Woodside’s 102nd May Day celebration:
A wild, wet and wonderful day

By Maggie Mah

It was a dark and stormy morning on Saturday, May 4, but the unusually wet weather did not prove to be a deterrent to either organizers or participants and Woodside’s annual May Day festivities took place much as they have since the event was first held in 1922. This year’s theme, “Discover the Magic,” was put to the test as rain fell steadily through the morning and afternoon.

The weather may have dampened the enthusiasm for some would-be parade watchers, but hardy spectators lined both sides of the route on Woodside Road. Perhaps in defiance of the cold and wet, the esprit de corps of the crowd seemed especially strong. Also, the candy being tossed from the floats was plentiful.

Parade announcers, Tyler MacNiven and Woodside Elementary School PTA President Melody Westervelt (both clad in fetching American flag-inspired outfits), kicked off the parade. “Can’t rain on my parade!” joked MacNiven. Exhorting the crowd, he continued, “Yeah, the weather is always supposed to be great on May Day but it’s the wet ones you’ll remember!”

The parade started in earnest as a stalwart contingent from the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County rode by on their rain-streaked horses. Equestrian groups that followed were WHOA!, with participants in theme-appropriate wizard costumes, and the Woodside Vaulkers with a white mini horse done up as a rainbow unicorn. Unfazed by the rain, grand marshals Kathi and Scott Dancer rode the route astride their horses and waved enthusiastically to the crowd.

Where Atherton stands in its housing element update process

By Eleanor Raab

The town of Atherton has been embroiled in a drawn-out and contentious housing element update process since 2022. The state has not approved the town’s housing plans for 2023 through 2031. At present, the town is still working with residents and HCD to identify potential sites for multifamily housing and finalize revisions to the town’s zoning ordinances. However, Atherton plans to fulfill as much as 80% of its housing requirements through the construction and rental of accessory dwelling units. As of January 2024, these are the properties currently under consideration for multifamily development in Atherton:

At a joint meeting on April 29, the Atherton City Council and Planning Commission reviewed a draft of the data and narratives section of the town’s housing element document. California Department of Housing and Community Development requested these changes in its April 2023 letter rejecting Atherton’s proposed housing element. The town’s housing plan leaned heavily into ADUs. There are 280 such units in the plan.

“The changes made will be incorporated into the draft document to be reviewed by the Planning Commission in June. If the commission moves the document forward, it will hit the council agenda in July,” said Atherton Town Manager George Rodericks in his April monthly newsletter. “The commission and council can take multiple meetings to review the information so the timeline may be extended as a result.”

Every eight years, jurisdictions across California are required to update their plan under the state’s Regional Housing Needs Allocation program. This cycle, the town must plan for the development of 348 new housing units, a significant increase from the previous planning period.

In order to have a compliant housing element, the town must address comments from the state on its housing element draft, and bring town housing ordinances up to speed with state legislation.

In addition to implementing changes to the housing element document itself, the town is working on California Environmental Quality Act analysis for proposed multifamily sites. Rodericks said postcards announcing a public comment period for the town’s multifamily housing CEQA report would be mailed to Atherton residents within the week. The public comment period will include a hearing before the Planning Commission.

After the public comment period, the potential multifamily sites will return to the town Planning Commission, and then City Council for final selection. This would likely happen in June, said Rodericks.

Atherton’s Planning Commission is also reviewing proposed Objective Design Standards for potential multifamily development in the town. These standards would “create some consistency and expectations for setbacks, heights, privacy issues and all that,” said Rodericks.

In a previous monthly newsletter, Rodericks outlined the importance of objective design standards for Atherton residents: “These design standards are the only basis upon which the town can deny a development. Therefore, it is important that the town carefully craft these standards to not only comply with state law; but also to provide applicants with a clear set of objective standards that will require any proposed development to be designed in a way that ensures neighborhood and community compatible design.”

At the same time, Atherton is working on updating various housing ordinances in order to...
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Harker.org/Summer  (408) 553-5737

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LyndianAcademy.com/Admissions/ Summer-at-Lyndian/ (650) 405-1312

Pinewood School  Summer Festival of Learning  Los Altos
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Pinewood.edu/SummerPrograms

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

Summer@Stratford  Palo Alto/Bay Area
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StratfordSchools.com/Summer  (650) 493-1151

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CovingtonDanceByNona.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, 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 financial aid offered. After Camp available.
Arts4All.org  (650) 917-6800 ext. 0

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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
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Maccabi Sports Camp  Atherton
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MaccabiSportsCamp.org/wp  (415) 997-8844

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SpartansSportsCamp.com  (650) 479-5906

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Local News

Menlo Park council moves forward with developing an automatic license plate reader program

By Eleanor Raab

In a 3-2 vote, the Menlo Park City Council opted to move forward to develop a 2-year pilot program for automatic license plate readers throughout the city, after previously declining to consider the readers during a similar meeting last year due to privacy and efficacy concerns. The city would install 35 ALPRs through the city. This reexamination of ALPRs comes after Menlo Park residents asked the city for help after a string of burglaries rocked the Sharon Heights neighborhood.

Mayor Cecilia Taylor and Council member Betty Nadeau voted against moving forward with ALPRs, citing high cost, unproven efficacy and concerns about civil liberties. Vice Mayor Drew Combs and councilmembers Jen Wolosin and Maria Doerr ultimately voted in favor of developing an ALPR pilot program with strong privacy guardrails, and taking a look at the program’s efficacy down the line.

“(We need to balance the benefits versus the costs, but there certainly are costs and I do want to acknowledge that)” said Combs. “The rollout of this over I think a two year period I think is long enough for us to see some real sense of the value of this program...I am willing to, based on the recommendation of the Chief, go down this road of exploring it and seeing the data.”

The Menlo Park Police Department has requested that 25-35 fixed ALPR cameras be installed in Menlo Park. Staff hasn’t yet proposed specific locations to install the readers. Menlo Park Police Chief John Norris said that these devices are invaluable in solving a wide variety of crimes, such as homicides, thefts, missing persons cases and more. He said that the data is not yet conclusive on whether or not these cameras have a deterrent effect on crime, but that they would aid in case closure rates for the Menlo Park Police Department. He also touted the nondiscriminatory nature of fixed ALPRs, saying “they’re just pulling data in a location, that is about as unbiased as you can get in terms of the collection of that data.”

The Flock ALPR camera system reads license plates and gathers information such as color, make and model of cars that pass through the roads where they are installed. The data gathered by the system can then be cross-checked with lists of vehicles that are suspected to be involved in crimes, and can be searched by police officers over the course of an investigation.

Norris said that the data would be provided by Flock for 30 days, and then by the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center for six months.

These readers will be installed through a contract with Flock Safety, a security company that provides police departments and other safety authorities with ALPRs. Many other nearby municipalities, such as Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside, already use Flock to provide ALPR services.

The installation of the 35 new Flock ALPRs would initially cost the city $133,250 — $105,000 for the cameras themselves, $20,750 for professional services implementation fees, and $7,500 for the first year of the Flock advanced search operating system. The ongoing cost of the system would be $112,500 annually for camera maintenance and the search operating system. This number has come down from a previous quote of $284,900 for initial installation and $251,000 for ongoing system costs.

The Menlo Park Police Department has already been operating ALPRs in Menlo Park since 2014 in the form of mobile license plate readers. Currently, license plate data retention is controlled by city ordinance and restricted to six months of retention.

MPPD is also already in agreement with Flock Safety for access to Flock ALPR information sharing with other agencies.

