](mailto:amitchel@almanacnews.com)

**Bistro Vida**, 641 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park; 650-462-1686, Instagram: @bistrovidamp. Open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 5-9 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 5-8 p.m.



**Top:** French onion soup will be part of Bistro Vida's prix fixe menu for Peninsula Restaurant Week. **Above:** Diners peruse the menu at Bistro Vida in Menlo Park prior to construction of Loretta.

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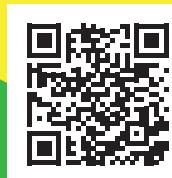
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