

# The Almanac

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## Pickleball trial in Atherton is a hit but players have feedback

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

**H**olbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton is currently half way through its six-month pickleball trial and the warmer weather is bringing more community members out to play.

So far, pickleball players told The Almanac that they are loving the courts at Holbrook-Palmer. They say that it's well-maintained, spacious and always clean, but they all collectively wanted one change — a drop-in system. It's also easy to park there and the playing ground dries quickly after it rains, they said.

For the trial, the park has striped one of their tennis courts to accommodate two pickleball courts, big enough for a maximum of 12 people to play on at once. The Holbrook-Palmer tennis courts are currently on a reservation system. Hours

for pickleball are limited from morning to noon daily and after 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Other pickleball courts at Nealon Park in Menlo Park and Mitchell Park in Palo Alto, currently have a drop-in system. Holbrook-Palmer Park began its trial through a reservation system on Jan. 21.

"[The drop-in system] encourages variety," said Gail, a Menlo Park resident, who asked to only be identified by her first name to maintain her privacy. "I've met the most incredible group of people at Nealon. People that I would normally have no reason to talk to or play with."

Players describe pickleball as a social and community oriented sport that functions well with an open system where players can stop by at any time and jump into a game. The courts are also



Magali Gauthier

Jill Zanolli, left, and Cat Westover play pickleball at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton on April 25.

See PICKLEBALL, page 8

## USGS campus in Menlo Park approaches end of era while next chapter remains a question

By Neil Gonzales

**A**fter nearly five years, the U.S. Geological Survey's gradual move from Menlo Park to Moffett Field in Mountain View is now in its final stages.

But exactly what's next for the 17-acre property that the agency is vacating at 345 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park's Linfield Oaks neighborhood remains up in the air.

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), which owns the campus with 17 buildings and about 400,000 square feet of rentable space, still seeks a buyer after the federal government decided to sell the space in 2020.

Meanwhile, Menlo Park in its recently state-certified

long-range housing plan has targeted the site for potential mixed-use redevelopment with affordable dwelling units although that vision worries residents in a neighborhood already contending with other proposed large-scale building projects.

### Relocation wrapping up

"GSA is helping relocate the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) offices at Menlo Park as well as supporting that agency's decommissioning efforts at the site," GSA spokesperson Mary Simms said in an email to this news organization.

"USGS personnel are already working at Moffett Field," she said, "and full relocation is scheduled by the end of the year."

Right now, she said, USGS is removing "laboratory-specific equipment" from the Menlo Park location.

Many of the geological features around the campus have also been moved, such as the various decorative rocks collected by researchers over the decades, USGS spokesperson Paul Laustsen said. The stones have found a new home in a rock garden in front of USGS' new lab building at Moffett Field.

Those stones include the 9-ton granite boulders from the main roundabout of the Menlo Park campus, he said. The boulders were transferred by crane and flatbed truck in early April.

USGS, which has been leasing the Menlo Park space from GSA, formally launched the transition to Moffett Field in the summer

of 2019 as a way to reduce costs while strengthening collaboration with NASA.

The plan has been to close the Menlo Park facility, which was established in 1954 and has housed such programs as the Earthquake Science Center, and bring the 420-member workforce and equipment to the NASA Ames Research Park at Moffett Field.

In 2022, GSA put the campus up for auction with the minimum bid set at \$120 million, but the bidding closed without a buyer.

However, Simms said, GSA "continues to receive interest from potential buyers" and plans to offer the property again through another auction next year.

A small USGS contingent is

still working at the Menlo Park campus, Laustsen said.

The only other tenant there currently is the early-childhood development program GeoKids, Simms said. But GeoKids, founded by parents who worked at USGS and the nearby SRI research center, is expected to depart in August 2025.

### Prime housing opportunity

For Menlo Park, the USGS site's pending availability, whenever that may happen, means a prime opportunity for new housing — particularly affordable units — and other development.

"It's so difficult to have good housing projects and especially affordable-housing projects that

See USGS CAMPUS, page 9

INSIDE

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

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

*The fastest growing age group needs our help.*

We hope that Spring finds you in good health and good spirits. We are writing today to spotlight the urgency of the ongoing crisis facing seniors in our local communities, and to invite you to join **Peninsula Volunteers, Inc.** in creating a future where local seniors can **age in place** surrounded by the support and care services they need to thrive.

*Seniors and their families are struggling to stay afloat right here in our own community.*

Rising costs of living and economic uncertainty continue to place immense financial strain on the lives of older adults. Thousands of local seniors in our affluent SF Peninsula are **unsure of where their next meal will come from**. The “epidemic of loneliness” is equally pervasive, with countless older adults living in solitude, yearning for the warmth of human connection. **The U. S. Surgeon General** identified loneliness as epidemic in the U.S. and San Mateo County has declared loneliness a public health crisis. We are also confronting the staggering rise in Alzheimer’s and other dementias among our aging population and the care-giving challenge that families face dealing with these devastating diseases. With **less than 2% of institutional funding going to causes related to aging**, the fastest growing age group needs our help, and we are failing them miserably.

*Those who are hurting are not strangers—they are our neighbors, parents, and grandparents!*

Those who need support now are our neighbors, our parents, our grandparents; older adults on fixed incomes and often living alone, who have worked tirelessly throughout their lives only to **face the impossible choice** between buying groceries or other essential needs like rent, medicines, transportation, and utilities. This is not OK.

*It is an everyday thing. Not just a holiday season thing.*

Right now, **Berniece** runs out of money to buy food each week; **Patrick** is homebound and cannot shop or cook for himself. **Wendy** is struggling to work and manage care for her father who has Alzheimer’s; **Fatima** no longer drives and needs safe and easy transportation; **Lori** lives alone with no one to spend the day with. PVI is **transforming aging** in our local community with meaningful programs for critical needs just like these, **enabling seniors to age in place** with essential programs that also help address isolation and reduce the use of costly health care services.

*Help us restore hope and help reach more seniors in need!*

We are grateful that you make it possible for us to serve our community’s most vulnerable, more seniors like Berniece, Patrick, Wendy, Fatima, and Lori. By giving hope and help where you live, you provide the lifeline our local seniors so desperately need and so profoundly changes their daily lives.

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

With hope and gratitude,

  
**Peter Olson**  
 Chief Executive Officer

  
**Georgie Gleim**  
 Board President



**PATRICK**

**HEALTHY FOOD, PEACE OF MIND, AND CONNECTION**

Patrick is in his mid-80s and has lived on the peninsula for most of his life. With the increased costs of living, he and his family were concerned yet committed to keeping him in his home. After Patrick’s wife passed away last year, he began struggling to access nutritious food and his health deteriorated. Patrick’s daughter, Marlene, connected with PVI’s Meals on Wheels and learned her father would be a good fit for the program. He began receiving meals and his health started to improve. An unexpected benefit for Marlene and Patrick is the friendship he developed with his Meals on Wheels delivery driver. His driver not only brings nutritious food, but genuine, friendly connection.

“My health has improved since I started receiving PVI’s home delivered meals. It brings my family peace of mind, knowing that I now have nutritious food at home.”  
 - Patrick, PVI Meals on Wheels recipient

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\*Data Sources: Meals on Wheels America, Council of Aging, County of San Mateo, Surgeon General of the U.S., AARP, Supervisor David Canepa

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

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Professional cosmetologist Michelle Ramirez, left, and PTA co-president Paige Winikoff, right, help a student get ready for prom at the Menlo-Atherton High School Prom Boutique on April 26.

## Prom boutique gives students a VIP salon experience

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On April 26, the Menlo-Atherton PTA's "Diamond and King Prom Closet and Boutique" set up a salon to help about 30 students get their hair and makeup done for their soiree that evening. The program aims to give economically disadvantaged students access to free prom attire. Organizers served over 200 students during their previous prom closet event.

With the help of over 20 volunteers, "it was all hands on deck," said Adrian Perkins-Sledge, who

started the project nine years ago with her cosmetology club students. This year, four professional makeup artists volunteered for the evening, some who work for celebrity clients.

"Hair was definitely something new for the PTA to delve into," said PTA co-president Paige Winikoff who was in charge of hairspraying and curling everyone's hair.

"I think this year the prom closet and boutique were one for the books," said Perkins-Sledge, who was happy to see the work and dedication of the M-A community, staff and PTA

expand the program.

Volunteers turned the prom boutique into a safe space where students could enjoy a "VIP experience" as they got ready for the night. The PTA also had music, sparkling cider and snacks to amplify the party atmosphere.

The prom closet and boutique have grown to reach students outside of M-A and even the school district. In addition to helping East Palo Alto Academy and TIDE Academy students, they also helped a

See **PROM BOUTIQUE**, page 18

## Superintendent returns from medical leave after leukemia diagnosis

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Las Lomas Elementary School District Superintendent Beth Polito returned to work in January after taking medical leave in June 2023 after being diagnosed with leukemia at the start of June. Polito is still in the recovery phase but has been supported by others in the district who are excited to have her back in her role.

"It's great to hear her voice steering our ship," said Mei Chan LLESD's chief business officer.

When Polito announced that she would be taking a leave, Chan said her heart sank but the district office continued to push forward during Polito's absence.

While receiving treatment at Santa Clara Kaiser Permanente, Polito was working remotely during her leave. In October she underwent a bone marrow transplant at Stanford Hospital from an anonymous donor and stopped working while she was in recovery until January.

She said "it was really hard" to take a step back from her role but was glad to "have a great interim superintendent." During Polito's leave, Assistant Superintendent Shannon Potts served as part-time interim superintendent, although she was set to retire in June 2023.

"Shannon and the (school) board really kept up all the work that had been set up," said Polito. "They kept the work moving forward and it was a really smooth transition."

Board member Jason

Morimoto expressed that changes went smoothly thanks to Polito's great leadership in building a strong team that could function even in her absence. The district staff "were focused on Beth taking care of herself," Morimoto said.

Throughout her treatment, Polito regularly updated the district staff on how much she could be involved in district work and where she was in her recovery process.

"It was great to be back at work in January but I was probably pushing it too far in the beginning," Polito said.

During the first months of her return to work, she wasn't able to be in contact with many people to prevent exposure to illness while in recovery but now she's working 75% in person.

Polito said she is doing well and is in post-transplant recovery and on medication to mitigate the body from rejecting the bone marrow donation and a genetic mutation that Polito carries that makes cancer more aggressive.

What she missed the most was her district office team and "getting to see the kids do their thing and to see them growing and learning."

"I feel grateful that I have a support system and I had work I was able to return to in a meaningful way," said Polito, who served as a bone marrow donor for her brother who was also diagnosed with leukemia 25 years ago.

See **SUPERINTENDENT**, page 8

## New fire ordinance passes despite residents' ongoing concerns

By Neil Gonzales

A new ordinance will require property owners in Woodside, Portola Valley and surrounding communities to carve out what's called a defensible space around their homes to help guard against the spread of wildfires.

During its regular meeting on Tuesday night, April 30, the three-member board of the Woodside Fire Protection District unanimously passed the fuel-mitigation ordinance

despite residents' continuing concerns about costs, enforcement and other issues.

The ordinance takes effect May 30. Among its requirements, residents will need to clear fuel-burning hazards such as brush and other combustible vegetation or debris within 100 feet of a structure on their land.

"We're doing this to keep people safe," board President Matt Miller said during the meeting.

The district is not out to come down harshly on noncompliant residents, Miller said. Rather, it

seeks to collaborate with residents on what needs to be done or improved upon on their property to reduce fire hazards.

When the district shows up to inspect a property, he said, "it's the beginning of the conversation. ... The earliest anyone could be out of compliance [is two years from now — quite likely three years from now.]"

He also assured residents that the ordinance does not jeopardize healthy trees.

