

The Almanac

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

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What we know about the North Fair Oaks affordable housing development that went up in flames on June 3

Although fire not 'total loss' as initially believed, 104 of 179 housing units were destroyed

By Eleanor Raab

Though initially reported by Menlo Park fire officials as a "total loss," one of the two affordable housing buildings located at 2700 Middlefield Road in North Fair Oaks went up in flames. The fire spared Building A, which is set to include 75 units of affordable housing and a child care center. Building B burned in the Monday, June 3, fire and would have included 104 units of affordable housing.

Following the fire at the affordable housing complex, which had been under construction since 2023, officials have been praising the quick action of the first responders on the scene who saved the second building and prevented the fire from spreading to nearby neighborhoods.

The \$155 million Middlefield Junction affordable housing complex was slated to provide 179 units of affordable housing to the area. The new apartment buildings were being built on a vacant, county-owned lot where

a recycling facility once stood.

Plans for the project, located behind San Mateo County's Fair Oaks Health Center, have been in the works since August 2015. Each apartment, ranging in size from one to three bedrooms, was reserved for people making between 15% and 80% of the area median income. Twenty units were to be reserved for people experiencing homelessness.

"All Bay Area families understand the need for more high-quality affordable housing and childcare services, and we are devastated that we will now be delayed in completing this 179-home family community with an expansive ground-floor child care center operated by our partners at Peninsula Family Service," said developer Mercy Housing California in a statement.

The project was funded through a partnership between Mercy Housing California, San Mateo County, the state and private investors. The California



Courtesy San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

A San Mateo County Sheriff's Office drone captures footage of the June 3, 2024 fire at an affordable housing development in North Fair Oaks.

See **FIRE**, page 16

Pro-Palestine protesters occupy Stanford president's office

Deputies enter building, make arrests

By Gennady Sheyner

A group of pro-Palestinian protesters on June 5 barricaded themselves inside the Stanford University building that houses the office of the president for about two hours, according to the university.

The students described themselves as an "autonomous group" that is "reclaiming our President's office in the name of divestment and a Free Palestine," according to an Instagram account associated with the occupation.

Stanford announced that all students who participated in the occupation will be immediately suspended. Seniors who are involved with the protest will not be allowed to graduate, according to the university.

The account from Liberate Stanford showed photos of a sheet unfurled on a balcony inside the building with the words, "Dr. Adnan's Office," an apparent reference to Palestinian surgeon Dr. Adnan al-Bursh, who died in April while in an Israeli detention facility in the West Bank.

The student publication The

Stanford Daily reported that about 10 protesters entered the Main Quad building at about 5:30 a.m. on June 5. At about 7:15 a.m., deputies from the Stanford Department of Public Safety broke a glass window and then used a crow bar to enter. They then proceeded to arrest the protesters, according to the student paper.

According to the university, one public safety officer was injured after being shoved by protesters who were interfering with a transport vehicle.

Videos from the Liberate Stanford account showed

deputies trying to break through a pane on a building door while protesters chanted, "No Justice, No Peace" and "Free Palestine!"

Students associated with the protest also issued a statement early this morning stating that the decision to occupy President Richard Saller's office comes "as the direct consequence of Stanford administration refusing to engage with peaceful protesters' demands, including heeding its own policies, despite overwhelming support from the student body."

"Stanford advertises itself as a beacon of progress, diversity

and achievement, with a stated mission of promoting 'public welfare,'" the statement reads. "Meanwhile, military industrial research thrives in Stanford laboratories, with defense firms openly recruiting on our campus as registered University affiliates."

The Stanford Daily reported that some of the protesters who remained outside the building spray-painted the ground, which was then power-washed by the university's janitorial staff.

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Making beautiful music takes commitment

Ravenswood City School District and Stanford Live developed a partnership that ensures district students, particularly black and brown students, have access to music that resonates with their heritage and culture.



“Seeing their faces ‘wowed’ – that’s what I want when they come away from a performance,” said teacher Kimberly Garzon, after the musicians played pieces from around the world designed to show off each instrument. **SCAN TO READ THE SPOTLIGHT**



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Local News

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Nicholas Mazzoni

Magali Gauthier, left, talks with Mike Callagy, San Mateo County Executive while walking through homeless encampments during County's One Day Homeless Count on Jan. 25.

San Mateo County homeless population rises 18% since 2022, new data shows

The number of people using shelter services within the county increased by 38%

By Eleanor Raab

Every two years, San Mateo County conducts a "One Day Homeless Count" to count the number of people sleeping outside or using the county's shelter services. This year's count found 2,130 people experiencing homelessness in San Mateo County, an increase of 18% since the last count was conducted in 2022.

A county press release cites

ongoing affordability challenges and income inequalities as continuing challenges contributing to the increase in homelessness in the county. Since the previous count in 2022, San Mateo County has been working toward reaching a "functional zero" of homelessness, where "every unsheltered homeless person in the county who chooses assistance can be sheltered in an emergency shelter or in temporary

or permanent housing."

In the last two years, the county has created new shelter capacity, adding 240 units at its Navigation Center in Redwood City and 44 units at the El Camino House in San Mateo.

This year's count found that Redwood City has the highest number of people experiencing homelessness, followed closely by Pacifica and

See **HOMELESS**, page 12

New renderings reveal scale of multi-use complex in Menlo Park

Mayor cautions project is 'inconsistent' with city rules

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Renderings for the proposed Willow Park development in Menlo Park have been revealed. They depict four high-rise buildings that are aimed to create more affordable housing but will likely do little to stem controversy over the project. The development proposed by N17 Developers would be built on the site of the former Sunset magazine headquarters at 80 Willow Road.

Willow Park is designed to be a 6.7-acre community that includes housing, commercial and office spaces, a Montessori school, hotel rooms and recreation areas, according to a press release distributed on May 31.

The design has been in the works since November 2023 with its tallest condominium and hotel building reaching 431 feet in height.

Out of 665 housing units, 133 would be reserved for affordable housing for low-income residents. That would increase Menlo Park's "affordable housing by more than 24%," according to the release. The affordable housing will be offered to those who make 80% less than the area median income.

N17 plans to utilize the "builder's remedy," which holds that California cities that have not adopted an approved housing

element forfeit their authority to deny housing developments that meet certain criteria meant to serve low-income residents.

Although Menlo Park had its housing element approved by the state on March 21, N17's application was filed in 2023 and is still valid. It "will undergo the city's standard housing development review process," said Mayor Cecilia Taylor in a statement to *The Almanac*. This process will include hearings brought before the Planning Commission and the City Council.

Community members have previously petitioned against the multi-use complex and have expressed their disapproval to city officials.

Taylor explained that the city of Menlo Park has taken community input into consideration as the city council "has adopted standards and development requirements that the council and community deem appropriate for sites and neighborhoods within the city."

"The current Willow Park proposal is not only inconsistent with these approved and vetted standards, but it is very out of scale with those standards," said Taylor.

Willow Park would feature a 130-room hotel, 324,000 square

See **WILLOW PARK**, page 20

Garden Thyme program encourages children to eat healthy

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Children at Ormondale School are eating more vegetables, much to the surprise of their parents. This phenomenon is a result of the school's Garden Thyme program, which teaches elementary school students about healthy foods, ecology and gardening.

Brook Coffee, parent and Garden Thyme teacher, is introducing students from as young as 4 years old the importance of eating healthy, how to grow

their own food and plant biology. Coffee has been gardening since she was a kid, has a background in biology and has been teaching science since she was 19 years old. "The most important aspect is making healthy food choices," said Coffee. "We talk a lot about how food affects your mental health and physical health."

The San Mateo County School Board Association recognized the program with a 2024 J. Russell Kent award in April. The award recognizes innovative and replicable programs in the county.

Coffee started as a volunteer in the school garden and was invited to teach gardening to second graders through a grant obtained by the school in 2014. With the success of the program, the director of curriculum increased grant funding in 2018 allowing her to teach transitional kindergarten through third grade.

With Coffee's work, Ormondale's garden is thriving with edible flowers, tomatoes, herbs, lettuce and more. Sweet

See **GARDEN THYME**, page 11



Courtesy Solomon Cordwell Buenz

A rendering of Willow Park in Menlo Park.

County complains about \$100M state grab

'This is county taxpayer money we're talking about,' county executive says

By Arden Margulis

The state of California is refusing to give San Mateo County more than \$100 million in taxes that the county believes belongs with local governments.

"This is county taxpayer money that we're talking about and the state is denying us funds that we are rightfully due," said County Executive Mike Callagy.

It all comes back to two compromises made between the state

and local governments almost 20 years ago: the triple flip (which ended in 2015) and the vehicle licensing fees swap. Essentially, in order to fix the Fiscal Crisis of 2003-04, the state cut local funding, but allowed counties to recoup the lost income from each county's Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund. The state would provide the funds that school districts were missing from ERAF.

However San Mateo County is one of two counties in California

in which this plan does not work. When a school district has enough per-pupil funding — either due to increased property taxes or fewer students — more money in the ERAF is given to counties and cities. This is called "excess ERAF." But since the ERAF is also supposed to fund the lost revenue from VLF and triple flip, an issue arises: what happens when the ERAF does not have enough funds?

If there are not enough funds, the county can take money from

schools beyond the minimum contribution the state provides. But because many schools in San Mateo County are "basic aid" — meaning they do not receive funds beyond the minimum required — this is not enough to cover the shortfall.

The impact of this nuance is shocking: the county estimates that cities and the county as a whole are losing over \$100 million.

See **TAXPAYER MONEY**, page 19

M-A administrators file motion to dismiss federal lawsuit

Administrators say lawsuit fails to detail specific actions

By Arden Margulis

Menlo-Atherton High School Administrative Vice Principal Nick Muys and Sequoia Union High School District Wellness Programs Coordinator Stephen Emmi filed a motion to dismiss a lawsuit against them for negligence and battery earlier this month. The lawsuit came after the arrest of a Menlo-Atherton student sparked backlash in May 2023.

The May 10 motion argues that the plaintiff — a 16-year-old Black M-A student who the suit refers to as K.C. — did not provide facts that support their claims. Specifically, the motion argues the plaintiff failed to support their claim that Muys acted negligently and their claims against Emmi for assault and battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress and interfering with a person's constitutional rights by force or threat of violence.

The motion for dismissal also contends that K.C.'s tort claim submitted to the district contradicts the lawsuit K.C. eventually filed. The claim describes the physical contact Emmi and K.C. made as "Emmi physically blocked K.C. from retrieving his 'water toy,' causing K.C. to bump into him." But the lawsuit describes the same incident as "Emmi forcibly grabbed the toy and physically pushed into K.C.'s body."

Muys, who is represented by

Bertrand, Fox, Elliot, Osman + Wenzel, states that the lawsuit failed to identify specific conduct by him and how said conduct caused injury to K.C., both of which are required to allege negligence. The complaint claimed that Muys denied K.C.'s request to continue the conversation in private and ordered him to leave the office. The complaint alleges that those actions breached Muys's responsibility to avoid causing unnecessary physical harm and distress and to use reasonable measures to protect students from foreseeable injury at the hands of third parties, referring to the police department, acting negligently or intentionally.

Similarly, the motion claims that the lawsuit failed to provide facts that, if true, show Emmi committed assault and battery, intentionally inflicted emotional distress, and violated K.C.'s constitutional rights.

The motion argues that the claim against Emmi for intentional infliction of emotional distress should be dismissed since the complaint does not adequately show unreasonable conduct by Emmi. The complaint alleges that Emmi's conduct in "confronting, demeaning, and physically pushing into K.C., despite being aware of K.C.'s disabilities, after K.C. asked to retrieve his property, was extreme, unreasonable, and outrageous." The motion argues that this description does not meet the standard set by *Christensen v. Superior Court* which defined intentional infliction of emotional distress as "Conduct to be outrageous must be so extreme as to exceed all bounds of that usually tolerated in a civilized society."

The motion will go before a judge on June 25. ■

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Q&A: Maria Doerr reflects on her time on Menlo Park City Council

By Eleanor Raab

After a year and a half on the Menlo Park City Council, council member Maria Doerr announced in a May 28 blog post that she will not seek reelection due to a planned move out of Menlo Park.

She is the second City Council member to declare that she will not be on the ballot in the upcoming election; in March Jen Wolosin announced she will not be seeking reelection.

“After heartfelt reflection, I am announcing my decision not to seek re-election for the Menlo Park City Council,” Doerr said in the blog post. “Next summer, following the conclusion of my current term, both professional commitments and personal circumstances will necessitate my relocation from our wonderful community.”

In an interview with The Almanac on May 30, she elaborated on her reasons for leaving the city, her unique position as a young renter on council, the projects she is most proud of and her gratitude for her time in public service.

Doerr, 28, was originally appointed to the council in January 2023 to fill a vacancy left by Ray Mueller after he was elected to the county Board of Supervisors. She represents District 5, which includes Sharon Heights, Stanford Hills and parts of West Menlo Park.

In addition to her council



Magali Gauthier

Maria Doerr, Menlo Park city council member, will not seek reelection due to a planned move out of Menlo Park.

duties, Doerr is a Program Officer at the Rural Climate Partnership.

In her farewell blog post, Doerr said she will spend the remainder of her term working “diligently to ensure that ongoing projects are on solid footing and that the future incoming council member is well-prepared to take on the responsibilities of this position.”