Littlest Angels Preschool celebrates 25th anniversary

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Littlest Angels Preschool, an inclusive and play-based school in Menlo Park, celebrated its 25th anniversary on April 14 with members of Bethany Lutheran Church, families and alumni. Pastor Jon Coyne and his wife Karen opened the preschool, at 1095 Cloud Ave., in 1996. After a year of running the preschool, they saw the need for a program catered to younger children and started a 2-year-olds program. The preschool was excited to celebrate its milestone of 25 years of education after having to postpone the celebration due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It was great seeing our community take time to connect with each other,” said Preschool Director Katie O’Malley, who has been working at Littlest Angels for 15 years.

During the event, children performed songs, decorated frisbees, had glitter tattoos, took photos and enjoyed cake, food and refreshments.

See PRESCHOOL, page 14

New trail, exhibit on indigenous history coming to Filoli this summer

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Filoli is readying for a new addition to its hiking trails with the opening of the Spring Creek trail loop on June 8. As visitors hike the trail, they can follow the story of William Bourn, who constructed Filoli in 1917, and his historic water channel that can be seen on the trail.

The hike will lead guests up a hill through redwoods, ferns, scenic creek beds and history. The loop starts at the midway point of the 1-mile nature trail right next to the Lamchin Interactive Center, which also opens in June. The new trail will take you through three of the estate’s six ecosystems. Hikers can expect ever-changing flora and fauna, from mushrooms and newts in winter to wildflowers and songbirds in spring, according to a Filoli Instagram post.

“I hope people walk away knowing that the Ramaytush Ohlone are still here and are still doing important work on the Peninsula,” said Brock. “They are still caring for this natural place and the people who live here.”


The Woodside estate has also partnered with the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone to create the Lamchin Interactive Center. The trail and new exhibit fosters understanding about the past, present and future of the 645 acres of land that Filoli is on, said Brock.

The building was previously named the Sally MacBride Nature Center, which opened in 1988, but will be remodeled to showcase the story of the native Lamchin history of Filoli.

“The theme for the exhibit is INDIGENOUS HISTORY,” said Indigeneous History, page 14

Littlest Angels Preschool students and alumni singing to chapel songs during church service.
Ravenswood robotics team makes it to world championship

The Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School robotics team students made the division finals at the VEX World Championship in Dallas, Texas at the end of April.

“The best part of the trip is when they unveil the new game and I go to dinner with the students and listen to all the ideas flying around the table and they start drawing pictures on napkins,” said teacher Tina Collier, who leads the team, in a Ravenswood City School District newsletter. “I carry a small sketchbook now to allow for everyone to participate in their first unofficial brainstorming session.”

Deadline for Las Lomitas parcel tax exemption is June 3

Senior citizens who own property in the Las Lomitas School District have until June 3 to apply for an exemption from the $311 parcel tax passed by voters in March 2007.

To qualify for the exemption, the property owner must be over 65 years old by July 1, 2024 and live on the property they own within district boundaries.

Contact district administration at 650-854-6311 for the application form.

Menlo Park Bike to the Library Day is May 16

The Menlo Park Safe Routes to School Program, in collaboration with the city library, will hold a Bike to the Library Day on Thursday, May 16, from 2-5:30 p.m. at Menlo Park Central Library, 800 Alma St. May is National Bike Month.

There will be helmet giveaways, bike skills courses, reading sessions, pedal-powered spin art, a bike repair station, helmet fitting station, food from local vendors, a SamTrans bus and more. Representatives from SamTrans, Caltrain, WheelKids and others will be on site.

More information is available at menlopark.gov.

Angela Swartz

SOD Blitz Survey Project

Sudden Oak Death is an exotic disease that threatens the survival of tanoak and oak species in California coastal forests. The SOD Blitz Project will be surveying the trees of Woodside, Portola Valley and Los Altos Hills from May 17 at 10 a.m. through May 20 at 6 p.m. SOD Blitz invites the community and local citizen scientists to get involved in detecting the disease on bay laurel and tanoak leaves by collecting samples. All participants are required to take a 30-minute training course.

To sign up and participate, visit tinyurl.com/SODBlitzProject.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Compost giveaway in Menlo Park this weekend

Grab some free, nutritious compost for your garden at the city of Menlo Park’s compost giveaway event all day Saturday, May 11, and Sunday, May 12. Free compost is available while supplies last.

You can find the compost in the Burgess Park parking lot at the intersection of Alma Street and Burgess Drive. Compost is self-serve, so bring your own containers, trowels and gloves.

“This compost comes from your residential green organic carts at home and at work,” according to a city of Menlo Park event listing. “The food scraps collected from the green carts are sent to two commercial composting facilities where it goes through a process where it breaks down into a soil-like product.”

Menlo Park Housing Resource Fair on May 11

Learn more about housing resources at the city of Menlo Park’s Housing Resource Fair on Saturday, May 11, from 1-4 p.m. The event will be held at the Ivy Plaza, located at 410 Ivy Drive in the outdoor space near the Belle Haven Child Development Center.

The event will offer information on affordable housing in Menlo Park, housing rehabilitation support, and more. Housing organizations at the event will include the Samaritan House, Project Sentinel, Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco, Rebuilding Together Peninsula and HIP Housing.

There will also be raffle prizes, a children’s activity table and snacks.

— Eleanor Raab
Menlo Park’s 80-year-old hula dancer says her secret sauce is discipline

By Ashwini Gangal

President Biden set to visit Portola Valley for fundraiser

By Eleanor Raab and Sarah Wright

President Joe Biden will be in Portola Valley and then Palo Alto on Friday, May 10, to hold a fundraising reception for his reelection campaign, according to other media outlets.

The first fundraiser will be held at the home of Vinod Khosla, a co-founder of Sun Microsystems and the founder of Khosla Ventures. Tickets to the event range in price between $6,600 and $100,000.

Khosla has given approximately $1.4 million to Democratic campaigns and organizations over the course of this election cycle, according to Federal Election Commission records.

Then, Biden is set to stop by in Palo Alto hosted by former Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer and her husband DCVC Co-founder Zack Bogue, where ticket prices range from $30,000 to $50,000 and Gov. Gavin Newsom is also expected to appear.

This is not President Biden’s first visit to the area this year. He previously visited the Peninsula in February to attend a fundraising event in Los Altos Hills, hosted by housing developer Bob Klein, Danielle Guttmann Klein and former state Controller Steve Westly.

As of publishing, it is not known when Biden will arrive in the Bay Area.

Pursuing music or dance professionally when she was younger. Why not?

“I’m Japanese ... my mother was born in Hawaii but my grandparents came from Japan,” she said. “Teachers were revered in Japan; you’re high up on the scale of honor. So my mother told me ‘be a teacher, be a teacher, be a teacher, be a teacher,’ — she guided me and nagged me and I became a teacher!”

At some point she wanted to be a ballet and tap dancer, “just like Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly,” but got a chance to really explore the world of dance and music only in her 70s. “I never thought I would be a singer, much less an entertainer, but sometimes your friends push you in different directions,” she said.

The story goes: When she was 70, a friend asked her to go with him to Doelger Senior Center, a senior home in Daly City. That was where she first encountered the ukulele, through a weekly class.

Then I met some people there and this one guy said ‘You should take singing lessons’ and I said ‘Yeah right!’ Younge recounted. But she nevertheless got goaded into the idea and started singing lessons with Amy Obenski, a decision that put her on a path that led her to her future band members Randy Wong and Carolyn Chin. “They wanted me to join their Hawaiian band after a while so I did that.”

Her musical ambitions were far from accomplished, though. “And then when I was 78, I said ‘Well, I think I want to do a CD’ — it was on my bucket list,” she said. She struck this item off her last list last year with her CD titled “Remember Me,” a collection of both “oldies” and Hawaiian songs that she gives away for free.

“This sounds kind of bizarre but I thought, you know, at my celebration of life they can play my CD,” she joked. “I can sing at my celebration of life!”