"I do want to just emphasize the ordinance does not include

removing trees unless they are dead or dying," Miller said. "Nobody wants to get rid of oaks. All trees are treated the same in that if they're too close to your roof, even under our current ordinance, that would be a problem. But there is no removal of mature, live trees here."

The district worked on the ordinance for the past year as part of an effort to minimize the potential for a wildfire disaster in the highly wooded, vegetated area that it serves — which also encompasses Emerald Hills,

Ladera, Los Trancos, Skyline and Vista Verde.

The district engaged residents on a draft of the ordinance through public workshops and other means and made modifications based on community feedback.

One key change was removing a requirement for property owners to create a defensible space even if a structure is on someone else's adjacent parcel. Residents criticized this would-be

See **FIRE ORDINANCE**, page 18

# MPCSD school board to consider \$123M bond measure

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The Menlo Park City School District is working on updating its facilities across all five of their campuses: Encinal Elementary, Oak Knoll Elementary, Laurel School's upper and lower campuses and Hillview Middle School. During an April 18 meeting, Superintendent Kristen Gracia urged the board to consider putting a \$123 million bond on the November ballot.

"I say this with confidence and agency. Our facilities needs will require bond funding," said Gracia.

In the most recent revision and reassessment of budgeting

for facilities needs, the district was able to reduce total costs by \$35 million and is still considering ways to cut down costs and obtain funds through grants.

"We are looking hard at where is money that we can get outside of the community, not just from the community," said school board President Francesca Segre.

The district would like to upgrade security on campuses with automatic door locks, fencing, keycard entry, integrated surveillance and fire alarm upgrades, according to an April 18 staff presentation.

Teachers and students also spoke during public comment about the dire need for air conditioning and ventilation in classrooms. With climate change, warmer days are increasing and 70% of MPCSD classrooms do not have air conditioning. Classroom temperatures can reach up to 80 degrees. Currently, the district's HVAC systems are 16 to 20 years old. Constant repairs of old units is costly, officials said.

"It is so uncomfortable teaching in a hot classroom. On the days when it is so hot in the classroom, the kids are not learning. Teachers cannot teach," said

Marisela Ghahramani, a fifth grade Spanish immersion teacher at Laurel School.

Amy Kingsley, a French teacher at Hillview Middle School, said the teachers are using portable fans, which are loud and ineffective at cooling the entire classroom. She adds that the unpleasant smell of body odor is strong from the heat and humidity.

Additionally, there are buildings across all campuses that are outdated and don't meet current earthquake safety standards. Buildings at Laurel School's lower campus are from 1959, made from cinder block and need to be taken down and rebuilt, according to officials. Hillview Middle School's locker room and gymnasium are in the same condition.

The district's audio-visual systems are also more than 20 years old.

"We should be utilizing classroom technology instead of it slowing us down," said Gracia, who adds that AV systems can be used to improve safety, emergency communications, connectivity and digital learning.

The facilities planning process began in June 2023. Gracia said that the planning is ready

to move into the next phase — organizing a timeline for construction. She predicts that if construction starts in 2026 everything will be completed in six years.

## Financial considerations for a bond measure

"Our facilities require a timely response in order to find this work we will need the funding as soon as possible," said Gracia. "As soon as possible in the world of bonds, is the November 2024 ballot."

Gracia explained that a bond is necessary because the district's current funds are not enough for what it needs. MPCSD's current budget for deferred maintenance is limited for smaller scale projects such as carpet replacement or roof repairs, she said. In addition, funds from the 2021 parcel tax can only be used for teaching and learning, not facilities.

The district also receives developer fees, "paid by housing developers and owners of the school district to mitigate the impact created by new development within the district's boundaries." However, these fees can only be used on projects related to increased enrollment.

Gracia answered the question: why now? She explained the district has access to up to \$28 million in state funding, grants and tax credits and students deserve to be learning in healthier and safer classrooms.

If a bond isn't placed on the November ballot, the next chance for the district will be in 2026, but "there is undeniable risk in waiting," Gracia said.

## Community engagement on facility needs

According to a poll released by the district "even our parents have very low awareness of these needs," said school board Vice President Sherwin Chen. "I think we, as board members, need to be reaching out and talking to as many parents as possible."

Sherwin encouraged other board members to work with their liaisons to spread how urgent the needs are to parents. Parents and school administrators came forward during public comment urging the board to approve a bond for the November ballot.

"I urge the board to consider a bond measure to raise the money necessary to undertake the work that our district has identified as critical," said MPCSD parent Katherine Bicer.

"I'm fully in support of such a measure and I'm eager to be part of the effort."

Linda Creighton, Laurel's lower campus principal, expressed her support for a bond measure. She noted that after school breaks or storms, the pipes in 65-year-old buildings often run brown water. Her school also has windows that don't slide open and have outdated parts that can't be replaced.

If the school board decides to put a bond on the November ballot, the board will need to approve a resolution by the final meeting of the school year on June 13 as the board will not be meeting in July. The last day to place a bond measure on the November election is in August. ■

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# Filling staff vacancies, addressing financial woes are priorities for Portola Valley manager

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

With Portola Valley's finances in a precarious state because of growing costs, including a big spike in sheriff's office services, Town Manager Sharif Etman spoke to the Town Council during an April 24 meeting about town finances, staffing updates and his plans to "reset, refocus and restructure" the town staff.

The town also introduced its new full-time planning and building director, Romeo Herrera. The town announced in January that the interim Planning and Building Director Jon Biggs would be leaving the town in February, having reached the maximum hours under his contract. The town is in the process of hiring a financial director as well, according to the presentation.

Etman said his immediate focuses are in recruiting and filling vacant positions. According to the town manager, the town has faced a 70% turnover rate in staffing, with currently only 12 staff members.

"It hasn't been easy. It hasn't been fun for the last six months," said Etman. "We cannot get the work done that the community wants us to do. We cannot entertain the discussion of a dog park, sustainability or true fire evacuation plan."

## Financial updates: Dip in property tax revenue, increased policing costs

The town has completed its financial audit for fiscal year

2020-21 and is currently working on audits for 2021-22. Etman said that fiscal year 2022-23 will be scheduled for an audit by the end of the year.

The town is a \$12 million agency and has control over \$8 million in funds. For the fiscal year 2023-24, the town started with a structural deficit of \$868,000 due to an \$850,000 annual increase in its contract with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

Etman however was able to work with the county to receive a lower rate with the sheriff's office for this year and the next two fiscal years. For 2023-24 and 2024-25, the town is in contract for a \$425,000 increase and a \$650,000 increase in 2025-26. By 2026, the town will need to be paying the full contract amount, which Etman clarified will be inflated to over \$1 million by then.

"I also made a commitment as your town manager to increase the visibility of the sheriff," said Etman. "The sheriff really wants to have a visible storefront in the town and have a more resident friendly place to meet with residents."

During public comment, community members commented on the lack of services that the town receives from the sheriff's office despite the increased contract.

The town has approved \$868,000 in reserves to cover the projected deficit for this fiscal year. The increased rate with the sheriff's office and legal fees has put the town in a structural deficit.

"It's normal to have a structural deficit every once in a while in a city's history," clarifies Etman. "It doesn't intimidate me, it shouldn't intimidate us. Everything has a solution and we have time for this solution."

Some 46% of general revenue for 2023-24 comes from property taxes — about \$3.7 million. The town manager notes that there was a spike in property taxes when about 40 houses were sold during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. With fewer houses selling moving forward, the growth of property tax will decrease, putting the growth off balance with inflation rates, according to Etman.

## Solutions: Charter town, parcel tax, land sale floated

To optimize town revenue, Etman proposed multiple options to create a sustainable fiscal model by 2025-26 including the following ideas: becoming a charter town, passing a parcel tax, or annexing and land sale.

"We don't have the ability to say 'we are a town, our town ethos is small, we want to stay small,'" said Etman. "Unfortunately, the fiscal model and the town ethos of staying small, contradict."

The town manager has created a three-year initiative he calls "Portola Valley Thrive" to examine what Portola Valley can do to maintain the town's characteristics while also enhancing revenue strategies.

See **PORTOLA VALLEY**, page 8

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### More On Homeowners Insurance

**Dear Monica: My insurance rates have gone up considerably. Are there other insurers that might provide coverage? Virginia G.**

Dear Virginia: As has been widely reported, many insurers have pulled out of California. Key reasons are that California's state insurance regulations, inflation, increased wildfires and heightened reinsurance costs have all contributed to the decision to leave. The California Department of Insurance limits how much insurers can raise rates and they have been unable to take into account recent wildfire damage in order to predict future potential costs. The financial consequences of this has driven many insurers from the state. The California Fair Plan may provide coverage to you at more affordable rates. There is reasonable priced coverage available but you must look for it.

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

## FIRE MARSHAL'S SAFETY CORNER HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



### Emergency Fire Plan

- Have all family members know a designated place to meet in an emergency.
- Identify multiple ways to exit each room in your home. A door or a window could be great options.
- Practice drills regularly.
- Keep a bag with everything you could need in a time of emergency.

### Identify Fire Hazards

- Make sure all fire exits are free from obstructions (electrical cords and household items).
- In case of a fire, touch the closed door with the back of your hand to feel if it is hot. If hot, find an alternate route.

### Fire Extinguishers

- Keep fire extinguishers throughout your home.
- Know how to use a fire extinguisher in an emergency.
- Do not put water on a grease fire.

## Fire Marshal's Safety Corner Event – May 8th

~ Come learn more about fire and life safety ~

Stop by at our pop-up Fire Marshal's Safety Corner event outside Los Robles-Ronald McNair Academy on 2033 Pulgas Ave, East Palo Alto from 12:45pm- 1:45pm. Come meet the Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, and potentially see one of our fire engines.

### TOWN OF WOODSIDE 2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062 PLANNING COMMISSION MAY 15, 2024 6:00 PM

Members of the public that wish to attend and/or participate in a meeting may do so in person or by joining the zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736> public comments will be accepted both in person and via zoom meeting. Any emails sent to [tosharper@woodsideca.gov](mailto:tosharper@woodsideca.gov) prior to 5:00 p.M. On the date of the hearing will be provided to the planning commission prior to the meeting. In the event that any member of the commission participates in a meeting by teleconference or video conference, pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown act, government code section 54953, all votes of the commission shall be by roll call.

#### Join Zoom Meeting:

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**Meeting ID:** 860 6847 2736

**Weblink:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736>

#### Remote Public Comments:

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. Members of the public participating remotely may comment on items during the hearing.

**Email:** [sharper@woodsideca.gov](mailto:sharper@woodsideca.gov)

#### PUBLIC HEARING

1. Townwide

ZOAM2024-0002

Town of Woodside

Town Staff: Jean Savaree, Town Attorney

Review and Approval/Denial of a Resolution of Intention and Recommendation to the Town Council to Amend Municipal Code Chapter 153 (Zoning) to revise sign regulations.

The project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) (no possibility that the activity may have a significant impact on the environment), of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations).

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW ON THE TOWN WEBSITE, [WWW.WOODSIDECA.GOV](http://WWW.WOODSIDECA.GOV).

# This spring, dig into the Menlo Park Seed Lending Library

By Eleanor Raab

While most people know that you can check out books, movies, CDs and even passes to California State Parks at the Menlo Park Library, some may not know that you can also check out seeds for your garden. Celebrate spring by visiting the Menlo Park Seed Lending Library and taking home some seeds.

What is the seed lending library? For those who have not yet heard of it, the Menlo Park Seed Lending Library is a collection of heritage vegetable, herb, fruit and flower seeds that residents can pick up at no cost for use in their home gardens.

The seed lending library is currently carrying beet, carrot, tomato, radish, pea, sunflower and bean seeds, among others. Available seed varieties are

rotated seasonally according to optimal planting times for our area. Luckily, the Bay Area has great weather for gardening year-round, so there are seeds in the library every month of the year.