Doerr does not plan to disengage from public service once her term is over. She hopes to continue making public comments and being actively involved around the city.

No candidate has yet thrown their hat in the ring for the District 5 seat, which will be on the ballot in the upcoming Nov. 5 General Election.

“If you, or someone you know, is interested in running for District 5, please reach out,” said Doerr. “I would be happy to offer my insights and questions to help determine if the role is right for you.”

The following interview has been edited for length and clarity.

The Almanac: What accomplishments have you been most proud of during your tenure on City Council?

Doerr: There are so many things I’m personally proud of. The things that especially come to mind are successfully passing our housing elements and increasing our zoning to increase the city’s affordable housing stock. And housing density has been something I’m very proud of.

And another thing I’m really proud of is getting the city — because this is really the city’s work — the \$4.5 million that state Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, helped us get. And the Menlo Spark program — starting to move that out to low-income homes (for electrification retrofits), especially in District 1. Supporting electrification is a big thing.

I’m also very excited about efforts we’ve made to advance protected bike lanes or ... buffered bike lanes, and to advance ordinances like the zero-emission landscape equipment ordinance.

A big priority for me, as I came in as a relatively new person to the City Council, was to make myself available to people. I am so grateful that the weekly public office hours that I hold at the (Woodside) Bakery are popular and well attended, and that folks have been comfortable reaching out to me directly. I’ve gotten to have many one on one conversations with residents and neighbors and that’s something I’m also very proud of.

Q: What is your favorite memory from serving on council?

A: About two weeks ago, the Belle Haven Community [Campus] opened, and it was so powerful to be in that space with the other council members, Mayor Cecilia Taylor, city staff and residents who have been working tirelessly for years to see that project to fruition. Being in a shared space with so much joy and hope was very powerful and it showed me just how important it is for everyone to be working together to see change happen for our community.

Q: What challenges will Menlo Park continue to face after you leave the council?

A: Something that I learned in this role is that residents have different views and different perspectives on how the community

should look moving forward. I think more of those conversations will continue to happen as we implement the housing element and build more affordable housing throughout our community.

I think that will require thoughtful engagement from city staff and the council to make sure residents are brought along in those conversations meaningfully. And I don’t think that the challenge is unique to Menlo Park; I think that’s a challenge that all cities throughout the state are going to have to deal with.

Q: Could you elaborate on why you are not pursuing reelection?

A: Happy to, but I’d also love to share a little bit more about my favorite parts of council.

I adore listening to and actively engaging with my neighbors; I see that as being a cornerstone of good local governance.

My favorite moments on City Council have been hosting my office hours or visiting classes or attending community events like the Oak Knoll Halloween parade and talking to parents about priorities that they have for their community and their children. Those kinds of moments to connect with residents have been some of the most powerful and joyful moments for me.

It has been such an honor to serve on this council with such bright and caring fellow leaders. I’ve learned so much from every single council member and from city staff. It astounds me and inspires me daily.

I am not running because I will be moving next year, and I am moving in part because of where my work is taking me.

My work on rural democracy

See **DOERR**, page 12

FIRE MARSHAL'S SAFETY CORNER

POOL & GRILL SAFETY



Pool Safety

- Never leave children alone in the water and avoid swimming alone.
- Ensure that the fencing, gates, and latches around your pool are maintained, secure, and up to local safety codes.

Charcoal Grill Safety

- Do not add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited. Never use any other flammable or combustible liquid to get the fire started.
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Stop by at our pop-up Fire Marshal's Safety Corner event outside Burgess Pool in Menlo Park from 1:00pm- 2:00pm. Come meet the Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, and potentially see one of our fire engines.



Courtesy Andrew Single

PV Palooza rocks Portola Valley

On sunny Saturday, June 1, people fanned out on Portola Valley Town Center's lawns for the third PV Palooza. The all-day summer musical festival featured four stages with 30 bands with ties to Portola Valley, Woodside or La Honda. About 2,500 people turned out for the day, according to festival organizer John Badger.

Local vendors at the festival included: Devil's Canyon Brewing Company, Lord of the Ribs, Blue Seal Pottery, Soap For Cats, Rane's gardening and more.

Slush, above, played at the Soccer Field Main Stage. The band covers rock hits from the 70s, 80 and 90s, according to PV Palooza's website. Band members are: Portola Valley residents Andy Barrows, Todd Scheuer, Karel Urbanek, Ty Jagerson, and Taylor Hinshaw, and Joe Lange of Woodside.

For more on the event, go to pvpalooza.com.

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- Approximately 7,085 total square feet
 - Main residence: 4,995 sq. ft.
 - o Main level: 3,265 sq. ft.
 - o Lower level: 1,730 sq. ft.
 - 3-car garage: 795 sq. ft.
 - Storage/workshops: 1,295 sq. ft.
- Main level: foyer, living room, sunken conversation pit with fireplace, kitchen, large walk-in pantry, butler's pantry, dining room, family room with fireplace, primary bedroom suite, powder room, laundry room
- Lower level: two bedrooms, two bathrooms, second family room/study with fireplace, recreation room (or possible bedroom), storage rooms
- Wood-paneled walls and all-wood cathedral ceiling in the main living areas
- Floors in Spanish tile or new carpet
- Spacious front courtyard terrace set back from the street plus expansive wraparound decks on both levels
- Attached 3-car garage with separate workshop
- Excellent Portola Valley schools



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Menlo Park City Council approves solar power for city buildings

By Eleanor Raab

Some of Menlo Park's city buildings will soon be solar powered, after the Menlo Park City Council approved the installation of solar panels on four city-owned buildings at its May 21 meeting. The panels will be installed on the Belle Haven Child Development Center, Burgess Pool, City Hall and the Menlo Park Library. The new panels will be provided by Peninsula Clean Energy, a nonprofit provider of solar panels and solar storage, through their GovPV program.

Through the GovPV Program, PCE designs, installs, operates and maintains

the solar panel arrays at no upfront cost to the city. Menlo Park will then pay for the energy produced by the panels via monthly electricity bills. The electricity is purchased at a fixed rate, which avoids future rate hikes.

City staff estimate that purchasing electricity through this power purchase agreement with PCE will result in big savings.

"It's expected that this portfolio of solar will save the city \$2.9 million in utilities over the lifetime of the agreements due to the fixed electricity costs, and the city's foresight and signing up for net energy metering, which allows us to be grandfathered into a more favorable rate"

said Menlo Park Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer.

The agreement with PCE has a 20-year term. At the end of the agreement, there are opportunities for Menlo Park to buy out the system, extend the agreement or have the panels removed. The city would also have the opportunity to purchase the systems before the end of the term if desired.

Council member Maria Doerr said she appreciated the work that city staff did to find funding for the project.

"It's also really great to see all the different funding sources that have been pulled together by the city to help fund this project in partnership with PCE," she said. "Love to

see that leveraging of local dollars by going after state and federal money to make things happen."

The roofs of Belle Haven Child Development Center, City Hall and Menlo Park Library will have to be replaced before solar panels can be installed. The council has already approved a budget to cover the costs of roof replacements.

The roof replacements will take place some time between now and 2025. The solar panels will likely be installed and energized in 2025. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.

Atherton City Council plans to limit public comment time

By Arden Margulis

On Wednesday, June 5, the Atherton City Council will review a staff report that suggests limiting public comment for items that are not on the agenda to two minutes and adding a footnote telling speakers they may be cut off if they discuss items outside the council's jurisdiction.

"The City Council and residents have found the comments to be antisemitic, racist and disruptive," said Atherton Mayor Diana Hawkins-Manuelian.

City Manager George Rodericks told The Almanac that the issue is relatively new.

"Recently, the public comment period has

been utilized by members of the public to share information and opinion often unrelated to town subject-matter jurisdiction. In addition, some have loosely connected their public comments to the town by asking the council to adopt a resolution, ordinance, or proclamation in support of their opinion," according to a staff report by Rodericks.

At multiple meetings, speakers spoke about attacks on white people and directed listeners to a site run by the Goyim Defense League, an antisemitic hate group, which has previously used other City Council's meetings to spread their message.

"Disruptive comments have only become an issue in the last couple of years," he said.

"There are online commenters that begin

their comments benignly and tangentially related to the town. Once the council allows the commenter to continue, the comments divert to hate speech."

At the council's April 17 meeting, one online commenter, under the name Joseph G., claimed white people were under attack.

"Just think about how white people feel seeing our people being abused but we're called Nazis for demanding it to end," he said. "I'll take the label of Nazi if it means I love my people enough to stand against the genocide being perpetrated against us."

He spoke for just over a minute before being cut off by City Attorney Mona Ebrahimi who asked him to relate his comment to city business. He then requested the council support a resolution that condemned the rise in hate against white people. He spoke for the full three minutes. The speakers after him, who said similar statements, were cut off sooner by city officials.

Hawkins-Manuelian said, "We are working on changes that focus on managing the public comment process while still protecting free speech rights."

Although it is already council policy

that public comment may only be used for topics within the council's jurisdiction, the staff report suggests adding a footnote about enforcement. The suggested footnote says, "If comments do not relate to the subject matter jurisdiction of the council or committee, the town reserves the right to stop the comment and a warning may be provided. If the comment continues to be outside of the subject matter jurisdiction the speaker will be stopped, and we will move on to the next speaker."

Rodericks said the policy change is not related to the Israel-Hamas war.

Increasingly, in other cities, advocates have used public meetings to call for action on the Israel-Hamas war.

The Berkeley City Council faced months of disruption and the resignation of a council member due to harassment calling for a city resolution on the conflict.

More locally, a Sequoia Union High School District board meeting was interrupted by arguments over the conflict, leading a staff member to call the police. ■

Email Editorial Intern Arden Margulis at amargulis@almanacnews.com.

New San Mateo County Sheriff HQ opens

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On Monday, June 3, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office opened its new state-of-the-art headquarters in downtown Redwood City to the community, according to a May 29 press release. The five-story facility located at 330 Bradford Street is built on the former site of the Old Maguire Jail.

The \$50 million headquarters is stationed across the street from the Hall of Justice, which housed the Sheriff's Office for more than 60 years. Signage at the Hall of Justice notifies visitors of its move.

The headquarters houses numerous bureaus, including the Corrections Administrative Classification Unit, Civil Bureau, Investigations Bureau, Fiscal Bureau, Records Bureau, Property and Evidence Bureau, Technical Services Bureau, and more.

An executive conference room has been dedicated in memory of Don Horsely, the late San Mateo County supervisor and sheriff who died in November 2023.

"As our profession and mission evolve, it's important that our facilities do as well. Serving as the heart of our community-facing services, this modernized facility brings our major public facing bureaus under one roof, offers amenities that prioritize the well-being of our employees, and much more," said San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus in a statement. "We welcome San Mateo County to our new headquarters, and we look forward to serving the community from this location for the next 60 years and beyond."

The Sheriff's Office was responsible for half the facility costs. The remaining expenses were funded and supported by The Arrillaga Foundation and the late John Arrillaga Sr., after whom the building was named.

Plans for a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be announced at a later date. ■

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



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Portola Valley discusses new staff and master fees

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Portola Valley's town staff is slowly growing as two new faces were introduced during the town council meeting on May 22. A revised master fee schedule was also approved to reflect inflation rates.

Town Manager Sharif Etman introduced new staff members to the council: Tony McFarlane, the town's new finance director and Terrence Grindall, interim planning and building director.

"I'm very excited to be a part

of the Portola Valley management team and looking very forward to restoring the integrity of financial records for the city that are long overdue," said McFarlane, who brings over 23 years of experience in state and local government.

Terrence Grindall will be serving as a temporary planning and building director and will be working in Town Hall from Monday through Thursday. Residents will be able to receive advice on their housing projects during his office hours from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Etman announced that the town staff will be expanding soon with a new finance technician, engineering technician and executive assistant as a permanent position. Hiring is still pending on a development review technician.

"With these new folks being permanent and being part of Portola Valley, I believe the residents will definitely feel the impact of having permanent staff that helps us provide the stability for the town," said Etman.

The council approved a revised master fee schedule.

Fees have increased to reflect the Bay Area's inflation rates and 2.4% consumer price index increase.

Fees have increased for certain activities under administrative, planning, building and public works. The hourly fee for the town attorney, planning, and facility rentals have increased. The town attorney's rate has increased from \$375 to \$390 per hour and the planning hourly fee has increased from \$233 to \$239 per hour.

Town staff plan to hold a Nexxus study and analysis in the

next three to six months which will "determine and accurately set fees appropriately to ensure complete cost recovery for services provided," according to the staff report. A Nexxus study will review the financial needs and activities of the town.

Portola Valley resident Rita Comes called for the fee on picnic table rentals to be removed, to support the mental health of the community by allowing residents to freely use park amenities.

The amended fee schedule becomes effective on July 1. ■

*Email Staff Writer
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GARDEN THYME

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sugar snap peas and lemony French sorrel are a favorite among students, according to Coffee.

Trying new vegetables can be nerve-racking for children, but it becomes fun when they're trying them in a "garden taco." Every week, students make a taco entirely made of vegetables picked from the garden and eat them with the class.

Coffee reassures her students that it's OK to be scared and provides an environment where

students are able to make their own choices in what they want to try. She believes that it's important to give children exposure to new and healthy foods.

Coffee teaches students that vegetables are healthier when they're fresher. It also allows kids to be involved in the process of growing a small seed into a sprouting plant. They learn to work as a team and practice patience and kindness as they work on projects in the garden.