While her audience comprises people of different ages, she particularly enjoys performing for the elderly. “It’s really important to me to give people hope,” she said. Often she sings to seniors who’re unwell or have Alzheimer’s disease. “I don’t want seniors to think that they have to sit at home and vegetate.”

She leads by example. “At the age of 70 I started all of this and now I’m 80. I want to be an example of what can be done. It does take hardwork and a lot of practice but that’s good because it takes up our time!” she said.

Her secret sauce to starting a new creative endeavor at this age is discipline. She took up running in her early 30s and used to run 10 miles, three times a week, until very recently. Nowadays, she makes it a point to go on regular 2-mile walks.

“I’ve always been a very disciplined person,” she said. “I might not be the smartest one in the classroom but I always used to get the best grades because I studied the hardest. This is how I am. I put a lot of effort into practice. When I set my mind to do something, I’ll do it. I work hard at everything that I do.”

Younge became a grandmother in September and frequently flies to Somerville, a suburb of Boston, to visit her son Eric, her daughter-in-law Erica and her grandson.

About her son’s reaction to her musical endeavors, she said, “He’s very proud, he thinks it’s amazing, but because he never heard me sing when he was growing up, I kind of feel he might be a little uncomfortable with it ... but he’s totally proud of me.”

Email Contributing Writer Ashwini Gangal at ashwiniangangal@gmail.com.

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May 10, 2024  ▪  AlmanacNews.com  ▪  The Almanac  ▪  7
Eight community members spoke in favor of bringing ALPRs to Menlo Park, saying that it would help them feel safer in their communities. Many residents shared the benefits of the camera outweigh privacy concerns. "I recognize the potential for abuse and violation of privacy, but I do believe that those are outweighed by the benefits that we can expect to see by both publicizing that the technology is in use and by their effectiveness in tracking down perpetrators and prosecuting them and getting them off the streets," said Sharon Heights Community Association member Derek Marsano.

San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe also spoke in favor of installing the cameras. "The widespread scanning of license plates inevitably involves a collection of data from individuals who are not suspected of any crime," said Menlo Park resident Soody Tronson. "The retention of such data can lead to situations where innocent people and events are tracked and stored potentially for years."

A resident named Randy Nash is also worried about the privacy concerns. "It's as though Menlo Park is turning a blind eye to the fact there is only one provider of ALPRs that the city is considering. The Menlo Park Police Department is seeking a sole-source procurement for the Flock ALPR technology, meaning a procurement process that foregoes the public bid process because only one supplier can provide the technology and/or perform the services required."

Nash shared similar concerns. "We're seeing in local communities that have adopted ALPRs, that there is still crime going on there. There's still residential burglaries," she said. "I just do not feel comfortable being part of the surveillance state," said Marsano.

Nash is also worried about the lack of data proving that these cameras actually prevent crime. "We're seeing in local communities that have adopted these cameras, that there is still crime going on there. There's still residential burglaries," she said. "I just pulled up a report from Woodside that they are now adding cameras. They're adding two more because they still are having problems."

Taylor was hesitant about the fact there is only one provider of ALPRs that the city is considering. The Menlo Park Police Department is seeking a sole-source procurement for the Flock ALPR technology, meaning a procurement process that foregoes the public bid process because only one supplier can provide the technology and/or perform the services required.

Nash agreed, saying, "It seems like it's a bottomless pit of expense. We are putting public safety in the hands of private companies that can raise rates whenever they want to. And the evidence shows that the rates have gone up rapidly as this has been adopted by other cities."

Despite privacy and cost concerns, Wolosin, Doerr and Combs ultimately voted to have the police develop a plan to install ALPRs throughout the city. "I want to acknowledge that my position is changing from the last time we had this conversation," said Doerr. "I had a lot of the same questions that have been brought up here. Members of the public about the efficacy of the tool, concerns about the privacy and the increasing costs through each negotiation cycle, and privacy... but I'm thinking about how this is a tool that the police chief and his department is recommending, as one tool among others that they feel would help their investigative efforts and help them do the work they need to do to keep our community safe."

However, there was no majority of council members that could agree on a length of time that the data from ALPRs should be stored in the Flock and NCRIC databases. Doerr and Wolosin advocated for looking at the possibility of only storing data for 30 days in both databases, while Combs said that he does not see a significant difference between storing the data for 30 days and six months. "It's not clear that retaining (the data) for six months or a year or 30 days is somehow a higher risk event," he said. "I would defer to the recommendations (of the police department). Because I don't have a really clear point of logic where I could say that 30 days somehow presents less of a risk profile than six months."

Wolosin added that she wants the police department to revisit data storage policies for the mobile ALPRs that are currently in use, saying "I also would like to see a narrowing of the policy to 30 days for both the Flock system and our mobile system."

Though the council ultimately voted to move forward with developing an ALPR program, council members emphasized that the city and police department should keep privacy top of mind. They asked that the question of how long the Menlo Park police are allowed to hold on to ALPR data be brought back to council at a later date.

The question of specific locations for the devices will also return to the council at a future meeting, though Norris said that the ALPRs would be focused on the city's entry and exit points. The council asked Norris and Menlo Park staff to bring back a proposal for an updated data retention ordinance and for more discussion on the specifics of the data retention policy.
Woodside considering consolidating architecture board

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The existence of a volunteer board responsible for reviewing projects to ensure projects follow the town’s guidelines is in question given challenges finding members.

If interest in the board the Architecture and Site Review Board continues to decline, town officials are considering consolidating it with the Planning Commission or reducing the number of projects that require hearings. The state requires each city, town and county to have a Planning Commission, but ASRBs are not mandated.

“I don’t think we can do anything without [the ASRB given the workload that’s coming down the pipe],” said Council member Dick Brown during an April 23 meeting. The board has existed since at least 1959. Its five members, who each serve four-year terms, meet twice a month on Mondays. Current members are: Don Lindsay, Vladimir Taft, Pat Del Gavio, Christina Kamra and David Mittelman.

The ASRB reviews residential applications for community character, site planning, building design and landscape elements, according to the town website. It also reviews applications for non-residential development; and makes recommendations to the planning director or Planning Commission regarding approval or disapproval, and suggests modifications or imposes conditions in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in the town’s municipal code. The code charges the ASRB with protecting the rural character and natural beauty of the town. The ASRB ensures that projects keep with the town’s general plan and residential design guidelines.

One member needs to be a licensed architect, if available for appointment, and another needs to be a licensed landscape architect, if one is available for appointment, according to the town website.

According to the staff report, “the last time the council had more applicants than open seats”

More license plate readers coming to Woodside

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Woodside will soon have a total of 22 automatic license plate readers in town after a vote of the Town Council on April 23, following concerns about residential burglaries in town.

The council approved two more readers, adding to the 20 others approved by the council for installation last year.

In October 2023, the council directed staff to look into additional locations for ALPRs. Filling in for Town Manager Kevin Bryant, Assistant Town Manager Melissa Cardinale presented six possible ALPR locations.

Town staff have been working with the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office and the license plate reader company Flock Safety to evaluate areas of the town for more cameras. Staff also presented information about signage on the perimeter of the town to alert incoming drivers about ALPRs.

Woodside has 17 ALPR cameras installed, and is waiting to get approval from Caltrans on three more installations, that were approved in 2023.

Locations under consideration

The council considered additional locations on Skyline Boulevard, La Honda Road, “Tripp Road Triangle,” Cañada Road by Robert’s Market, Woodside Road by Woodside Elementary School or the Woodside Fire Station and Mountain Home Road. It ultimately voted to put up signs at Tripp Road and Mountain Home Road/Portola Road. The council will continue to discuss the other locations.