Though libraries usually require you to return the items you check out, the seed library works a little differently. You don't even need a library card to take seeds home. The seeds that you check out from the seed library are yours to keep and use as you like in your garden. You can find the seeds stored in an old library card catalog in the middle of the library. To take seeds home all you need to do is fill out a paper form. Each resident is limited to four seed packets at a time.

"Our program is more of a giveaway than a lending program or a swap program. We don't yet ask users to bring back seeds from the plants that they have grown,

or require a seed for seed swap," said Nick Szegda, assistant director of library services for the city of Menlo Park.

The seeds are selected by library volunteers and purchased from the Seed Savers Exchange, a group which works to preserve heirloom vegetable varieties. All seed varieties in the Menlo Park Seed Lending Library are non-hybrid and non-GMO.

"We select seeds that are easy to grow, happy in our local environment and available for purchase. As we see the interest of our patrons, we adjust our choices," said seed library volunteers Betsy Colby and Carolyn Rusch.

Since the program's start in early 2020, the Seed Lending Library has given away more than 10,000 seed packets to residents.

"It's a very popular program," said Szegda.

The Menlo Park Seed Lending Library program also aims to

provide gardening resources to residents that go beyond simple seed giveaways. The library hosts various seasonal gardening workshops throughout the year, along with monthly Garden Talks held over Zoom on the first Wednesday evening of every month.

Menlo Park's biannual seed swap also provides local gardeners an opportunity to give seeds back to the community.

"We are not set up for accepting donations of harvested seeds. But if people are saving their own seeds, we have Seed Swaps in the spring and fall which are a great place to share with fellow gardeners," said Colby and Rusch.

Additionally, the library offers hundreds of books on gardening that you can check out.

"The Seed Lending Library is meant to educate, build community, and encourage residents to grow good food," Szegda said. "We hope that this resource

sharing encourages sharing throughout the community, and helps build community resilience and self-reliance."

Menlo Park is not the only library offering seeds to residents. The Belmont, East Palo Alto, Mountain View, Redwood City, San Carlos, Palo Alto and Woodside libraries also boast seed libraries.

There are currently seed libraries in both the Menlo Park Library, at 800 Alma Street, and the Belle Haven Library, at 413 Ivy Drive. Menlo Park Library staff hope to expand the seed library and other gardening programs to the new Belle Haven Community Campus, which will open later this spring.

For more information on the seed library, visit the city's website at [menlopark.gov](http://menlopark.gov). ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at [eraab@almanacnews.com](mailto:eraab@almanacnews.com).

## PICKLEBALL

continued from page 1

becoming a place where friendships are formed.

Gail said that she's played with people of different ages, ethnicities and socio-economic levels forming friendships that would have never happened without their common interest for the sport.

"The nature of pickleball is that it's very welcoming," said Atherton resident Cat Westover. She has around 40 contacts in her cellphone of people she's met on the courts.

If the town continues to host

pickleball players, Gail said she'd love for the park to expand its hours for pickleball.

Atherton resident Don Keller suggests a combination of a reservation and drop-in system moving forward. He said that Holbrook-Palmer hasn't yet developed a strong pickleball community in Atherton because of the restrictive nature of the reservation system. Keller said other public pickleball courts across the Peninsula are open to drop-ins.

"It would be terrific if Holbrook-Palmer moves to more of a drop in arrangement

so that they can build a community oriented place," said Keller.

Pickleball is quickly becoming a popular sport among the community as Westover explains that the equipment is easy to use, it's suitable for all ages, it's fun and addicting.

The initial trial period will run through July and there are currently no plans for after the trial, said Robert Ovadia, Atherton's director of public works. ■

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

## SUPERINTENDENT

continued from page 5

While she was away, she received lots of letters from staff and students — many that she's still reading through.

"I very much appreciate the outreach that occurred while I was ill and how generous and kind the staff has been in keeping me in their thoughts and not being shy to share it," expressed Polito.

To celebrate her recovery process, she went on a health and wellness retreat in the Woodside mountains with her best friend during spring break, enjoying her time hiking and exercising.

"She's come back stronger than ever," said Chan. "She has become an even better leader."

Polito is asking community members to donate to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at [lls.org](http://lls.org). ■

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

## PORTOLA VALLEY

continued from page 7

Since taking over as town manager in August 2023, Etman evaluated positions within the town and reorganized staff to "make sure that we have the right people in the right spots."

Additionally, Etman cut retirement benefits in which the town matched the employee retirement funds.

In Etman's vision to restructure the town, he emphasizes that the town needs to have 20 full-time staff members. He hopes for all changes to be completed by June 30.

If Portola Valley were to become a charter town, it would be able to charge a document transfer tax, a tax that is paid when a new owner purchases a house, Etman said. This would create another method for the town to raise revenue, but would cost the town millions of dollars in legal fees to set up, Etman explained.

Mayor Sarah Wernikoff questioned a possible parcel tax, asking during the April 24 meeting, "when would we actually see the revenue?" Etman responded that if this idea were to move forward, the tax would be placed on a special election ballot in 2025 and would take about a year and half after passage for revenues to flow in.

To reach the goals of "PV Thrive" Etman called for the help of the town Finance Committee in assisting with coming up with suggestions for the council and evaluating ideas to generate revenue.

"While we may not all agree on where we go from here ... it's my hope and intention that we all agree we want to preserve Portola Valley, keep our town ethos and allow Portola Valley to thrive for decades to come," said Etman. ■

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



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**USGS CAMPUS**

*continued from page 1*

whenever there's one that comes forward it has to be really looked at to see the maximum benefits that it can bring to the community," said City Council member Jen Wolosin, whose District 3 covers Linfield Oaks. "So I would hope that whatever project comes forward takes advantage of that great site and improves our overall community."

In its housing element for the 2023-31 cycle — a planning document for nearly 3,000 new residences as mandated by the state, the city eyes a minimum of two acres of affordable units at the USGS site.

The city envisions issuing residential building permits for at least 89 units at the site by the end of 2030, according to the housing element, which the state approved in March. But much more housing, including market-rate units, could be pursued there.

As of November 2022, the document said, the city had fielded eight inquiries from private developers about the USGS campus with most of them expressing interest in partnering with an affordable-housing builder for a redevelopment



Courtesy Joel E. Robinson/USGS

Granite and blueschist boulders buttress the entrance to USGS' new home at Moffett Field.

pursuit.

The Menlo Park City School District is also interested in the property for probable future needs.

In a September 2023 letter to the city included in the housing element, district leaders expressed interest in possibly acquiring between five to 10 acres to develop new school facilities for a potential increase in student enrollment fueled by the residential growth called for in the housing element.

A large land purchase would prove cost-prohibitive, the

district said in the letter, but it would consider a joint-use agreement or owner partnership with the city or a buyer of the USGS campus benefiting both the schools and larger community.

In a 2022 email to the city, also included in the housing element, Menlo Park resident Morgan Ames urged for more residential units than what has been projected at sites like the USGS campus.

The city needs "to make the most of this historic opportunity to create a lot of

high-density housing," Ames wrote. "We should build higher and denser, focusing on creating walkable and transit-friendly communities" instead of retail development and the accompanying parking lots.

**Neighborhood concerns**

But residents in Linfield Oaks are wary of what could result from a USGS campus redevelopment.

"I'm not aware of any plans to increase capacity or reduce trips on Middlefield, Ravenswood and Willow," said Vincent Bressler, a Linfield Oaks resident and former city planning commissioner. "Linfield Oaks is boxed in by these streets, and their intersections are already a problem during busy times of the day. I'm concerned about any new development that will make this worse — residential and commercial."

Sue Connelly expressed similar sentiments, describing that what could happen at the USGS site is a "massive overdevelopment" burdening her neighborhood.

Linfield Oaks is also facing other major mixed-use development possibilities — a multi-tower project on the site of the former Sunset Magazine headquarters at 80 Willow Road

and a transformation of SRI's 63 acres at 333 Ravenswood Ave. into a new enclave of offices, homes and recreational spaces.

Wolosin understands concerns about Linfield Oaks "getting too much, too fast" in terms of possible developments, she said.

"I definitely think that housing needs to be distributed throughout the city," she said. But the so-called "builder's remedy" proposal for the Sunset Magazine site "is not something that is part of our planning process."

Builder's remedy refers to a state provision that allows developers to bypass local land-use regulations when a city or county has yet to gain certification for its housing element.

A preliminary application to redevelop the Sunset Magazine property was filed with the city under that provision before Menlo Park's housing element could garner the state's full blessing.

State certification does not appear to nullify that application and two much-smaller builder's remedy proposals that the city had already received. ■

*Email Contributing Writer  
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ngonzales92@yahoo.com.*



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# Menlo College women's wrestling team members are national champs

By Ashwini Gangal

For the second time in five years, the Menlo College women's wrestling team members are national champions. The team won the 2024 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Women's Wrestling Championship, hosted by the University of Jamestown at North Dakota, on March 9.

Fifth-year senior Tavia Heidelberg-Tillotson claimed her first individual national championship, according to a town of Atherton press release (the town passed a proclamation honoring the team during an April 17 meeting). With an undefeated 24-0 record, she now completes her Oak career as a five-time All-American. The women's team won its national championship in 2019.

"The onset of the pandemic delayed their return to the national stage, but they returned in style this year, once again securing the national championship title," said Menlo College President Steven Weiner in an email. "They made their potential apparent early this season with a string of successes that propelled them to a first-place finish at the conference championship in early March, and later that same month, to the national championship. For the heart and talent they commit to their sport, my admiration and appreciation

goes to every member of the Menlo College team, including our incredibly talented coaching and sports performance staff. I credit each and every one of them for the success of our program."

The team has 36 members. Of these, the 12 best athletes qualified to compete at the national championship.

"It's one of the best feelings I've ever felt," said Michael Ayala, head coach of the women's wrestling team at Menlo College. "I'm not egotistical at all but when you go out there as a unit, as a college, and you're number one, it's like — 'Wow we're the best.' I knew when I recruited this freshman class that they could be special."

He attributes this victory to the culture of Menlo College and the spirit of the town it's housed in.

"The athletes can only be as good as the environment around them," Ayala said. "In Menlo College and in Atherton, it's such a phenomenal community, they can be the best version of themselves; they love the area, they're at peace when they're walking around."

Ayala was also named NAIA Coach of the Year.

"This year I really felt confident as a leader, with the way I structured the program," he said. This is, in fact, his first year as head coach at Menlo. "I get a lot of support on campus."

Ayala has an academic background in clinical mental health

counseling. His job as head coach is not just about teaching the technicalities of wrestling; in equal measure, it's about understanding the psychology of his athletes.

"It's honestly about female empowerment and women empowerment, and teaching confidence. People don't understand how far that goes," he said. "A lot of my girls haven't been coached the way I was coached; they never had someone hold them to the standard that I do. I just don't feel like they've been introduced to sports the way that maybe a male counterpart may have."

In the days leading up to the tournament, the team was doing around eight hours of wrestling a week in addition to four hours of strength and conditioning. A lot of them were also doing extra exercises, like cardio, to keep their weight under control, their coach said.

In the coming months, Ayala has his sights set firmly on the next big challenge — the wrestling tournament organized by the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association).

"This was our last year wrestling in the NAIA," he said.

The captain of the winning team is similarly focused on the next big milestone. "I feel great we accomplished something huge but we're just on to the next thing," said Ajayzee Zaballos. "We're transitioning to division two and that's



Courtesy Ally Salzwedel/Menlo Athletics

The Menlo College Women's Wrestling team celebrated its 2024 national championship victory in March.

a whole beast of its own. So we're celebrating our win, using that to boost ourselves, and moving on."

The girls on the team are between 17 and 22 years of age.