Coffee enjoys witnessing "the intrinsic joy of being able to put something tiny into the ground and be able to grow magical

things." She feels a sense of hope and joy from seeing the magical process of seeds grow into edible plants — a process that she's shocked by to this day.

Students are also bringing their learning back home with them as they're given a variety of seeds and plants to share with their families.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Coffee started a Tomato Tuesdays event where students would be able to take a tomato plant home. In this period of social isolation, the tomato plants served as a connection between students as they all

worked on caring for their plants in different environments. Studies show gardening improves mental health and lowers stress levels.

"I've seen students that struggle in the classroom, thrive in the garden. It's a sense of calm and happiness," said Coffee, who advocates for every school to have its own garden program.

Within the Portola Valley School District, the gardening program is growing. In January, Coffee started a lunchtime garden club at Corte Madera School. She said she often catches students stuffing their pockets

with sugar snap peas.

She explains that a garden is more affordable compared to new school developments and would also provide access to fresh and healthy foods. It can be run by parent volunteers and helps build a sense of community.

"If I was president I would want every school to have a garden," said Coffee. She wishes to be able to find a way to fund all schools to have a gardening program. ■

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DOERR

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and climate solutions is calling me to spend more time in rural places. I am currently Program Officer at the Rural Climate Partnership, a funding collaborative that supports rural-led, place-based climate solutions through grantmaking and capacity-building. My partner's work is also calling him to move. We will be relocating (in the) summer of 2025.

Q: What are your next steps going to be? What are you most excited for in the coming year?

A: There's so much work to do in the next six months on council. I'm really hopeful that we can pass our environmental justice element and our safety element. I am excited to see us move forward on the ... RFP process for the downtown parking lots as part of our housing element plan. There's just so much to do and I'm very excited.

Then after I leave the council, I plan to still be an active citizen in the time I have left in the community. And so expect to see me making public comments at City Council meetings and still being very active around town and, you know, I'm still probably going to be spending a lot of time over the Woodside Bakery where I currently have my office hours.

Q: In your farewell blog post you mentioned that being the youngest City Council member in Menlo Park history and the first renter to represent District 5 gave you a unique perspective. What was that experience like for you?

A: I'm grateful that I felt welcomed with the different perspectives and identities that I brought to council. I'm grateful too that community members were open to me and to the different ways I might see them.

Because I am a 28-year-old renter and not a 75-year-old

homeowner I am especially thinking about the needs and perspectives of younger families, (as well as) students and children in our community who will call Menlo Park home for years to come. Often in the decisions I've made on council, I am both thinking about needs of the present as well as thinking about potential needs of future generations in our community.

Q: How can Menlo Park continue to foster diverse perspectives on council?

A: I think additional outreach to folks who are curious about getting involved in public service would be helpful, whether that's put on by local nonprofits or by the city itself. As I mentioned in my blog post, I'm very willing and able, and would love to talk to anyone who's curious about what serving is like, in case they want to explore it either in this round or in the future rounds of City Council elections.

I think additional outreach to community groups ... and engaging with faith communities and local chapters of groups and school classrooms are all really important ways to help people feel included and understand what's going on so they can get involved if they so choose.

Q: What advice do you have for anyone looking to run for council in this upcoming election?

A: I would advise folks to talk to people who are currently serving different commissions to understand more about what it's like. I encourage them to tune

into city meetings to experience what the decision-making space is. And also to start getting involved now. That could mean providing public comments on different agenda items or coming during office hours to meet with council members.

Q: Do you have anything else you want to share about your time on council or your plans for the future?

A: I'm so grateful to District 5 and to the city for giving me this opportunity to serve. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.

HOMELESS

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the unincorporated land along the San Mateo County coast. Hillsborough and Portola Valley were the only towns in the county where no people experiencing homelessness were found.

Of the people contacted by the team of volunteers this year, 1,145 people were experiencing unsheltered homelessness, meaning that they were living on the streets, in cars, in RVs or in tents, and 985 people were experiencing sheltered homelessness, which includes stays in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.

The data shows that 40% of the unsheltered population were living in RVs, 31% were living in cars or vans, 19% were living on the street, 7% were living in some other type of situation.

Though the overall homeless population increased by 18% or 322 people since 2022, the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness increased by only 5%. The number of people using shelter services within the county increased by 38%.

San Mateo County officials say that despite the increased total count, the higher proportion of unhoused individuals using shelter services may be a good sign.

"While we never like to see our numbers go up, I am heartened by the fact that we saw an increase in those receiving shelter in our emergency facilities like the Navigation Center and El Camino House," said Claire Cunningham, director of the Human Services Agency. "This means fewer individuals in less safe situations such as on the street or in tents. And shelters provide case management and supportive services to help residents move toward permanent housing."

The One Day Count is organized by San Mateo County's Human Services Agency in collaboration with local nonprofit

organizations to provide a "point-in-time count" of the number and location of people experiencing homelessness throughout the county. This data is used to help the county and its partners assess how to best serve people needing housing services and to satisfy data requirements from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The survey was conducted on Jan. 25, 2024, by a team of approximately 300 experienced volunteers, consisting of social workers, city and county staff, community-based service providers and members of the public.

County officials say the data is not perfect since it only captures what the teams of volunteers discovered during a couple of hours on a particular day and can be influenced by external factors. The 2022 count was conducted during inclement weather, which may have influenced the number of people experiencing homelessness who were contacted.

County Executive Office Mike Callagy said, "This confirms our work is never done and we remain committed to helping as many of our unhoused residents who are willing to accept it. Our Board of Supervisors has made reaching functional zero homelessness a key priority and we make strides toward it with every person we move from the street or their vehicle into a place with a warm roof, the supports they need to be successful and the dignity we all deserve."

The county also conducts surveys of the individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the week following the one-day count to track detailed information on demographics and circumstances. This data will be available in the complete One Day Count Report, which will be available later this summer.

You can read the executive summary of the count on San Mateo County's website, smcgov.org/hsa/2024-one-day-homeless-count. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.



Town of Atherton

Town Administrative Offices
80 Fair Oaks Lane
Atherton, California 94027
650-752-0500

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider the proposed Fiscal Year 2024/25 Operating and Capital Improvement budget for adoption.

The meeting will be held by tele or video conferencing. The public may participate in the City Council Meeting via: Zoom Meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/506897786>

Dial: 1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

Remote Public Comments:

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting.

Email: council@ci.atherton.ca.us

Description: The City Council is considering resolutions for the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget (CIP). This also includes resolutions for adopting salaries and benefits for unrepresented staff, approving the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Salary Schedules and Classifications, and the FY 2024/25 Appropriations Limit. The Council will discuss and provide feedback on the proposed Operations and CIP budget, revenues, expenditures, capital projects, salaries and benefits. There is a recommendation to the Council to adopt resolutions for FY 2024/2025 Operating and Capital Budget, FY 2024/2024 Salaries and Benefits Schedules, FY2024/2025 Gann Limit Appropriations, and Town Master Fee Schedule. **A copy of the meeting agenda, staff report and draft resolutions can be found online by Friday, June 14, 2024 here:** <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said Resolutions are set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on **June 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM** via teleconference accessible through the above-described information and in person at 80 Fair Oaks Lane City Council Chambers, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the Resolutions should or should not be recommended for approval.

IF YOU CHALLENGE any actions taken to adopt the FY 2024/2025 Operations and Capital Improvement Budget and underlying Resolutions, 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 City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing addressed to FY 2024/25 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget, City Clerk, The Town of Atherton, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA. 94027.

If you have any questions on the item, please contact Anthony Suber, Deputy City Manager, at asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us or 650-752-0529. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL
s/ Anthony Suber
Anthony Suber, Deputy City Manager

Date Published: May 31, 2024

Date Posted: May 31, 2024



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4145 & 4147 BYRON STREET PALO ALTO



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Discover boundless potential in this stylish duplex, perfectly situated at the end of a cul-de-sac in Palo Alto's Greenmeadow neighborhood. The two units offer a total of 7 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms, catering to both family living and investment potential. Both homes offer a centerpiece fireplace in the living room and peaceful backyard space to entertain and unwind. While 4147 boasts an updated kitchen with new appliances and an attached garage, 4145 offers additional amenities like a jetted tub, bonus space, balcony, and a built-in backyard grill. Situated within walking distance of Mitchell Park and the Cubberley Community Center, and a short drive from the shops, restaurants, and world-class movie theater in The Village at San Antonio Center, this home also grants easy access to US-101 and is served by sought-after schools Fairmeadow Elementary, JLS Middle, and Gunn High (buyer to verify eligibility).

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177 TASSO STREET PALO ALTO



BEAUTIFUL CRAFTSMAN IN DOWNTOWN PALO ALTO

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OPEN HOUSE

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

177Tasso.com

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FIRE

continued from page 1

Housing Accelerator Fund, which gave \$78 million to the project, also contributed to its financing. This was the first development in the county to be financed by the fund.

The project received a \$25.5 million grant from the California Strategic Growth Council. Additional funding was sourced through \$30.5 million in loans from the County and Housing Authority of San Mateo County, \$13 million from the American Rescue Plan Act and \$6.78 from the Measure K half-cent sales tax.

Construction started on the project in June 2023 and would have been completed in March 2025. Once fully constructed, the site would have comprised two large affordable housing buildings, one with 75 units and a child care center and the other with 104 units.

"We are heartened that Building A, which will include 75 units as well as the child care center, was not impacted by the fire in Building B," said Mercy Housing California.

Fire investigators are actively analyzing the scene, according to the statement from Mercy Housing. There was no information available about what caused the fire, as of The Almanac's press deadline on Wednesday afternoon.

Approximately 130 construction workers were on site when the fire broke out at approximately 10:15 a.m. on June 3. There were no injuries to construction workers or fire personnel.

Roberts-Obayashi Corp., the construction company working on the Middlefield Junction site at the time of the fire, said in a statement that this fire was the "worst disaster" in the company's 92-year history.

"We are devastated that Building B ... was destroyed by fire down to the podium slab. The fire started on the fifth floor and workers attempted to put the fire out with nearby fire extinguishers, but it grew too quickly and within 3 hours the entire building was gone."

The statement also confirmed that no "hot work" (cutting, welding, soldering or brazing) was being performed at the site when the fire broke out.

"As soon as it is safe for our teams, and following a thorough investigation, we will return to work at the Middlefield Junction site to assess the damage and make a plan to move forward with construction," said Mercy Housing. "We hope residents and partners will trust in our resolve to deliver the affordable homes and child care spaces that San Mateo County communities deserve and need."

As of June 4, firefighters were still dousing hot spots with water from a ladder truck. These remaining hot spots were identified by thermal imaging via an overhead drone.

Warren Slocum, the president of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the representative of District 4, said that once the investigation is complete, the county, state and developer will know more about how to recoup their finances.

"Talks are going on between lawyers and insurance companies and Mercy Housing ... to figure out how much money the insurance is going to cover in the loss," said Slocum in an interview with this news organization. "The intent is to rebuild. ... The money would come from that insurance money that I mentioned. I know that Mercy Housing is committed to rebuilding and so are we."

Despite the staggering loss, Mercy Housing says that it remains "fully committed" to completing the development that was a result of nearly a decade of community involvement.

"We hope residents and partners will trust in our resolve to deliver the affordable homes and childcare spaces that San Mateo County communities deserve and need," said Mercy Housing.

Local leaders respond

County and state officials also reacted to the loss of affordable housing in the county and praised the quick actions of first responders.

"The destruction of these affordable homes is an enormous loss

that we must now work collectively to recover from," said Assembly member Diane Papan, D-San Mateo. "I am extraordinarily grateful to our first responders who so gallantly protected the surrounding community preventing a potentially greater tragedy."

State Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, praised first responders, and reiterated the need for affordable housing in this part of San Mateo County:

"I am incredibly grateful to all the firefighters, law enforcement, and other first responders for their quick and effective response and for evacuating people out of potential danger and ensuring that there were no injuries. My office is in direct communication with Redwood City and San Mateo County. This situation is still evolving, and investigations are still in their early stages. I will be visiting the site as soon as it is appropriate to do so to inspect the damage. This is a setback for our efforts to provide more high-quality affordable housing in the community. I am hopeful that this project will be completed so that San Mateo County can meet our housing goals and continue to lead the state in addressing homelessness."

San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus lamented the "tremendous loss" of affordable housing and praised the actions of the first responders in preventing injuries and the spread of the fire. "This loss could have been so much worse had it not been for the heroic actions of all of our Sheriff's Office personnel who quickly evacuated nearby residents as well as the firefighters who amazingly prevented the fire from spreading to nearby homes and buildings."

The site for this project was selected due to its proximity to transit, to businesses in Redwood City and on Middlefield Road and to the nearby North Fair Oaks Health Center, according to Slocum.

"It was a unique development in that not only did it have one and two-bedroom units, it had three bedroom units, which we wanted to make sure we could take care of families with kids. Hence the larger units," said Slocum. "That would have been the largest affordable housing (development) in that community."

Slocum also wanted to remind San Mateo County residents to be prepared for emergencies of all kinds.

"This kind of just brings home the fact that it can happen anywhere, anytime and as shocking as it was for me, and devastating. The community needs to look to that example and just be prepared for emergencies for their families." ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Join The Bike Kitchen at Feldman's Books for free bike maintenance

On Sunday, June 9, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., The Bike Kitchen will teach you about bike maintenance alongside coffee and donuts at Feldman's Books in Menlo Park.