The additional cost will be $3,000 per year per camera plus an additional $650 for installation of solar-powered cameras in the town’s right-of-way, $1,900 for installation of cameras in the Cañada Road, $1,250 for installation of hard-wired cameras (plus the cost of trenching), $300 per camera to retain data for 60 days, according to a staff report for the April 23 meeting.

“All the other cameras are pretty much in residential districts because most of the crime ... has been residential,” said Council member Chris Shaw. “But now we have one here that would go in Town Center (Cañada Road). Why do you believe that’s an appropriate place?”

Sgt. Patrick Taylor explained that Town Center is a highly trafficked area and the main goal for additional ALPRs is to capture different angles as people come into town through different access points.

Woodside resident Marilyn Voelke asked if it was possible to install a camera farther up Kings Mountain Road by the entrance of Huddart Park. He said it gets plenty of sun and could be solar-powered.

“There is a lot of sun, however, you’re running into where Kings Mountain Road becomes county above Huddart and I don’t know where that defending line is,” said Council member Chris Shaw, who agrees that this site would be worth evaluating.

As installing cameras on state property will take longer to approve, the council mentioned support for a proposed location

See WOODSIDE BOARD, page 10

See PLATE READERS, page 16
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MAY DAY
continued from page 1

The procession came to a halt as the cast of this year’s eighth grade operetta, “Willie Wonka Jr.,” proved that the show must go on. They clambered onto the road wearing their official T-shirts and gamely performed a number in the pelting rain.

Also undaunted by the weather was Woodside High School’s Marching Band. With their uniforms visible under clear plastic, they marched along and didn’t miss a beat.

The town of Woodside’s Recreation Committee floated by in a large boat — a good choice of vehicle, considering the weather — while the Town History Committee, dressed as Hogwarts characters, continued the Wizard theme. In lieu of candy, The Village Doctor tossed oranges to the crowd, prompting announcer MacNiven to quip, “Where’s the broccoli?”

The parade concluded with perennial favorite, the Los Trancos Marching Band, who wrapped things up with a rousing rendition of “Mickey Mouse.”

The bedraggled crowd decamped quickly to the dry confines of the Woodside Elementary gymnasium where Woodside Mayor Jenn Wall kicked off the awards portion of the celebration. Presiding over the event were the six diminutive members of the royal “Kindercourt,” another cherished May Day tradition. Queen Ashton Howerton, Princesses Eleanor Earp and King James Cerezo-Feirman, Queen Ashton Howerton, Princesses Eleanor Earp and King James Cerezo-Feirman, Princesses Eleanor Earp and Morrison Reilly, Princes Geoffrey Dunn and Daniel Villalobos Urena were chosen from Woodside Elementary’s kindergarten classes for having demonstrated outstanding kindness and generosity to others.

“Where’s the broccoli?” announced the Wizard theme. In lieu of Hogwarts characters, continued the Woodside Town History Committee, dressed as the royal “Kindercourt,” another cherished May Day tradition. Princesses Eleanor Earp and King James Cerezo-Feirman, Queen Ashton Howerton, Princesses Eleanor Earp and King James Cerezo-Feirman, Princesses Eleanor Earp and Morrison Reilly, Princes Geoffrey Dunn and Daniel Villalobos Urena were chosen from Woodside Elementary’s kindergarten classes for having demonstrated outstanding kindness and generosity to others.

Veteran teachers, Ellen Bertine and Kathy Jones, were named deputy marshals in honor of their dedication and years of service to the school. Expressing their appreciation were several former students whose children are now being taught by Bertine and Jones.

Kathi and Scott Dancer, each with a long history of service to Woodside’s equestrian community, were officially recognized as this year’s parade grand marshals. “This tradition is really unique, and we are grateful and humble to be this year’s grand marshals,” said Kathi, to which Scott added, “Wherever we travel, we are proud to say we are from Woodside.”

This year, the Elward Thomas Citizen of the Year Award went to two recipients, Neil and Julie Sequeira. The couple was honored for their many hours of work in support of the school — Julie as Woodside School Foundation President and Neil as boys’ basketball coach and school board president.

The moment had come for the finale: the maypole dance. The maypole itself, normally placed in the school’s outdoor amphitheater, stood like a sentinel in the middle of the gym during the awards. Thunderous stomping from the crowd gave way to delicate Renaissance recorder melodies as the Woodside Elementary third graders skipped in, swirling precisely around the pole, they formed stars with swords and waved colored ribbons around the pole according to ancient custom.

With drenching rain still coming down, the crowd fanned out to enjoy lunch from Buck’s for formers and Small Bites. The Village Doctor tossed oranges to the crowd, prompting announcer MacNiven to quip, “Where’s the broccoli?”

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H. Louise Rockhold
August 11, 1932 – December 22, 2023

Louise was born in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, the daughter of William Andrew Jordan and Harriet Kamahana Likelike Ka‘ahumanu Blake Jordan. With her older brother Willie, Louise grew up living around the world, as their father was a career U.S. Marine. From Virginia to Cuba to Northern California, the family returned to Mountain View, CA, when her father retired. Louise attended Mountain View High School, where she met the love of her life, Richard Orville Rockhold, Dick. They married in 1951 at Stanford Memorial Church, moved to San Francisco, and Louise worked at Shell Oil. With several friends, they opened a jazz bar, the “Sail N”, and were part owners of the Lu Watters Jazz Band. Soon, they started their family, moved down to Redwood City, and then settled in Menlo Park in 1963. With lifelong family friends, they tagged at Stanford games and camped and waterskied at Whiskeytown Lake every summer. Louise was a talented interior designer and floral arranger. She loved to provide a beautiful and loving home, welcoming friends and extended family for weekly Sunday night dinners, fun BBQs, and festive holiday celebrations. Louise and Dick were always the life of every party. They loved to travel, and made multiple trips to Europe, Africa, and Louise’s native Hawaii. In retirement, domestic trips focused on skiing or Dixieland jazz festivals. Louise was an active volunteer, particularly with the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary benefiting Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford, both with their shop at the Allied Arts Guild and chairing their major Tally Ho fundraiser several times. When grandchildren arrived, Louise was overjoyed. She knew how to make each grandchild feel special and loved. She planned fun dinners and parties, and shopped ‘til she dropped for them. Louise is survived by her daughter Janice (Scott) Gibbons of San Jose, son David (Karla) Rockhold of Corvallis, Oregon, and her daughter-in-law Anne (Craig) Rockhold of Palo Alto. Proud grandmother of her seven grandchildren: Kimberly Rockhold of San Jose, son David (Karla) Rockhold of Corvallis, Oregon, Jamey Rockhold of Redwood City, and Catherine Annunziata and Lt. Peter Rockhold, Marine. From Virginia to Cuba to Northern California, the family returned to Mountain View, CA, when her father retired. Louise attended Mountain View High School, where she met the love of her life, Richard Orville Rockhold, Dick. They married in 1951 at Stanford Memorial Church, moved to San Francisco, and Louise worked at Shell Oil. With several friends, they opened a jazz bar, the “Sail N”, and were part owners of the Lu Watters Jazz Band. Soon, they started their family, moved down to Redwood City, and then settled in Menlo Park in 1963. With lifelong family friends, they tagged at Stanford games and camped and waterskied at Whiskeytown Lake every summer. Louise was a talented interior designer and floral arranger. 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Proud grandmother of her seven grandchildren: Kimberly and Melissa Gibbons; Matthew, Andrew, and Michael Rockhold; and Catherine Annunziata and Lt. Peter Rockhold, USN. She is predeceased by her husband Dick Rockhold, son Craig Rockhold, and brother Willie Jordan. Louise passed away peacefully at home on December 22, 2023 at the age of 91. A Celebration Luau will be held on Saturday, June 8, from 1-3pm. For details, please email AlohaLouise3223@gmail.com or reach out to a family member. Donations are welcomed to Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary benefiting the Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford at https://alliedartsguild.org/lpch/.

