

The Almanac

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Hometown hero Tierna Davidson wins Olympic gold

The USA Women's Soccer defender is a Menlo Park native, Sacred Heart grad

By Angela Swartz

U.S. women's soccer national team center-back Tierna Davidson, a Menlo Park native, helped Team USA secure the gold medal after a nail-biting 1-0 win over Brazil on Saturday.

While the first half of the game ended with Brazil on its heels, with its game-winning goal coming in the 57th minute, according to a press release from her alma mater Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton, on Aug. 10. The team credited the self-proclaimed "Triple Espresso" forward line — Mallory Swanson, Sophia Smith and Trinity Rodman — for the win, according to statement from the team.

This is the second time that Davidson, 25, has played in the Olympics. She was part of the 2021 summer Tokyo Olympics team that won bronze. The team has won five gold medals, which came in 1996, 2004, 2008, 2012 and this year.

"We are so excited and, of course, extremely proud of Tierna," said her father, Greg Davidson, who is also a math teacher at Sacred Heart, in a



Courtesy U.S. Women's National Team

Team USA women's soccer celebrates its gold medal win on Aug. 10.

statement. "To fight back from her injuries and challenges during the past couple of years is quite impressive and says a lot about her."

Davidson left college a year early to become the first-round draft pick for the women's professional soccer team, the Chicago Red Stars, according to a United States Soccer Federation profile of Davidson.

During her high school career at Sacred Heart, Davidson's three seasons remain unparalleled for SHP soccer, according to the school. Each year her team advanced to Central Coast Section Championship games. Twice her team captured section titles.

At Stanford, she led her team to the 2017 NCAA Championship. She was also the youngest player

on the champion USA team at the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup in France.

Davidson signed with NJ/NY Gotham FC in January of this year after playing for the Chicago Red Stars for five seasons, according to the Sacred Heart press release.

This is the second Olympic gold medal won by a Sacred Heart alum in eight years.



Courtesy Brad Smith/ISI Photos

Tierna Davidson of the USWNT dribbles during a game between Portugal and USWNT at BBVA Stadium on June 10, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

Women's water polo player KK Clark brought home the gold in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro summer Olympics, according to the school. ■

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Woodside High School students prepare for first day of school

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On Aug. 13, Woodside High School students attended Wildcat Welcome Day to pick up their class schedules, take student photos and check out textbooks in preparation for the first day of school on Wednesday, Aug. 14.

"Our staff has been hard at work preparing for your arrival, and we are excited to welcome our newest wildcats of the Class of 2028 and students new

to Woodside," said Woodside Principal Karen van Putten in her weekly newsletter.

This year, Woodside High has added Advanced Placement Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism in addition to AP Physics C: Mechanics which has been offered for several years, according to van Putten.

The school is also seeing a record number of freshman students enrolled in AP Computer Science Principles, "an indicator that students are

exploring more STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) courses."

Van Putten is also excited to see full enrollment for Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) classes and the Graphics and Technology Academy, reflecting pre-COVID-19 pandemic numbers and more. ■