Community members are invited to join The Bike Kitchen with Clayton Keller, a mechanic at Shadetree Bikes, and Alex Anaya, former lead volunteer of the UC Berkeley Bike Co-op to have their bikes maintained and learn how to fix bikes themselves. This event is free to attend.

The event will take place at Feldman's Books, located at 1075 Curtis Street, Menlo Park.

Menlo Park's Juneteenth celebration will take place June 15

Join the city of Menlo Park for a Juneteenth celebration at the new Belle Haven Community Campus from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, June 15. There will be live music, cultural entertainment, community resource information, a raffle and free food for attendees to enjoy.

Springline Menlo Park hosts free outdoor summer concerts and silent disco

On Friday, June 7, and Saturday, June 8, Springline Menlo Park will host free concerts and a silent disco in the development's plaza. There will also be food trucks, beverages, games and more for attendees to enjoy.

Friday's concert will feature The Alex Lucero Band, a soul/Americana act from Santa Cruz at 6:30 p.m., and Kylie Morgan, a country music singer from Nashville at 8 p.m. The Saturday event will feature Fleetwood Macrame, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band based in the Bay Area at 6:30 p.m., Finger Eleven, a Canadian Rock band at 8 p.m. and a neon silent disco from 10 p.m.-midnight. The events will take place at 1300 El Camino Real. Get your free ticket at tinyurl.com/Springlineconcerts.

—Eleanor Raab

Filoli seeking new board members

Filoli Historic House and Garden is looking for new board members who will represent the community, serve as leaders and amplify the estate's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, according to a May 30 press release.

New and returning board members are required to attend an orientation and are expected to attend four two-hour meetings per year, an annual retreat, public events and fundraising events throughout the year.

Through a partnership with Potrero Group, a professional search firm, the board of directors is conducting an open call for nominations. For priority consideration, interested candidates should apply by July 8. For more information, about the board of directors and how to apply, visit potrerogroup.com/executive-search/filoli-board.

Youth Cultural Ambassador concert

San Mateo County Youth Cultural Ambassador and Menlo-Atherton High School student Daniel Strebulaev is hosting a classical concert on June 11 at 5 p.m. at PAC Theater, 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton. The concert is free and open to all.

The concert is presented through the support of the San Mateo County Office of Arts and Culture, the Goodler Foundation and Peninsula Symphony.

For more information about the event visit youthmusician.competition.squarespace.com.

Bike & Roll to School Month

During May, Belle Haven Elementary School celebrated Bike & Roll to School Month with a BMX stunt show assembly. Perfection on Wheels, a bicycle stunt team, shared their talents and tricks while promoting bike safety and awareness. Students had a front row seat to the action packed event.

East Palo Alto students awarded during Senior Award Night

The East Palo Alto Academy Foundation honored the achievements of the Class of 2024 during Senior Award Night. Merit-Scholarship recipients were recognized as well as student athletes and this year's valedictorian and salutatorian.

—Jennifer Yoshikoshi



Arden Margulis

Menlo Park Fire responds to the fire at 2700 Middlefield Road.



8 BRITTANY MEADOWS ATHERTON



SPECTACULAR WEST ATHERTON ESTATE ON 1+ ACRE

This magnificent estate is the epitome of sophistication and refinement, seamlessly blending luxury with livability and opulence with allure, all while nestled on over an acre of land in prestigious West Atherton. Past the gated motor court awaits a 6-bedroom residence that has been meticulously upgraded and remodeled with top-of-the-line craftsmanship and materials, boasting nearly 7,400 total square feet of living space filled with lavish appointments and impeccable details. The gracious multi-level floorplan radiates style and convenience while offering expansive formal rooms, a chef-worthy kitchen with top-tier appliances, a full bar in the family room, an executive office, recreation room, and wine cellar. Each bedroom is en suite, with the palatial primary suite providing a fireplace and spa-inspired bathroom. Outside, the sprawling grounds offer a five-star resort experience, complete with an outdoor kitchen, pool, heated seating areas, and more, complemented by a pool house with a full bathroom and kitchen. Tucked away at the end of a cul-de-sac, this estate provides privacy while being conveniently located near everything the surrounding area has to offer, from downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, to Stanford University, Menlo Circus Club, top public and private schools, and two international airports.

OPEN HOUSE

SUN 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

8Brittany.com

Offered at \$15,988,000

Notice to Buyers:

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

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team

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

Menlo Park to enforce ban on gas-powered leaf blowers and weed trimmers starting July 1

By Eleanor Raab

Menlo Park will begin to enforce its Zero Emissions Landscaping Equipment Ordinance, which bans all gas-powered leaf blowers and string trimmers, also known as Weedwhackers or weed trimmers, starting July 1. All landscaping equipment used in Menlo Park will have to be electric, battery powered or

manually operated.

A ban on other gas-powered landscaping equipment such as walk-behind lawn mowers, hedge trimmers and chainsaws will come into effect Jan. 1, 2029.

With the passage of Assembly Bill 1346 in 2021, California's legislature has already banned the sale of gas-powered landscaping equipment and other small off-road engines within the state. As of Jan. 1, 2024, manufacturers

within the state are required to sell only zero-emission landscaping equipment.

Menlo Park isn't the only city regulating gas landscaping equipment. Atherton's gas-powered leaf blower ban, which was adopted in April 2023, will also go into effect July 1, 2024. The use of gas-powered leaf blowers has been banned in Portola Valley since January 2021.

The ordinance was adopted by the City Council in a 3-2 vote on July 11, 2023 in order to address noise, health and climate impacts from gas-powered landscaping equipment within the city.

"The city's Climate Action Plan establishes a target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 in order to limit the harmful impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise and high heat, and to support a healthy community," said Rachael Londer, Menlo Park's sustainability manager, in an email to this news organization. "This requires reducing greenhouse gas emissions that are produced by the burning of fossil fuels, including gasoline, by at least 90%."

Despite their small size, the engines of gas-powered

landscaping equipment generate huge volumes of smog-forming pollution. In fact, estimates from the California Air Resources Board show that using a commercial leaf blower for one hour generates approximately as many smog-producing emissions as driving 1,100 miles in a car.

Gas-powered landscaping equipment can also negatively impact the health of the operator.

"Beyond producing the greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change, gas powered landscaping equipment has a negative impact on air quality, worker health and safety, and contributes to noise pollution," said Londer. "Air quality is of paramount concern in California and in our community as we address health concerns, including asthma, in our most vulnerable communities including children and older adults."

The ordinance did not change the hours of allowed operation for gardening equipment from those currently permitted. Anyone can operate electric gardening equipment within the city from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and residents may operate the equipment from

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Residents found to be in violation of the ban will be subject to fines, ranging from \$100 for a first violation to \$500 for a third violation within a 12-month period. Violations of the ban will not be enforced against the person or company using the gas-powered landscaping equipment, but rather the owner of the property where the gas-powered equipment is used.

In order to prepare residents and local gardeners for the upcoming enforcement of the ordinance, city staff engaged in bilingual outreach — in Spanish and English — throughout the winter and spring. Outreach included bilingual community meetings for landscapers and community members, a Q&A session with a business that transitioned to electric equipment and an electric gardening equipment voucher program.

The vouchers were distributed to eligible residents and businesses throughout the spring. Ten vouchers worth \$1000 each were distributed to gardening businesses, and 40 vouchers worth \$250 each were distributed to individual residents or non-gardening businesses.

Currently, funding for the voucher program has been fully subscribed, but city staff plan to recommend that the city allocate additional funds to the program. Community members can email sustainability@menlopark.gov to express interest in the program.

"The popularity of the program demonstrates that the community is eager to go electric and that education, outreach, and incentives are critical components of meeting our climate goal," said Londer. "City staff see this program as a success and will be recommending the continuation of this program as part of our fiscal year 2024-25 budget which will be presented to City Council during the June 11 City Council meeting."

Atherton has allocated 60 out of 100 available electric leaf blower rebates, which are worth \$250 and are available to residents until June 30, 2024.

Other voucher programs may become available through the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. You can sign up on its website at baaqmd.gov to receive notifications if funding for voucher programs becomes available.

To further prepare for the upcoming ban, Londer also suggested that residents may want to provide electric leaf blowers and string trimmers or extra batteries for their landscapers to use. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.

Teresa Spiva

February 18, 1942 – May 30, 2024

Teresa Najera Spiva passed away at the age of 82 on May 30, 2024 at her home in Redwood City with her husband of almost 60 years by her side.

Born in 1942 to parents Cristina Ledesma and Carlos Najera, she lived in multiple desert and coastal locations in California as a child, before settling in the Bay Area. While studying to be a dental hygienist at San Jose City College, she met the love of her life, Everett Spiva. They married in 1965 and in 1975 she welcomed the joy of her life, her son John. While raising him in Menlo Park, she worked as a medical assistant and billing specialist for medical practices at Stanford, jobs that well matched her talents for organizing things and putting people at ease.

With her wonderful taste and eye for beauty, she created homes that were warm and inviting. She and Everett shared a love for antiques and art and enjoyed finding and refinishing treasures. She was known for the colorful flowers which bloomed in her garden and adorned her living room and for her needlepoint creations. She enjoyed listening to opera, completing jigsaw puzzles (without looking at the picture!), mystery stories, art museums, watching Warriors games, and family history research. She loved to travel, particularly to the California central coast and to the religious, art and history centers of Europe and Mexico, and to document her experiences in meticulously made photo albums.

Teresa will be remembered for her kindness, her perception and, above all, her expression of love through her hospitality. A talented cook and baker, her friends and family think fondly of the many meals shared, of her enchiladas, chocolate cake or homemade limoncello, of the gatherings on the back patio of her homes in Menlo Park or Redwood City, and the laughter and support.

A breast cancer survivor, she faced her diagnosis of leukemia with the grace and positivity which were hallmarks of her personality. She is predeceased by her parents, her sister Christina Spraker, her brother Carlos Najera, Jr., and her son John. She is deeply mourned by her husband Everett and leaves behind her brother Joseph Najera, her daughter-of-the-heart Chauntly McGuire, and numerous cousins who will miss her dearly.

A long-time parishioner at Church of Nativity in Menlo Park, her funeral Mass will be held there on Thursday June 6th at 11am. Instead of flowers, please make a gift to Doctors Without Borders

https://donate.doctorswithoutborders.org/secure/give-monthly-double-your-impact-search-onetime-reverse?ms=ADD2301U3U51&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=BRAND.DWB_CKMSF-BRAND.DWB-GS-GS-ALL-DonateDWB.EBO-ALL-RSA-RSARefresh.2-MONTHLY&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIr8auvee9hgMVphutBh3iaQRBEAAYASAAEgJikfD_BwE

or Church of the Nativity

210 Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025
nativityparish@sbcglobal.net

Tel: 650-323-7914



Mary "Maribee" Smith

March 25, 1926 – April 28, 2024

Maribee was born Mary Beatrice Smith to William and Katherine Allman in 1926 in Vancouver, Canada.

She was married to Geoffrey Oswald Smith. They immigrated to the United States in the early sixties. She became an American citizen in 1968, and later regained her Canadian citizenship, to become a dual citizen.

Following a divorce, she returned to college at Berkeley, trained as a teacher and began a career in education, teaching in the San Mateo Union High School District. She resided in Palo Alto for 50 years. Maribee did some overseas teaching ESL in Korea and the U.A.E.

California sunshine inspired an interest in sports and the outdoors, which Maribee indulged in by bike riding into her late 80's. Travel was also an interest, especially to tropical locations for scuba diving and underwater photography.

Following retirement in 1995, she volunteered with the Ravenswood Education Foundation, specifically with the Science Initiative, which helps students prepare to enter high school with both knowledge and lab skills. She had an intense interest in helping challenged students in the early grades obtain the skills necessary to go on to high school, graduate, and build successful futures. This led to individual tutoring and also participating in a Diabetes Camp program for children.

She leaves special people in California, North Carolina, Massachusetts, as well as Canada and South Korea.

At her request, no services are planned.



PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY

TAXPAYER MONEY

continued from page 6

The California Legislative Analyst's Office warned legislators about this issue in 2012, when the shortfall was less than \$1 million, yet it was not addressed. In other years, the state offset this difference.

"Clearly, in the statute, all the counties and cities in the state are supposed to get this payment so the state would just add a specific appropriation [item in the budget] to cover us," Deputy County Executive Justin Mates said.

Now, as in 2004, California has a massive deficit, \$56 billion, and local governments are taking the hit. Instead of covering the shortfall, Gov. Gavin Newsom's budget uses the money to help reduce California's deficit. The Governor's Office directed the Almanac to the Department of Finance, which did not respond in time for publication.

County officials were not happy about the governor's decision and said they thought the state reneged on its 2004 deal. Audrey Ratajczak, a lobbyist on behalf of the county, told legislators in April, "Not reimbursing the shortfall would be contrary to the 2004 budget compromise in which these payments were guaranteed to us by law."

However, the California Department of Finance thinks the state has met its obligations. "[The Department of Finance] keeps erroneously saying that 'they

backfilled every lost dollar of VLF revenue' but it is just not true," Callagy said.

The legislators' budget counterproposal, released on May 29, includes the VLF funding, according to San Mateo County's Chief Legislative Officer Connie Juarez-Diroll. However, the proposal differs significantly from Newsom's and has not passed either house.