"We're such a young team. There's only two juniors, we have a few seniors that are graduating, but most of our team are freshmen and sophomores," said Zaballos, who turns 21 this year.

Last year, the team finished fourth at this tournament. Winning the national title this year has been a great leap. "We didn't let our place last year affect us," she said. "We had a lot of pressure this year." The pressure was partly because at the ranking stage, they were neck and neck with the team at Life University.

Zaballos, who used to do jujitsu as a child, began her journey with wrestling during freshman year at high school, after her father urged her to try it out. She's glad she did because wrestling has taught her a lot of life lessons she said. According to her it was the team's core value of family that helped them stick together, bond with one another and win the title.

"I view all the girls on my team as my sisters. Not leaving each other behind — academically, athletically and personally — for independent goals ... that had a huge impact," she said. ■

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ashwinigangal@gmail.com.

## HISTORY CORNER



Courtesy Audiffred family



Courtesy Dolores Wilke Degnan



Courtesy Steve Lubin

## A look back at May Day

In this week's History Corner, we look back at old photos of Woodside's May Day, the town's oldest tradition, ahead of the 102nd celebration on Saturday, May 4.

Since the event began in the 1920s, the kindergarten royal court has reigned over the parade. The maypole dance is also a signature activity.

About 30 years ago, organizers added a fun run to the day.

This year, Scott and Kathi Dancer are the parade grand marshals. As in past years, the Sheriff's Department will close Woodside Road (Highway 84) between Cañada and Kings Mountain roads at 8:30 a.m. Early arrival is encouraged. ■



Courtesy town of Woodside archives

Clockwise from top left: In 1929, Jacques Audiffred led the charge as town crier, wearing a feather in his hat and ringing a bell to announce the start of festivities. In the 1947 parade, William Wilke (center background, smoking cigarette) decorated the cart with real flowers and his daughter, Dolores, was the queen. Third grade girls dance and weave multicolored ribbons around the maypole in 1956. In later years, the dancers included boys and girls. Woodside High School cheerleaders marching in the 1982 parade.

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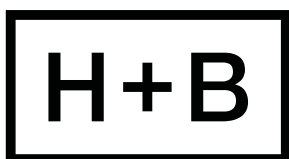
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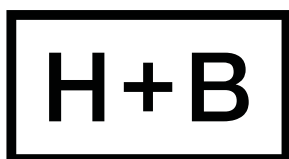
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# Evan Low gets a boost as Santa Clara County completes recount

By Gennady Sheyner

State Assembly member Evan Low is on the verge of advancing to the November runoff for a chance to succeed U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo in Congress after he picked up 11 votes as part of Santa Clara County's recount.

Low has been in a heated race with Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian for a spot in the November primary, where one or both of them are set to take on former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. Low and Simitian finished in a tie with 30,249 votes each after the March 5 primary. The two counties that make up the district, Santa Clara County and San Mateo County, both launched their respective recounts on April 15.

On April 30, Santa Clara County announced that it had

completed its recount, which resulted in Low gaining 11 votes and Joe Simitian picking up seven votes when compared to the original tally.

While the results give Low a decisive edge in the final phase of the recount, the question of who will advance to November will not be answered until San Mateo County completes its own review of the primary ballots. Jim Irizarry, assistant elections chief at San Mateo County, said the county had completed its machine scan of all the ballots on April 24. San Mateo County's machine scans did not change any of the results that were released after the March 5 primary, he said.

"It squared perfectly with our statement of the vote," Irizarry said.

That said, San Mateo County was still reviewing as of April

29 the 16 ballots that were challenged by Jonathan Padilla, a political ally of Liccardo who had requested the recount. Irizarry said this involves checking the bar codes on each of the challenged ballot envelopes and working with the United States Postal Service to ascertain when each of these ballots was mailed.

While the machine count in Santa Clara County effectively confirmed the primary results, the picture was different in Santa Clara, where several precincts saw a shift in results, in some cases because of errors by staff, according to an announcement from Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters.

The office identified 19 ballots from six precincts that were not included in the initial canvass results but are now included in the recount. These ballots were validated during the initial vote

count but they were not tallied due to human errors by the machine operators. Twelve of these ballots were from a single precinct in which the operator pressed the wrong button on the machine and erroneously cancelled the batch.

The other seven came from five separate precincts and were not counted because of errors that occurred when tabulation machines jammed or misfed, causing some ballots to need to be rescanned. The operators in these cases had failed to rescan the ballots, according to the Registrar of Voters.

The Santa Clara County registrar also reviewed 45 uncounted ballots that were challenged by Padilla and his team of attorneys. The registrar ultimately determined that seven of these should have been counted. In six cases, the ballots were

initially rejected because the ballots had unmarked boxes affirming citizenship status. During the recount, the Registrar of Voters identified other voter registration documents that affirmed their citizenship. The other case concerned a signature that was initially rejected but ultimately deemed a sufficient match to the signatures on record.

The Santa Clara County registrar also found three ballots from two precincts that are erroneously counted twice in the original canvas. Those results have now been corrected.

Matt Moreles, assistant registrar of voters at Santa Clara County, said in a statement that the county's election staff has been working diligently for the past two weeks to "conduct this unprecedented recount and

See **RECOUNT**, page 17

## Public Notices

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.: 24CIV01502

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Karina Prado Cabrera filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

ANTHONY JOSEPH CARPIO PRADO JR. to ANTHONY JOSEPH CARPIO JR

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: 05/13/2024, 9:00am, law and motion 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: 03/13/2014

Judge Raymond  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Apr 19, 26, May 3 and 10, 2024)

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)

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)

HEIRLOOM MOON  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-297255

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

1.) HEIRLOOM MOON , located at 950 S. Humboldt St., San Mateo, CA 94402.

Registered owner(s): MICHELLE ROSE MORALES

950 S. HUMBOLDT ST.  
SAN MATEO, CA 94402

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 22, 2024. (ALM May 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2024)

SWERVE MEDIA  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-297120

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

1.) SWERVE MEDIA , located at 25 Amherst Ct, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s): JERVIS WILLIAMS

25 Amherst Ct  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

LYNETTE WILLIAMS

25 Amherst Ct  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.

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 08, 2024. (ALM Apr 19, 26, May 3 and 10, 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)

IKON ELECTRIC  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-297273

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

1.) IKON ELECTRIC , located at 3198 RAMONA ST., PALO ALTO, CA., 94306.

Registered owner(s): HOOD GENERAL CONTRACTING, INC.

3198 RAMONA STREET  
PALO ALTO, CA 94306

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 24, 2024. (ALM May 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2024)

AXIS PERSONAL TRAINERS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-297198

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

1.) AXIS PERSONAL TRAINERS , located at 550 Ravenswood Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s): APT, LLC

550 Ravenswood Ave  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/02/2008.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 16, 2024. (ALM May 3, 10, 17 and 24, 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

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)

DEL MAR PROPERTIES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-297164

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

1.) DEL MAR PROPERTIES , located at 980 The Alameda, El Granada, CA 94018. Mailing Address: PO BOX 216, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.

Registered owner(s): CAFE REAL ESTATE INCORPORATED

980 The Alameda  
El Granada, CA 94018

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 12/3/2003.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 12, 2024. (ALM May 3, 10, 17 and 24, 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

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)

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)



76 MELANIE LANE  
ATHERTON



## LUXURY AND PRIVACY ON MORE THAN AN ACRE

Tucked away in privacy on over an acre in West Atherton, this 4-bedroom home boasts 4,350 square feet of living space along with the opportunity to enjoy all that an Atherton lifestyle affords. Fresh, light-filled interiors offer a sophisticated floorplan with highlights that include large gathering areas, refinished hardwood floors, multiple fireplaces, an expansive kitchen, and a convenient office to work from home in comfort. Enjoy the spa-like bathroom in the spectacular primary suite, which also offers a seating area perfect for a variety of needs. Outside, an incredible ipe wood deck provides the perfect venue on which to enjoy a true California indoor/outdoor lifestyle in the home's majestic, park-like setting. And though this home's cul-de-sac location creates a sense of idyllic seclusion, you will still be within easy reach of downtown Menlo Park, Menlo Country Club, Sand Hill Road, and many of the area's top public and private schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

### OPEN HOUSE

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

[76Melanie.com](http://76Melanie.com)

Offered at \$5,988,000

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

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com | Equal Housing Opportunity  
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**La Honda Fire Brigade fundraiser**

Alice's Restaurant is sponsoring a fundraiser for the La Honda Fire Brigade's Coastside Gives campaign. The Woodside restaurant will match every dollar you donate up to \$1,000.

Donate at [coastsidegives.org/story/0sfycf](https://coastsidegives.org/story/0sfycf).

**Applications open for new affordable housing in Menlo Park**

Applications are now open for below market rate housing units at two new housing developments, Lume, at 172 Constitution Dr., and Vasara, at 110 Constitution Dr. Rents for Lume and Vasara are offered at a lower rate as of April 29.

Studio, one, two and three-bedroom rental units will be available.

Preferences apply to those who live and work in Menlo Park.

A lottery will be conducted the week of May 13; applicants will be contacted by lottery rank beginning about five days later.

For more information and how to apply, please visit the Lume and Vasara information page on [menlopark.gov](https://menlopark.gov).

Applications are due May 13.

— Angela Swartz

**Menlo Park, Portola Valley schools win Kent Awards**

The Menlo Park City School District and Portola Valley School District were each awarded the 2024 J. Russell Kent Awards by the San Mateo County School Board Association. This award recognizes innovation and replicable programs being implemented across educational institutions, according to a press release from both districts.

MPCSD was recognized for its Community Reads Initiative, a platform that adds new voices to the classroom during read-alouds and invites input from diverse families in this educational experience. The initiative started three years ago to enhance visibility of students from different backgrounds.

PVSD was recognized for Ormondale School's garden education program, "Garden Thyme," a program that aims to enhance student engagement and learning through healthy eating and gardening. It was started over a decade ago by second grade teachers and local gardener and parent volunteer, Brook Coffee. The garden has now expanded to all students and the district has plans to extend it to Corte Madera School.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

**Cal Fire offers tips on home fire prevention**

With the month of May beginning this week, with its warmer weather, lower humidity and drying vegetation, Cal Fire is urging Bay Area homeowners to do all they can to protect against fire.

"Fires are mostly caused by the human factor," Cal Fire Battalion Chief Robert Carvalho. "For example, if a fire starts in someone's back yard, it's likely their lawn mower blade hit a rock and struck a spark."

To help guard against this, Carvalho said it's best to mow the lawn before 10 a.m. Keeping the grass short is actually a good way to help minimize the risk of fire — just don't mow when it's hot out.

More tips on clearing vegetation: String trimmers are safer than lawnmowers. And when watering during times of drought, be sure to remove all dead or dying vegetation.

In addition to these tips, Cal Fire emphasizes that defensible space is one of the most important ways to protect a home against fire. Defensible space is the buffer between a structure and the surrounding area.

"No stacks of wood next to the home," the battalion chief said.

The first five feet from the home is the most important, according to Cal Fire. Keeping the area closest

to buildings, structures, and decks clear will prevent embers from igniting materials that can spread the fire to a home. The majority of homes lost to wildfire are ignited by flying embers.

More tips are available on the Cal Fire website at [fire.ca.gov/dspace](https://fire.ca.gov/dspace).

While urging homeowners to prepare, the agency is doing the same.

Cal Fire is taking steps to get ready for the increased risk posed by warmer weather, the battalion chief said.

"Over the last couple weeks, our fire crews have been doing preparedness exercises, rehearsing working with hoses and hiking while wearing heavy fire gear," Carvalho said.

**San Mateo County Sheriff's deputies receive training on autism**

San Mateo County sheriff's deputies received training on autism from a renowned psychologist from the Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital this month, authorities said.