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



Anna Hoch-Kenney

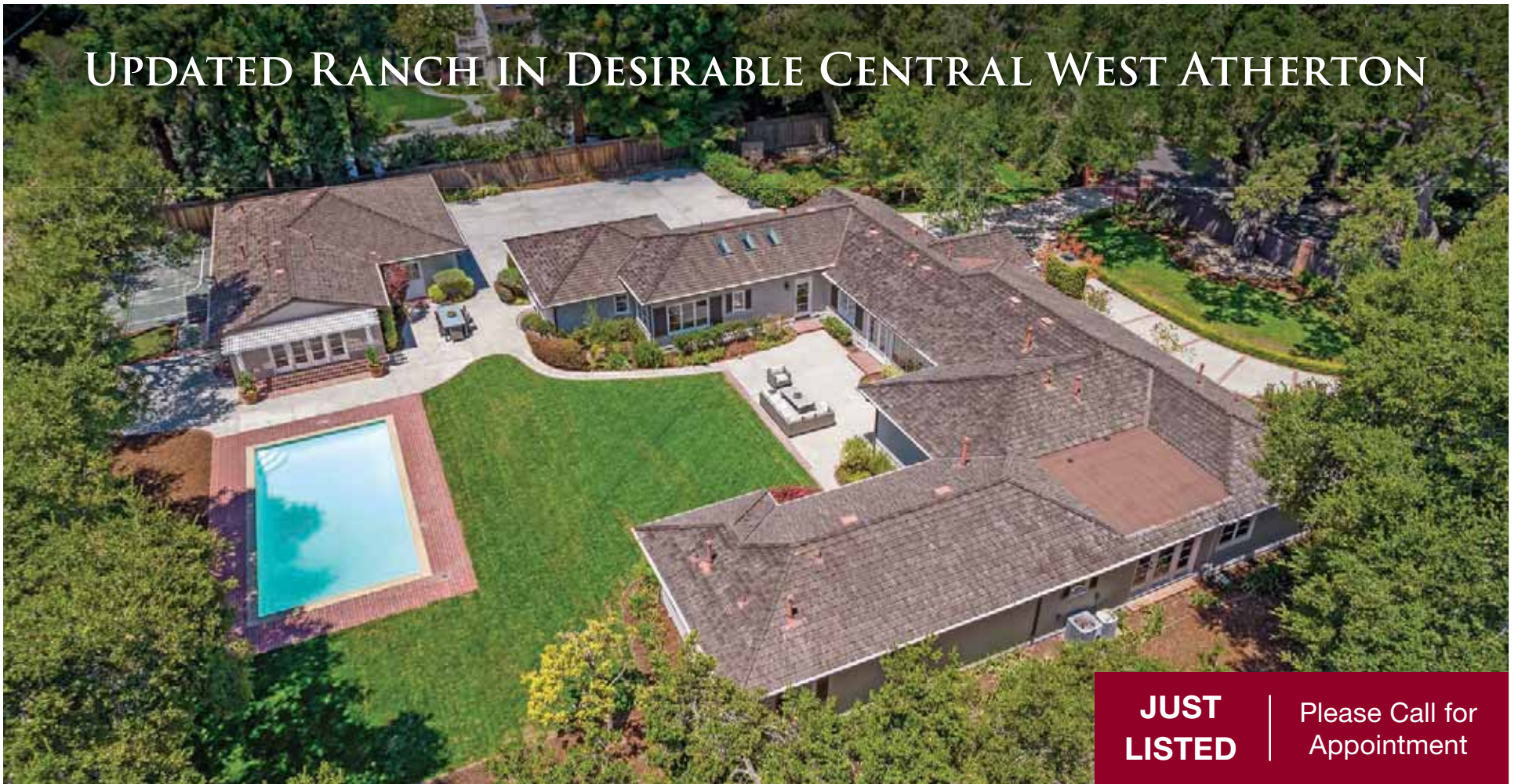
Lily Ginestet, left, and Regina Alcazar, right, check out textbooks for their upcoming school year during Woodside High School's orientation on Aug. 13.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Governor Gavin Newsom, left, and Representative Nancy Pelosi, right, take a moment to celebrate on stage at the San Francisco Caltrain station before the inaugural electric train ride on Aug. 10.

‘A new generation,’ passengers ride Caltrain’s electric fleet for first time

The electrified fleet will fully open to the public on Sept. 21

By Lisa Moreno

Backed by a thick layer of fog, a line of brand new Caltrain cars, painted a sleek red and white, sat parked at the San Francisco station. Sandwiched in between the fleet were a few old trains, boxy, silver and stamped with faded logos.

Caltrain welcomed members of the public on the

new electrified trains for the first time Saturday morning at a VIP event, hosting local and state politicians like Gov. Gavin Newsom on the “sleeker” and “quieter” line that will run from San Francisco to San Jose.

Starting on Monday, Caltrain will add two electric trains a week until Sept. 21, when the new trains completely replace the diesel fleet, said Robert

Scarpino, Caltrain director of rail maintenance.

San Francisco Mayor London Breed kicked off the event praising individuals who each raised billions of dollars for the electrification project, including the Biden-Harris administration.

“We’re looking forward to seeing the trains move and

See CALTRAIN, page 16

Q&A with Olympic medalist, Woodside native Karl Cook

By Kate Daly

“I can’t wait to ride again,” Woodside native Karl Cook tells *The Almanac*, after winning a silver medal at the Paris Olympics earlier this month. As he explains, he and his mare, Caracole de la Roque, are now back in Rancho Santa Fe prepping for their next challenge.

This story has been edited for length and clarity.