Assemblymember Diane Papan's district director, David Burruto, told the Almanac that getting VLF funding for San Mateo County is Papan's main budget priority and discussions are ongoing for a permanent solution.

VLF revenue accounts for 18% — or \$41 million — of San Mateo County's operating funds. "We can account for things like decreased property tax but catastrophic losses like this are just unsustainable," Callagy said. "This is one of the most significant threats to our budget that we've ever experienced."

San Mateo County was one of five counties that came under fire in 2020 for abusing "excess ERAF" by the Legislative Analyst's Office. The office claimed the counties were incorrectly shifting funds out of ERAF, leading to the counties incorrectly taking a combined \$350 million from schools. The California School Boards Association is currently suing the State Controller over this and the case has yet to be settled. ■

Email Editorial Intern Arden Margulis at amargulis@almanacnews.com.

PROTESTERS

continued from page 1

"A group of individuals this morning unlawfully entered Building 10, which houses the offices of the president and provost," the university said in a statement. "The Stanford Department of Public Safety has responded to the scene and is assessing the situation. Other campus operations have not been affected at this time."

According to the university, 13 individuals had been arrested and there had been "extensive damage to the interior and exterior of the building."

"We are appalled that our students chose to take this action and we will work with law enforcement to ensure that they face the full consequences allowed by law," the university said in a statement. "All arrested students will be immediately suspended and in case any of them are seniors, they will not be allowed to graduate." We have

consistently emphasized the need for constructive engagement and peaceful protest when there is a disagreement in views. This was not peaceful protest and actions such as what occurred this morning have no place at Stanford."

After clearing out the building, Stanford University officials moved to dismantle the encampment at White Plaza that pro-Palestine protesters had established last fall. In a statement to the Stanford community, Saller and university Provost Jenny Martinez wrote that the encampment had violated numerous university policies since its installation last fall.

While the university's Office of Community Standards is moving through the disciplinary process for the students to address these violations, Stanford had allowed the encampment to remain before the June 5 occupation, according to the statement.

"The situation on campus has now crossed the line from peaceful protest to actions that threaten

the safety of our community," Saller and Martinez wrote. "This began with the recent occupation of Building 570 and has now escalated into today's deeply unfortunate events. In the interest of public safety, the encampment has been removed."

Saller and Martinez stated that they are "appalled and deeply saddened" by the protester's actions, which included "extensive graffiti vandalism on the sandstone buildings and columns of the Main Quad."

"This graffiti conveys vile and hateful sentiments that we condemn in the strongest terms," Saller and Martinez wrote. "Whether the graffiti was created by members of the Stanford community or outsiders, we expect that the vast majority of our community joins us in rejecting this assault on our campus." ■

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com.



Town of Atherton

Town Administrative Offices
80 Fair Oaks Lane
Atherton, California 94027
650-752-0500

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider proposed changes to the Town of Atherton's Master Fee Schedule concerning fees for general government, police, planning, development, engineering, and park services.

The meeting will be held by tele or video conferencing. The public may participate in the City Council Meeting via: Zoom Meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/506897786>

Dial: 1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

Remote Public Comments:

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting.

Email: council@ci.atherton.ca.us

Description: The City Council is considering resolution for the adoption of proposed changes to the Town of Atherton's Master Fee Schedule concerning fees for general government, police, planning, development, engineering, and park services. The Fee schedule follows a cost escalator based on local Consumer Price Index (CPI). Various fees on the Master Fee schedule have a labor component and as such shall be adjusted by the Consumer Price Index All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the San Francisco Bay Area. The CPI as of February 2024 is 2.4% The Master Fee Schedule sets the fees for Planning, Building, Engineering, Public Works, Administrative, Police, Parks and Facilities. There is a recommendation to the Council to adopt a resolution for FY 2024/2025 amending various fees and charges for areas described above on the Town Master Fee Schedule based on CPI cost escalator. **A copy of the meeting agenda, staff report and draft resolutions can be found online by Friday, June 14, 2024 here:** <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/> Agendas-Minutes

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said Resolutions are set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on **June 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM** via teleconference accessible through the above-described information and in person at 80 Fair Oaks Lane City Council Chambers, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the Resolution should or should not be recommended for approval.

IF YOU CHALLENGE any actions taken to adopt the proposed changes to the Town of Atherton's Master Fee Schedule by the CPI-U concerning fees for general government, police, planning, development, engineering, and park fees and rentals, 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 City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing addressed to FY 2024/25 Town Master Fee Schedule City Clerk, The Town of Atherton, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA. 94027.

If you have any questions on the item, please contact Anthony Suber, Deputy City Manager, at asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us or 650-752-0529. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL
s/ Anthony Suber
Anthony Suber, Deputy City Manager

Date Published: May 31, 2024

Date Posted: May 31, 2024

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Jane B. Differding, 86, a former Palo Alto and Mountain View resident who grew up as a "preacher's kid," who got accustomed to changing communities, who was an information specialist for businesses as varied as Nielsen Engineering, Tandem Computers, and Genelabs, who was a resident of The Sequoias in Portola Valley, who shared a genuine appreciation of nature, food, art and music with those around her, who loved to read mystery novels, and who adored babies and volunteered in the NICU at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, on April 20, 2024.

Teresa Najera Spiva, 82, a Redwood City resident who formerly lived in Menlo Park, who was a longtime member of the Church of Nativity in Menlo Park, who worked as a medical assistant and billing specialist for medical practices at Stanford Hospital, who had a wonderful taste and eye for beauty, creating

homes that were warm and inviting, who enjoyed finding and refinishing antiques with her husband Everett, who was known for her enchiladas, chocolate cake or homemade limoncello and gatherings on the back patio of her homes, and who will be dearly missed by her husband and numerous cousins, on May 30, 2024.

Maribee Smith, 98, a 50-year resident of Palo Alto, who was born in Vancouver, Canada, who taught in the San Mateo Union High School District, who, following her retirement in 1995, taught ESL overseas in South Korea and the U.A.E., who volunteered with the Ravenswood Education Foundation, specifically with the Science Initiative, which helps students prepare to enter high school with both knowledge and lab skills, and who indulged in bike riding into her late 80s, on April 28, 2024.

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

Public Notices

WHOLE KID SCHOOL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297396

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) WHOLE KID SCHOOL, located at 135 Willow Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
WUND3RKID
2248 Addison Ave
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2022.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 08, 2024.
(ALM May 17, 24, 31 and Jun 7, 2024)

ROCKET CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297439

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) ROCKET CONSULTING, located at 123 Rockridge Rd, San Carlos, CA 94070.
Registered owner(s):
JOSHUA MICHAEL SAMON
123 Rockridge Rd
San Carlos, CA 94070
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on May 3, 2024.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 14, 2024.
(ALM May 24, 31, Jun 7 and 14, 2024)

2 PROTECH & SERVE SECURITY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297555

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) 2 PROTECH & SERVE SECURITY, located at 60 Amberwood Circle, South San Francisco, 94080.
Registered owner(s):
PROTECH SECURITY SERVICES, INC.
60 Amberwood Circle
South San Francisco, CA 94080
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 May 24, 2024.
(ALM Jun 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2024)

DONATO ENOTECA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297426

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) DONATO ENOTECA, located at 1041 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA 94063.
Registered owner(s):
SPIGA LLC
1041 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, CA 94063
State of Incorporation/Organization: Ca
This business is conducted by: a Limited Partnership.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/01/2013.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 13, 2024.
(ALM May 24, 31, Jun 7 and 14, 2024)

MOLLIE STONE'S MARKET
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297323

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) MOLLIE STONE'S MARKET, located at 1477 Chapin Avenue, Burlingame, CA, 94010.
Registered owner(s):
ALBECCO, INC.
150 Shoreline Hwy Bldg D
Mill Valley, CA, 94941
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 4/4/1988.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 30, 2024.
(ALM May 17, 24, 31 and Jun 7, 2024)

JULIE CARR LANDSCAPE DESIGN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297368

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

1.) JULIE CARR LANDSCAPE DESIGN, located at 341 La Mesa Dr, Portola Valley, CA, 94028.
Registered owner(s):
JULIE RANDAU CARR
341 La Mesa Dr
Portola Valley, CA, 94028
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 05/06/2024.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 07, 2024.
(ALM May 17, 24, 31 and Jun 7, 2024)

SKY TERRACE CAFE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297551

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SKY TERRACE CAFE, located at SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL A, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94128.
Mailing Address: 325 DEMETER STREET, EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303.
Registered owner(s):
SKY TERRACE LLC
325 DEMETER STREET
EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303
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 May 24, 2024.
(ALM May 31, Jun 7, 14 and 21, 2024)

MOLLIE STONE'S MARKET
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297326

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) MOLLIE STONE'S MARKET, located at 22 Bayhill Shopping Center, San Bruno, CA, 94066.
Registered owner(s):
ALBECCO, INC.
150 Shoreline HWY, BLDG D
Mill Valley, CA 94941
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 4/4/1988.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 01, 2024.
(ALM May 24, 31, Jun 7 and 14, 2024)

AV CAPITAL II
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297411

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) AV CAPITAL II, located at 25 Dwight Road, Burlingame, CA 94010.
Registered owner(s):
AUSTEN VASQUEZ
25 Dwight Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
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 May 10, 2024.
(ALM May 17, 24, 31 and Jun 7, 2024)

WEATHER OR NOT LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297370

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) WEATHER OR NOT LLC, located at 1370 CLOUD AVENUE, MENLO PARK, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
WEATHER OR NOT LLC
1370 CLOUD AVENUE
MENLO PARK, CA 94025
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 May 07, 2024.
(ALM May 17, 24, 31 and Jun 7, 2024)

FULLBRAND LEGAL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297438

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) FULLBRAND LEGAL, located at 2806 Hillside

Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010.
Registered owner(s):
AMANDA MITCHELL RINKOFF
2806 Hillside Drive
Burlingame, CA 94010
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on April 1, 2024.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 14, 2024.
(ALM May 24, 31, Jun 7 and 14, 2024)

INDEPENDENT OFFICE ENVIRONMENTS
HEALTHY INSIDE & OUT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-296979

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) INDEPENDENT OFFICE ENVIRONMENTS, 2.) HEALTHY INSIDE &, located at 519 Maple Street, San Mateo, CA 94402.
Registered owner(s):
AILEEN ANN REISMAN
519 Maple Street
San Mateo, CA 94402
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on Feb. 11, 1988.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 21, 2024.
(ALM May 31, Jun 7, 14 and 21, 2024)

PRACTICAL PHOTOGRAPHY
PRACTICAL PROCURMENT
PRACTICAL WOODWORKING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297546

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PRACTICAL PHOTOGRAPHY, 2.) PRACTICAL PROCURMENT, 3.) PRACTICAL WOODWORKING, located at 400 Paloma Ave, Pacifica, CA 94044. Mailing Address: PO BOX 1781, Pacifica, CA 94044.
Registered owner(s):
PRACTICAL PSYCHOLOGY, INC
PO BOX 1781
Pacifica, CA 94044
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 May 24, 2024.
(ALM May 31, Jun 7, 14 and 21, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 24CIV02653

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Katrina Cunningham filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
KATRINA M CUNNINGHAM to KATRINA MARIA VAN DIEPEN
KATRINA M HARTWELL to KATRINA MARIA VAN DIEPEN
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: 07/03/2024, 9:00 a.m., Civil department 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: 05/09/2024
Hessen Ladcani
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM May 24, 31, Jun 7 and 14, 2024)

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
Case No. ((Numero del Caso):
23CV000793

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
The Testate and Intestate Successors of James Richard Kurtz, Deceased, and All Persons Claiming By, Through, or Under Such Decedent YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
STEFFANY SIMS, an individual and SANDRA L. SIMS, an individual

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento
813 6th Street
Sacramento, California 5814

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Gina Arico-Smith (SBN 139645)
Fidelity National Law Group
2999 Oak Road, Suite 550, Walnut Creek, CA 94597
925-817-3715
Date (Fecha)
June 12, 2023
Clerk, by
(Secretario)
, Deputy
(Adjunto)
(ALM May 17, 24, 31 and Jun 7, 2024)

To place a legal notice visit
AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/

WILLOW PARK

continued from page 5

feet of office space and acres of open space for recreational use and amenities such as a fitness center, swimming pools, bakery, restaurants and ice cream shop.

Designers of Willow Park have embraced “the natural beauty” of the San Francisquito Creek that runs along the southern and eastern border of the property. The open space allows “residents and visitors to enjoy the lush green environment,” according to the project communication director Tracy Craig.

“As a local resident, I have a vested interest in helping the community grow in a way that matches the needs of today’s Californians,” said N17 founder Oisín Heneghan in a statement. “While the magazine offices were an appropriate land use when it was constructed in 1951 and the population of California was one-fifth of what it is now, today people need and deserve housing in prime locations, not vacant office buildings or long commutes. California’s housing crisis requires all of us to embrace change.”

The site was chosen by developers for its large size, accessibility to major routes and walkability to Menlo Park and downtown Palo Alto. Developers say the complex is designed to “deprioritize the need for cars” as it’s located near major employers, grocery stores, hospitals and is a 10-minute bicycle ride from Stanford University.