Stewart Dillon Silverberg
June 2, 1979 - September 5, 2023

Stewart Dillon Silverberg passed away on September 5, 2023. Stewart was born on June 2, 1979 in San Diego to Carol Stewart and Rudy Silverberg. The day he was born, the attending delivery nurse said, “your son looks just like an elf!” Dictionaries characterize an elf as capricious, mischievous, and occasionally delivering some sharp pains! A mischievous soul, Stewart certainly turned out to be just that. Of course, throughout his life he developed many other talents, as well as friends. Stewart grew up in Menlo Park and Redwood City where he was graduated from Woodside High School. While school wasn’t his long suit, he preferred to hone his other talents and focus on his love for people. His natural salesmanship allowed him to experience many different opportunities the Bay Area had to offer. Stewart became an enthusiastic golfer due to many buckets of balls and afternoons on the golf course with his Grandmother. He loved to play dominos with family and friends and was lifelong 49er fan. Stewart loved music, taking his siblings to concerts and dancing. He truly loved the holidays when he could spend time with his ever expanding family, enjoying good food, laughter and joy. He especially cherished his role as an uncle. His uncanny ability to get everyone smiling, laughing and dancing.

The Almanac offers employment advertising.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.
Visit AlmanacNews.com/employment_ads.
For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.
Custom European Home in Atherton

163 GLENWOOD AVENUE, ATHERTON | OFFERED FOR $12,500,000

*Inspired by the magnificent architecture of Italy and France, this home boasts a facade that commands attention and is designed with complete symmetry.*

- 5 spacious bedrooms, each with ensuite baths and French doors leading to balconies or grounds
- Attached Guest Apartment features one additional ensuite bedroom, two bathrooms, full kitchen, marble fireplace, two balconies and delightful views
- Gourmet kitchen opens to family room, billiard/game room and sunroom
- Formal living room with marble fireplace
- Formal dining room opens to private courtyard
- Gated and very private with expansive lush grounds and pool
- Excellent location, convenient to downtown Menlo Park and top-rated public and private schools

Mary Jo McCarthy
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Golden Gate
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163GlenwoodAve.com
on town property for efficiency in
and a courtesy notice
of the date of first publication of this Notice
of the property lien, you should under-
ne time of sale, the bidder for legal
will be sold, but without covenant or warranty, implied or explicit. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustee: NVRINA INVESTMENT GROUP LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY Duty Appointed Trustee: PLM LOAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC. Recorder’s File Number: as Instrument No. 2021-11994, the Subject
Trustee was modified by Loan Modifi-
the time of the date of first publication of the Notice

The amount of unpaid balance

Name Superior Court of the State of

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

JOSHUA CHIA-SHUO CHANG.

The Petition for Probate requests that:

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE
JOSHUA CHIA-SHUO CHANG.

The Petition requests that:

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE
JOSHUA CHIA-SHUO CHANG.

The Petition for Probate requests that:

HOME LOOM
FICTIONAL BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. M-297255
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

MOON, located at 500 S.
Humboldt St., San Mateo, CA 94402.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registered owner(s):

MICHAELE ROSE MORALES
950 S. HUMBOLDT ST.
SAN MATEO, CA 94402

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

Registered owner(s):

JPR PRO PAINTING
FICTIONAL BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. M-297314
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

1.) JPR PRO PAINTING, located at 203
Dumbarton Av Apt B, Redwood City, CA 94063. Registered owner(s):

JORG JERSEY
203 Dumbarton Av Apt B
Redwood City, CA 94063.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registered owner(s):

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

Registered owner(s):

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Redwood City, CA 94063.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registered owner(s):

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

Registered owner(s):
202 CAMINO AL LAGO
ATHERTON

Offered at $24,995,000

- Approx. 1.24 ac estate in Prestigious Menlo Circus Club area
- Exquisite custom construction and interior design
- 5 bedrooms, each with ensuite bath, 2 offices, and 2 half baths
- Pool cabana with fitness center, steam shower and sauna, plus lower-level recreation/media room and wine cellar
- Gated, landscaped grounds with pool, spa, outdoor kitchen, fire pit terrace, bocce court, rose gardens, and custom fruit and flower garden
- Excellent Menlo Park public and private schools

76 FAIRVIEW AVENUE
ATHERTON

Offered at $9,980,000

- Beautifully landscaped lot of approximately 0.93 acre
- 5 bedrooms, 4 full and 2 half-baths
- Guest House with bedroom and full kitchen
- Well for Irrigation, Solar electricity and Roof-2 years old
- Lap pool and spa
- Excellent Menlo Park schools

The Gullixson Team is ranked #3 small team in the Bay Area and #18 in the nation in RealTrends’ report of the Top Residential Real Estate Professionals. (June 2023)
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the Planning Commission at its meeting on May 22, 2024, at 6:00 PM in-person and via teleconference accessible through the information provided below, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the projects listed in the public hearing section should or should not be approved. This meeting will be held via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing public participation.

The public may participate in the Planning Commission Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

## Topic: Atherton Planning Commission Regular Meeting

**Time:** May 22, 2024, 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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

**Meeting ID:** 841 5024 9099

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

+13052241968,,84150249099# US

Find your local number:
https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/u/kglcVN4cq

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

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

### Projects under Public Hearing:

A. **Request for a Special Structures Permit** (Application SSR24-0001) to construct two retaining walls over 6 feet in height at 50 Tallwood Court (APN 074-130-290) and within the R1-A zone. Zoning Code Section 17.46.020(B) requires a Special Structures Permit for retaining walls that are taller than 6 feet in height or located more than 20 feet from other retaining walls on the same property. The project proposes the construction of two retaining walls that have heights of 12-feet 8-inches and 13-feet 5-inches at their greatest extents. Both retaining walls are located in the side yard at the north of the property and function to create a partially enclosed outdoor recreational area adjacent to the basement. The retaining walls require a Special Structures Permit pursuant to Section 17.46.020(B) because they are greater than 6-feet tall.

**CEQA:** This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to: CEQA Sections 15303 (New Construction) and 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land).

If you have any questions on item A, please contact Sean Manalo, Consulting Associate Planner, at smanalo@ci.atherton.ca.us or (650) 752 0542.

B. **Request for a Special Structures Permit** (Application SSR24-0002) to construct a detached garage with a reduced front setback at 178 Atherton Avenue (APN 070-070-290), in the R1-A zone. Zoning Code Section 17.40.040(A) requires that accessory buildings or structures must be setback 120 feet from the front property line, or 30 feet behind the front line of the main structure, whichever is less. On flag lots, the front setback for accessory buildings and structures may be consistent with the front setback required for the main residence, upon issuance of a Special Structures Permit. The subject property is a flag lot, with the front of the lot designated as the northern property line. The proposed main residence provides a code-complying front setback of 60 feet. The Special Structures Permit seeks to allow a detached garage located 17-feet 8-inches behind the front wall of the main residence, where 30 feet is required. The proposed detached garage would be setback a total of 77-feet 8-inches from the northerly property line.

**CEQA:** This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to: CEQA Sections 15303 (New Construction)

If you have any questions on item B, please contact Radha Hayagreev, Consulting Senior Planner, at rhayagreev@ci.atherton.ca.us or (408) 796-4370.

The agenda for this meeting with links to related staff reports can be found online by Friday, May 17, 2024, here: https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes

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

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

**A T H E R T O N  P L A N N I N G  C O M M I S S I O N**

/ch/ Brittany Bendix

Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner

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**Potential multifamily development sites on privately owned lots**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Lot Size (acres)</th>
<th>Units (density of 10 units/acre)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 Oakwood</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>999 Ringwood</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>352 Bay Road</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>318 Bay Road</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>296 Bay Road</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175 Ravenswood</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>185 Ravenswood</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>197 Ravenswood</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: town of Atherton

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**HOUSING ELEMENT**

Continued from page 1

be compliant with state land-use regulations.