Deputies and front-line professional staff will learn about autism spectrum disorder (ASD) as part of the Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital Autism Program being led by expert Dr. Lauren Gardner.

"The interactive training is designed to increase law enforcement personnel's knowledge and awareness of ASD through lifelike scenarios. Deputies and professional staff will come away from the training knowing how to better interact and communicate with individuals with autism in both crisis and non-escalated situations.

The training will lead to better outcomes, including greater preparedness and enhanced community engagement, ultimately contributing to a safer San Mateo County," the Sheriff's Office said in an April 24 statement.

Sheriff Christina Corpus said this will serve as "another resource for our deputies and professional staff to utilize when engaging with individuals who are on the spectrum.

"Unlike other neurodevelopmental disabilities, autism can be more difficult to recognize without training and experience. This experience will allow us to better serve our communities, and I'm grateful to Dr. Gardner for sharing her wisdom and expertise with us. It is especially fitting during this Autism Acceptance Month," Corpus said.

The first phase of the training took place April 29 through May 3, with the second phase scheduled for June.

— Bay City News Service

**SHORT STORY CONTEST**

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT STORIES IS NEXT WEEK! MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>**

THE 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY

**Short Story Contest**

**Prizes for First, Second and Third place winners**

**in each category: Adult, Young Adult and Teen**

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ALL stories must be 2,500 words or less

QR CODE

**SUBMIT STORIES ONLINE: [PaloAltoOnline.com/short\\_story/](https://PaloAltoOnline.com/short_story/)**

**OBITUARIES**

Local residents who died recently include:

**Diana Beuttler**, 96, was born in La Cumbre, Argentina, and later attended college in London where she received a degree in architecture and interior design. After marrying her husband Bob Beuttler back at home in Argentina, the pair spent a two-year stint in England, before moving to Palo Alto, Burlingame and eventually settling in Felton Gables, Menlo Park, where Beuttler would thrive as an accomplished seamstress, homemaker, traveler, painter and hostess, known in her community for her hospitality.

**Trevor Burrowes**, 87, born in Jamaica, found his home in East Palo Alto as an artist, visionary and tireless defender of natural and man-made beauty in our environment. Receiving his education at Parsons School of Design, Yale Art School, UC Berkeley and in Mexico City, his art and community advocacy set him on a course to leave an indelible Mark on his East Palo Alto community, to which he was deeply committed.

**Michael Driscoll**, 73, a lifelong San Francisco Giants fan, avid fisherman, reader and outdoorsman, found his home in Fortuna, Calif., in close proximity to redwoods, rivers and the ocean. He had many professions throughout his life including carpentry, tree trimming, bartending, and restaurant management and was blessed with a wonderful community, returning home to Palo Alto in his final months.

**Dolores Babich**, 88, born in San Francisco and eloping at 28 in Reno to the love of her life Jim Babich, had two children and moved to Emerald Hills as a full-time mother. There, she raised her children and returned to work as Town Clerk in Woodside for over a decade, before becoming a member of the city of Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce. An avid traveler, reader, gardener and crossword puzzle expert, she was a proud grandmother and devout Catholic, known for her generosity and lively spirit.

**Stewart Silverberg**, 44, born in San Diego and having grown up in Menlo Park and Redwood City, was a natural salesman and became an enthusiastic golfer due to many rounds with his grandmother. A lifelong 49ers fan and dominos enthusiast, Stewart loved music, spending time with family during the holidays, and making his friends and family laugh, especially cherishing his role as an uncle.

**George Waltuch**, 89, was born in Vienna, Austria, escaping the Nazis via the Queen Mary to Ellis Island. A lifelong Yankees fan and lover of his adopted country, George was an excellent writer and loving husband to his wife Anne Bogart. Following medical school and a two-year stint as a doctor at Andrews Airforce Base in Washington, D.C., he settled into family life in California, where he dedicated his time to his children, his garden and his athletic pursuits.

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

**RECOUNT**

*continued from page 14*

ensure that the final results are complete and accurate.”

“This is the largest and most complex recount we have conducted, as well as our first machine recount on our new voting system,” Moreles said.

The final count in Santa Clara County, which represents about 80% of the district, showed Low finishing with 25,093 votes and Simitian with 23,775 votes. In San Mateo County, which is still finalizing its recount, Simitian finished with 6,481 votes after the March 5 primary, while Low had received 5,167 votes.

Clay Volino, spokesperson for the Low campaign, said his team has reviewed Santa Clara County’s final results and is now awaiting a final decision in San Mateo County on the remaining challenged ballots.

“We would like to thank the elections officials and their staff for their hard work during his process,” Volino said.

Santa Clara County officials had received more than 140,000 ballots for the congressional race, while San Mateo County had about 42,000 ballots.

Moreles called the recount a “learning experience” and said

the Registrar’s Office will “use the lessons learned to improve our processes and strengthen our quality control safeguards.”

“It is not unusual for a recount to change the vote totals, especially in such a large jurisdiction,” Moreles said in a statement. “Because this contest was so close with two candidates precisely tied for second place, even tiny changes can make a difference in the outcome.”

The Simitian campaign could not be reached for comment by The Almanac’s Wednesday afternoon press deadline. Liccardo, for his part, released a statement earlier in the day, before Santa Clara County released its final count, arguing that California law should provide for automatic recounts in close elections. He also reiterated that he did not coordinate with Padilla on the recount request.

Even if the recount request was made by Padilla for political reasons, “that hardly renders Padilla’s recount request illegitimate; it merely puts it in the same category as every other recount request in U.S. electoral history,” he wrote.

Check the online version of this story for the latest results at [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com). ■


*Email Staff Writer  
Gennady Sheyner at  
[gsheyner@paweekly.com](mailto:gsheyner@paweekly.com).*


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LICENSE B479799

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE  
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
Draft Environmental Impact Report  
Housing Element Update**

Date: May 4, 2024

**Notice is hereby given that the Town of Woodside has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) (SCH #2023050549) for the Draft Housing Element Update, now available for review. Public comment on this document is invited for a 45-day period extending from May 4, 2024, to June 17, 2024. Additional information and public meeting dates are provided below.**

**Project Location**

The Town of Woodside General Plan Housing Element Update guides future housing development within the approximately 11.8-square-mile Planning Area that encompasses the entire Town although it does not propose specific development. Woodside is located in east San Mateo County and approximately 32 miles south of San Francisco.

**Project Description**

The Housing Element contains goals, updated information and strategic directions (policies and implementing programs) that the Town is committed to undertaking. This Housing Element touches many aspects of community life. It builds upon the goals, policies and implementing programs contained in the Town's 2015-2023 Housing Element and other Town policies and practices to address housing needs in the community. The overall focus of the Housing Element is to preserve and enhance community life, character, and serenity through the provision of adequate housing opportunities for people of all income levels, while being sensitive to the unique and historic character of Woodside that residents know and love.

As required by State law, the Draft Housing Element includes a map of sites available for housing and an inventory of capacity. The inventory demonstrates a total capacity of up to 423 new housing units, which is sufficient to meet the Town's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) obligations at all income levels with a buffer. The buffer is required to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to meet RHNA obligations during the planning period, in the event that some sites on the inventory develop at lower densities than envisioned. Implementation of the Draft Housing Element would primarily involve facilitation of smaller scale infill development in established residential neighborhoods, with additional multi-family housing to provide varied housing types located at (APN) 072-041-040 (Raymundo Drive); portion of APN 068-100-220 (773 Cañada Road); APN 069-170-450 (High Road); and portions of APNs 068-320-330/410 (Cañada College Campus). Smaller-scale development includes vacant and underutilized single-family residences and development of accessory dwelling units (ADUs).

**Draft EIR**

The Draft EIR for the Housing Element Update identifies the following significant and unavoidable impacts:

- GHG Impacts 3.5-1 & 3.5-2: The Proposed Project's operational mobile-source GHG emissions would conflict with SB 743. Further, emissions resulting from buildout would exceed the targets established in the Woodside CAP and Executive Order B-30-18. The DEIR recommends a Mitigation Measure GHG-2 pursuant to which the Town will update the CAP to identify measures for compliance with State target.
- Transportation Impact 3.7-2: Due to the inability to determine that overall Project home-based residential VMT per capita can be reduced below the threshold of significance despite implementation of VMT reduction measures for the Cañada College housing development, the Project transportation-related impact is considered significant and unavoidable.

In addition, the following impacts are potentially significant but mitigatable to a less-than-significant level:

- Air Quality Impacts 3.2-2 & 3.2-3: Emissions could exceed BAAQMD standards but mitigation measures AQ-1 through AQ-2 would require compliance.
- Biological Resources Impact 3.3-1: Implementation could have an adverse effect on special status species but mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-10 provide species-specific interventions to reduce impacts.
- GHG Impacts 3.5-1 and 3.5-2: Construction-related GHG emissions from the Proposed Project would be required to comply with Mitigation Measure GHG-1 which requires implementation of BAAQMD-recommended BMPs.
- Noise Impact 3.6-1: Noise from individual construction projects carried out under the Proposed Project would result in temporary increases in ambient noise levels. Implementation of Mitigation Measure N-1 is recommended, which would require BMPs that reduce noise impacts for construction impacts.
- Tribal Cultural Resources Impact 3.8-1: Implementation could cause a substantial change to a historic/tribal resource but mitigation measures CUL-1 through CUL-2 require relevant training.

The EIR also evaluates potential cumulative and growth-inducing effects of the proposed General Plan Update. The CEQA-required No Project Alternative evaluates the impacts that would be reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the Proposed Project were not adopted and the Town's current 2012 General Plan, including the 2015-2023 Housing Element, was left unchanged and in use. The EIR also discusses the Infill Alternative which would focus new multifamily housing on sites in the Town Center and Skylonda Center areas. However, the EIR concludes that this Alternative would not meet all the project objectives, given it would not facilitate housing development on sites that can most feasibly be developed within the 2023-31 Housing Element Cycle.

**Public Comment**

This Draft EIR will be available for public comment from May 4, 2024, to June 17, 2024.

Comments can be submitted in writing or via email to:

Sage Schaan, Planning Director  
sschaan@woodsideca.gov  
(650) 851-6790  
Town of Woodside  
2955 Woodside Road  
Woodside, CA 94062

All comments received or postmarked by June 17, 2024, will be accepted. Notice for public meetings will be provided separately.

**Document Availability**

The EIR and appendices are available for review at the front desk of Town Hall located at 2955 Woodside Rd, Woodside, CA 94062 and online at <https://woodsideca.gov/379/California-Environmental-Quality-Act-CEQ>.

**FIRE ORDINANCE**

*continued from page 5*

stipulation as being unfair and possibly leading to much conflict between neighbors.

Residents who addressed the board Tuesday before its decision still expressed plenty of displeasure with the ordinance.

Former Portola Valley mayor Jon Silver even raised the prospect of taking the matter to the polls.

"I think this ordinance is way overkill," Silver said. "I don't know if it's subject to referendum, but I would find out. And if it is, I promise you it will be defeated in the ballot box. I promise you. It's not a threat. It's a promise."

Portola Valley resident Rebecca Flynn, who moderates the town's PVForum, called the ordinance punitive and costly for residents.

The district is "punishing people who don't have money," Flynn said. "The reason why a lot of these places are not cleared out [is that people don't have money. They're living on limited incomes. They don't have the money to clear out all the tree stumps that are sitting in front of their homes. They don't have the money to go and thin out all their trees. They don't have the money to do all sorts of things that are required in this ordinance.]"

Ladera Community Association (LCA) President Wynn White told district leaders that he and his group understand the pursuit of the ordinance.

LCA recognizes "that the ordinance is meant to significantly improve our fire-preparedness stance and ultimately our community safety," White said.

But further community outreach and education about the ordinance are needed, he said. "There's a lot of people who still don't know a lot about this" despite the outreach that has already been done.