“Projects like Willow Park are a direct response to California’s dire need for housing,” said Corey Smith, the executive director of the Housing Action Coalition in the press release. “Frankly, we cannot push this off any longer. We need housing in Silicon Valley that incorporates the principles of sustainable urbanism. It’s time to start building structures that are designed for the public’s current needs while accounting for the needs of generations that will come after us.”

Solomon Cordwell Buenz, an international architecture firm, has been chosen by N17 to design Willow Park. To learn more about the proposed development, visit willowpark.life. ■

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



LEHUA GREENMAN

“All our dreams come true... if we have the courage to pursue them.”

650.245.1845 COMPASS

The case for electrifying our buildings

By Robert Hogue

GUEST OPINION

Use of fossil fuels like natural gas in buildings contributes significantly to carbon emissions. In fact, emissions from California's buildings are greater than from our in-state power plants. That's why one of the most effective ways you can reduce your own carbon footprint is by replacing your home space and water heaters with electric appliances when they wear out.

Technical advances for electric heat pumps have made them more affordable for space and water heating. Electric induction ranges for cooking cost about the same as open flame gas ranges but are gaining preference over gas ranges. At the same time, people are becoming aware that electrification of buildings is a good opportunity to reduce carbon emissions. There is an electrification "buzz" in discussions and publications among the many community-minded folks in our region. Local city councils are considering changes to building codes to encourage electrification of appliances for both new and existing building construction.

However, many know about the recent court ruling over a

building code change in Berkeley to phase out natural gas appliances in homes and buildings. Restaurants in California want to keep the option of open flame cooking for their kitchens. The California Restaurant Association sued the city of Berkeley and won their case in court. This court decision has resulted in hesitation on the part of other cities to put similar building code changes into effect. The ruling is good for restaurants but unfortunately has stopped climate action electrification reforms indefinitely for all other buildings and homes. And it establishes a precedent that is hard to undo.

Meanwhile, cities are looking to air pollution restrictions as a way of eventually limiting natural gas usage in buildings. The California Air Resources Board and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District are considering requirements for zero-NOx water heaters and space heaters. And some municipalities already have requirements for zero-NOx appliances in their building codes.

Although electrification of our homes and buildings is one of the simplest and least costly changes

that can be made to reduce carbon emissions, such a movement is mostly a volunteer effort at present. Even with compelling justification and broad relative support, state laws, local building codes, and air pollution restrictions take time to be implemented. We are therefore dependent on volunteer actions to get the ball rolling.

There is a counter movement to electrification. Some organizations like the California Restaurant Association feel that it will impact their business negatively. Some homeowners may hesitate to electrify because of perceived hassle or costs. As a result, electrification may be seen as a sacrifice to be made in the cause of reducing climate change.

No, electrifying one's home as appliances wear out and need to be replaced is not just a charitable gesture. It's moving from old, outdated technologies to new, cleaner, more reliable, more energy efficient, more cost-effective technologies. This move will happen anyway over time, but doing it now accelerates our replacement of old for new, and at the same time moves faster to lower carbon emissions.

Such moves keep America from being backward. The U.S. always

has led the world in technology advancement. But now even China is moving more progressively than the U.S. in adopting some new technologies. Let's not let the resistance and slowness to change foisted on us by vested interests to keep us from leading the advancement of mature technologies as a model for the rest of the world to follow. We start by making prudent decisions for our own homes.

Rob Hogue is a Menlo Park resident, retired mechanical engineer and active member of the Citizen's Climate Lobby and the Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action group.

LETTERS

Our readers write

How can Republicans still support Trump?

I don't understand how good Republicans can support for president a dishonest man whose clear purpose is retribution, vengeance and personal gain rather than the good of all Americans. Even the Republican Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, has drunk the Kool-Aid and joined the dark side. The GOP, which used to be a party of high principle, has now become a Mafia that we must defeat at all costs if we are to preserve our democracy.

I urge all good-thinking Republicans (and there are many) to see what has happened to their party; bite the bullet; take the bitter pill; do whatever it takes to avoid the tragedy of a second Trump term.

Likewise, oppose the creeping far-right Christian nationalism that is infiltrating all levels of government from school boards to state legislatures to Washington, D.C. You will be true patriots if you do.

*Don Barnby
Spruce Avenue, Menlo Park*

Tell us what's on your mind?

Send your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Questions? Email editor@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6537.



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Let's educate!

SUMMER 2024 – GUIDE TO SCHOOLS, CAMPS & CLASSES

Business & Tech

CareerGenerations

2100 Geng Road, Suite 210,
Palo Alto

info@careergenerations.com /
careergenerations.com

CareerGenerations offers career counseling and group workshops to meet the career needs of a variety of individuals, including college students looking for internships, and graduates and professionals exploring career options or looking for employment. Workshops are currently being held via Zoom.

ReBoot Accelerator for Women

1865 Camino a los Cerros,
Menlo Park / 650-387-3743
reboot@rebootaccel.com /
rebootaccel.com

ReBoot Accelerator for Women keeps local women current, connected and confident about reentering the workforce through workshops taught by social media experts and instructors from companies such as LinkedIn, Google, Apple and Enjoy.

Culture

Joy Culture Foundation

934 Santa Cruz Ave., Suite A,
Menlo Park / 650-272-6915
info@thejoyculturefoundation.org /
thejoyculturefoundation.org

The nonprofit Joy Culture Foundation operates the Little Bookworm Library to provide families a place to immerse in Chinese culture and language. The center has children's books in Mandarin and English available for check out, as well as bilingual language and culture classes and summer camp.

Dance and theater

Dance Connection

Cubberley Community Center,
4000 Middlefield Road,
Palo Alto / 650-322-7032
info@danceconnectionpaloalto.com /
danceconnectionpaloalto.com

Dance Connection offers combination and graded classes for youth (age 3 and up) and adults, and other programs to meet dancers' needs. Ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, lyrical, Pilates and other instruction are available for students at various levels of ability. Registration is ongoing and summer camps are offered.

Mannakin Theater and Dance

en Avant School of Dance,
1841 Bay Road,
East Palo Alto
415-519-7171
info@mannakindance.org /
mannakindance.org

Summer is almost here!

For the youngsters, it's the time to get out and play, and probably to try out some awesome summer camps and programs. It also may be time to make plans for the next school year. But why should kids have all the fun? People of all ages can make the most of summer by picking up a new hobby, learning a new skill or refining an existing practice. Our summer education guide is here to offer some ideas while you soak up all that summer sunshine.

Let's Educate is published quarterly by the Palo Alto Weekly and The Almanac.

Mannakin Theater and Dance offers youth ballet and dance classes at en Avant School of Dance studio in East Palo Alto, which opened in March 2022. Summer camp is available.

Paly Theatre Summer Camp

Palo Alto High School,
50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto
sthermond@palytheatre.org /
palytheatre.com/camp

Paly Theatre's summer camp offers rising sixth through ninth graders with five days of theater education. Student camp counselors will teach campers about movement, voice, character analysis and creation, improvisation and technical theater.

Victoria Ballet

370 California Ave., Palo Alto
650-720-2643
webmaster@victoriaballet.dance /
victoriaballet.dance

At this ballet studio, students from age 4 to adult are learning the art of dance from instructor Victoria Lee and other dance faculty who have danced professionally with the San Francisco Ballet. The classes offered include all experience levels — from beginners who have never stepped up to the barre to pre-professional dancers. Summer camps and summer intensives are offered.

Zohar School of Dance & Company

Cubberley
Community Center,
4000 Middlefield
Road, Room L-4,
Palo Alto
650-494-8221
zohardance@gmail.com /
zohardancecompany.org

With roots going back to 1979, Zohar School of Dance holds a range of adult dance classes including jazz, modern, ballet, voice and tap. Registration for workshops and ongoing dance classes for adults of all skill levels is now open. Summer dance intensives will be held.

Disability services

Bay Area Friendship Circle

3921 Fabian Way, Suite A023,
Palo Alto / 650-858-6990
info@bayareafc.org / bayareafc.org

The Bay Area Friendship Circle offers programs inspired by Jewish

values and traditions for children, teens and young adults with special needs ages 2-22 year-round. Trained teen volunteers provide friendship and support.

Health & fitness

Equinox

440 Portage Ave., Palo Alto
650-319-1700
equinox.com/clubs/
northern-california/paloalto

Equinox's Palo Alto location offers a variety of fitness and wellness activities including yoga, cycling and high-intensity interval training classes.

One Heart Yoga

Little House Activity Center,
800 Middle Ave.,
Menlo Park
oneheartyyoga.com

One Heart Yoga offers weekly classes in Kundalini yoga and meditation, aimed at helping students increase flexibility and strength and learn breathing techniques to calm and focus and reduce anxiety and depression. Hybrid (in-person and online) classes available.

SoulCycle

669 Stanford Shopping Center,
Room C-12, Palo Alto
650-784-7510
soulpaloalto@soul-cycle.com /
soul-cycle.com/studios/palo/28

SoulCycle combines inspirational coaching, high-energy music, indoor cycling, choreography and more to create an enjoyable, full-body workout.

Taijiquan Tutelage of Palo Alto

Cubberley Community Center,
4000 Middlefield Road, Room U-7,
Palo Alto / 650-327-9350
mjchan@ttopa.com / ttopa.com

At Taijiquan Tutelage of Palo Alto, established in 1973, students learn the classical Yang Style Taijiquan Slow Form style of tai chi. Outdoor classes take place at Cubberley and at Rinconada Park, 777 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto.

Music & visual arts

Community School of Music and Arts

Finn Center, 230 San Antonio
Circle, Mountain View

650-917-6800
info@arts4all.org /
arts4all.org

The Community School of Music and Arts offers year-round classes in music, visual and digital arts, with courses suited for adults and children as young as preschool-age. Students are encouraged to sign up for classes at least two weeks in advance. Summer camps are offered.

EPACenter

1950 Bay Road, East Palo Alto
650-313-2626 / epacenter.org

The 25,000-square-foot space offers a wide range of creative disciplines for East Palo Alto youth ages 6-25. Students can participate in classes such as music, visual arts, dance and skateboarding. No one is turned away for lack of funds.

iSing Silicon Valley

600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto
info@isingsv.com / isingsv.com

This year-round choral program brings together girls from diverse backgrounds to sing in harmony. Interested parties must request an audition for the next season, which begins in late August.

Music Together Menlo Park

75 Arbor Road, Suite N, Menlo Park
650-799-1624
admin@mt-mp.com / mt-mp.com

Music Together Menlo Park holds classes exploring music and movement for children from birth up to age 5 and their guardians at the Allied Arts Guild, as well as two locations in Palo Alto — Lucie Stern Community Center and Unity Church.

New Mozart School of Music

2100 El Camino Real, Suite C,
Palo Alto / 650-324-2373
info@newmozartschool.com /
newmozartschool.com

New Mozart School of Music offers music lessons year-round to students of all ages and abilities. Piano, violin, viola, cello, voice, guitar, flute and early childhood music classes are available.

Pacific Art League

668 Ramona St., Palo Alto
650-321-3891
info@pacificartleague.org /
pacificartleague.org

The classes and workshops at the Pacific Art League are taught by

qualified and experienced instructors for children and adults with varying experience. Instructors teach many media, including drawing, painting, watercolor, digital art and more. In-person and live online classes are offered year-round. Summer camps for kids are available.

Palo Alto Art Center

1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto
650-329-2366
artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org /
cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/
Community-Services/Arts-Sciences/
Palo-Alto-Art-Center

Palo Alto Art Center classes and workshops — teaching children, teens and adults — cover such areas as ceramics, painting, drawing, jewelry, sculpture, Adobe PhotoShop and more.

Older adults

Avenidas

450 Bryant St., Palo Alto /
Cubberley Community Center,
4000 Middlefield Road, Room H-5,
Palo Alto / 650-289-5400
info@avenidas.org / avenidas.org

Avenidas offers many classes, as well as lectures and workshops, for Midpeninsula seniors focusing on topics such as general health, physical fitness, languages, humanities, computing, music and writing. Classes are held in person, online via Zoom or are a hybrid of both.

Little House Activity Center

800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park
650-272-5000 / lpvi.org/littlehouse

Little House Activity Center offers classes for adults of all ages on various topics and activities, including health and wellness for seniors; fitness exercises like line dancing and Pilates; ceramics, drawing and other arts; languages; history and culture; and computer skills.

Parent education

Children's Health Council

650 Clark Way, Palo Alto
650-326-5530 / careteam@
chconline.org / chconline.org

Children's Health Council holds a variety of classes touching on child-behavior issues, dyslexia, anxiety and depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism and other topics related to encouraging all children's success.

Schools

Amigos de Palo Alto

1611 Stanford Ave.,
Palo Alto
650-493-4300

See LET'S EDUCATE, page 24

Let's educate! – Guide to Schools, Camps & Classes

LET'S EDUCATE

continued from page 23

info@amigosdepaloalto.com / amigosdepaloalto.com

Amigos de Palo Alto is a Spanish-immersion preschool for children 2 and older. Students are a mix of native and new Spanish speakers and the program combines reading, writing, art and play to develop a love of learning. Summer camp programs are available.

Athena Academy

525 San Antonio Ave., Palo Alto
650-543-4560

anne@athenaacademy.org / athenaacademy.org

Athena Academy educates dyslexic and twice-exceptional students in first through eighth grades. Summer academic-skills programs available.