According to HCD, nine out of 21 jurisdictions in the county are now in full compliance with their housing element. They are: Menlo Park, Brisbane, Burlingame, Colma, Foster City, Hillsborough, Millbrae, Redwood City and South San Francisco. The state recently revoked Portola Valley’s housing element.

ADUs still play big part in town’s housing plans

The town has already passed a new accessory dwelling unit ordinance, which allows homeowners to add a bonus ADU to their property if their lot is larger than 2 acres, and allows ADUs to be built above detached garages as long as they conform to the town’s height and screening requirements. This ordinance also brings the town into compliance with new state regulations regarding ADUs.

Atherton is also working on drafting and implementing a new inclusionary housing ordinance. This ordinance would require at least 20% of any proposed multifamily development to be set aside for lower-income housing.

This ordinance would also include an affordable housing fee program, which would impose a small fee on new single-family developments, and set that money aside in an inclusionary housing fund that the town will establish. That fee could be waived if a homeowner opts to build an ADU instead.

“The community is then able to use that (fund) as a resource to build senior housing or other types of affordable housing,” said Rodericks.

Atherton’s proposed affordable housing fee would apply to all new single-family developments. Other local municipalities, such as Redwood City, have established similar fees, but tend to only impose them on larger developments.

“(Our fee) is kind of unique because it doesn’t usually affect single family homes,” said Rodericks. “Usually that affects multifamily developments. So our question right now is, when we do apply it, at what rate will it be applied? ... My guess is it’s going to be a very minimal amount per square foot.”

At the same time, Atherton continues to develop a program in partnership with HIP Housing, a San Mateo County nonprofit, to match Atherton homeowners with people who would rent out rooms or ADUs.

“HIP Housing conducts interviews, assists with client applications, conducts background searches, helps determine rent ranges, discusses home improvement incentives and provides resource packets for new providers,” says an Atherton fler informing residents about the program.

Once the changes to town ordinances and any other required land-use changes, have been implemented, Atherton will send the new ordinances, along with the updated housing element documentation to HCD for review and approval.

The housing element could be done as early as July, or as late as September, said Rodericks.

“It’s been a challenging time for the town,” he said. “It’s been a total sea change of single-family development, to suddenly now we have to do multifamily. So there’s a whole lot of angst in the community because change is hard. But the council’s goal is to figure out a way to comply with the state requirements and still not lose our community character. That’s a fine line.”

The Housing Elements FAQ page on Atherton’s website shows current projections for new housing that will likely be built in town over the course of the current housing cycle.

You can follow along with Atherton’s housing element update process on the town website, ci.atherton.ca.us.

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.
By Karla Kane

Live music inspires joy.” That’s the slogan for the 3rdThursday California Avenue music festival, which happens, as the name suggests, on the third Thursday of the month on Palo Alto’s California Avenue. Over the course of the past year, the festival has brought a lot of live music — and a lot of joy — to the community, participants said.

3rdThursday has been a wonderful addition to the Palo Alto landscape,” Palo Alto City Council member Julie Lythcott-Haims said in a press release from event organizers. “It shows us that our community yearns for opportunities to let their hair down, relax and be human."

3rdThursday is celebrating its first anniversary this month, with a theme of “We Are One,” and its Thursday, May 16, lineup of musicians includes classic rock band The Wandering Acoustics (California Avenue at Ash Street, 7-9 p.m.), “bluesy folk and roll” group Mick Overman & The Maniacs (California Avenue near El Camino Real, 7-9 p.m.) the teenage jazz phenomenon of Nathan’s Fearless Five (California Avenue at Birch Street, 6-9 p.m.) in addition to the musical performances, there will be line dancing and Zumba; a kids’ play area; art displays; and a photo booth.

And, seeing as it’s a birthday party of sorts, there will be cake and cupcakes, courtesy of Stanford Research Park — one of the festival’s sponsors.

“We Are One” kind of encapsulates what I’ve been wanting to create with this event,” producer Carol Garsten said, thinking back over the past year. Garsten is a longtime co-chair of Los Altos’ First Friday music series and was pondering her next phase in life after deciding to close her brick-and-mortar retail shop, Nature Gallery, after 35 years.

“I have way too much energy and community connections and vere to sit at home in my rocking chair,” the Palo Alto resident remembered telling herself. “What I want to do at this point in life is, I want to do something that brings my community together and brings joy.”

She said the inspiration for starting 3rdThursday was partially sparked when she read a 2022 Palo Alto Weekly article that profiled the Los Altos First Friday event but also introduced her to what Maico Campilongo, the owner of Terùn and iTálico restaurants and a musician himself, was doing with live music on California Avenue. Early last year, she attended Terùn’s 10th anniversary celebration and got to talking with Campilongo, and the seeds for 3rdThursday were planted. With the support of local businesses, the City of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, and participation from community members and artists, it’s been going strong since its opening night in May of 2023.

Like any 1-year-old, it’s evolved over the course of its infancy.

“At first we were like, ‘We need to be like First Fridays in Los Altos!’ Garsten recalled of the event’s early days, with many bands crammed into the lineup. Los Altos’ event, though, covers the whole downtown area rather than just one street.

“That was way too much music; it was bleeding over,” she laughed. Organizers also tried expanding all the way down to the Caltrain station but found people weren’t keen to leave the car-free zone.

At first a temporary, pandemic trial, California Avenue between Birch Street and El Camino Real is now remaining car-free for the foreseeable future. “I’m very happy the street is permanently car-free,” Garsten said. “It’s been an experimental year to try and figure out what works. And it’s been a great experiment. There was so much knowledge to gain, so much feedback from the community, from the city, from the chamber, from the music groups.

Part of 3rdThursday’s aims is to not only spread happiness and entertainment via music but also to engage local businesses, many of whom offer specials during the event.

“The thing that you can’t buy online is the community connection and experience,” she said. “We need to support our local businesses and we need to support each other.”

Garsten said for her personally, there have been many highlights, including the lineup of music organized by local concert promoter Mark Weiss of Earthwise Productions. Musical artists of many backgrounds and genres have performed over the year, and now receive a stipend for participating.

The Wandering Acoustics performed at the very first 3rdThursday and will be back at the May 16 event.

“These types of events are important because I believe in music being able to join strangers together through a communal spirit, breaking down social/political/racial barriers and helping people bond over a shared interest,” bassist and vocalist Russ Kao told this news organization in an email. He lived in Palo Alto as a teenager and has fond musical memories of California Avenue in particular — shopping at Draper’s music store and hearing concerts at The Keystone. Over the decades he’s seen venues to play and hear live music vanish from the area but is optimistic about the post-pandemic outdoor music scene.

“The Keystone no longer exists, so it’s wonderful to see Carol bringing live music back to California Ave., where people of all ages can enjoy different styles of music for free,” he said. “We started our band a year and a half after the beginning of the pandemic when outdoor dining started to become popular, and we found a lot of opportunities to play outdoors. It’s nice to see live music making a comeback.”

Music has long been a part of Garsten’s life. She spent part of her youth in London, where her late mother Norma Tager attended Terùn’s 10th anniversary celebration and got to talking with Campilongo, and the seeds for 3rdThursday were planted. With the support of local businesses, the City of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, and participation from community members and artists, it’s been going strong since its opening night in May of 2023.
Visit Midpeninsula artists during Open Studios’ second weekend

May 11-12 open studios showcase artists working along the Peninsula

By Heather Zimmerman

The 37th annual Silicon Valley Open Studios continues this weekend, focusing on the Midpeninsula region. In the second of a two-part series, we chat with longtime Palo Alto painter Gregory Deane and Portola Valley-based mixed-media artist Libby Raab.