The Almanac: How did it feel to be called up at the last minute to ride for the Team USA show jumping event?

Karl Cook: Of course, you want to be on the team the whole time, but when we were chosen for alternate, there was no hesitation. We wanted to show so when we got called up, we were excited.

Q: And ready?

A: Yes, we did all of our preparation as if we were going to show and felt as ready as possible. I mean you don’t know you’re ready until after you go, but in the moment I felt ready.

Q: You’ve been competing internationally successfully for years, but this time you

were riding with and against Olympic veterans. Was that nerve wracking?

A: No. We’ve been competing internationally for years, and I’ve been slowly climbing that proverbial ladder. I think if you think too much about who you’re competing with or against, then you’re giving them a leg up. So, we’re there to compete, we’re there to win because we believe we are better.

Q: On Day One and Day Two of the team competition

See KARL COOK, page 16

Former Woodside High counselor files lawsuit against SUHSD for disability discrimination

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

For 16 years, Sharlett Downing was receiving work accommodations for her mental health as a counselor at Woodside High School. But when higher-ups in the Sequoia Union High School District left the district after the COVID-19 pandemic, her requests for continued flexibility were denied, according to a wrongful termination lawsuit she filed on May 15 in San Mateo County Superior Court.

Downing, who has since left the role at Woodside, said in the lawsuit that the district violated the Fair Employment and Housing Act which protects employees from prejudice based discrimination and harassment. Downing also served as Woodside High’s Black Student Union co-advisor and the school’s union representative. Downing is represented by Leigh Law Group, which is based out of San Francisco.

In 2012, Downing was diagnosed by a doctor with anxiety, depression and ADHD and started receiving accommodations from the district from 2016 to 2019. She was able to work from home, start work at a later time and received intermittent absences. It wasn’t until 2021 when the district experienced high turnover in the human resources department that Downing’s accommodations began to shift.

In April 2021, the district called for all staff and students to return in person after a year of remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Downing requested to meet with the district’s human resources department prior to the start of the school year to discuss her accommodations but didn’t receive a response, according to Downing. Jacqueline McEvoy was the previous assistant superintendent of human resources until August 2021. The position was filled by an interim until the current assistant superintendent of human resources, Todd Beal, was hired in January 2022.

In the past, Downing would

have regular meetings with her supervisors to discuss accommodations at the start of the school year along with check-ins throughout the year.

The lack of response led Downing to explore medical retirement under the California State Teachers’ Retirement System, according to the suit. For a year, Downing had the help of other counselors at WHS to coordinate meetings with students virtually while she was working from home, continuously making attempts to request accommodations.

Downing also shared a doctor’s note with Beal in January 2022 and March 2022 asking for work accommodations but both were ignored. By April 12, 2022 she formally requested a leave of absence.

On March 23, 2022 the district scheduled a meeting to discuss accommodations over the phone for April 8, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss work accommodations and her request for a six-week leave of absence to receive therapy. The meeting would be facilitated by Shaw Consulting, an external consulting group.

Downing was concerned over sharing private information over the phone with the presence of a company she was unfamiliar with as well as her preference to have meetings at the end of the day so her anxiety would not get triggered and affect her work day. Her concerns over privacy were ignored but the meeting was rescheduled for April 19, 2022 at 2:30 pm.

The meeting included Downing, Beal, a California Teachers Association representative, WHS Instructional Vice Principal Cara Klackle, and a Shaw Consulting representative hired by the district.

After the meeting was scheduled, Downing received a letter stating that the district had put her on paid administrative leave from April 7, 2022 “pending the outcome of the April 19, 2022 interactive meeting.” Downing told this news organization that she felt embarrassed to find out

See LAWSUIT, page 18

Susan Wojcicki, technology innovator, dies at 56

One of Google's earliest employees, Wojcicki served as YouTube CEO until 2023

By Gennady Sheyner

Susan Wojcicki, a technology pioneer and Palo Alto native who played a critical role in the creation of Google before becoming the CEO of YouTube has died, her husband, Dennis Troper, said on Aug. 9.

She was 56.

The daughter of Palo Alto High School journalism teacher Esther Wojcicki and Stanford University physics professor Stanley Wojcicki, she grew up on the Stanford University campus and attended Gunn High School.

She joined Google in the company's earliest days, famously renting out her Menlo Park garage to company co-founders Larry Page and Sergei Brin in 1998 and then joining the company as its first marketing manager the following year.

