

The Almanac

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

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Woodside High principal describes Class of 2024 as 'courageous,' 'brilliant'

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Woodside High School graduated 408 students during a ceremony on the morning of June 7. To the tune of "Pomp and Circumstance," seniors, part of the 65th graduating class, walked down to Bradley Field in their bright orange caps and gowns.

Student speaker Lisa Weickert and Valedictorian Simon Campbell reflected on their experiences starting their freshman year of high school on computer screens during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the school's tradition the senior class gifted the school with "a unique item that encapsulates" the graduating class. The Class of 2024 gifted a new mascot uniform for Wilbur the Wildcat, a symbol



Adam Pardee

Woodside seniors wave to their family and friends during the graduation commencement in Woodside on June 7.

See **WOODSIDE HIGH**, page 16



Natalia Nazarova

Luisa Pahulu, wearing a ta'ovala (an article of Tongan attire), walks with other students to their seats at Menlo-Atherton High School, during the school's graduation ceremony on June 7. See more graduation coverage of the class of 2024, on page 16.

View our complete graduation coverage, including ceremony videos and lists of graduates, at [AlmanacNews.com/graduation](https://www.almanacnews.com/graduation).

Menlo Park anticipates an \$800K budget deficit for the coming year

City considering tax to make up the shortfall

By Eleanor Raab

At its June 11 meeting, the Menlo Park City Council held a public hearing on its proposed budget for the upcoming year, and it looks like city is facing an approximately \$800,000 deficit heading into the fiscal year, which begins July 1. Due to the deficit, few additional programs are slated to be added to the city in the next year, and the city is considering whether it needs to place a tax measure on a future ballot to make up the difference.

The major theme of the proposed budget was lost revenue for the city. In preparing the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, city staff are anticipating a property

tax in lieu of vehicle license fee shortfall of \$2 million. The city's sales tax revenues are expected to decrease by \$500,000 due to a slowing in consumer spending. Income from planning and building permits are anticipated to decrease by \$1.7 million due to less development activity within the city.

The last of the city's American Rescue Plan Act funds were fully expended in this current fiscal year, which represents a loss of a \$3 million subsidy to the general fund.

Additionally, the Menlo Park City Council adopted a resolution in May 2023 to decrease the utility user tax rate to 0%, after it was struck down by a class action lawsuit. This resulted in an annual

revenue loss to the city's general fund of \$1.7 million.

Part of the shortfall can also be attributed to the city paying down its pension liability.

The total anticipated revenue for the city in the upcoming year is \$73.4 million, compared to \$77.6 million in the 2023-24 fiscal year. Staff have proposed a \$74.2 million budget, which would result in an \$800,000 deficit for the city. This amount can be covered by the city's \$10.7 million unassigned general fund budget, without dipping into city reserves.

Personnel is the city's largest expenditure, with \$53.3 million slated to cover city salaries and wages.

Five-year projections show this deficit continuing to increase

without additional sources of revenue, which may lead to the city having to use some of its reserve funds.

The fiscal year 2023-24 budget also anticipated a \$1 million deficit, but the city ultimately will end the year with a \$3.1 million surplus.

"This is primarily due to savings from staff turnover and vacant positions, as well as lower spending from the reduced staff capacity," said Assistant Administrative Services Director Jared Hansen.

Few new services for the city

In light of the strained general fund, the budget does not include many enhancements to city

services. The only new service enhancements included in the budget are the addition of fixed automatic license plate readers to the city, and an additional part-time overnight parking enforcement position.

"We have worked really hard as a city to align our expenditures with our revenues ... we're building an efficient budget as possible," said Hansen. "Like many cities in San Mateo County, we're facing challenges in our general fund. So given these challenges, staff had limited the number of service level enhancements."

Council members expressed appreciation for the lack of service cuts within the budget.

See **BUDGET DEFICIT**, page 10

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Angela Swartz

You gain about 125 feet of elevation on the Spring Creek Trail at Filoli in Woodside. Photo taken on June 10.

Take a hike with us: Filoli's new trail highlights the Woodside estate's future vision

New Lamchin Interpretive Center also highlights the broader history of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples

By Angela Swartz

If you love Filoli, but always wanted more of a chance to explore the Woodside estate's vast grounds, you're in luck.

On June 8, Filoli opened a new half-mile loop, called the Spring Creek Trail, which

takes you along a scenic creek bed and through redwood and madrone trees. The path is lined with wildflowers and song birds chirp. Hikers will see the historic flume, the water system built over 100 years ago by William Bourn, who constructed Filoli.

Beyond the gardens and

historic mansion on the 654-acre estate, people don't really come to Filoli for a serious nature hike, but more of its grounds are opening up to hiking trails as outlined in the estate's 2022-28 strategic plan.

"Last year (2023), we raised

See **FILOLI TRAIL**, page 18

TIDE Academy graduates its second class

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On June 5, TIDE Academy in Menlo Park congratulated the Class of 2024 as it celebrated the graduation of 39 students. This is the second class to be graduate from the school since its inception in 2019.

The ceremony was held at the Dining Hall at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills to commemorate the hard work and accomplishments of graduating seniors. Foothill College

President Kristina Whalen welcomed TIDE Academy to the campus and congratulated them on their achievements from the moment they entered TIDE through "virtual doors" during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speeches were given by graduating seniors, Jivas Kharbanda, Sarai Lainez and Shiloh Lopez followed by TIDE Principal Simone Rick-Kennel.

Before awarding each student a diploma, a video played featuring students recalling their favorite memories at TIDE,

announcing their next steps and reflecting on their expectations post-grad and the reality of the high school experience.

The Class of 2024 have diverse future plans. Students will be attending college, joining the U.S. Marines, going to flight school and traveling across the world.

As each student was called to the stage, the sound of ringing cowbells and joyful cheers echoed throughout the venue.

See **TIDE ACADEMY**, page 17

Atherton considers becoming a charter city to restore local control

By Eleanor Raab

At the June 5 meeting of the Atherton City Council, the council directed town staff to look into the possibility of Atherton becoming a charter city to gain more independence from the state, spurred by concerns about recent state housing law's effects on local municipalities. At the meeting, council members, as well as residents, agreed that it would be beneficial to further study the possible advantages and drawbacks of charter city status for the town.

There are two kinds of cities in California: general law cities and charter cities. A general law city is bound to follow the state's general law in all matters, including in matters of municipal affairs. Charter cities operate under a charter, which gives them "home rule," or supreme powers over municipal affairs. A city's charter essentially acts as the city's constitution.

The state has the power to determine whether something is a municipal affair or a matter of statewide concern. If an issue is of statewide concern, the state legislature can override home rule.

Atherton's council was prompted to look into the matter by a recent court ruling in southern California where five charter cities were declared exempt from California's controversial Senate Bill 9 law, which took effect in 2022. SB 9 allows property owners to split their lots and build up to two new homes.

"We had a community group, ... the Atherton Housing Coalition, send emails to the council (after the ruling) saying 'hey you should consider this,'" said Atherton City Manager George Rodericks.

A town staff report references land use and zoning as the most important issues for which the "100% residential, single-family town" of Atherton should restore local control.

The staff report says that "the current 6th Cycle Housing Element Update has placed the town at odds with the state's affordable housing priorities as it forces the town to reconsider its single-family residential zoning and 1-acre parcels to conform

to the state's vision for addressing affordable housing needs throughout the region and the state."

Currently, the southern California ruling only applies to the five cities named in the case. However, if the case were appealed and the appellate court ruled in favor of the charter cities, the ruling would apply to charter cities statewide, including Atherton.

"Becoming a charter city is not the panacea it used to be," said Rodericks. "The state has eroded a lot of control. Back when it was more locally focused, becoming a charter city gave you that sense of independence. It's not quite that much anymore."

Atherton's most recent draft of its housing element is counting on SB 9 lot splits to supply 48 out of 348 units of housing required by the state.

"We would have to identify an additional 48 units somewhere," said Rodericks. "The good part is that the SB 9 units were all in the moderate- to above moderate-income category. So we just have to identify units in that category, not the very low or low, which is much harder for Atherton."

Rodericks said that the topic of Atherton becoming a charter city comes up regularly. The city council established an ad-hoc committee to study the possible benefits of becoming a charter city in 2012, and also discussed the possibility in 2015 and 2017 when looking for alternate sources of revenue for the town.

The council was generally supportive of the idea of Atherton becoming a charter city.

"The possibility of becoming a charter city at this time and place ... is really compelling," said Council member Elizabeth Lewis.

Council member Bill Widmer said that he thinks becoming a charter issue is something that the town should continue to study.

"I do believe that there are definite values to us becoming a charter city, but I think we should have a committee or something to study it," he said.

See **CHARTER CITY**, page 19



WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS GIVEN pursuant to Sections 5473, et. seq. of the California Health and Safety Code that the District Board of West Bay Sanitary District has, by general regulation, elected to collect its charges for sewer services for FY 2024-2025 on the tax roll in the same manner as general taxes and will cause to be filed with its Secretary a written report containing a description of each parcel of real property receiving sanitary sewer service from the District and the amount of the charge for each parcel.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that on Wednesday evening, July 10, 2024 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. at the meeting room located at the District's offices, located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA or by Zoom:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88049883500?pwd=mikZ13pa6DMszYGcWd69PLvnCXR8jB.1>
 Meeting ID: 880 4988 3500 Passcode: 305032

The District Board will conduct a Public Hearing to hear and consider all protests and objections, if any, to the report.