Emerson School

2800 W. Bayshore Road,
Palo Alto / 650-424-1221
vbarberis@headsop.org / emersonmontessori.com

Emerson School provides a year-round program for grades one to

eight, teaching a personalized, Montessori curriculum. Lessons draw from classical subjects and other areas, including art, music, foreign language, physical education, communication, life skills and more. Emerson also offers an infant center and a preschool program. Summer writing camp is available.

Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School

450 San Antonio Road,
Palo Alto
650-494-8200

info@hausnerschool.org / hausnerschool.org

Instructing children in kindergarten through eighth grade, Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School provides strong academics, instruction in Jewish studies and the Hebrew language, enrichment opportunities and after-school programs.

Kehillah Jewish High School

3900 Fabian Way,
Palo Alto
650-213-9600

admissions@kehillah.org / kehillah.org

This college-preparatory high school (grades nine through 12)

features modern science and computer labs, art and music studios, a drama program, a full range of academic courses with small class sizes, sports teams and more.

Learning Links

3864 Middlefield Road,
Palo Alto / 650-618-3342
enroll@learninglinks.org / learninglinks.org

Learning Links, formerly Milestones Preschool, offers year-round programs for young children of all abilities to foster social, emotional, cognitive and physical development. Learning Links is a program of AbilityPath, with additional locations in Mountain View and Burlingame.

Living Wisdom School of Palo Alto

456 College Ave., Palo Alto
650-462-8150
livingwisdomschool.org

Offering yoga, meditation and experiential, interdisciplinary learning, Living Wisdom School serves students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade. It offers a low teacher-student ratio, an integrated arts program, a balanced approach to technology, and after-school care.

Lydian Academy

815 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
650-535-8711

staff@lydianlink.com / lydianacademy.com

Lydian Academy is a middle and high school offering year-round individualized instruction to prepare students for college. Lessons include a mix of one-on-one teaching and group sessions. It also offers tutoring and after-school programs. Both in-person and online instruction available, as well as summer courses.

Mustard Seed Learning Center

650-494-7389
info@mustardseedlearningcenter.org / mustardseedlearningcenter.org

Mustard Seed Learning Center is an after-school tutoring and care program that teaches local youth to speak Mandarin Chinese, in addition to emphasizing social development and excellence in academics. After-school programs are held at 3048 Price Court, Palo Alto, and Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. The center also offers a preschool program that takes place at the Price Court address. Summer camps are available.

Oshman Family JCC Leslie Family Preschool

3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto
650-223-8788

earlychildhood@paloaltojcc.org / paloaltojcc.org/preschool

The Oshman Family JCC's Leslie Family Preschool program provides various scheduling and program options for children 18 months to 5 years old, with an emphasis on experiential learning, family involvement and play. Registration and tours are available, as well as summer camp.

Peninsula School

920 Peninsula Way, Menlo Park
650-325-1584

info@peninsulaschool.org / peninsulaschool.org

Peninsula School is a progressive institution teaching students from nursery through eighth grade, with



an emphasis on choice and experience. Classes cover core subjects as well as instruction in music, physical education, drama, ceramics, woodshop and more. Summer programs are available.

Sand Hill School

650 Clark Way, Palo Alto
650-688-3605

info@sandhillschool.org / sandhillschool.org

Located at the Children's Health Council, Sand Hill School teaches children from second through eighth grade with language-based learning differences, school-based anxiety and ADHD. Summer program available.

Silicon Valley International School

151 Laura Lane, Palo Alto
475 Pope St., Menlo Park
650-251-8500

school@svintl.org / svintl.org

Silicon Valley International School offers bilingual immersion day school with two nursery-to-fifth-grade programs in French, German and Mandarin as well as middle and high school programs. Some programs include media and technology, music, gastronomy and athletics classes.

Something for everyone

JobTrain

1200 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park
650-330-6429

info@jobtrainworks.org / jobtrainworks.org

JobTrain has a variety of training programs for adults — providing instruction in the culinary arts, business administration, health care and more — as well as programs specifically for young adults, to help with GED diploma preparation, job placement and vocational training. The center also offers onsite preschool with income-based fees. Open entry GED/high school equivalency classes run on weekdays.

Palo Alto Adult School

Palo Alto High School,
50 Embarcadero Road,
Palo Alto / 650-329-3752

adultschool@pausd.org / paadultschool.org

Classes on computer skills, language, cooking, art, and many others are available through the Palo Alto Adult School. Both online and in-person classes are available.

The Riekes Center

3455 Edison Way, Menlo Park
650-364-2509

info@riekes.org / riekes.org

The Riekes Center offers year-round programming in fitness, arts and nature for individuals of all ages and abilities. The center also provides programs for home-schooled students. Summer camps are available.

Sequoia District Adult School

3247 Middlefield Road,
Menlo Park

650-306-8866 / seqsas.org

Sequoia District Adult Education holds classes in English as a second language and computer and business skills. Students can also earn a high school diploma or GED certificate. Counselors are available to help students transition to college programs.

Stanford Continuing Studies

Littlefield Center,
365 Lasuen St., Stanford.
continuingstudies@stanford.edu / continuingstudies.stanford.edu

Stanford Continuing Studies organizes in-person and online classes in liberal arts and sciences, creative writing, and professional and personal development.

Sur La Table

Town & Country Village,
855 El Camino Real, Suite 57,
Palo Alto / 650-289-0019

slt073@surlatable.com / surlatable.com

Sur La Table offers hands-on cooking classes, guiding students in making regional cuisines, themed meals and other baked goods. Summer cooking classes for kids are available.

Sports

Baylands Golf Links

1875 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto
650-856-0881

baylandsgolflinks.com

Private lessons and clinics teaching golf techniques, rules and etiquette are available for sign-up at any level of experience throughout the year. Summer junior golf camps are available.

Kim Grant Tennis Academy

3005 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
650-752-8061

admin@kimgranttennis.com / kimgranttennis.com

The Kim Grant Tennis Academy organizes an array of tennis classes and programs for adults and children at several locations. Summer tennis camps are available.

Spring Down Equestrian Center

725 Portola Road,
Portola Valley

650-851-1114

springdowneqcenter@gmail.com / springdown.com

Spring Down Equestrian Center educates children (beginning at age 6) and adults on horses and horseback riding. Classes and camps held year-round.

Webb Ranch Riding School

2720 Alpine Road,
Portola Valley

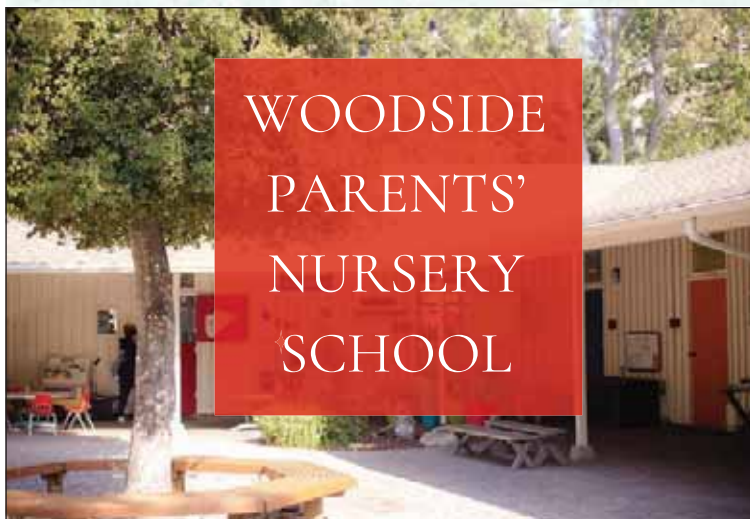
650-854-7755

summer@webbranchinc.com / webbranchinc.com

Instruction for beginning and intermediate riders in both group and private settings, including camps for kids age 7-18. Specialties include Western riding, dressage and hunt-seat riding.

Let's Educate is published quarterly in the Palo Alto Weekly and the Almanac. Descriptions of classes and schools in Palo Alto, Stanford, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Atherton, East Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Portola Valley and Woodside are provided. Listings are free and subject to editing. Due to space constraints, classes and schools in the above cities are given priority.

To inquire about submitting a listing for the next *Let's Educate*, email editor@paweeekly.com. To place a paid advertisement in *Let's Educate*, call the display advertising department at 650-326-8210. ■



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PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Local author takes readers back to the '90s with 'Lily Xiao Speaks Out'

Menlo Park's Nicole Chen writes children's books that celebrate multiculturalism and honor the Asian American experience

By Karla Kane

Lily Xiao, the 12-year-old protagonist of local author Nicole Chen's latest novel, "Lily Xiao Speaks Out," is a model student, the favorite of every teacher for her hard work and always-perfect behavior (her peers call her the class robot). At home, she's obedient to her Taiwanese immigrant parents and beloved grandmother, and her family pressures her to prioritize her studies ahead of everything else and never rock the boat when it comes to authority figures. The year is 1993, and shy Lily has a big dream — to sing and play guitar in a grunge band.

While she reconciles her love of rock with her anxiety about making herself heard and subverting expectations, she's also working to help her best friend and cousin Vivian, who's just moved from Taiwan and is struggling to keep up in her new, English-only school. When she realizes that her district is failing to meet the needs of plenty of other English language learners just like Vivian, Lily is challenged to face her fears, channel her hidden punk-rock spirit, gain greater insights into her family, and stand up for what she believes in.

"Lily feels a bit like me rewriting my history if I was 12 in the 1990s again," Chen said. "I was basically Lily in the sense of, I was a straight A student, I kind of did what I was told."

In Lily, she created a character that represents the middle schooler she'd liked to have been, and that she hopes can inspire young readers.

"I wanted to showcase an Asian American girl who speaks up and stands up for what she wants. I wish I had taken some of that privilege I had and actually taken it out for a spin and made change happen, and challenged some rules, meaningful rules," Chen said. "Turn that model minority stereotype on its head."

In the book, Lily is met with microaggressions from classmates who assume someone like her would only listen to classical music and play the violin or piano.



Courtesy HarperCollins Publishers

"Lily Xiao Speaks Out" by local author Nicole Chen.

"I wanted to write Lily as breaking the stereotype," Chen said. She also gives Lily a crucial role model in the form of Keiko, a Japanese American college student who leads a local all-female grunge band and shows Lily what's possible. Characters like Keiko show "the importance of representation in media, and the profound impact it could have," she said.

Growing up, "alternative rock was the music that I really gravitated toward; the bigness, the boldness, the angst," she recalled. "Back then it was heavily dominated by white men. It didn't occur to me that I could pick up a guitar and play one day."

And while Chen may not have realized it at the time, a rock band made up of girls a grade ahead of her playing a gig at their Palo Alto middle school did make a lasting impression. That group went on to become well known as The Donnas, standing out in the male-dominated rock scene, and Chen pays tribute to the band by naming some of Keiko's bandmates after them.

"I actually lived across the street from one of them. I didn't realize at the time how important that was," she said, of witnessing the group's early days. "As an adult I was like, 'Wow, that was a really big deal what they did, what they were trying to do.'"

Chen moved to Palo Alto

from Milpitas when she was 8, attending Duvneck Elementary School as a third grader. She went on to Jordan Middle School (now Greene) and Palo Alto High School and when it was time for college, she went "across the street" to Stanford University.

She now resides in Menlo Park, while her parents still live in Palo Alto. Chen has an 8-year-old daughter who she said is her biggest supporter, and helps her stay in touch with the world of childhood as she continues her writing journey.

"It's a lot of fun to watch and listen to kids talk, what they care about," she said.

During her own childhood, Chen was more into art than writing and has spent her career on the design side of things (she currently works for Netflix as a product researcher).

Her journey toward becoming an author started in the summer of 2018, when she wanted a break from her day job and a chance to try something new. She jumped into taking writing classes and attending workshops. Then came the pandemic.

"A lot of anti-Asian hate surfaced during COVID. I didn't expect that. That actually shook me quite a bit," she said. She thought, "OK, the way I'm going to deal with this is, I want to show us Asian Americans as Americans, not as foreign people," while at the same time



Courtesy HarperCollins Publishers

"It's Boba Time for Pearl Li!" by local author Nicole Chen.



Courtesy Sarah Deragon

Menlo Park author Nicole Chen.

telling stories "more specific to me and my culture and my experience. I felt that fire. I started to have more of a purpose."

As she tells readers, "I write Asian American books that are joyful, that are relatable," she said. "You don't have to be Asian American to love boba, to love your family, but I also want them to showcase my culture, and that can be in very subtle ways" — such as having her protagonist eat green onion pancakes for breakfast — "and there are obviously bigger ways, too."

Before the pandemic, "I thought it would be fun to start writing a story," she said. "When COVID happened I was like, 'I think I need to write a story.'"

Her first published picture book, "How We Say I Love You" (illustrated by Lenny Wen) came out in 2022.

That book "very much harkens to my experience growing up," she said. It follows a young Taiwanese American girl who, as she goes about her day, sees her family members expressing their love for one another through actions rather than words.

"My parents immigrated from Taiwan in the '80s," Chen said. "I think they still haven't said 'I love you to me,' but when this book came out they bought, like, 100 copies," she said. "I know they do in fact love me," and the book is an homage to that strong bond that's shown rather than spoken aloud.

Though she still adores picture books, her literary agent suggested she consider trying middle grade novels as well. Despite never imagining herself as a novelist, "I fell in love with

the genre and format," she said. Books for middle grade readers (aimed at kids roughly ages 8-12) "are so lovely," she said. "It's such a formative time for kids trying to find out who they are."