Wojcicki was also heavily involved in the company's purchase of YouTube in 2006. When she became the company's CEO in 2014, Page praised her for her "healthy disregard for the impossible." She held the position until 2023.

Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google and Alphabet, wrote in

a statement that Wojcicki is "as core to the history of Google as anyone, and it's hard to imagine the world without her."

"She was an incredible person, leader and friend who had a tremendous impact on the world and I'm one of countless Googlers who is better for knowing her," Pinchai wrote on X. "We will miss her dearly. Our thoughts with her family. RIP Susan."

Troper shared the news of Wojcicki's passing on social media on Friday night. He said that she had been living with cancer for two years.

"My beloved wife of 26 years and mother to our five children left us today after 2 years of living with non-small cell lung cancer," Troper wrote. "Susan was not just my best friend and partner in life, but a brilliant mind, a loving mother, and a dear friend to many. Her impact on our family and the world was immeasurable. We are heartbroken, but grateful for the time we had with her. Please keep our family in your thoughts as we navigate this difficult time." ■

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Natalia Nazarova

YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki at the Breakthrough red carpet on Dec. 3, 2017.

Sequoia Union High School District spokesperson resigns

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Sequoia Union High School District Public Information Officer Arthur Wilkie resigned from his position in July. His last day of employment is Monday, Aug. 12, according to Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Todd Beal.

Wilkie started working for the district in May 2023 after Richard Gebin resigned from the role in February 2023 after 10 months on the job, according to his LinkedIn profile. Ana

Maria Pulido handled public relations for the district from 2018 to 2021.

"The decision is purely mine as I want to take advantage of some opportunities that are available to me right now, and while a lot isn't finalized quite yet, the direction I'm most likely headed in is a career change," said Wilkie in an email to this news organization. "I've been lucky to form some exceptional relationships and close bonds with people here in just a year's time. I'll always be grateful for the experience I had

here to develop as a leader."

On July 3, the school district posted a job opening to fill Wilkie's position with an annual salary range of \$152,898-\$176,385. Applications are due on Wednesday, Aug. 14, by 4:30 p.m.

Senior Administrative Secretary Rosa Miralles will serve as the interim public information officer until the position is filled, according to Beal. ■

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



Courtesy Arthur Wilkie

Arthur Wilkie, the Sequoia district's former public information officer.

Train strikes, kills pedestrian in Menlo Park

By Eleanor Raab

A person was struck and killed by a train near the Encinal Avenue crossing in Menlo Park on Sunday evening, Aug. 11. A spokesperson from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District confirmed that the individual was pronounced dead on the scene.

The person was struck by

a southbound train near the Encinal Avenue crossing around 9 p.m. The Encinal Avenue crossing was closed for several hours on Sunday evening, but was back open by the morning of Monday, Aug. 12.

The person who was killed was identified by the San Mateo County Coroner's Office as Dylan Scirpo, 17, from Menlo Park.

At 10 p.m., Caltrain sent another train to accommodate the stranded passengers, according to an X post from @CaltrainAlerts.

The train that hit the individual was one of Caltrain's new electric trains. Sunday was the first day that these trains were operating on regular service routes, according to a press release from Caltrain.

Any person who is feeling depressed, troubled or suicidal can call 1-800-784-2433 to speak with a crisis counselor. People in Santa Clara County can call 1-855-278-4204. Spanish speakers can call 1-888-628-9454.

People can reach trained counselors at Crisis Text Line by texting 741741. ■

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How much money do taxes on short-term rentals make for Menlo Park?

By Eleanor Raab

This November, Menlo Park voters will face the question of whether or not to raise taxes on hotels, motels and short-term rentals in the city. In advance of that ballot measure, on Aug. 13, the Menlo Park City Council reviewed how much money short-term rentals make the city. During the 2023-24 fiscal year, the city collected \$510,438 in transient occupancy tax revenue from short-term rentals.

Transient occupancy taxes are imposed on people staying for 30 days or less in hotels, motels and short-term rentals like Airbnbs. These taxes are paid by guests, rather than Menlo Park residents.

In order to identify active short-term rentals in the city, Menlo Park contracts with HdL

Companies, a consulting firm that specializes in revenue management services and tax recovery for public agencies.