Anyone wishing to address the District Board concerning these matters may do so in writing at or before the date of the Public Hearing or may be heard at the time of the Board's meeting.

Dated: May 22, 2024

/s/ Sergio Ramirez
 Sergio Ramirez
 General Manager

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Ubuntu Scholarship Program grants \$20K in scholarships

The Ubuntu Scholarship Program awarded its fourth annual grants to two seniors from Menlo-Atherton High School. This year, \$10,000 will be granted to Mariah Hawkins, who will be attending San Francisco State University and \$10,000 will be granted to Janiya Moss, who will be heading to North Carolina Central University. The scholarship program has previously awarded scholars who now attend Oregon State University, University of California at Los Angeles, San Jose State University and more.

The Ubuntu Scholarship Program is seeking support through donations that will aid its students' education. Donations can be sent to Menlo-Atherton High School Alumni Association to Vice President, 301 Emerson St. in Palo Alto. For more information on how to support the program, contact MABearsUbuntu@gmail.com.

Atherton Police award \$25K in scholarships to local students

The Atherton Police Activities League has awarded five high school seniors who will each receive \$5,000 scholarships. These students were evaluated on their athletics, leadership, community involvement, neatness of application, letter of recommendation, personal statement and financial need. All applicants had to be enrolled in an Atherton high school.

All donations to PAL are from donations made by Atherton residents during the holiday season.

Scholarships were awarded to the following students for their accomplishments:

Arthi Abhyanker attended Menlo School and will attend the University of California at Davis to study business or law.

Omar Bazan went to Sacred Heart School who will be pursue computer science at UC Davis.

Ava Johnson attended Menlo-Atherton High School and Cañada Middle College, who plans to attend either UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz or San Diego State University.

Cameron Leung was a student at Menlo-Atherton High School who will attend UC Santa Barbara.

Dorothy Zhang attended Menlo School, who will study engineering at Northwestern University.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

LGBTQ+ San Mateo County: History's Mysteries, June 18

Join Menlo Park Librarian Michael Flanagan on Tuesday, June 18, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for a pride month event at the Menlo Park Library. Learn more about the history of LGBTQ+ people in San Mateo County through curated newspapers, images and advertisements.

Flanagan will also address questions about LGBTQ+ history in the county that continue to puzzle him.

You can attend this free event in person at the Menlo Park Library, at 800 Alma St.

Atherton Summer Concert Series, June 20

Head to Holbrook-Palmer Park at 150 Watkins Ave. on June 20 from 6-8 p.m. to experience the musical talents of Northern California native Audriix. She is a multi-instrumentalist and Stanford University alumnus, who began composing at age 6. She will be opening for Lindsay Stirling this summer, and previously opened for Madison Beer's Life Support tour.

Parking is limited, so walking and biking are encouraged. The next Atherton summer concert will take place on July 11.

Join the San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District for an open house, June 15

Join SMCMVCD for an open house event on Saturday, June 15. The open house will feature light refreshments, kid-friendly activities, displays and information about vector control equipment (including airboats and drones, insect displays, a tour of the mosquito colony, tick-bite prevention tips and informational displays about a variety of other vectors.

The open house will take place from 12-4 p.m. at the district headquarters, located at 1351 Rollins Road, Burlingame.

Community meeting for Atherton's Alameda de las Pulgas corridor traffic and safety improvement project

The town of Atherton will hold a community meeting on Thursday, June 20, to discuss and gather feedback on potential

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 19

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San Mateo County to pilot reward program to combat burglaries

By Claire Manuel

San Mateo County will pilot a program to encourage residents to come forward with information leading to arrests and convictions in residential burglary cases. The program is in response to over 90 such crimes in unincorporated parts of the county, including Midpeninsula cities like Menlo Park, San Carlos and Atherton, since January, according to County Supervisor Ray Mueller, who proposed the program. It would include paying qualifying rewards of up to \$10,000.

Mueller, who represents the district affected by these burglaries, District 3, said that in "local jurisdictions have added license plate readers, increased police patrols, held community forms to reinforce neighborhood watch

programs, worked to register private residential cameras, and utilized new tactics, such as an Atherton employing bait houses to catch those in the act of the crime.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to create this program during their Tuesday, June 11, meeting.

"When residential burglaries occur, they profoundly impact our communities, because our home is our safe haven, where we create lasting memories with our family and friends," San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus said at the meeting. "When criminals invade our homes and steal our personal belongings, it could be deeply traumatizing. ... As your sheriff, my priority and focus is on making San Mateo County a safer community for everyone."

Part of the proposed pilot program is an appropriation transfer of \$125,000 from Measure K funds to establish the pilot program's reward.

Mueller stated in the meeting that the police chiefs from all jurisdictions in his district that have their own police organizations are in support of the initiative.

"We encourage you to notice and report all suspicious activity," Corpus said. "The residential burglary reward pilot program is a groundbreaking initiative designed to incentivize people to come forward and share viral information. By leveraging community intelligence, we can enhance our efforts to solve these crimes and prevent future occurrences."

Sheriff Corpus said that community engagement and rewards

are pivotal in combating residential burglaries.

"Residential burglaries present unique challenges, but we believe in thinking outside of the box to tackle these crimes effectively," she said. "Information from witnesses and nearby residents is crucial to our investigation and identifying those responsible. Our community members and stakeholders are our eyes and ears."

This program will be implemented in the cities of Belmont, Menlo Park, Half Moon Bay, Atherton, Pacifica, San Carlos, Portola Valley, Woodside, and unincorporated county areas located in District 3.

The pilot program plans to put together a committee of individuals with the sheriff's department, the District Attorney's Office and the county executive's

office to set the reward amount based on information leading to arrest or conviction.

"I am strongly supportive of Supervisor Ray Mueller's effort to combat the plague of residential burglaries in our county by offering rewards to those who provide information leading to the apprehension and conviction of these criminals," said San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe in a statement. "Our citizens have every right to feel safe in the sanctity of their own homes, and those burglars who violate that feeling of safety deserve to be held accountable and punished. This proposal is a strong step in the effort to stop these felony crimes." ■

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East Palo Alto Sewer District appoints former Menlo Park mayor Kelly Fergusson to struggling board

By Arden Margulis

The East Palo Alto Sewer District appointed former Menlo Park mayor Kelly Fergusson to the board during a hectic meeting on June 9. The police were called on one audience member when a verbal argument ensued over Fergusson's appointment.

The district faces dissolution after the San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission voted for the second time to allow the city of East Palo Alto to take over the sewer. LAFCo says merging the sewer will increase transparency and facilitate growth. According to a post on East Palo Alto's website, merging the district will remove a barrier for new housing as currently, the city needs approval of the district for any land use change.

The city will terminate the

proposal if 50% of landowners and voters submit written objections and will hold an election if at least 25% of voters object.

During Thursday's meeting, a verbal argument started when Fergusson was about to be appointed. One resident in the audience argued that the sewer district failed to inform residents of the opening, which was why Fergusson was the only applicant. A staff member called the police and the board went into recess. The East Palo Alto Police Department confirmed that they were called to the meeting due to a disturbance but have no record of an arrest, meaning the resident most likely left on her own accord.

Members of the board said they were "very impressed" with Fergusson's qualifications.



Kelly Fergusson

According to her application, Fergusson has served on 14 boards in various capacities. She also holds a doctorate in civil engineering from Stanford University.

In 2010, Fergusson resigned as Menlo Park mayor and from the City Council due to violating the Brown Act by meeting with council members to discuss her desire for becoming mayor, The Almanac reported at the time.

The district violated the Brown Act in 2016 by literally locking the public out of meetings to discuss a reorganization plan, according to San Mateo Superior Court Judge Marie Weiner. Recordings and minutes of meetings also "disappeared," according to board testimony.

When asked about the 2010 incident and her appointment to a public board which has a

history of violating the Brown Act, Fergusson said, "I have schooled myself in the Brown Act and have become an expert in it. I will obviously conduct myself in accordance and I am confident that the district will go forward with the utmost transparency."

She added that she completed the Directors Education Program at the University of Toronto. The program is directed toward corporate governance. The website says, "The goal of the program is to build competencies deemed

necessary to be an effective director."

In May, Fergusson attended a protest hearing arguing that the district should remain independent. She said at the time, "I'm a widow with two kids in college struggling to pay my mortgage on one income and if the sewer rates double, I'm that much closer to losing my house. And so many live closer to the edge than I." ■

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REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Seasonal Slowdown



Dear Monica: I have a property on the market and have noticed a slowing of activity in the past few weeks. Is it seasonal or something else? John A.

Dear John: The market is slowing down as buyers and sellers have other activities such as graduations and vacations, or are simply enjoying other things. This is not true for all properties. If a new one comes on the market and is attractive to many, activity is high and it usually sells quickly. Other properties may take longer to sell, or need a price reduction to attract buyers.

Activity is still good though and if interest rates go down, buyers will be back.

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

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WITH THE SJW 50/50 JAZZ ORCHESTRA

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JUL 14 **JAZZ MAFIA GRATEFUL BRASS:**
THE MUSIC OF THE GRATEFUL DEAD

JUL 17 **RUTH DAVIES' BLUES NIGHT**
WITH JOE LOUIS WALKER

JUL 20 **ANAT COHEN QUARTETINHO**

JUL 27 **MARQUIS HILL**

JUL 30 **GEORGE CABLES TRIO**

AUG 1 **TAYLOR EIGSTI & FRIENDS**

AUG 3 **CARMEN LUNDY**

Schedule and artists subject to change without notice.