"We'll continue to do our part," he said. "We'll continue to communicate through our

community channels, but I think whatever you can do to help further educate and outreach to inform the homeowner what the new ordinance entails and how to comply is going to go a long way."

The district is working on guidelines that could help do just that. The guidelines would provide residents additional clarity on what the ordinance is requiring.

They would break down "the ordinance in simpler terms with pictures and diagrams to assist illustrating examples of the requirements," district Fire Marshal Kimberly Giuliacci said in an email to The Almanac.

The board is expected to consider approving the guidelines on May 28.

At the board meeting on Tuesday, White also wondered if funding programs could be found to help residents cover the costs of complying with the ordinance.

LCA could potentially apply for grants on behalf of the community, he said. "We'd like to have the district's assistance to help identify some of those and, if they're applicable, help those individuals (who) may qualify for them."

Fellow LCA member Daniel Warren concurred.

"This mandated work will be unaffordable to many people," Warren said. "Instead of passing the law now, line up grant money for funding ... or negotiate rates with landscaping and tree companies. Find the money to help take the sting out of the cost notwithstanding the loss of enjoyment and property values that will come from this transformation."

After the board approved the ordinance, Miller indicated that the district would still be able to make refinements.

"We will improve it as we go," he said, "and we will be gentle." ■

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**PROM BOUTIQUE**

*continued from page 5*

student from San Jose and another from Napa.

For next year, prom closet organizers are already expecting to receive more donations and a grant from Macy's. Winikoff noted that they hope to receive more donations for suits and dress shoes for boys next year.

"There isn't a barrier anymore," said Perkins-Sledge, who was touched to see the project grow into what it's become.

The PTA also organized a bus to drive the students to and from the venue at the San Francisco

Design Center. Winikoff and her PTA co-president Shu Rosenthal also dressed up to supervise the prom. They enjoyed the night as they danced along to the "Cupid Shuffle" out of the students' sight.

Winikoff and Rosenthal were excited to see so many of their prom closet dresses being worn on the dancefloor as over 800 students partied the night away at their Las Vegas-themed prom — with a special performance by an Elvis impersonator. ■

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# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## New Portola Valley-based nonprofit makes music for the community

For its event on May 9, Coast Live Music stages a sunset classical concert at winery **By Kate Daly**

It's a good thing Portola Valley resident Livia Sohn likes to learn new things and work hard, because her "passion (to) bring more music into the community" has become almost a full-time job on top of being a single mother of two, a professional violinist, and a violin and chamber music teacher at Stanford University.

She recently founded and serves as artistic director for the nonprofit Coast Live Music, which is putting on its second public concert, Baroque Sunset at Fogarty Winery, on May 9 in Woodside.

The evening program features Vivaldi's Concerto for Strings in C Major, Albinoni's Concerto for Oboe and Strings, Walker's Lyric for Strings, CPE Bach's Sinfonia in B-flat Major, Price's Adoration for Oboes and Strings, and J.S. Bach's Concerto for Oboe and Violin.

"The incredible venue was the starting point, with a pavilion overlooking the Santa Clara Valley and a stage that's large enough for an ensemble," Sohn said of how the beautiful setting inspired the concert.

The ensemble is made up of Sohn, who plays both a J.B. Guadagnini violin crafted in 1770 and a 2006 Samuel Zygmuntowicz model, Coast Live Music Artistic Advisor James Austin Smith on oboe, San Francisco Symphony principal viola player Jonathan Vinocour, Meesun Hong Coleman (traveling from Salzburg, Austria) on violin, Arlen Hlusko on cello, James Thompson on violin, Anthony Manzo on bass and Paolo Bordignon on harpsichord.

Back in January, Coast Live Music staged its first public concert with the Ehnes Quartet playing at Portola Valley Town Center.

Sohn said she was thrilled with the "feeling of togetherness ... the immediate vibe of everyone seeing each other and catching up; I felt a real sense of pride, this is what we were hoping for."

The name, Coast Live Music, derives from coast live oaks, "the thing that thrives in this community," Sohn said.

Her son Jack designed the logo that's half coast live oak and half violin.



Eisaku Tokuyama

The Ehnes Quartet played Coast Live Music's inaugural concert held in January at the Portola Valley Town Center.



Eisaku Tokuyama

Coast Live Music Founder and Artistic Director Livia Sohn, center left, and James Austin Smith, the nonprofit's artistic advisor, are seen at the group's inaugural concert.

The organization's origin story goes back to Sohn and her late husband, Geoff Nuttall, violinist and co-founder of the St. Lawrence String Quartet. They traveled around the world to perform and found "the best experience was the most intimate for both the performer and the audience," Sohn said.

They decided they wanted "to bring music to those who love music and those who don't."

At first, they targeted school audiences. But when Nuttall became sick and then died from pancreatic cancer a year and a half ago, Sohn recognized the need to expand the mission and outreach "to places where music can really help and heal and offer a distraction."

Her focus is now on booking performances in the health care industry, cancer wards,

homeless shelters and rehab centers, as well as playing for children with disabilities and their families.

Sohn said "music is like an equalizer, it's very democratic in a way ... a universal language" she's eager to share.

Sohn continued, "I know music, I know great people, and I know how to create community; this is my offering."

And she's busy making good on that promise. The same week as the concert at Fogarty, Sohn has smaller groups performing at homeless shelters in Redwood City and Sunnyvale, and at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center.

Coast Live Music also plans to return for a performance at Ronald McDonald House soon.

The next formal public concert is scheduled for the fall, on

Oct. 5 at a private home where Metropolitan Opera House star Anthony Roth Costanza will command center stage.

The ticketed events help cover the costs of the free concerts Coast Live Music presents at hospitals and shelters. Donations are welcome, too. ■

*Kate Daly is a Contributing Writer.*

The concert takes place May 9. Tickets are \$125 and include roundtrip shuttle service departing from Portola Valley Town Center at 5:30 p.m. to Thomas Fogarty Winery at 19501 Skyline Blvd. Light bites and a cash bar will be available. For tickets and more information, visit [coastlivemusic.com](http://coastlivemusic.com).

# Silicon Valley Open Studios returns for its 37th year

Meet artists showing their works Coastside and on the Peninsula this weekend

By Heather Zimmerman

Silicon Valley Open Studios (SVOS) returns for its 37th year with a more packed schedule than ever. The event's largest showing yet, according to the SVOS website, sees 375 artists welcoming visitors to a variety of spaces where they create or display their work. Visitors can check out spaces throughout the Peninsula, South Bay and Coastside. With open studios unfolding over three weeks in May, there's plenty of time to visit artists in every area. Each weekend highlights a different region, with Coastside and northern Peninsula studios open May 4-5; Midpeninsula studios on May 11-12 and South Bay studios on May 18-19.

In a two-part series, we're speaking with artists taking part in the Coastside and Peninsula weekends. Next week, we'll speak with artists showing in the Midpeninsula area.

## Dipti Irla — San Mateo

The vibrant vistas and cheery patterns in collage artist Dipti Irla's work come from sources not typically associated with beautiful things: junk mail, packing materials and old magazines. Irla draws on a fashion design background and a desire to create sustainable art to transform these humble materials into colorful pieces that often take inspiration from nature.

Collage had a natural appeal to her because it could incorporate a lot of the techniques Irla had used in fashion. Some pieces resemble quilts and many pieces feature a kind of fabric-like weaving, though they are made of paper.

"I also still draw inspiration from a lot of textile techniques that we used. I think those techniques still come out in my art,

like surface ornamentation," Irla said of her work in fashion.

Irla first studied fashion in India, where she grew up. She moved to the United States after she got married and received her MFA in fashion design from Academy of Art University. She worked in the fashion industry for a while, showing at New York Fashion Week in 2011. Irla took a break after having a child and while at home during the pandemic, began to experiment with making art to keep her brain active, she said.

She kept going with the work and at the urging of friends and family, Irla began to pursue making art professionally.

"I started using a lot of the old magazines that were lying around — all these junk mail flyers and all these letters that we get. So instead of just throwing them away, I started making use of them to make a more sustainable way of making art," Irla said.

Lately, Irla has been exploring using more traditional canvas backgrounds for her pieces, rather than paper, which makes it harder to create a piece that's completely upcycled, but the bulk of the materials she uses are still repurposed.

As she has expanded her offerings into prints, in addition to handmade collages, she has tried to ensure the prints also reflect her sustainable ethos. She has sought out printers who use more eco-friendly practices and even a printer that uses canvases that are 100% recycled.

This will be Irla's first year participating in Silicon Valley Open Studios. She said that visitors can expect to see a lot of bright colors, and nature themes.

"Most of my art, even though it's driven by textile techniques and craft techniques, the inspiration

comes from nature. (There are) a lot of abstract collages and a lot of florals or foliage," she said.

Irla will show all three weekends of Open Studios: May 4-5 at 1797 Rex St., San Mateo; May 11-12 at 1022 Webster St., Palo Alto and May 18-19 at 1583 Meadowlark Lane, Sunnyvale. [diptiirla.com](http://diptiirla.com).

## Mykola Kulishov — Pacifica

To create his gracefully curved wood sculptures, Mykola Kulishov draws on both mathematical concepts and traditional woodworking techniques from Ukraine, where he was born and raised.

"My works explore the beauty and character that exist in wood, often as a result of tree environmental conditions, wood storage environment, etc. In that regard, wood is like a person: Stress and living conditions develop interesting character in both," Kulishov said in an email interview.

He also focuses on using salvaged wood for his pieces.

"Much of the wood used in my sculptures is salvaged wood, repurposed from felled trees in the Bay Area trees that are given a second life in a new form."

Kulishov typically works with large pieces of green wood and said that he developed a unique process that keeps the wet wood from cracking during carving.

"An additional distinctive aspect of my work is that every bowl or vase comes from a single piece of wood. To make carving more efficient, I developed techniques for removing wood from tricky spots that are hard to reach. Then, I make sure to smooth and polish these areas really well," he said.

Kulishov has a high-tech background, having graduated from Kyiv Shevchenko University in Ukraine with a degree in radio-physics. He worked in Kyiv for nearly 20 years at the Institute of



Courtesy Mykola Kulishov

Mykola Kulishov incorporates Ukrainian woodworking techniques into pieces, such as this twisted copper wire decoration.

Cybernetics, National Academy of Sciences, where he also earned a Ph.D. degree in Optoelectronics. He moved first to Canada for a job in the high-tech industry and then came to the U.S. in 2006 to work as a business development director. "As a researcher, I published more than 50 papers in peer-reviewed journals, three book chapters and two U.S. patents," he said.

Before retiring in 2023, he was working as a sales engineer for semiconductor light sources and optical amplifiers.

His array of technical knowledge has found its way into his art, with fluid shapes such as Möbius strips that have "no boundaries" evident in his pieces.

Kulishov's Ukrainian upbringing also had a significant influence on the techniques he uses. He also noted that some of the chisels he still uses in his work were made by his father over 30 years ago.

"In Ukraine I also studied our traditional wood carving during my trips to the West-Ukrainian (Carpathian) region, the place of most famous Ukrainian wood carvers, and soon after wood

sculptures became my hobby. I have developed my own designs of wood bowls and vases, and I perfected these designs and my skills over many years. Wood carving has become my creative refuge," he said. In addition to Ukrainian carving techniques, he also sometimes incorporates a twisted copper wire as a decorative element, which he said is a common Ukrainian style.

Mykola Kulishov will show all three weekends of Open Studios: May 4-5 at 2021 Palmetto Ave., Pacifica; May 11-12 at 12133 Foothill Lane, Los Altos Hills; and May 18-19 at Maker Nexus, 1330 Orleans Drive, Sunnyvale. [kulishwood.com](http://kulishwood.com). ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at [hzimmerman@almanacnews.com](mailto:hzimmerman@almanacnews.com).