Her first middle grade novel, "It's Boba Time For Pearl Li!" came out last year and tells the tale of entrepreneurial Pearl, who works to save her favorite boba shop by selling her handmade amigurumi dolls while also struggling to fit in as a crafty kid in a tech-centric family.

There are aspects of Chen in Pearl, as there are in Lily.

"I've always been very crafty and yet I work in the tech field," she noted. "It felt like just a passionate topic for me to write about." And, like Pearl, "I love cute stuff, too!"

Boba Time, the shop in the book, is actually modeled after an old favorite tea shop in Cupertino, and its eccentric, loveable tea maker became the basis for the quirky Auntie Cha in the book. "She'd make drinks with a passion," Chen said. In fact, while both novels take place in fictional California towns ("Pacific Park" and nearby "Sunnydale"), they're definitely rooted in Chen's Peninsula life. Pacific Park's city motto will be awfully familiar to Redwood City residents, for example.

"I like to sneak in those little references," she said. "A couple little local Easter eggs." ■

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

More information is available at storiesbynicoleden.com/.

From conservationist to novelist, Christina Holloway has tales to tell

Set in 19th-century Ireland, Holloway's debut novel takes inspiration from her family history

By Kate Daly

At 85, Christina Holloway calls herself “a really good example of it's never too late to pick up an endeavor of whatever you want to do.”



Christina Holloway

Lucie used to regale Holloway with stories about their ancestors, the Youngs, moving from England to Ireland.

When Lucie died in 1949, she passed along a treasure trove of old letters, photos, paintings and a diary that documented the Young family's immigrant story. Those shared memories and the memorabilia that sat in boxes in Holloway's garage for years, inspired the book.

Before working on this project Holloway was best known for being an environmental activist.

“I come from a lineage of very strong women,” she said, crediting her grandmother's and great-aunts' forthrightness and resiliency with playing a part in shaping her own drive and spirit.

Holloway co-founded Environmental Volunteers, served as first Co-Executive Director of the Trust for Hidden Villa, was a former Board member of Peninsula Open Space Trust and Yosemite Conservancy, and past President of the Junior League of Palo Alto.

Aside from acting as editor of her high school newspaper, and writing for newsletters for some of the above organizations, Holloway has little training as a writer. Surrounded by heirloom portraits hanging on her walls, she started her book by writing short vignettes centered on the people she read about in her family's materials and other historical accounts.

Holloway then turned the people into individual characters, and jokes about developing a split personality to flush them all out. She also added fictional characters such as Norah Gossett, the cook's daughter who landed in prison after protesting for Irish independence.

“I assumed their thoughts and placed them in history ... and just kept moving the arc of the story forward, constantly rewriting,” Holloway said, until she had about 600 pages.

Her editor then helped pare down the manuscript to 48 short chapters.

Holloway's neighbor and friend, Sunny Scott, worked on the book's photos, graphics, cover and website.

The book has ranked No. 1 on Amazon's “New releases in British & Irish Dramas and Plays.”

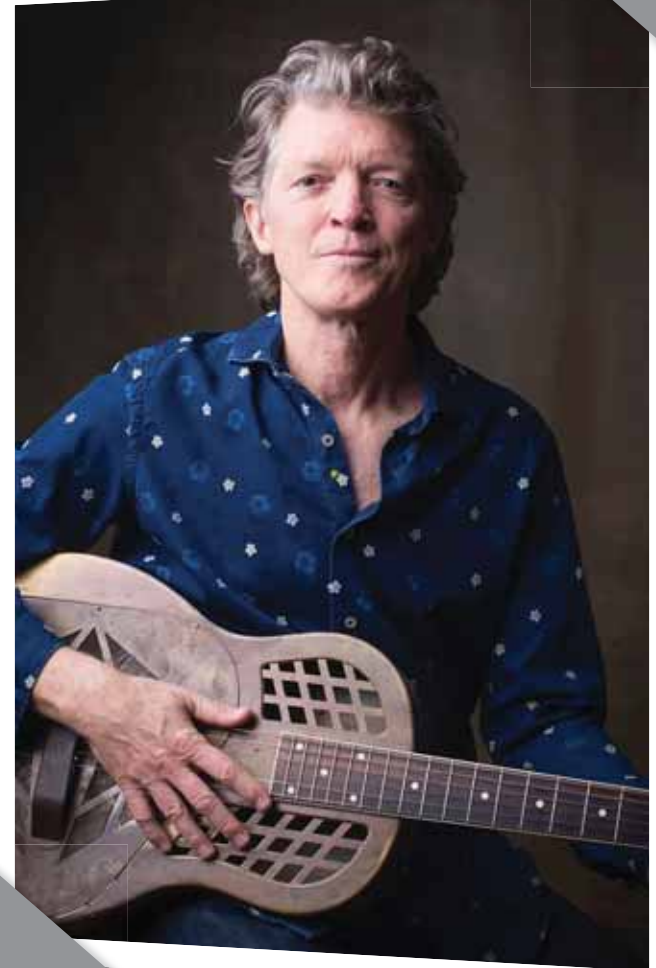
For more information, visit christinahollowayauthor.com. ■

Worth a Look

Robert Powell

Musician and producer Robert Powell is a longtime member of the music scene, with a recording studio based in Fairfax in Marin County. Over the years he's worked with artists from all over the world, had membership in Bay Area bands including Shana Morrison & Caledonia, Clothesline Revival, The Venusians, Opafire, Kundalini Boombbox and Hologramatronand, and currently leads his own band, Everett Tree. He's also composed the scores for numerous films. Powell — and some friends — return to Feldman's for a Friday evening concert on June 7.

June 7, 6 p.m., Feldman's Books, 1075 Curtis St., Menlo Park; \$5 donations suggested; feldmansbooks.net/events.



Courtesy Stephanie Mohan

Robert Powell performs at Feldman's Books June 7.

‘The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci’

Schola Cantorum pays tribute to a genius for the ages with their concert, “The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci.” After all, what could be more fitting for the original Renaissance man than a performance that weaves in many disciplines and makes the most of new tech? The 75-voice, Peninsula-based choir presents a multimedia performance that synchronizes choral and orchestral music by American composer Jocelyn Hagen with visuals of da Vinci's notebooks using the digital sync software MUSËIK. Hagen was inspired to create the work by da Vinci's ability to connect “disparate ideas” and by the visual beauty of his writings and drawings, according to the composer's website.

June 8, 8 p.m., at First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto, \$30, scholacantorum.org/concerts/davinci.

‘Being Alive: A Sondheim Celebration’

The late, great Stephen Sondheim is one of the biggest names in musical theater history, with a résumé including classics like “Into the Woods,” “Sunday in the Park with George,” “Merrily We Roll Along,” “Company,” “Sweeney Todd,” and “West Side Story.” TheatreWorks Silicon Valley is offering a world-premiere homage to the maestro with “Being Alive: A Sondheim Celebration.” The show “spotlights an interconnected group of performers, exploring the tumultuous and ever-changing nature of love in their

personal lives,” according to a press-release by the Tony Award-winning organization. The new musical is a collaboration between TheatreWorks founder Robert Kelley and TheatreWorks Resident Musical Director William Liberatore, and features performances by Anne Tolpegin, Nick Nakashima, Melissa WolfKlain, Noel Anthony Escobar, Solona Husband and Sleiman Alahmadieh.

Through June 30, Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View; \$27-\$100; theatreworks.org.

Vicky Fang

Mountain View children's author and illustrator Vicky Fang comes to Linden Tree for the launch party of her newest book, “Ava Lin, Best Friend!” The chapter book — the first in a new series — follows boba- and animal-loving first-grader Ava on her quest to find a best friend, which doesn't turn out to be quite as easy as she'd expected, as she's challenged by the primary-school social scene. Some of Fang's other works include “Alphabot” and the “Layla and the Bots” early chapter-book series. At the launch party, Fang will be in conversation with local author Christine Evans, do a live drawing demo, read from the new book and even share some boba and stickers.

June 9, 11 a.m., Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos; lindentreebooks.com.

Find our roundup of summer author appearances at almanacnews.com/arts-culture.

Food & Drink



WINE-FOCUSED

Cafe Vivant

COMING TO DOWNTOWN
MENLO PARK

A restaurant specializing in California heritage breed chicken and wine will open in 2025

By Adrienne Mitchel

A restaurant offering “consciousness altering” chicken is coming to Menlo Park.

Cafe Vivant will focus on California heritage breed chicken, farm-to-table cuisine and an extensive wine program featuring “hard to find, interesting (and) sought-after wines,” co-owner Jason Jacobeit said. An attached retail component will offer tastings, seminars and educational events with world-class winemakers and a small grocery section with items produced in the kitchen. The restaurant and shop, replacing Le Boulanger along Santa Cruz Avenue, are expected to open in early 2025.

“We have high qualitative ambitions for the restaurant, but we want it to be capital F fun,” Jacobeit said.

Jacobeit and co-owner Daniel Jung noticed that restaurants in

America often tout high-quality steaks, but few feature high-quality chicken. While traveling and eating around the world, the pair found themselves shocked by just how good chicken can be.

“It’s so inspiring because I think there’s something about looking in the most familiar of places, something you’ve been conditioned to expect a certain kind of experience from, and getting something that not just over delivers, but overdelivers by like two standard deviations,” Jacobeit said.

Most chicken, even those labeled “free range” or “organic,” are typically from one breed that puts on weight quickly. Heritage breed is a selectively bred stock that matures slowly, developing a “far more complex and interesting flavor,” Jacobeit said. Cafe Vivant’s goal is to source chickens of the highest quality as close as possible to Menlo Park, so Jacobeit and Jung found a poultry farmer near

Pescadero to partner with.

“We’ve developed a slow, multi-input technique that produces superbly flavorful birds,” Jacobeit said.

The menu at Cafe Vivant will be more than just chicken — vegetable and fish dishes will also be featured.

“Our experience in top New York restaurants has fueled our belief in ‘fewer, better things’: find the best possible ingredients, keep things simple and execute with relentless consistency,” Jacobeit said.

Cafe Vivant will offer a by-the-glass program with about 20 wines, as well as a by-the-bottle program with wines from major growing regions in Europe and the United States. While there won’t be a priced out wine pairing since the food menu is a la carte, staff will help guide guests through suggested pairings.

“I think it’s very fair to say that people will be finding a lot of savvy, very sought-after wines that are...available at really reasonable prices,” Jacobeit said.

Cafe Vivant will be Jacobeit and Jung’s debut restaurant, but they’re no strangers to the restaurant industry. The two met in New York City while working for Myriad Restaurant Group. Jung was the head sommelier at Tribeca Grill, and Jacobeit was the wine director at Michelin-starred and James Beard award-winning Bâtard, a restaurant that closed last year.

In 2020, the pair decided to open a retail shop called Somm

Cellars Wine & Spirits in New York City.

“We really are champions for French wine in particular, and we wanted to bring that specialization to a wider audience and in our world of e-commerce and email marketing etc., running a fine wine and spirits retailer allowed us to really bring our passion to just a larger platform,” Jacobeit said.

Jacobeit and Jung share a passion for wines that come from Burgundy, one of the oldest wine regions in the world.

“There’s a saying in wine, ‘All roads lead to Burgundy,’ which on the surface probably sounds a bit pretentious, but it really is not at all,” Jacobeit said. “It’s just kind of a way of saying that people who really get into Burgundy wines ... tend to stay there once they’re there.”

And while Jacobeit and Jung have loved the reach the retail shop allows them to have, they missed the interpersonality of the restaurant industry.

“I say this smilingly, but I still feel like a few years into retail, we kind of play at retail ... and still think like hospitality professionals, and we always wanted a restaurant,” Jacobeit said.

Jacobeit and Jung wanted to open a restaurant with an attached retail component, but New York state law doesn’t allow for that type of hybrid business, so they set their sights out west. Jacobeit and Jung will be bi-coastal, running both Somm Cellars and Cafe Vivant, and Somm Cellars’ general manager will be relocating

permanently to East Palo Alto to oversee the new restaurant.

“I do think that we will have a Michelin star standard in terms of ingredients sourcing, but in terms of both price point and ambiance, accessibility and inclusivity is really at the heart of what we’re doing,” Jacobeit said.

The name Cafe Vivant is a nod to the phrase “bon vivant,” referring to a person who lives life to the fullest, and to Romanée-Saint-Vivant, a famous vineyard in Burgundy, France.

“We both want it to be the name to convey just an informal social convivial space, a community-oriented space, a place where the good life is happening hopefully uninterrupted...for people who are wine interested, they’ll recognize that it’s also a nod to our favorite wine region,” Jacobeit said.

Cafe Vivant will have a wine bar at the center of the restaurant and outdoor dining, and the retail component will have “a really interesting and dynamic roster of in-store events,” Jacobeit said.

“Expect to see a lot of first-rate tastings and world-class winemakers from all over the world descending into Menlo Park sooner than later,” Jacobeit said. ■

Email Food Editor Adrienne Mitchel at amitchel@embarcaderomedia.org.



Above: A 3D rendering of Cafe Vivant, a full-service restaurant specializing in California heritage breed chicken and wine coming to Menlo Park in early 2025. Top: Jason Jacobiet (left) and Daniel Jung are the co-owners of Cafe Vivant. Courtesy Cafe Vivant.

Cafe Vivant, 720 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park.

180 Magnolia Drive, Atherton



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#2 Small Team Silicon Valley, 2023

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