Barbara Metzger Baxter

November 5, 1929 – May 25, 2024

Barbara Metzger Baxter was born in San Francisco, CA, on November 5, 1929 to Colonel Samuel Metzger and Lucille Spaulding Metzger. She died at home in Menlo Park, California, on May 25, 2024.



Barbara graduated from Stanford University in 1951 where she studied hard, swam fast, and stayed up late working as an editor for the Stanford Daily. She was an active alumni member and Stanford sports fan all of her life.

After marrying a classmate, William Francis Baxter, and raising three children on the Stanford campus, Barbara worked at Hewlett-Packard as a technical editor.

Barbara's brilliant intellect and unwavering positivity were invaluable to her throughout her life. Both played a role in empowering her to live life on her own terms. She played competitive bridge, worked every year as an election official, and traveled the world on Elderhostel trips. She was passionate about scuba diving, community theater, books, the ocean, and gardening.

Walking with Barbara through her apartment building always provided a glimpse of how loved she was in her community: everyone knew her and said hello. She was a local celebrity, admired for her charm, wit, and warmth. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Barbara is survived by her beloved children William Francis Baxter III, Marcia Baxter Bearman, and Stuart Carlton Baxter; her three grandchildren Morton Robert Bearman III, Katherine Baxter Bearman, and Sky Baxter Miller; their spouses and their extended families. She adored her great grandchildren and her friends.

PAID OBITUARY

Recent M-A grad boasts successful music career along with degree

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Receiving a record deal is not a common part of the high school experience, but for Angel Lombera it was. His most memorable moments in high school was performing as the lead singer and guitarist with his band, Los Hermanos de Oro, which translates to The Golden Brothers.

"I met a lot of people over the years and [made] a lot more connections," said Lombera, who graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton last week. "I liked how everything was so positive and fast paced."

BWI Entertainment offered Lombera's band a record deal in 2023 but the band ultimately decided not to pursue the deal in February 2024 to maintain its independence. He explained that working as an independent band would give them more freedom to pursue bigger opportunities without the constraints of working under a record label.

His band has grown since its inception in 2022 and has been busy playing shows for parties and nightclubs. During his



Courtesy Angel Lombera

Class of 2024 Menlo-Atherton High School graduate, Angel Lombera, is the lead singer and guitarist for Los Hermanos de Oro.

high school career, the band would perform Mexican regional music for M-A's Latinx club events. Lombera said that they are booked for every weekend throughout June and halfway through July.

He started singing at the age of 7 and credits his sister for teaching him how to perform and to sing with confidence. Lombera

taught himself how to play the guitar during the COVID-19 pandemic and with four months of practice was able to sing and play at the same time.

Although pursuing a career in music would be his dream, Lombera would also like to gain a background in business. After high school, he will be attending the College of San Mateo and then plans to move to Modesto to be with his parents. Lombera is currently living with his older sister and younger brother in Redwood City.

"[For the] time being, I'm going to school to make sure I have my business career set but hopefully while I'm in business, [my music career takes off a little more," said Lombera.

Los Hermanos de Oro is gaining more popularity in the Redwood City and Menlo Park communities. Lombera feels that being in a band already gives him exposure to the business industry. He sees it as a "big life career starter."

With the fast paced lifestyle of being a growing musician,

See **MUSIC CAREER**, page 20

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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COMPASS

BUDGET DEFICIT

continued from page 1

“It is helpful and useful to see that the proposed budget that’s being presented to us for this coming year is \$1.2 million less than (the budget for) last year, despite the increase of staff costs and just general costs increasing across the board,” said Council member Maria Doerr. “That indicates to me that staff has taken a thoughtful look at decreases ... made to tighten things without reducing service levels.”

Despite the efficient budget for the upcoming year, Doerr

acknowledged that if the trend of decreasing revenues continues, the city may have to look at where services have to be reduced.

“I wonder on the expenditure side, if we should open it to staff to explore additional options for the difficult process that is exploring where we might have, might have to reduce service levels for some things,” she said. “It’s not an inquiry that would be very fun.”

In addition to the operating budget, the city also has a \$97 million capital improvement plan budget, which includes 64 projects to address city buildings

and systems, the environment, parks and recreation, stormwater, streets and sidewalks, transportation and water. Funding for the CIP comes from special revenue funds, grants, the city’s municipal water fund and a \$3.2 million transfer from the general fund.

Council members Jen Wolosin, Doerr and Mayor Cecilia Taylor also expressed concern for how the city will fund new priorities, such as projects outlined in the city’s new environmental justice element that will be reviewed by council on June 18.

Mayor Taylor also said that she would like this year’s budget to

look at addressing heat island issues in Belle Haven, and future budgets to ensure that all Menlo Park employees are afforded a livable wage.

Addressing uncertain state funding

The problem is not unique to Menlo Park. Many other cities, as well as San Mateo County, are currently dealing with revenue shortfalls from uncertain state funding.

The property tax in lieu of vehicle license fee is the “most vulnerable area of the budget and corresponding long-term

forecast is the shortfall in funding available for the State to pay the property tax in lieu of vehicle license fee obligation to the cities in San Mateo County,” according to a Menlo Park staff report.

The in-lieu VLF is a payment owed to local cities and counties, which is taken from property taxes and the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund entitlements of local nonbasic aid school districts. Nonbasic aid school districts are those school districts that receive extra state support because local property taxes are not sufficient to meet the minimum funding requirement for the district based on the statewide Local Control Funding Formula.

Many school districts in San Mateo County are designated as basic aid, or community funded, so the funding source for the VLF payment to the cities and county has been decreased.

“In meetings with other City Council members across the county, everyone is dealing with this, and it’s really a vexing problem,” said council member Betsy Nash.

The staff budget report urges the council to consider adding additional local sources of revenue.

According to the report, “voter-approved local funds must be spent on services and needs within our community and cannot be taken by the state. This benefits Menlo Park residents and can allow us to focus on addressing our community’s priorities”

The City Council will evaluate placing a revenue-generating measure to address the local funding shortfall on the November 2024 ballot, such as an increase to the Transient Occupancy Tax. Such an increase could generate an additional \$875,000 to \$3 million for the city annually, according to Menlo Park staff.

Mayor Taylor also mentioned that the council should take a look at modernizing the city’s business license tax for future budget cycles as another method to increase revenue.

The council will continue to explore other options to address uncertain state funding and budget shortfalls.

“To deliver and maintain essential services at the levels our community has told us they want and expect, the City Council is exploring all options as the state continues to place expensive regulations and take local funds away from cities like Menlo Park,” according to the June 11 staff report.

A finalized budget will return to the council for approval and adoption on June 25. ■

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

John Lloyd Richardson

January 29, 1935 – May 13, 2024

John Lloyd Richardson, 89, proud father of 5 children, died at his home in Portola Valley, CA of natural causes in the arms of his loving wife Alice on May 13, 2024.

He was born in Ventura, California in 1935 to Morris and Audrey Hollister Richardson during the heart of the depression, moving residences several times and enduring his father’s absence during his service as a decorated naval officer in the Pacific theater in World War II. John was educated at Whittier High School in Whittier, California before earning his bachelor’s degree and PhD in chemical engineering at Stanford University. A tenacious worker, he began his professional career at Ford Aeronautic and Occidental Petroleum in southern California. His dynamic career path crisscrossed the country to Detroit, Michigan then Vancouver, Canada and finally back home to Menlo Park, California. He led companies in varied industries, including seawater purification, biotech and consulting to public utilities.



John met Thora Bergsteinsson at his and her summer job at Union Oil and later they both graduated from Stanford. After graduation they married and had 5 children —David, Eric, Karen, Kristen and Thomas, who dearly miss his affection for family and his optimistic spirit of enthusiasm.

He took great satisfaction in hard work, decency, service to God and country, and especially in being a parent. He celebrated all of his children’s paths in life, whether it was engineering, corporate leadership, culinary arts or small business entrepreneurship. He also cherished his 10 grandchildren and stepdaughters, Debbie and Suzy Schenk. He demonstrated the love and dedication to all those close to him.

John was dedicated to supporting Whittier College and the Chemical Engineering Department at Stanford through his philanthropy and pursued his interest in jazz as a founding member of the Palo Alto Jazz Alliance. Later in life, he pursued vibrant friendships through Sons In Retirement (SIR) and bocce, while being a devoted husband to his wife and fellow Stanford alum, Alice Schenk, and adopted the community of Portola Valley as his own.

John was preceded in death by his first wife, Thora Richardson and is survived by his wife Alice Schenk and their beloved dog Robbie, his sister, Mary Davis, his five children, and 10 grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held in late June in Portola Valley and we will notify all friends and family when details are finalized. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Peninsula Humane Society of Burlingame. <https://psh-spca.org>.

PAID OBITUARY

Susan Anderes

January 18, 1954 – June 6, 2024

Susan Margaret Anderes, a woman who balanced a career, family, and a variety of interests with grace and a touch of humor, passed away at age 70 after a six-year battle with cancer. Born in San Francisco in 1954 to Patricia and Harold “Andy” Anderes, Susan’s life was a blend of dedication, adventure, and occasional misadventure. She was the eldest of five children. Her father was a professional forester, and the family lived for a time in the isolated mountain inholding of Wilsonia, CA. Susan grew up for the most part in Reedley, CA, surrounded by nature and rural life.