Gregory Deane — Palo Alto

Open Studios often offers an opportunity for visitors to get their first glimpse at an artist’s workspace. But this year’s event offers a last chance to visit the studio of longtime Peninsula abstract expressionist painter Gregory Deane.

After a career of over 50 years, Deane is retiring and closing the Palo Alto art studio where he has worked for the last 25 years.

Though he’s closing his studio, Deane’s work can be seen in a number of spaces, not only in the Bay Area, but throughout the country and internationally, as well. His works can be found in a diverse range of places, from corporate campuses and hotels to private collections.

“I’ve done a lot of work with local corporations. It’s a long list that I’ve worked with locally: Nordstrom and Sobotra, Syntex and Hewlett-Packard, Symantec — it goes on and on. I’ve got quite a list of that and movie stars, galleries across the United States, some congressmen, some banks out of the country. After 50 years, it’s a lot of work that I’ve done,” Deane said.

On the international front, Deane made a particular splash in Florence, Italy, after 50 years, he too found a way to get together,” Deane said.

Deane’s international attention seems especially fitting as he said that traveling does influence his work. “I did a lot of paintings with an Asian influence when I came back from China. I ended up doing about 40 different paintings. It turned out to be a series of paintings. I did that for quite some time and they’re all gone — none of them stayed very long.”

But as an abstract expressionist painter, he’s not aiming to recreate a particular scene or view, he noted. “It’s hard for me to express what the paintings are. It’s more of a reaction of people when they look at them,” abstract expressionist painter Gregory Deane said of his works, one of which is in the permanent collection of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy. Seen here is his painting “Pietrofesca.”

It’s his career. There hasn’t been anything else that I’ve done. And I’ve felt very fortunate to have clients and to be able to do art that I want to do over the years and make a living living in Palo Alto.”

Libby Raab — Portola Valley

Libby Raab’s detailed woven paper collages are more elements than may appear at first glance. The pieces incorporate many diverse elements: photographs of nature, color theory — even Microsoft Excel has a role to play.

Raab, who is also an architect, transforms photos into intricate woven pieces that play with color and pattern. Raab began weaving with paper mid-pandemic, though she had previously knitted and quilted — all the type of work she describes as “restorative.” She was studying Josef Albers, who’s well known for his color studies, and was drawn to weaving after becoming intrigued by the works of Albers’ wife, Annie, who was a famous weaver.

“Once I decide on the images and their colors in particular, become the basis for her pattern. Or room for a loom, I thought, ‘well, it could be interesting to just cut up strips of paper’ and I started by cutting up strips of magazine images and putting them together. Of course there are so many different weave patterns that you can use, and so many different image choices you can use. I just found it to be highly satisfying, I was hooked,” she said.

It wasn’t long before Raab began to use her own photos as the basis for her pieces, digitally altering them to achieve particular colors or textures before cut them into strips for weaving. “I have tons of photos — of course, nature is a big inspiration to so many artists. But for some reason, in the beginning, I was really focused on photos of tree trunks,” she said. “In my phone, you just can’t imagine how many tree trunk photos I have,” she said.

Though images of nature are at the foundation of her pieces, Raab also likes introducing a more technological element as well. “I have been interested in contrasting a nature photo with something that feels very digital. So I started abstracting things and taking successive screen-shots of them and then blowing them up and taking another screenshot — it becomes its own digital fabric. So then I could always contrast the little digital pattern fabric that I made with the more natural pattern of a tree trunk or a mushroom or something else. And I liked how putting those together just seemed interesting to me.”

The images, and their colors in particular, become the basis for her pattern. “Once I decide on the images that I’d like to use, I’ll make a pattern and actually do that in Excel,” she said.

But it’s not the mathematical abilities of the program that are as important as its expanse of blank cells that can be filled in to make the pattern. Raab noted that weaving patterns are binous: it’s either over or under, and she
costumes and working on big events, with musicians such as Stewart Copeland and members of Hot Chocolate as her neighbors and associates. With strong memories of her mother’s artistic and community connections, and Garsten’s own background in the arts, it feels like 3rdThursday is ‘bringing together a lot of the creative elements in my life. Knowing that from a young age that live music inspires joy,” said Garsten, returning to the event’s creed, “I just can’t tell you how many people I see walking around on 3rdThursday just, like, beaming.”

Looking ahead, “getting feedback from the business, community members, bands, city officials, (and) 3rdThursday team members is essential,” Garsten wrote in a post-interview email. “We encouraged people to fill out our survey form on our website (3rdThursday.fun) or at 3rdThursday Central, 414 Cal Ave., every month.”

At the May 16 event, the public is also invited to share feedback with city of Palo Alto staff and Urban Field Studio’s design team “about ideas, priorities and preferences of the street design concepts for the future of Cal Ave.,” Palo Alto’s Chief Communications Officer Meghan Horrigan-Taylor wrote in an email to this news organization.

3rdThursday themes are set for the rest of the year, including "International Voices and Dance” in June, “Summer Fun & Games” in August, “Dancing in the Streets” in September, “Sustainability Fun Fair” in October, “ThanksCaring in November and “World Holidays” in December. Garsten said she especially looking forward to the July edition: a fundraising wine walk on July 18 — “LocAL Libations” — featuring products from local wineries. And she’s excited to deepen connections with the city and with community groups, getting more folks involved and engaged.

In months to come we look forward to having the book mobile out from the library, jugglers and hopefully a contrap- ported from page 19

Zarna Garg

Comedian Zarna Garg — featured in Apple TV’s “Gusty” series and radio’s “This American Life, and in her own comedy special, “One in a Billion,” on Amazon Prime — comes to Stanford with her touring show “Practical People Win.” Garg is the 2021 recipient of the Ladies of Laughter Newcomer Award and is also the mom of a Stanford student.

According to her website, she “proudly performs clean family-friendly comedy while wearing her kurta and bindi on stage and draws you into her authentic Indian world full of ironies, merciless maternal advice, and fresh observations on American life.”

May 11 at 3, 6 and 8 p.m and May 12 at 4 and 6 p.m.; Bing Studio, 327 Lauren St., Stanford; tickets start at $35; live.stanford.edu.

Soji Odukogbe

Feldman’s Books patrons, get ready for a dance party. East Palo Alto-based label Redstone Records presents a performance of funky West African highlife and Afrobeat music by longtime Nigerian artist Soji Odukogbe and his band. Odukogbe is the former lead guitarist for Afrobeat legend Fela Kuti. His current group, Soji & The Afrobeat Band, perform their lively tunes at festivals and venues all around the Bay Area.

May 10, 6 p.m.; Feldman’s Books, 1075 Curtis St., Menlo Park; $25; eventbrite.com.

Emo Night Brooklyn

If you’re feeling nostalgic for those halcyon ‘00s heydays of emo and pop-punk, this one’s for you. Emo Night Brooklyn, a DJ-based dance party founded by two best friends who wanted to celebrate the beloved music of punk, this one’s for you. Emo Night Brooklyn presents their youth, brings an evening of DJs spinning favorites from those genres at a fundraising wine walk on Saturday, May 13, 4-8 p.m., at the Village School of Arts and Sciences (V-SAS) in Palo Alto.

Opening reception May 10, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Pacific Art League, 668 Ramona St., Menlo Park; $25; eventbrite.com.

Spaghetti

Put musicians Sam Reider, Jim Campilongo, Mat Munz and Scott Amendola together and what do you get? Spaghetti! They’ll perform rock roots music (Campilongo on guitar, Amendola on drums, Munz on bass and Reider on keys) under that noddy name at a free concert in Lytton Plaza, presented by Earthwise Productions. Campilongo, originally from South San Francisco, is known as a guitar whiz and has performed alongside Norah Jones in The Little Willies, among many other collaborations. Reider is an accordionist and pianist based in Oakland who was nominated for a 2023 Latin Grammy Award, while Munz is an accomplished composer and bandleader in addition to his bass skills, and Amendola is a frequent Earthwise performer with a distinguished career in the Bay Area jazz scene.