Silicon Valley Open Studios takes place 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. at all sites. Admission is free. For more information and a map of participating artists, visit [svos.org](http://svos.org).

# Palo Alto Players stage 'The Music Man' with all the bells and whistles

The classic musical boasts plenty of showstoppers and themes that still ring true

By Heather Zimmerman

## THEATER REVIEW

There are few characters to admire in "The Music Man," but the show itself — particularly its music — is a different story. The 1957 musical, with script, score and lyrics all by Meredith Willson, boasts inventive songs, along with a host of tunes that have become Broadway standards for a reason. From small-minded townfolk primed to believe the worst about anything and everyone to the slick con man looking to profit from those beliefs, the show still rings true in a lot of ways. Palo

Alto Players is staging the classic musical through May 12.

Huckster Harold Hill strides into River City, Iowa, on the Fourth of July in 1912 aiming to trick the local citizenry into ordering instruments and uniforms for a kids' band he has no intention of leading. He convinces his marks that the band is the only way to save the local youth from the kind of delinquency they didn't know existed until he arrived.

The show is at its best as a slice of fun-loving Americana that

nonetheless remains quite honest about the malleability of mob mentality — a theme that's plenty current.

The plot depends on Hill's charm. Alex Perez is so charismatic and smooth in the role that it almost seems even Hill himself believes in what he's selling. He's simply a lot of fun to watch.

As Hill quickly capitalizes on citizens' vanity and basest beliefs, it's hard not to be amused as he cons them in the span of the well-loved number "Ya Got Trouble." He even works a minor miracle

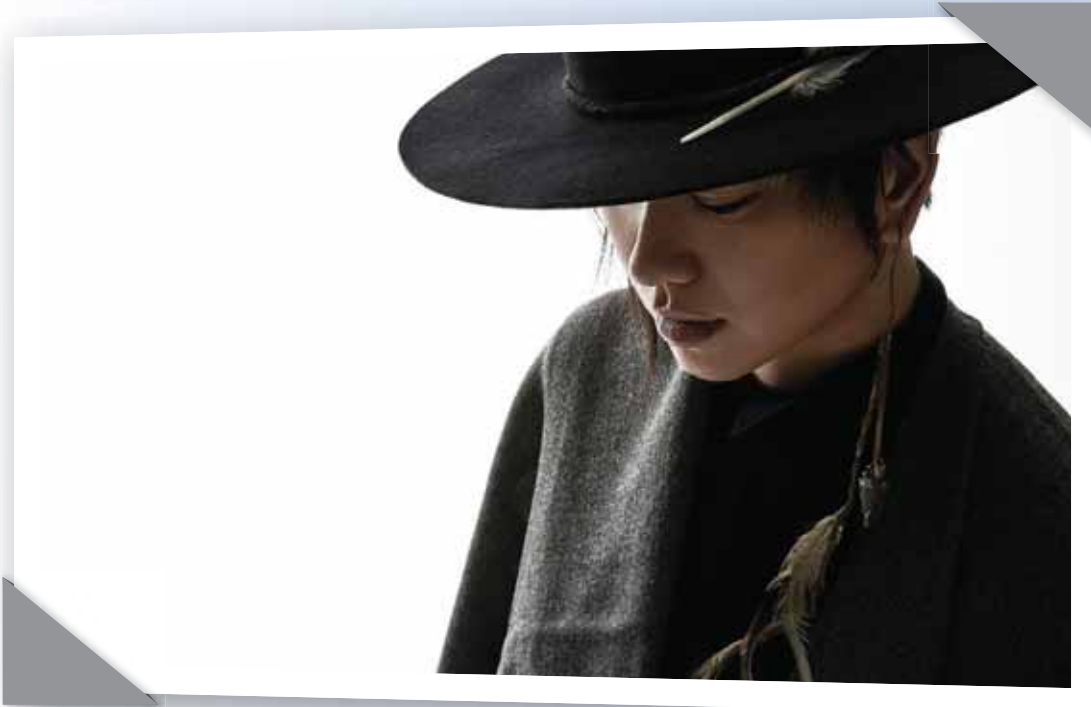


Courtesy Scott Lasky

Marian Paroo (Alicia Teeter) sees through the con that Harold Hill (Alex Perez) is pulling on her fellow townfolk in Palo Alto Players' "The Music Man."

See **THE MUSIC MAN**, page 21

# Worth a Look



Courtesy Anna Azarov Photography

Multi-instrumentalist and composer treya lam performs a free concert on May 4 at the Community School of Music and Arts.

## treya lam

Folk-influenced songwriter and multi-instrumentalist (voice, viola, guitar, piano) treya lam comes to the Community School of Music and Arts to perform a free community concert featuring “otherland: a sapling,” a work in progress that, according to lam’s website, is “an interdisciplinary grief ritual and chamber protest album that explores grief as a catalyst for radical empathy, intersectional solidarity and repairing our relationship to the earth.” lam, who uses they/them pronouns, is a member of Resistance Revival Chorus (a collective of women and nonbinary singers) and has performed at venues including Lincoln Center and the American Museum of Natural History. Their debut, “Good News,” was released in 2018.

May 4, 7:30 p.m., Tateuchi Hall, Finn Center, Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View; [arts4all.org](http://arts4all.org).

## Patchwork Show

Looking for a one-of-a-kind gift in time for Mother’s Day? Find wares by tons of independent artists and makers along with family friendly DIY craft activities at Patchwork Show Redwood City, a market presented by crafty curation company Dear Handmade Life. According to the event website, planned activities include making finger puppets, Mother’s Day cards, Scrabble bookmarks and rose-infused body oil. Live music will be part of the festivities as well.

May 4, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Courthouse Square, Redwood City; [dearhandmadelife.com](http://dearhandmadelife.com).

## ‘Sunday Afternoon Playing with Friends’

The Terrible Adult Chamber Orchestra (TACO), a Los Altos-based community orchestra that offers local musicians the chance to get together and practice their sight-reading and playing-together skills in a fun, low-pressure and inclusive environment, gets the big-screen movie treatment with the premiere of the documentary “Sunday Afternoon Playing with Friends.” Local

filmmakers Kevin Ohlson and Larry Baron followed the musical group for years, interviewing participants and gathering hours of footage, and their film will be shown at a special event at Mountain View’s ICON cinema, including a Q&A with Ohlson. A reception at the theater’s restaurant follows the screening.

May 5, 2 p.m. (reception 3-4:30 p.m.), Showplace ICON Movie Theater, 2575 California St., Mountain View; \$20/\$10 for children and students; [tacosv.org](http://tacosv.org).

## DJ Sep

Palo Alto’s Lytton Plaza hosts DJ Sep, the longtime Bay Area producer and DJ specializing in spinning reggae, dancehall and dub tunes, among other genres. A former radio DJ on KUSF and KPFA, she’s also worked internationally and across the U.S., and is the founder of the long-running reggae club Dub Mission. Her Palo Alto stint is free to the public and sponsored by Earthwise Productions.

May 4, 3-5 p.m., Lytton Plaza, 200 University Ave., Palo Alto; [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).

## THE MUSIC MAN

continued from page 20

in transforming four squabbling school board members into a barbershop quartet, who stroll the town with a harmony for every occasion.

The comic roles among the River City residents offer some highlights. Cameron Weston as Mayor Shinn is the perfect small-town politician who’s all bluster. Linda Piccone lends enjoyable steeliness to formidable town matron Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn, the mayor’s wife, easily flattered by Hill into leading a ladies’ dance troupe.

Alicia Teeter brings a beautiful high soprano voice to her clear-eyed but warm-hearted portrayal of Marian Paroo, the librarian and music teacher who alone sees through Hill’s ruse. Knowing she’ll expose his grift, Hill plans to woo Marian into looking the other way.

“The Music Man” boasts plenty of large-scale production numbers and the Players’ production goes all out in each one.

Director and choreographer Lee Ann Payne uses every inch of the stage to full advantage with lively choreography that keeps the large ensemble dynamic in a fairly small space.

While Hill leads River City around by the nose, the actual music man in the orchestra pit, music and vocal director Tony Gaitan, truly keeps the beat. The orchestra has a satisfyingly full, brassy sound that lives up to the signature number “Seventy-Six Trombones” and the show’s many other high-spirited songs.

The ensemble boasts a substantial cast of young actors who bring both exuberance and serious precision to the show’s big song and dance numbers.

Andrew Mo and Sheridan Stewart are a lot of fun as teen sweethearts from opposite sides of town: Mo is Tommy Djilas, a boy from the so-called wrong side of the tracks whom Hill pairs up with the mayor’s excitable daughter, Zaneeta (Stewart).

Henry Champlin and Russell Nakagawa alternate in the role of Marian’s 10-year-old brother Winthrop, who’s shy and hesitates to speak due to a lisp. Champlin was in the role at the show I attended, and he gave a strong performance.

Costume designer Katie Strawn strikes a nice balance in outfitting much of River City’s youth in a rainbow of ice cream hues, with the adults clad in more saturated colors. Marian stands out in slightly more neutral tones and full-skirted dresses that neatly reflect both her pragmatism and secret romanticism.

Appropriately for a show about a fast-talking grifter, some of Willson’s songs demand real vocal acrobatics. The sung-spoken opening number “Rock Island,” featuring the rhythmic patter of traveling salesmen aboard a train sets the tone. Perez easily rattles off Hill’s monologues of speedy balderdash, as in the wind-up to his “Ya Got Trouble” pitch. At the show I attended, there were just a couple small trips in the lightning-speed lyrics.

This being a golden age musical, Willson’s development of the central romance is slight to nonexistent. Marian sees through Hill’s con immediately, but the conman wins her heart with his real kindness to Winthrop. Hill himself sees the light a mite late—mere minutes before the finale, when it appears likely he’ll be run out of town or worse. The show is so much fun that this rushed romance seems almost unnecessary, but the songs it spurs, particularly the dreamy “Till There Was You,” makes it worth it. ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at [hzimmerman@almanacnews.com](mailto:hzimmerman@almanacnews.com).

Palo Alto Players present “The Music Man” through May 12 at the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$20-\$63. [paplayers.org](http://paplayers.org).

# Employment

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**7edu.org** (408) 876-2144

### Early Learning Institute **Palo Alto, Pleasanton**

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**EmersonMontessori.com** **Emerson: (650) 424-1267**  
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### Harker Summer Programs **San Jose**

Harker summer programs for preschool - grade 12 children include opportunities for academics, arts, athletics and activities. Taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff, our programs offer something for everyone in a safe and supportive environment. Register as soon as possible.

**Harker.org/Summer** (408) 553-5737

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**LydianAcademy.com/Admissions/Summer-at-Lydian/** (650) 405-1312

### Pinewood School **Los Altos**

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**Pinewood.edu/SummerPrograms**

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Explore biomedical science at Stanford through lectures from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science including bioengineering, neuroscience, immunology and other topics. July 8-26 Registration begins March 1st. The program is virtual.

**Explore.Stanford.edu** **explore-series@stanford.edu**

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**StratfordSchools.com/Summer** (650) 493-1151

## ARTS, CULTURE & ENRICHMENT

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**Camp.Integem.com** (408) 459-0657

### Captivating Dance Summer Program **Menlo Park**

Join us for 5 fun-filled weeks of dance! CDBN's summer camps are designed for dancers ages 4-12. Email for 12+ intensives. Campers will learn dance techniques in ballet, jazz, tumbling, lyrical, hip-hop, and musical theater. Camps are filled with excitement, games, arts & crafts, weekly performances, and more!

**CaptivatingDanceByNona.com/Summer-2024** (650) 339-0034

### Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls **Palo Alto**

Casti Camp offers girls entering grades 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music. Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9.