The Anderes family culture emphasized alpine ski racing, and Susan was no exception. In addition she was a high school track and field athlete, specializing as a sprinter and hurdler. Her passion for cycling led her to complete twice in the Davis Double Century bike tour, demonstrating her endurance and love for physical challenges.

Susan pursued higher education at UC Davis where she earned a BA in International Relations. Her academic career included a year abroad at Georg August Universität in Göttingen, West Germany, which broadened her international perspective. As a native Californian, she recalled making her own tortillas which were not available there. She continued her education at UC Berkeley, obtaining a Masters in Library and Information Studies (MLIS).

Susan’s professional journey was marked by a 25-year career at Stanford University, where she made significant contributions as a librarian and web developer. Her work on nutrition and end-of-life courses for medical school students demonstrated her commitment to education and well-being. Susan’s expertise was also reflected in her co-authorship of two books: *Gut Insight* and *Overbooked*. These works showcased her ability to synthesize complex information and present it in engaging, accessible ways.

Among Susan’s interests, she enjoyed photography and watercolor painting, and her love for the outdoors included Nordic as well as alpine skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, angling, and birdwatching. She was an accomplished home cook and favored 350°F “that special temperature where the Maillard Reaction, a chemical process, results in wonderful complex flavors caramelization, and browning”. While cooking she would admire her impressive collection of refrigerator magnets acquired during travel, “the kitsch in the kitchen.”

Susan is survived by her husband of 40 years, John Stern, and their two sons, Andrew and David Stern. Susan was a devoted mother, actively supporting her boys in their musical and sports endeavors, always their biggest cheerleader. She is also survived by sisters Jeanne Olson and Mary Wong, and brothers Paul and Frank Anderes.

Here is the memorial site for Susan: <https://www.forevermissed.com/susan-anderes>

A donation to your local library is welcomed since Susan was a librarian, or to Bay Area Cancer Connections: <https://www.bayareacancer.org>

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183 STONE PINE LANE MENLO PARK



BRIGHT AND INVITING IN MENLO PARK

Park Forest, a charming enclave conveniently located on the edge of Atherton, is the perfect setting for this bright and inviting 3-bedroom home. Offering a multi-level floorplan of more than 2,500 square feet, this home has been thoughtfully designed to cater to the needs of a contemporary lifestyle. Step inside and be greeted by a dramatic wall of glass that frames the living room and fills the home with natural light. Top-of-the-line appliances populate the chef's kitchen, which seamlessly integrates into the family room. Upstairs, the primary suite enjoys a spa-inspired bathroom, as well as a private deck overlooking the community pool, which may be directly accessed from the backyard. Adding the finishing touch is an incredible location within walking distance of downtown Menlo Park, minutes from Holbrook-Palmer Park, convenient to Palo Alto and Stanford University, and served by acclaimed Menlo Park schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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Atherton reports budget surplus for next fiscal year

By Eleanor Raab

On June 5, the Atherton City Council conducted its final budget study session in anticipation of approving the full budget later this month. The council will consider approving the town's fiscal year 2024-25 budget at its Wednesday, June 19, meeting.

A report from town staff shows that Atherton is projected to have a budget surplus for the next fiscal year, which begins on July 1. The town's general fund revenues are projected to be \$23 million, and expenditures are projected at \$20.8 million, leaving Atherton with a single-year operational revenue surplus of \$2.2 million.

Atherton's city manager George Rodericks said that the town typically has a budget

surplus because the town budgets within its means. The town also treats the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund as an "at risk" form of revenue for the town. The town only uses ERAF money for "one-time" projects or debt reduction, rather than for projects with ongoing expenses.

"These two practices ensure that the town will typically have a surplus (revenues over expenditures) each year that can be used toward one-time capital projects, debt reduction, or savings for long-range projects," said Rodericks in an email to this news organization.

Just over 68% of the town's projected revenue (\$15.8 million) will be coming from property taxes. Other significant sources of revenue are building

revenues, including permitting and plan check fees (\$2.2 million) and franchise taxes (\$1.1 million).

Nearly half of the town's projected operating expenditures (\$10.1 million) will be going to the police department. Over half of the police department's budget (\$5.5 million, or 55%) will go toward salaries and wages. Another \$3 million (30%) of the budget is earmarked for police department employee benefits. The other 15% of the police department budget will go toward general operating expenses, supplies and materials, professional services and capital expenditures.

The public works department has the town's second highest projected operating expenditures at \$3.7 million, or 18% of

the town's budget.

Atherton will also allocate \$5.3 million from its general fund balance to its Capital Improvements Program fund, leaving the town with a total reserve fund balance of \$10.7 million.

The CIP budget plan places emphasis on parks, drainage, road maintenance and traffic safety as well as bike and pedestrian infrastructure.

This year's CIP budget includes nearly \$2.5 million allocated for improving drainage in the town. This year's drainage budget includes \$1.4 million in federal funding to address flood mitigation in the Atherton channel.

The budget has also set aside \$250,000 for the Selby Bike Lane Improvements and construction, as well as \$250,000 to update the town's bicycle and

pedestrian master plan.

Other notable line items include \$1 million for playground replacement and \$800,000 for restroom replacement and construction at Holbrook-Palmer Park.

"This budget presents a plan for accomplishing the goals and objectives of the City Council within existing resources and core strategy of financial stability," the report states. "Town priorities will focus again on CIP (Capital Improvement Program) Master Plan projects and paying down long-term liabilities. We continue to be fiscally prudent with our resources but are mindful of operational and infrastructure needs." ■

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

Menlo Park council gets update from the police department on city's stock of 'military equipment'

By Eleanor Raab

The Menlo Park Police Department gave its annual military equipment report to the City Council at its June 11 meeting. The police department is not seeking to acquire any new equipment defined by state law as military equipment, and there was only one incident within the past year where the police department was required to use military equipment within Menlo Park.

The Menlo Park City Council unanimously approved the

resolution renewing the Military Equipment Use Ordinance, and the Menlo Park Military Equipment Use Policy. The annual update is required by state law.

California's Assembly Bill 481, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in September 2021, requires a law enforcement agency to obtain approval from its governing body before taking actions relating to the funding, acquisition or use of military equipment for law enforcement purposes. The bill requires governing bodies to annually review

and renew Military Equipment Use Policies and ordinances at a public meeting.

The list of equipment defined as military equipment under California law encompasses 15 categories, and includes remotely piloted aerial or ground vehicles, armored vehicles, Humvees, weaponized aircraft or vehicles, firearms and ammunition of .50 caliber or greater, water cannons, assault weapons, stun grenades or flashbangs, pepper balls, tear gas and more.

A police department staff report says that "it is important

to note that the Menlo Park Police Department does not possess any tactical equipment that it has obtained from the military, nor does it possess any equipment that was designed uniquely for military use."

The report states that the purpose of the military equipment that it does own is to "provide a less lethal option for law enforcement to use where the employment of lethal force is prohibited or undesirable, and the use of chemical agents (or impact munitions) provides a safer alternative to

gaining compliance."

"We do have a couple of items that fall into the military equipment definition, the same items from last year listed in the military equipment report," said Cmdr. Wilson Lau in a presentation to the council.

The Menlo Park Police Department currently possesses the following military equipment: two Tippman pepperball launchers, 250 Live-X pepperball projectiles, two PENN Arms PLG65 40mm launchers

See **MILITARY EQUIPMENT**, page 20

Atherton seeks community input for its El Camino Real complete streets plan

By Eleanor Raab

The town of Atherton is seeking input from the community as it works to revamp the stretch of El Camino Real that runs through the town. This portion of El Camino, which runs from Selby Lane to Valparaiso Avenue, currently has inconsistent sidewalks, no bike lanes and little

access to transit stops.

The town, in partnership with the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, aims to improve safety, connectivity and accessibility along this stretch of road.

Atherton held a virtual community meeting on Thursday, June 13, from 6-7:30 p.m., after The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline.

At the meeting, community members were set to receive a presentation from town staff and SMCTA on the current infrastructure along El Camino Real, and potential changes that could be recommended. There were also opportunities for community members to give feedback on potential changes they would like to see on El Camino Real from Selby Lane

to Valparaiso Avenue, and ask Atherton and SMCTA staff questions.

Residents can also give town staff feedback about their priorities for the El Camino Real corridor through the El Camino Real Complete Street survey. The survey can be accessed at ecrcompletestreets.com, and will close on June 30, 2024.

The study will conclude with a formal complete streets plan in winter 2025, which will identify potential changes to the corridor based on technical analysis of traffic conditions, infrastructure requirements and input from the community and stakeholders. ■

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

Caltrain's new all-electric fleet is set to operate on Sept. 21

By Lisa Moreno

For eight years, Caltrain has tested soil conditions, signal and communication services, strung over 2.6 million feet of wire and undergone construction day and night to prepare for its new electrified trains.

Over the weekend, the transit agency successfully operated

eight new electric trains simultaneously on the corridor — temporarily pausing public train services in its final corridor test — and announced the all-electric fleet is set to go public on Sept. 21.

Caltrain's stress test of the electrical power system simulated real-time service schedules, according to a statement from Caltrain.