According to a Menlo Park staff report, the city began partnering with HdL in the summer of 2021, when they began implementing short-term rental detection, monitoring and compliance services within the city. Detection of short-term rentals is accomplished by monitoring various rental sites, such as Airbnb, Tripadvisor and Vrbo, according to the report.

The information about each short term rental is then entered into a short-term rental inventory, which includes the name of the owner, the address of the unit for rent, number of nights rented and average occupancy rates, room rates and usage trends.

In the first year of monitoring

short-term rentals, fiscal year 2021-22, Menlo Park collected \$230,279 in transient occupancy tax revenue from 68 registered short-term rental properties, according to an informational update from city staff. In fiscal year 2022-23, the city collected \$363,857 in revenue from the short-term rental monitoring program.

As of June 30, 2024, there are 101 short-term rental properties within Menlo Park, 92 of which had confirmed stays in fiscal year 2023-24, according to the staff report.

Revenue from short-term rentals accounts for only a small portion of the city's total transient occupancy tax revenue. In fiscal year 2023-24, the city collected a total of \$10.5 million in transient occupancy taxes, \$10 million of which came from

hotels and motels. Short-term rentals accounted for just under 5% of transient occupancy tax revenue in 2023-24.

Transient occupancy tax measure

The transient occupancy tax measure on Menlo Park voters' ballot on Nov. 5 proposes an increase in the transient occupancy tax within city limits by 3.5%, from 12% to 15.5% over a two-year period. The Menlo Park City Council voted to place the measure on the ballot to help solve ongoing funding challenges that the city is facing.

Menlo Park's approved 2024-25 budget included a deficit of about \$820,000, which had to be closed with money from the city's general fund reserve.

"The city has faced the removal or the discontinuation of revenue sources that it has depended on for decades — one being the UUT (utility-user tax), which the city is no longer collecting," Vice Mayor Drew Combs said during discussion of the measure at the council's July 9 meeting.

The ballot language for the measure says that the tax as proposed is estimated to provide an additional \$3.6 million for the city annually.

According to a staff report on the tax, the higher taxes on short-term occupants would be used to maintain city services such as street and pothole repair, police and 911 response, emergency preparedness programs, park and open space programs, storm drain maintenance and other general government use.

The measure requires a simple majority voter approval to pass. ■
Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.

Bay Area leaders announce withdrawal of \$20B housing bond measure from November ballot

Decision to postpone the measure marks a strategic shift amid ongoing efforts to address the Bay Area's affordability crisis

By Simmerdeep Kaur

The Bay Area Housing Finance Authority has decided to withdraw a \$20 billion general obligation bond measure that was aimed at supporting affordable housing from the upcoming General Election ballot. The decision, made during a BAHFA Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday morning, Aug. 23, is supported by Alfredo Pedroza, chair of BAHFA, and Belia Ramos, president of the executive board of the Association of Bay Area Governments.

The measure, which could have funneled millions to local affordable housing efforts, found widespread support among local governmental boards, elected officials and housing groups up and down the Peninsula and across the Bay Area. It was pulled amid concerns the wording of the bond may be misleading voters about its potential impact.

In a joint statement, Pedroza and Ramos emphasized that the decision was not taken lightly.

"The Bay Area's housing affordability crisis has been decades in the making and is far too big for any one city or county to solve on its own,"

they said. "This is the reason the state Legislature established BAHFA. A robust source of funding for safe and affordable housing across our diverse, nine-county region is essential to the Bay Area's economic and environmental health and to its residents' quality of life."

The board highlighted the challenges in establishing a reliable source of funding for affordable housing and pointed to recent developments that influenced its decision.

"The wise choice is to look ahead to another election season for a regional housing measure when there is more certainty and the voters have weighed in affirmatively on Proposition 5," they added.

BAHFA is jointly governed by the ABAG executive board and the BAHFA board, which shares the same membership as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Both Pedroza and Ramos also serve on the Napa County Board of Supervisors.

The proposed BAHFA bond measure had called for 80 percent of the funds to go directly to the nine Bay Area counties and to the cities of San Jose, Oakland, Santa Rosa and Napa, each of which carries more than 30 percent of their county's

low-income housing need.

Ali Sapirman, organizer and policy associate with the Housing Action Coalition, expressed disappointment over the decision not to move forward with the affordable housing bond. "This is a major setback, but even though the bond is not moving forward right now, we are certain the coalition's and the authority's momentum will continue," Sapirman said.