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

### City of Sunnyvale **Sunnyvale**

Offering 100+ camps for ages 2-17 featuring traditional, visual arts, performing arts, theater, sport and STEM camps. Full and half day options run June 10 - Aug. 9. Check out swim lessons for all levels also starting in June and enjoy recreation swim at our aquatic facilities.

**Sunnyvale.ca.gov/Activities** (408) 730-7350

### Code for Fun **Palo Alto**

Code For Fun is a leader in online and in-person coding programs for kids and teens. Our lessons develop critical STEM skills taught through our proprietary curricula, with engaging and effective hands on projects. Discover how our after-school programs and summer camps, in Palo Alto and online, can unlock a world of innovation and creativity. Weekly camps held during summer, and the rest of the year for ages 5-15. Full and half day camps.

**CodeForFun.com** (510) 578-8920

### Community School of Music and Arts **Mountain View**

40+ creative camps for ages 5-15! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Wearable Art, Digital Art, Musical Theater and more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Financial aid offered. After Camp available.

**Arts4All.org** (650) 917-6800 ext. 0

### Hidden Villa **Los Altos Hills**

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

**HiddenVilla.org/SummerCamp** (650) 949-8650

### Oshman Family JCC Camps **Palo Alto**

At J-Camp, we build a spirited community where campers are immersed in joyful camp activities and develop meaningful relationships with others while engaging in individual personal growth. Our exciting day camp offers programming for incoming grades K-10.

**OFJCC-JCamp.com** (650) 223-8622

### Riekes Center **Menlo Park**

Explore all your interests this summer with Riekes Summer Camps! Enrolling now for camps in Nature, Music, Art, and Digital Media. There's something for every camper! For ages 5-18 with locations across the Peninsula.

**RiekesSummerCamps.org** (650) 364-2509

## ARTS, CULTURE & ENRICHMENT

### Stanford Jazz Workshop **Stanford**

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

**StanfordJazz.org** (650) 736-0324

### Ventana School Summer Camp **Los Altos**

Keep your child inspired all summer long at Ventana's Elementary Summer Camp! With engaging week-long themes, campers will immerse themselves in hands-on activities that will boost their creative confidence and stimulate their minds. Join us for one or all of the following weeks: Masterchef Junior, Arts & Crafts, Game Creation, Mad Scientist, Musical Theater and Wonderful Water. Open to students who will have completed K-5th grade by the summer.

**VentanaSchool.org/Elementary-Summer-Camps-2024** (650) 948-2121

## ATHLETICS

### Bald Eagle **Bay Area**

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# Food & Drink

## Eyes on the Pies

### Palo Alto family raises thousands for Ecumenical Hunger Program with Key lime pies

By Karla Kane  
Photos by Magali Gauthier

For Palo Alto high schooler Tyler Wong, a long-running hobby has become a rewarding — and tasty — community service project. During the first summer of the pandemic, Tyler, an incoming freshman at the time, was inspired to use his passion for baking to benefit more than just the friends and family lucky enough to sample his pies, cookies and cakes over the years.

“I wanted to do something to help out the community, and I really wanted to incorporate something I liked doing, which was baking,” he recalled. An avid baker since sixth grade, he decided, with the encouragement of his mom, to sell some pies and donate the money to charity, reaching out via social media as well as school and neighborhood groups.

“He had lots of time to experiment,” his mother Angela Wong recalled. “He would stay up late baking in the middle of the night.”

Fast forward a few years and

Tyler, now a senior at Palo Alto High School, has raised more than \$13,000 for East Palo Alto’s Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP), which supports local families and individuals struggling with food insecurity and other hardships.

Tyler said he chose EHP in particular because he’d already volunteered there with his Boy Scouts group, his church and his family.

“It was a place I was familiar with, somewhere I could help out people in need,” he said.

Along the way, Tyler has also collaborated with local businesses “to get more pies out there to more people,” as he put it, including the nonprofit Ada’s Cafe, the Market at Edgewood, which matched the pie proceeds, and Flea Street, with the support of owner Jesse Cool.

“What Tyler did was amazing. It was very generous and thoughtful for a teenager to take his valuable time and provide this support for EHP,” Lesia Preston, EHP’s executive director, told this news organization in an email. “We need more people like Tyler.”

While he enjoys and tries all kinds of baking, the Key lime pie, with its fresh-squeezed juice and graham cracker crust, has emerged as his signature dish.

Fellow Palo Altan Eva Dobrov first learned about Tyler’s pies and his charitable goals about three years ago, thanks to a friend’s Facebook post. Impressed that he had taken something many people started as a COVID-era hobby and turned it into something bigger to benefit the community, she placed an order.

“It’s an extension of learning to bake — doing it for good. I thought that was really cool,” she said. “I applaud his enthusiasm for it.”

After tasting that first pie, it wasn’t just his enthusiasm she was applauding.

“I was blown away; he did a really good job,” said Dobrov, who said she has very high Key lime pie standards and has since become a repeat customer.

“I’m from Florida — I grew up there — and I love a good Key lime pie,” she said of the Sunshine State favorite. “People outside of Florida do not usually make them very well. I’m very critical. Usually they’re too creamy, they’re not tart enough.” With some bakers, she explained, “it’s more of a custard. A true Key lime pie is more like a curd. You get the sweet and the creaminess but you also get the really nice, good flavor of the lime. A lot of times, they add too much sugar to it.” Tyler’s, though, is “really well-balanced,” she said.

Most recently, Dobrov ordered one of Tyler’s pies for her family Thanksgiving celebration, where it was the favorite among the traditional offerings like apple and pumpkin. She was especially

excited to share it with her sister, since they share the same Florida roots. The verdict?

“She liked it a lot. She was impressed,” she said.

Tyler first got into baking after watching “Kids Baking Championship” and other similar programs as a middle schooler.

“That’s why I found a love for cooking and baking, then I acted on it,” he said. “I started baking pies and cakes and other desserts for my classmates at school, and I’d like to think they’re pretty lucky classmates.”

Tyler said he’s pretty much a self-taught chef. Baking, he said, is mostly “following directions and then adding your own spin to it, making adjustments as you see fit as you progress.” He was also humble about what makes his from-scratch baked goods special.

“It’s really everyone’s own taste,” he said. “I personally like my crust a little bit thicker on the sides...it’s really just your own preference.”

He estimated that it currently takes him about 14-18 hours, spread out over two days, to make a batch of about 50 pies.

His mom laughed when asked what it’s like at home during the days Tyler is baking for one of his large sales.

“It takes over the entire kitchen. It kind of takes over everything. We have to take stuff out of our freezer; we move everything around,” she said, adding that storing the pies can be a challenge (they have two refrigerators and sometimes also use a neighbor’s.)

While Tyler handles most of the process himself, he’s not opposed to letting family assist on one of the more tedious aspects.

“The thing he dislikes the most is juicing the limes,” Angela said.

This provides a nice opportunity for a bit of mother-son bonding while sharing the fruit-squeezing burden. “That’s often the time I get to spend with him,” she said. “I get to sit with him and chat with him.”

As his high school career wraps up, Tyler is not sure how much time he’ll have for baking or if he’ll pursue it further.

“I think I’ll keep it up as a hobby but not necessarily as my main profession,” he said. He’s also an avid photographer and is considering taking a gap year before college to concentrate on photography.

But continuation of the pie project will likely come from another family member. Chase Wong, a current freshman at Paly who’s also a frequent EHP volunteer and has been doing some baking of his own, has created a website, Creating for Good, and the siblings plan to have pies for sale for Mother’s Day. Pie fans can check their websites and get on the list to stay in the know.

“I’ve been working with my brother to see how we can keep this operation going,” Tyler said of Chase and the future of what’s becoming a family tradition. “He really enjoys helping others.”

“It’s nice just to see that they have that interest and that heart for serving,” Angela said. ■

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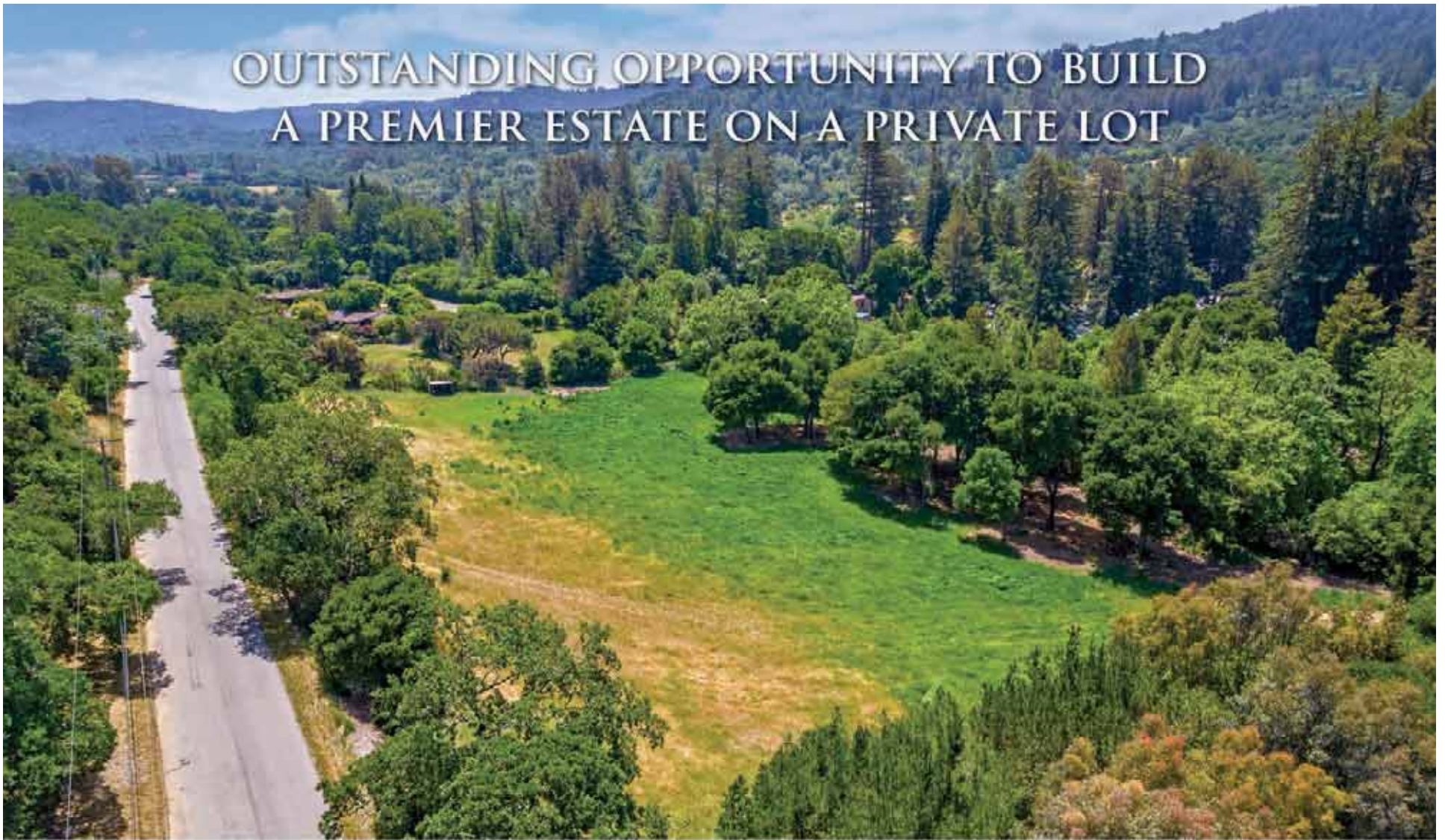
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Top: Tyler Wong adds his key lime pie filling to prepared pie crusts at his home in Palo Alto. Above: Key lime pies cook in Tyler Wong’s oven.

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