"I thank our riders for their patience as we completed this necessary construction, and I look forward to September when we can enjoy the benefits of a faster, greener and quieter Caltrain," wrote Caltrain Executive Director Michelle Bouchard in a statement.

The new trains are set to operate from San Francisco to San Jose in under an hour and are

said to arrive more frequently to create a more efficient system. New seats are covered in vinyl rather than cloth and feature outlets and Wi-Fi throughout the train, among other perks.

Caltrain's electrification project is the first of its kind in North America, taking a historic leap away from diesel fuel, the agency says.

While the weekend test is

the last to use the full corridor, each of the trains needs to travel a total of 1,000 miles before it enters regular service, said Caltrain spokesperson Dan Lieberman.

But for now, the September start date is pretty much set in stone, he said. ■

Email Staff Writer Lisa Moreno at lmoreno@paweekly.com.



50 LINARIA WAY PORTOLA VALLEY



PEACEFUL RETREAT IN SOUGHT-AFTER LADERA

A sanctuary of calm and tranquility awaits in Portola Valley's Ladera neighborhood. Beyond a lush garden entrance rests this sunlit home that has been thoughtfully designed to inspire a sense of peace and harmony, with an open, airy layout that seamlessly blends indoor and outdoor living. Well-appointed living areas flow effortlessly from one space to the next, anchored by a striking fireplace in the living room and a chef's kitchen equipped with top-of-the-line Miele appliances, while the spacious primary suite serves as a private oasis with a spa-like bathroom. Outside, the beautifully landscaped grounds beckon for gatherings and relaxation, featuring an outdoor kitchen, fireplace, and soothing fish pond. Plus, residents of this coveted enclave enjoy access to the Ladera Recreation District, offering amenities such as swimming and tennis. Conveniently located just minutes from Interstate 280, this home is also a short drive from downtown Palo Alto and Stanford University, and is served by the acclaimed Las Lomas School District (buyer to verify eligibility).

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Photos by Natalia Nazarova

Above: Ziomara Navarro, Jace Furman, and Carson Sanie hold teddy bears made by Danette Bathauer Grinstead, a drama teacher at the Menlo-Atherton school graduation on June 7. They represent every role they had in a theater production. Left: Friends and family cheer for a graduate.

M-A's 'bright, gritty, fun' Class of 2024

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On June 7, Menlo-Atherton High School graduated 506 students during its 73rd graduation ceremony on Coach Parks Field on the Atherton campus. Friends and family gathered to support the Class of 2024.

Seniors Derick Kennedy, Camila Leiva Ferrera, Juliana Ventura and Jace Furman gave speeches. Tears were shed by some speakers as they reflected

on their high school experiences, achievements and hardships.

A moment of silence was taken for two M-A students who died this year: Omar Hussain, a senior and Lucy Lunt, a sophomore. Hussain's father received his diploma in honor of his son who died of a heart attack on May 26 — one week before graduation.

Principal Karl Losekoot described the students at M-A as “bright, gritty and fun”

while also “humble, hard-working and thoughtful.” In his speech, Losekoot highlighted the achievements of the school's robotics club, newspaper, leadership, cultural clubs and more.

“Each and every one of you is successful and we are proud of what you have accomplished, proud for what you have brought for this community and eager to see what you will do next,” said Losekoot.

Sequoia Union High School

District school board President Shawneece Stevenson recognized the families of the Class of 2024 and thanked them for entrusting the district in supporting their children's academic growth.

The school's choir performed “Lean on Me” by Bill Withers before school administrators called each student to the stage.

Faculty members hugged and shook hands with smiling students as they were handed over their diplomas.

Students from M-A will continue their educational journey at Stanford, San Jose University, University of California at Los Angeles, Yale, Cañada College, and more. Other students will be exploring opportunities in the military and the trade industry.

The ceremony was also live streamed on YouTube.

For complete graduation coverage visit AlmanacNews.com/graduation. ■

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

‘Courage will be your compass when you face decisions that require resilience and conviction.’

WOODSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL KAREN VAN PUTTEN

WOODSIDE HIGH

continued from page 1

for school spirit and pride. The previous uniform was 8 years old and student presenters explained that the gift will revive and renew Wilbur for future Woodside students.

Upon the announcement, the “new” Wilbur ran down

the football field and waved to the crowd.

Principal Karen van Putten thanked the school's staff and administrators for creating an environment that provided students with “the best public school experience possible.” She recognized the passion, skills and talent of WHS educators.

Van Putten acknowledged the struggles, accomplishments and hard work of the class.

“Courage will be your compass when you face decisions that require resilience and conviction,” van Putten said. “It will be your companion as you strive to make a difference in society.”

She encouraged the class to

continue to use their “brilliance, kindness and courage” to make the world a better place.

For complete graduation coverage, including ceremony videos and lists of graduates, visit AlmanacNews.com/graduation. ■

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



Photos by Adam Pardee

Left: Woodside seniors throw their caps in the air during the graduation commencement in Woodside on June 7. Right: Woodside seniors hug each other after the graduation commencement.

Menlo School graduates its 105th class

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The 146 members of Menlo School's Class of 2024 graduated with their high school diplomas on Thursday, June 6. This is the school's 105th graduating class.

The graduation ceremony was held in front of the historic Stent Family Hall on the Atherton campus.

Rachel Blumental, English teacher and department chair, offered a "Charge to the Senior Class" and Upper School Director John Schafer spoke as well.

Graduating seniors Paige Miller and Jackson Deutch gave speeches. The school's choral and instrumental music programs also performed for the ceremony.

For complete graduation coverage visit AlmanacNews.com/graduation. ■

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



Courtesy Menlo School

Menlo School seniors throw their caps during their June 6 commencement ceremony.



Courtesy Woodside Priory

Woodside Priory's Class of 2024.

Woodside Priory graduates 68 seniors

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On June 1, 68 students from Woodside Priory School's Upper School graduated during a ceremony at Father Christopher Hites, OSB Memorial Field in Portola Valley, according to a June 7 press release.

The Class of 2024 will be continuing their academic journey at 42 different institutions across the United States and around the globe. Students traveling abroad will be expanding their global perspectives and exploring new places as they venture to countries such as Scotland and England.

Across the entire graduating class, a total of 450 college acceptances were received, according to the school.

Five of the graduating seniors will continue their academics at Catholic colleges, "emphasizing their commitment to their faith and education." At least four students have plans to compete at the collegiate level in basketball, lacrosse or football, displaying their dedication to athletics and academics, according to the press release.

For complete graduation coverage visit AlmanacNews.com/graduation. ■

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

TIDE ACADEMY

continued from page 5

Each graduate received their high school diploma, a handshake and a fresh Hawaiian lei, provided by the family of graduating senior Ezra Melosh.

After students took the momentous act of moving their tassel from the right to the left, the ceremony concluded with roaring excitement from the crowd and a celebratory cap toss. "Celebration" by Kool and The Gang played as the newly graduated students walked down the hall, taking their first steps into the next chapter of their lives.

For complete graduation coverage visit AlmanacNews.com/graduation. ■



Left: School counselor Laura Sandora and teacher Ryan Stagg lead the TIDE Academy graduates to their commencement ceremony at Foothill College on June 5. Right: Manisila Pousini's family decorates him in leis after the TIDE Academy graduation ceremony.



Photos by Anna Hoch-Kenney

Public Notices

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)

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)

IBERIA RESTAURANT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: 1615211
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) IBERIA RESTAURANT, located at 740 El Camino Real, Belmont, CA, 94002.
Registered owner(s):
JOSE LUIS RELINQUE
740 El Camino Real
Belmont, CA, 94002
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on September 1984.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 01, 1986.
(ALM Jun 14, 21, 28 and Jul 5, 2024)

RENEWED INTERIORS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297614
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) RENEWED INTERIORS, located at 1125 Birch Street, Montara, CA 94037. Mailing Address: PO Box 371036, Montara, CA 94037.
Registered owner(s):
MARIKA GARCIA
PO Box 371036
Montara, CA 94037
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 03, 2024.
(ALM Jun 14, 21, 28 and Jul 5, 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)

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)

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)

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)

THEY'RE REAL LASHES
TRL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297488
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) THEY'RE REAL LASHES, 2.) TRL, located at 812 S Railroad Ave Unit C, San Mateo, CA 94401.
Registered owner(s):
NASA BEAR LLC
812 S Railroad Ave Unit C
San Mateo, CA 94401
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/22/2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 21, 2024.
(ALM Jun 14, 21, 28 and Jul 5, 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)

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

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

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.
Visit AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/
For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

FILOLI TRAIL

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funds specifically to support our nature programs that include access for our preschool and teen programs as well as opening more trails for the public. Our future plans also include deepening our commitment to natural lands management and conservation science," said Filoli President and CEO Kara Newport in a statement.

The Spring Creek Trail begins at the midway point of the California Trail (formerly the Estate Trail), a 1-mile loop which opened in September 2017. The California Trail was renamed with the opening this weekend to be more descriptive of the interpretative stories Filoli is telling on the trails, according to Filoli's Chief External Relations Officer Susan O'Sullivan.

"For instance, on the California Trail visitors will learn about (and cross over!) the San Andreas fault line," she said in an email.

The new trail is described as "moderate" level difficulty by Filoli and includes 125 feet in elevation gain.

There is a newly installed bridge to get across the creek.