May 10, 6 p.m., Lytton Plaza, 200 University Ave., Palo Alto; eventbrite.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 24-01

At its regular meeting on April 30, 2024, the Board of Directors of the Woodside Fire Protection District (“District”) adopted the following ordinance.

Ordinance 24-01 (formerly numbered 23-03), “AN ORDINANCE OF THE WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING FUEL MITIGATION AND EXTERIOR HAZARD ABATEMENT STANDARDS IN ALL STATE AND LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREAS WITHIN THE DISTRICT, REQUIRING DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLIANCE PRIOR TO SALE OF THE PROPERTY, ADOPTING ENFORCEMENT OF FACT, AND DETERMINING THE ORDINANCE IS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT.”

AYES: Directors Matt Miller, Randy Holthaus, and Patrick Cain
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

SUMMARY OF THE ORDINANCE: Ordinance 24-01 establishes fuel mitigation and exterior hazard abatement standards in all state and local responsibility areas within the Fire District. Among other things, Ordinance 24-01 (1) establishes defensible space around structures for parcels on which structures are located, (2) establishes defensible space around photovoltaic systems, (3) establishes clearance requirements for attached and mobile accessory access roads and driveways, and (4) establishes regulations relating to fences.

Ordinance 24-01 also provides that Standards and Guidelines for Defensible Space and Home Hardening will be prepared, which will serve as a supplemental instruction and interpretation resource.

Where there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this Ordinance, the Fire Code Official shall have the authority to grant Modifications for individual cases, including “Phased Completion” if the District shows compliance over a period of time in excess of one year, but no longer than three years. Denials of Modification requests may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

Ordinance 24-01 also requires certification of compliance with the Ordinance in connection with real estate transactions.

CEQA DETERMINATION: The Board of Directors adopted findings that Ordinance 24-01 is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the reasons stated in the proposed ordinance.

A FULL AND COMPLETE COPY OF THE ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT https://www.woodsidefirefire.org/unit/district/fire-prevention/divisions/ ordinationTextChangedMixin.js

Housing Element and Zoning Code Updates

A hardcopy of the Draft IS/MND is also available on request at the Town’s Planning and Building Department at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Town of Atherton will accept public comments on the Draft IS/MND during a public review period starting on Friday, May 10, 2024, and extending through Monday, June 10, 2024.

Written comments must be sent to the Town of AthertonAttn: Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027 or via email bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us and received on or before Monday, June 10, 2024.

PROJECT LOCATION: Townwide.

LAND USE/ ZONING: Townwide: Single Family Residential (R-1A); Single Family Residential (R-1B); Public Facilities and Schools (PFS); and Park and Open Space (POS) districts.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project includes adoption of the 6th Cycle of the Town of Atherton’s Housing Element, a CEQA Exemption Ordinance Amendment to implement the policies and programs of the Housing Element, including adoption of objective design standards and development standards for multifamily housing (density, height, setbacks and parking, etc.) and adoption of an Inclusionary Housing Ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING: A Public Hearing on the Project and Draft IS/MND has not been scheduled. Once hearing date(s) have been determined, a public notice will be issued.
Robots will soon be crafting juicy burgers and crispy chicken sandwiches next to a DJ mixing upbeat tunes inside a former historic bank in Los Gatos.

For Oishi Mirai Restaurant Group founder Elizabeth Truong, the project is a significant step toward the legacy she hopes to leave behind.

“Everything about me actually is inspired by my kids,” she said. “My five-year plan really is to let my kids know that their mother played a huge role in changing the world of food.”

Truong opened her first full-service restaurant in Los Gatos in February, a Vietnamese fusion brunch concept called Breaking Dawn. The restaurant offers modernized versions of her daughter’s favorite childhood dishes like souffle pancakes and pork belly fried rice. Truong plans to open her dinner concept, First Born, out of the same location as Breaking Dawn on June 20—a concept inspired by her son. Expect to see two robots crafting burgers and sandwiches beginning the second week of June at Breaking Dawn, as well as at First Born when the dinner restaurant opens.

“My goal is to do automation, but make it make the food taste good,” Truong said. “Because when people think about automated food or robotic food, they always think that must be gross. So for me, the future of food is a delicious future.”

Breaking Dawn in Los Gatos offers Vietnamese fusion brunch, like the RBF (Resting Brunch Face) with fried chicken and a pandan waffle ($23), as well as American classics like a burger with secret sauce and fries ($18). Robot arm courtesy of Getty.

Breaking Dawn pastry chef Thao Huynh bakes in the kitchen.
“It has no affiliation with ‘Twilight,’” Truong said. “It’s just that when dawn breaks is when people wake up and they get ready for the day, so that’s breakfast. All the food that’s on the breakfast menu is all of Chloe’s favorite growing up. It’s just elevated.”

Find dishes like pho poutine ($16), a lemongrass tofu burger ($22), banh xeo tacos ($18) and the RBF (Resting Brunch Face) with fried chicken, a pandan waffle, cafe sua da syrup and berries ($23). Drinks include a variety of cocktails, coffees, teas and juices.

“One thing I really love about our menu is you know how everyone always says, ‘Mom’s cooking is the best?’ My mom’s cooking is the best,” said Chloe, a student at Los Gatos High School.

Not only was Chloe involved with Breaking Dawn’s menu, she’s also part of the Breaking Dawn team. You can find her hosting at the brunch restaurant, and she hopes to eventually work her way up to manager.

“My kids both have to work from the bottom up with me,” Truong said. “If they don’t work from the bottom up, they will never be good leaders.”

Find a DJ cranking up the tunes Friday through Sunday, and birthdays are celebrated with a special birthday song.

“I want to create a space where people will be like, ‘This is actually a fun Sunday. This is cool. The food was good. The service is great. There was a DJ,’” Truong said. “I’m pretty sure it’s not for everyone because it’s like a day club Friday to Sunday, but I feel like in the Bay Area, we’re missing that.”

When Le isn’t working, he’s creating music under the name BANX. Like Breaking Dawn, First Born will have live music Friday through Sunday, and customers may hear some of BANX’s original music on the playlist.

A FAMILY’S PASSION

“When you talk about Oishi Mirai Group, it’s just us three,” Truong said. “We’re all involved in each other’s lives heavily — personally, financially, business. Everything that I do, I tell them about it.”

Truong has no investors or partners in her restaurant group, she said.

“I want to take the risk upon myself; I want to take the failure upon myself,” she said.

Truong and her children look forward to launching First Born and Burger Bots in June.

“Whoever comes into Breaking Dawn is a part of our family,” Chloe said. “And we’re all family around here.”

Truong, who became a grandmother May 1, says she hopes to eventually add even more concepts to the Oishi Mirai Restaurant Group.

“I don’t think anything in me wants to stop,” Truong said. “When you do something that you love and you’re creating something for someone else, there’s no tiredness — you just want to give.”

Email Food Editor Adrienne Mitchel at amitchel@almanacnews.org

Breaking Dawn, 160 W Main St., Los Gatos; 669-297-8888, Instagram: @breakingdawnbrunch. Open Tuesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

First Born, 160 W Main St., Los Gatos; 669-297-8888, Instagram: @firstbornlosgatos.

Burger Bots, 160 W Main St., Los Gatos; Instagram: @burgerbots.
192 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton

Architectural Gem Reimagined with Chic Sophistication

Original design by renowned architect, Willis Polk, and now redesigned and expanded for modern livability

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