Filoli's Natural Lands Manager Ian Walsh, who has been working on this project since last year, said in a statement that he is "excited for visitors to witness the power of water, seeing firsthand the dramatic erosion that the roaring creek carved out in the wake of heavy rains during January of 2023."

"See if you can spot the old bridge, still perched on the rocks hundreds of feet downstream from where it was swept off its foundation during the flood!" he said. "I hope these striking examples emphasize the importance of Filoli's work in sustainability and adaptation to our changing climate."

Staff cleared out poison oak, which is plentiful is along the Spring Creek Trail. Although the hike is only a half mile, there are several offshoots of trail along it, but staff say to venture off at your own risk given the amount of poison oak.

New exhibition honors Ramaytush Ohlone peoples

The estate's nature education museum, located inside an old barn, also got a revamp.

It is now called the Lamchin Interpretive Center and highlights the broader history of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, the original inhabitants and stewards of the San Francisco Peninsula and the current work of the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone. The renovation is funded, in part by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and created in collaboration with the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone. (Filoli is not disclosing the costs associated with the new trail and Lamchin Center. "Much of the work was done in partnership with the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone and other partners, plus our facilities and natural lands teams worked many hours in creating the new trail and center," said O'Sullivan.)

Filoli sits on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Lamchin, one of the largest local tribes of the Ohlone with about 350 members, according to Filoli's website. The Ramaytush Ohlone had about 1,500 members when Spanish colonizers arrived in 1769, according to the association's website.

Lamchin territory includes the bayshore of the Peninsula and adjacent interior valleys from Belmont to present day Redwood City and the hill country to the west along Pulgas and Cordilleras creeks.

"The impacts of colonization are ongoing and adversely affect the Indigenous peoples of the Bay Area," according to Filoli's 2022 land acknowledgment statement. "As we use the land to gather, live, learn, and work, we are beneficiaries of those past injustices. Filoli is a sanctuary for healing for all people; honoring this truth is a vital first step to transcend barriers of heritage and difference."


Newport said the new Lamchin Interpretive Center "will inspire and educate families and school groups every day."

The new center replaces the Sally MacBride Nature Center, which opened in 1988 and housed nature education exhibits. The new Petaluma Nature Center adopted the taxidermed animals formerly displayed at the nature center, according to Filoli's website.

Filoli is open daily from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. ■

Email Editor Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

LEHUA GREENMAN



"A father is someone you look up to no matter how tall you grow."
Happy Father's Day!

650.245.1845 COMPASS

CHARTER CITY

continued from page 5

It's not all about housing

Though the town's staff report specifically references land use issues as the main reason for Atherton to consider charter city status, the council and residents were more concerned with restoring local control for the town in general.

"There's a tenor in the staff report ... which really focuses on, and certainly stems from the statement that the town's most important issue for local control is land use and zoning. I think land use and zoning is an important issue,

but I think there are lots of other issues that are very important for local control," said Council member Rick DeGolia. "I'm interested in us looking into this charter city situation because I think home rule is good."

DeGolia went on to say that SB 9 is "not a big deal for Atherton," due to the town's already large properties.

Residents agreed that increased local control may benefit Atherton in general, but that the town should look into the matter more deeply to make sure that there are no major drawbacks to becoming a charter city.

"We've seen the state become

more and more restrictive toward cities. ... Our motivation is not SB 9. We actually don't think this is going to help us on multifamily. So we have to put that to the side ... and look at what's coming down the road (from the state)," said Carol Flaherty, member of the Atherton Housing Coalition, a group of Atherton residents that wrote their own proposal for Atherton's housing element. The group's draft proposal called for the elimination of multifamily zoning in several areas of the town, and suggested putting multifamily units on town- and fire district-owned lands.

Some council members also cautioned that becoming a charter city may have some drawbacks for the town. Widmer emphasized that writing too loose of a charter may give future council members unchecked power.

Lewis also warned that becoming a charter city may increase the town's administrative costs.

"There's a reason why almost all the (charter) cities are larger cities than Atherton," she said. "Because it takes a lot of staff to manage a charter city. ... I just know from before when we looked at this that there are some perils associated with it, and we need to be careful."

To become a charter city, Atherton would have to put the matter to a vote during a General Municipal Election. The town could not put the issue on the ballot until the November 2026 General Municipal Election.

Ultimately, the council directed town staff to study the matter further, and return to council with more information. Staff will return to the council with more information, likely sometime this fall, according to Atherton City Clerk Anthony Suber. ■

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

traffic and safety improvements for the Alameda de las Pulgas corridor between Stockbridge and Mills avenues.

The meeting will include a brief overview of the current corridor conditions and proposed improvements and allow community members an opportunity to provide feedback and share concerns.

The meeting will take place in person from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Atherton Council Chambers, located at 80 Fair Oaks Lane.

— *Eleanor Raab*

Habitat For Humanity Greater San Francisco awarded \$110K in grants

The Palo Alto Community Fund awarded Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco \$110,000 in grants to support its work providing affordable homeownership for San Mateo County families, according to a press release.

Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco builds and helps families stay in their homes across San Mateo County. Work includes building new homes for low-income residents (including financing), preserving homes through major repairs,

helping residents to remain in their homes, and partnering with other nonprofits in the community to provide vital housing work, according to the Palo Alto Community Fund's website.

"Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco's work in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park is absolutely critical and their commitment to partnering with other nonprofits in our community is providing innovative and meaningful solutions. The more we collaborate, the more we can invest in the future, respond to the moment, and close the gaps together," said the fund's

Executive Director Lisa Van Dusen in a statement.

— *Arden Margulis*

SamTrans updates bus service for the summer

With the start of summer, SamTrans is updating its bus service schedules and routes. School-oriented routes will be suspended from this coming Sunday through August. The schedule change also includes adjustments to routes 110, 117, 260, and 294 for efficiency.

As opposed to buying three separate passes for the summer months, parents are allowed to purchase a \$40 Summer Youth

Pass for children 18 years and under. This pass is good for unlimited rides on any SamTrans route from June 1 through Aug. 31.

Students who qualified for the Youth Unlimited Pass during the school year can continue to use their pass throughout the summer.

Passes can be purchased online at SamTrans.com/SYP or in person by visiting SamTrans headquarters at 1250 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos, which is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The SYP isn't available on the Clipper card. SamTrans also has a mobile app that makes it easy to purchase the Youth Pass.

— *Bay City News Service*



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3.5% OR LESS
TOTAL COMMISSION

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

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650.488.7325

MILITARY EQUIPMENT

continued from page 14

and 50 Defense Technology 40mm Exact Impact sponge rounds.

The report also states that the police department is not seeking to acquire any additional equipment, other than possibly replenishing ammunition if it is used in a future incident in the next fiscal year.

“This equipment remains the same equipment that has been available to handle high-risk situations that occasionally arise in this jurisdiction up to

this point in time, as part of the regular public safety business of this agency,” according to the report.

State rules require that police departments not only provide an inventory of military equipment, but indicate if they were deployed in the last year, or if the department received any complaints about the equipment.

The department has not received any complaints about the equipment. There was one incident in the previous year where Menlo Park Police were required to use “military

equipment.”

“A person was running in the streets. ... Officers arrived on scene and the individual fled and attempted to force into a residence,” said Lau. “We deployed the 40 millimeter less lethal launcher (a launcher that shoots sponge rounds), and we were able to take the subject into custody.”

The Menlo Park Police Department also participates in a regional Special Weapons and Tactics team, which possesses additional types of military equipment. This equipment includes remotely piloted

ground robots, armored command and control vehicles, explosive breaching apparatuses, automatic rifles, flash-bang grenades, tear gas, smoke grenades and 40mm projectile launchers.

According to the staff report, “the equipment possessed by SWAT is not purchased, owned, or maintained by the Menlo Park Police Department, but such equipment could be used within the city of Menlo Park if SWAT is deployed, and such equipment is utilized for an appropriate incident.”

“None of those items were purchased by, or are stored here at the Menlo Park Police Department,” said Lau.

Menlo Park’s Military Equipment Use Ordinance was originally approved in May 2022. ■

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

MUSIC CAREER

continued from page 8

Lombera had difficulties balancing school and music, but he acknowledged that “music comes and goes” and school is a priority. It took a while to find the right balance.

“In the beginning it was really hard, because all I wanted to do was music. Every day and every second,” said Lombera.

Teachers at M-A were supportive of Lombera’s band and passion for music and would frequently see its members practicing in the school’s auditorium.

“There’s a lot of teachers that tell me they hope I keep doing this and make it big one day,” Lombera said. “Honestly that’s the dream.”

More information on Los Hermanos de Oro’s music and social media can be found on linktr.ee/Los_Hermanos_De_Oro. ■

TOWN OF WOODSIDE

2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062

PLANNING COMMISSION JUNE 26, 2024 6:00 PM

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT WISH TO ATTEND AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING MAY DO SO IN PERSON OR BY JOINING THE ZOOM MEETING [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/86068472736](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736) PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED BOTH IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM MEETING. ANY EMAILS SENT TO SHARPER@WOODSIDECA.GOV PRIOR TO 5:00 P.M. ON THE DATE OF THE HEARING WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION PRIOR TO THE MEETING. IN THE EVENT THAT ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION PARTICIPATES IN A MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE OR VIDEO CONFERENCE, PURSUANT TO THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT, GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953, ALL VOTES OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE BY ROLL CALL.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING:

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128

+1 346 248 7799

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

Meeting ID: 860 6847 2736

Weblink:

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

Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: sharper@woodsideca.gov

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Town of Woodside	Multi-Family Housing Standards
APNs 072-041-040/ APN 068-100-220/ 069-170-450	Sage Schaan, Planning Director
068-320-330/ 068-320 410	

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

- A. Review of a Resolution of Intention to amend the Zoning Code and Zoning Map: amending Municipal Code Chapter 153 (Zoning) for new Multi-Family (MF) zoning district development standards, and changes to existing standards for the Multi-Family Residential Development Overlay Zone (MFRD) at Cañada College; amending Zoning Map designation for Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 072-041-040 (Raymundo Drive) from Open Space (OS) to MF; amending Zoning Map designation for a portion of APN 068-100-220 (773 Cañada Road) from Suburban Residential (SR) to MF; amending Zoning Map designation for APN 069-170-450 (High Road) from Open Space for Preservation of Natural Resources (OSN) to MF; and, amending Zoning Map designation for portions of Cañada College Campus, APNs 068-320-330/410 from SR/MFRD to Multi-Family Residential Zone (MFRZ).
- B. Review of General Plan designation revisions to parcels as follows: APN 072-041-040 (Raymundo Drive) from Open Space (OS) to Residential (R); and, APN 069-170-450 (High Road) from Open Space/ Environmentally Sensitive Area (OS-ESA) to Residential (R).
- C. Review of new multi-family ODS for the following multi-family sites identified in the Town’s Housing Element: (APN) 072-041-040 (Raymundo Drive); portion of APN 068-100-220 (773 Cañada Road); APN 069-170-450 (High Road); and, portions of Cañada College Campus, APNs 068-320-330/410.
- D. Review revisions to the Emerald Lake Hills Specific Plan associated with a new MF Zoning at a portion of APN 068-100-220 (773 Cañada Road). Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared for the proposed multi-family housing sites as part of the Town’s Housing Element update. The Planning Commission will review the EIR at a later date at which time the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the EIR and project described above

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared for the proposed multi-family housing sites as part of the Town’s Housing Element update. The EIR was circulated for a 45-day public review period between May 4, 2024, to June 17, 2024 (State Clearing House Number 202305049). All public comments received have received responses in the Final EIR. The Planning Commission will review the Final EIR and will make a recommendation to the Town Council to accept or reject the Final EIR and to approve or deny the entitlements outlined in the project description above.

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING AT SSCHAAN@WOODSIDECA.GOV.

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PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Prize-winning story from Palo Alto part of charity anthology for Ukraine

Story that won the Weekly's Short Story Contest last year is part of an audio anthology created to aid artists in Ukraine

By Ashwini Gangal

Hidden in Ukraine's troves of folk wisdom is the expression "A word is not a sparrow. Once it flies out, you won't catch it."

"A Word is Not a Sparrow" is the title of an upcoming audio anthology of stories — all set against the backdrop of Russian repression through the centuries — ready to proverbially fly out into the world. The collection has been created by some members of the Professional Audiobook Narrators Association (PANA) as part of the Ukraine Audiobook Relief Project.

This is an all-volunteer initiative launched in support of Ukrainian artists impacted by war; all proceeds generated through sales will be donated to the Artists at Risk Connection in Ukraine through PEN America, a non-profit that works to protect artistic freedom.

The audiobook, which is being distributed globally through a platform called Spoken Realms, was released on June 11.

One of the stories in this anthology is "Yulia's Morning" written by longtime Palo Alto resident Christopher Dewees, who won the Palo Alto Weekly's 37th Annual Short Story Contest last year. The story is about a busy Ukrainian mother who doubles up as a freedom fighter to help her country brave the Russian invasion.

When voice actor Susan Iannucci, who was looking for something to narrate for the anthology, read Dewees' story in the paper, she decided to seek the rights for it.

"I was still looking for the right thing," said Iannucci in an interview with this publication. The Cossack folktales she was reading at the time didn't quite fit the bill and Dewees' fiction impressed her immediately. "I just really felt like — this is happening! It was so real to me."

But first, she had to find the author. "It took me a while to track Christopher down," she said, recalling the process of picking up clues about his address from the information printed alongside his story in the Weekly. He was not easy to find online, so based on these crumbs she went looking for him around Palo Alto.

"I went searching for his name and I found his name along with a woman's name," she said about the arduous quest that led her to Dewees' wife, whom she found on Nextdoor. Eventually, she spoke with the author himself and secured the rights to read the story for the anthology. "He's been a real delight to work with."

The story touched her enough to motivate her to undertake this kind of effort. "I feel deeply for the people who have lost their homes, family members, the schooling that was disrupted," she said, about the war. "When they got invaded, it felt so medieval — it was so amazing to me that that could even happen."

The plot of Dewees' piece was what piqued her interest. "Everybody was a volunteer over there; they have a professional army but pretty much all the citizens are involved one way or the other helping each other," she said, about the situation in Ukraine. "I knew it (the story) was fiction, but very believable — you don't have a hard time understanding that this is all very possible and happening to real people."

The other aspect that appealed to her was the writing style. "A lot of times authors don't read their own work out loud, making it harder for a narrator, but his was just right — I felt like I understood what he was trying to say," said Iannucci, who has narrated over 70 books so far. "It wasn't hard to find how to communicate this story at all. I really liked how he put it together. ... I could visualize it and that actually helps when you're

narrating too."

For Dewees, the idea to write the story came from a newspaper article about recent affairs in Ukraine. "What truly intrigued me was the opportunity to contrast our faith in human progress with our continuing capacity for violence by way of an extreme example," Dewees said in an email.

It was the "oases of normalcy in the midst of extraordinary violence" that struck him as particularly shocking. "My intent was to attempt to convey a sense of that profound disconnect with the character of Yulia and her actions in the story," he said, marveling at the juxtaposition of mundane life and existential threat. "Modern technology, transportation and communications enable us to commute to war. What are the implications? How do you make breakfast for your family, then drive off to kill or be killed before buying groceries and returning home to prepare dinner? And, for those that do, what are the consequences of the extreme compartmentalization this requires?"

To Dewees, Russia's invasion



Courtesy Susan Iannucci

The audiobook anthology "A Word is not a Sparrow" raises funds for Ukraine relief.

of Ukraine was glaring for another reason — it narrowed the distance between soldiers and citizens, a reality that informed the very premise of his story.

"Ukraine is a modern, industrialized country, with several generations of citizens who, until Feb. 24, 2022, had not experienced open war," he said. "In fact, during the initial phase, much of Ukraine's success in thwarting the invasion was apparently due to the efforts of ordinary civilians who brought their laptops, cell-phones, drones and trigger fingers to the cause, many of them going back and forth to home and hearth in the process."

He hopes the anthology will help raise enough money to make a meaningful positive impact for Ukrainian artists. "Apart from that, although this effort may seem small, anything done to keep the awareness of the ridiculous, meaningless tragedy that is occurring in Ukraine in the minds of the rest of the world is important," he said. ■

Email Contributing Writer
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"A Word is Not a Sparrow" was published June 11. Find more information at pronarrators.org/sparrow



Courtesy Susan Iannucci

Voice actor Susan Iannucci sought out the rights to record Christopher Dewees' short story "Yulia's Morning" for an anthology that will raise money for Ukraine.



Courtesy Kevin Berne

The cast, from left, Anne Tolpegin, Sleiman Alahmadih, Solona Husband, Noel Anthony Escobar, Nick Nakashima, and Melissa WolfKlain embraces new possibilities in TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's "Being Alive: A Sondheim Celebration."

TheatreWorks' season closer is 'Alive' and kicking

World-premiere musical revue pays tribute to themes of love in the songs of Stephen Sondheim

By Heather Zimmerman

Musical revues can be tricky things, lining up a parade of songs that may often be well-loved, but are stripped of their original context. With a composer such as Stephen Sondheim, whose shows typically come with such a vivid sense of place, that's even trickier territory.

A revue can skillfully highlight the particular talents of the featured composer(s), but rarer is the chance to hear their songs in a whole new way.

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's season closer, "Being Alive: A Sondheim Celebration," falls into the latter category. Perhaps that's not a surprise, as the world-premiere show was co-conceived by TheatreWorks' Founding Artistic Director Robert Kelley and Resident Musical Director William Liberatore, who together have helmed 18 of the company's 20 Sondheim productions. Kelley directed "Being Alive," with Liberatore as musical director. They know and love the material, and it really shows.

Like the characters that Sondheim's insightful lyrics bring to life, the show does have some flaws, but is full of love.

A musical revue focusing on the theme of love — primarily romantic love — in Sondheim's works, "Being Alive" uses a show-within-a-show conceit to explore the many facets of this complex emotion. The setting for "Being Alive" takes audiences "behind the scenes" for the final rehearsals of a musical revue featuring Sondheim's songs. Wilson Chin's realistic set brings all the

trappings of a final rehearsal to the stage, with racks of costumes and a cluster of scenic backdrops (though seen only from the back, labeled with various Sondheim shows featured in "Being Alive"). In a nice touch, before the curtain for each act, as the audience is getting seated, actors dash into the theater alongside them, rushing not to be late to "rehearsal," and chat onstage about the production while crew members hustle at the stage's periphery.

To start it all off, even the curtain speech is a song: "Invocation and Instructions to the Audience," with music from "The Frogs" and lyrics from "Putting It Together." Sondheim, who died in 2021, was a giant of the theater, and created musicals *about* the theater, so the setting is a good fit.

The ensemble cast of six (Sleiman Alahmadih, Noel Anthony, Solona Husband, Nick Nakashima, Anne Tolpegin and Melissa WolfKlain) turn in solid, energetic performances, nailing Sondheim's famously demanding melodies while making it look effortless in the process. Skillfully accompanying them was Liberatore on piano, with Artie Storch on drums. The duo provided an impressively full sound that suggested a bigger group.

Tolpegin and Husband bring some especially gorgeous harmonies to "There Won't Be Trumpets." Tolpegin adds extra poignancy to an arrangement of "Send in the Clowns" that perfectly captures the song's haunting, regretful beauty. Anthony and Alahmadih muster just the right amount of cringeworthy

bravado for "Pretty Women."

Alex Perez's choreography helps bring the songs to life, conjuring everything from a city street that's still convincingly bustling with just six people ("Love Is in the Air") to a spa that's the scene for a playfully ribald inventory of a guy's, uh, charms ("Can That Boy Foxtrot").

The show-within-a-show conceit is clever, but can also sometimes prove so meta that it's confusing. Keeping the premise consistent and believable is the show's weak point, as is true for so many revues.

And although love is maybe as strong a theme as you can find in Sondheim's body of work, the way it's presented is strangely limiting. "Being Alive" narrows the broad subject a bit too much by musing on a single trajectory of love stories, from dating to divorce.

The focus of "Being Alive" is on romantic love, but what was most meaningful to me as an audience member was that the lyrics all revealed what seems to have been Sondheim's great understanding, compassion and love for the flawed state of just being a human. It was something truly beautiful that I hadn't heard before in these mostly familiar tunes. ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com.

Through June 30 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Tickets start at \$27. For more information, visit theatreworks.org.

Worth a Look



Courtesy Paradise Artists

A Flock of Seagulls founder Mike Score is back with the band — and minus a certain iconic '80s haircut. A Flock of Seagulls performs June 14 and 15 at The Guild Theatre.

A Flock of Seagulls

Liverpool's New Wave dance-pop band A Flock of Seagulls, led by Mike Score — most likely known to you for their early '80s hit "I Ran (So Far Away)" and former hairdresser Score's memorable hairdo — has released several albums over the decades, with periodic lineup changes and reunions of the original members. The hairstyles may have evolved but the band is booked for two nights at the Guild Theatre. San Francisco-based Irish rock band The Hooks will open the shows.

June 14 and 15, 8 p.m., The Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$53; guildtheatre.com.

'Hardboiled Truth: A Celebration of Local Crime Authors'

Feldman's Books will host a trio of special guests discussing the dark sides of fiction: Art critic Alfred Jan, who will give an overview of the dark fantasy genre and discuss masters of the form such as Gelett Burgess and Cornell Woolrich; San Mateo mystery writer Steve Latner, whose work includes "This Taxi For Hire," "I Love You To Death" and "Nice Guy Bob;" and David T. Wolf, author of a collection of crime novels in addition to work in other genres.

June 14, 6:30 p.m., Feldman's Books, 1075 Curtis St., Menlo Park; feldmansbooks.net/events.

Caitlin Gjerdrum sing-along show

Palo Alto Children's Theatre teaching artist (and veteran performer) Caitlin Gjerdrum will take part in this year's summer concert series at the Magical Bridge playground in Mitchell Park.

She'll lead renditions of favorite kids' tunes, including from movies and musical theater, in hopes that everyone will sing along. Palo Alto Children's Theatre fans may recognize her from performances in "Meerkats - The Musical," "Wake Up, Brother Bear," and "The Very Hungry Caterpillar."

June 14, 6 p.m., Magical Bridge, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; magicalbridge.org

LYSN

Musician LYSN, of the eclectic San Jose-based band Barely Funktional, will come to Little Green for the Redwood City boutique and plant-and-coffee bar's LG Live series, with his acoustic trio project. According to the event's description, the poetic LYSN is influenced by classic hip-hop, electronica and more, featuring crafty, thoughtful wordplay, rhymes and rhythms. The event is free, with donations encouraged.

June 14, 8 p.m., Little Green - A Plant Bar, 1101 Main St., Redwood City; [instagram.com/littlegreenaplanbar](https://www.instagram.com/littlegreenaplanbar).



Food & Drink

From Nini's Coffee Shop to Kiki's

Devin Roberts
Sarah and Jacob Marotta at Kiki's Coffee Shop in San Mateo on June 9, 2024.

A new take on a neighborhood institution arrives in San Mateo

By Edwina Dueñas

Five generations of the Marotta family dined at Nini's Coffee Shop, a beloved neighborhood institution in San Mateo that closed in 2020. Now, siblings Sarah and Jacob Marotta are making the space their own as Kiki's Coffee Shop.

The eatery will emphasize finding new ways to celebrate classic flavors across their breakfast and lunch menu. A variety of cafe cuisine will be on offer, including daily oatmeals, quiches, salads and sandwiches. The siblings intend on making the space their own while providing the same community-oriented feel as Nini's, which got its start in San Francisco in 1955 and began operating in San Mateo in 1968.

Nini and Wally Swartz ran the coffee shop until their son Rick Swartz took over in 1973, which drew loyal customers by serving comforting plates of breakfast and lunch specials in a space where the walls were filled with sports memorabilia, old photographs and various knickknacks. The corner eatery will continue to be a family-run business thanks to the Marotta siblings, who are serving as co-owners and chefs. The name of

their new eatery takes inspiration from their predecessor.

"Nini's Coffee Shop was named after the previous owner's mother, Nini," Sarah said. "The grandkids in our family call our mom 'Kiki,' and naming the restaurant Kiki's Coffee Shop felt like the perfect way to pay homage to Nini's Coffee Shop while making it our own."

The siblings both attended Burlingame High School nearby and grew up in Burlingame, just 10 minutes away from the restaurant. Their journey to opening Kiki's Coffee Shop has been inspired by their local ties, but the duo's global culinary experience has helped guide them on this path, too. Both Jacob and Sarah attended Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, honing their skills by training in cuisine and pâtisserie, respectively. Jacob continued his training at Le Cordon Bleu in London, where he received a Grand Diplôme, a professional chef diploma, before later studying restaurant management. Sarah returned to the Bay Area after graduating, where she worked as a pastry chef in a number of kitchens before opening up her own San Mateo-based online business, Beurre Pastry Shop.

"The move to opening up my own business came from knowing what I wanted to bake," Sarah

said. "I quickly realized while working for these other chefs that my favorite part of pastry work was product development."

The beginnings of Beurre Pastry Shop can be traced to Sarah's parents' kitchen, where she started baking to locally deliver cookies, bars, brownies and palmiers — her favorite French pastry she learned to make by hand at Le Cordon Bleu. As orders picked up, she began vending at local farmers markets, expanding to breakfast goods, scones, cinnamon rolls, morning buns and quiches. Customers began forming lines at farmers markets to try her baked goods, and she eventually moved into a commercial kitchen to expand both the output and bakery menu.

Sarah's passion for product development is evident at Beurre Pastry Shop, where she relishes the opportunity to explore new flavors. She tasks herself with creating a new morning roll every month, which she describes as the "perfect challenge" to take a beloved product at Beurre and explore new flavors. Past morning rolls include a Valentine's Day-inspired strawberry and champagne flavor and a tropical-themed POG flavor (passion fruit, pineapple, orange and guava). Looking ahead, Sarah

plans on serving all of Beurre's products at Kiki's Coffee Shop.

"We want to take Beurre's menu and keep it available to customers in a coffee shop format, while also expanding to have a full breakfast and lunch menu available on a daily basis, all operating as one business," Sarah said.

Sarah and Jacob are hard at work crafting the daily menu for Kiki's Coffee Shop and taste-testing creations before opening. The eatery will also offer a variety of beverages, including coffee and tea, with an emphasis on specialty house blends of tea. As a prelude to their grand opening, Jacob and Sarah have begun to offer special afternoon tea services.

"Our family has loved attending afternoon teas all around the world, and that is one reason we were so excited to have an afternoon tea service," Sarah said. "We want to continue hosting afternoon teas once we officially open our doors, and we have a few other dining experiences in the works."

While an opening date is still being determined, Kiki's is taking reservations for their summer afternoon tea series, with four dates available through the end of July. Beurre Pastry Shop remains open in tandem, with

orders available for pickup and local delivery.

Afternoon tea at Kiki's has been hosted on the restaurant's patio, each with its own theme, decor and menu such as "School's Out," "Kiki's Tiki Tea" and "Backyard BBQ." The owners have enjoyed meeting the community through their tea service, where they act as menu planners, cooks and servers all at once.

The pair plans to reflect the Bay Area in the eatery's design as well, and they're excited for guests to experience the new elements firsthand. The siblings hint that loyal Nini's patrons will recognize a few key decorations preserved in Kiki's Coffee Shop. It's this balance of past and present that excites the owners about their new venture.

"We loved Nini's so much and were devastated to see it close for good," Sarah said. "We grew up here, and we're excited to serve this wonderful community." ■

Email Contributing Writer Edwina Dueñas at eduenas3@protonmail.com.

Kiki's Coffee Shop,
 1000 N. Idaho St., San Mateo,
 Instagram: @kikiscoffeehop.

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