Pedroza and Ramos reaffirmed BAHFA's dedication to a regional approach to solving the Bay Area's housing challenges. This includes initiatives like the Doorway Housing portal, which streamlines the process for tenants to find and apply for affordable housing and helps developers lease their properties more efficiently.

"When the climb toward passage of a regional revenue measure resumes, the Board looks forward to teaming with every one of the Bay Area's nine counties and 101 cities, along with the hundreds of public, private, and nonprofit partners who have already invested so much energy into this effort," Pedroza and Ramos said. ■

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Atherton's draft housing element shows sites under consideration for multifamily housing

Bay Road, Ravenswood lots, 23 Oakwood, school sites and more part of housing element plans

By Eleanor Raab

Draft documents reviewed by the Atherton Planning Commission show Atherton has added additional sites for multifamily housing sites as it works toward a state-approved housing plan. These include spaces discussed publicly by the Atherton City Council but not previously part of the plan, such as four lots along Bay Road and three lots along Ravenswood Avenue. A map also shows possible multifamily zoning overlays on portions of park and open space land in the town.

Documents presented at the Atherton Planning Commission's July 24 meeting show additional proposed sites for multifamily housing in the town, which is currently zoned for entirely single family housing. The state said the town's previously submitted housing element "falls short" of affordable housing requirements and rejected Atherton's plans in April 2023.

Though the meeting was informational in nature, several

residents who attended the meeting expressed their displeasure with the location and nature of the multifamily housing sites proposed for the town.

The housing element is part of a process, every eight years, in which cities and towns throughout California are required to update their housing plans according to the state's Regional Housing Needs Allocation program. For this housing cycle, which runs from 2023-31, the town has to plan to add 348 units of housing, a significant increase from the requirements in the previous housing cycle.

"The issues of having 10 families, or potentially more, sitting that close, with all of their activities makes (the town) a hellhole," said one resident Atherton named John, who identified himself only by his first name. "You're not going to bastardize our properties."

Residents and planning commissioners also expressed concern that the town's environmental analysis and transportation study did not take into

account the large developments being constructed in nearby Menlo Park, such as the Parkline Development at the SRI campus.

At the meeting, the Atherton Planning Commission got a first look at the revised draft resolutions and documents that Atherton will need to submit to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in order to have the town's housing element certified by the state.

These draft documents include California Environmental Quality Act analysis of Atherton's proposed housing plans and multifamily housing sites, amendments to the housing element itself, amendments to other elements in the town's general plan, amendments to the town's municipal code and amendments to Atherton's zoning map.

The town's CEQA analysis of the housing plans found several areas where there may be potentially significant impacts unless mitigation measures are implemented. These include air quality, biological resources,

cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, transportation and traffic and tribal cultural resources. A mitigation plan is included as part of this analysis.

Changes to the housing element were made in response to issues with the document raised by California HCD in April 2023.

Following this meeting, commissioners as well as members of the public have the chance to send additional feedback on the documents to town staff, who will then revise the documents. After reviewing these documents and discussing them again at its next meeting on Aug. 28, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council on whether or not to adopt the amendments to these documents and resubmit the town's housing plans to the state.

Where will multifamily housing be allowed in Atherton?

The materials presented by town staff to the Planning Commission include draft changes to the town's zoning

map that show the sites that the town has identified for possible multifamily development. The town identified seven sites in fall 2023 as possible locations for multifamily housing in addition to the sites that were already included in the town's housing element, which was adopted on Jan. 31, 2023.

Possible multifamily zoning overlay sites also include California Water Service land near Bear Gulch Reservoir that is currently used for offices, a portion of Menlo Circus Club land and the Gilmore House area in Holbrook-Palmer Park where the town's police chief currently resides.

Atherton city staff proposes to either rezone, or adopt an overlay zone on the proposed properties that would allow multifamily housing at a density of up to 10 units per acre. If all 8.5 acres of the proposed sites are approved and used for multifamily housing, the town would gain 85 units of housing.

There are also several sites at schools around town that have been identified as possible sites for multifamily housing. These include three sites on the Menlo College campus that have been identified as possible locations

See **HOUSING**, page 12

Stanford students commit to service

Stanford's Community Impact Fellows program places graduating seniors in Bay Area nonprofits, allowing them to gain valuable experience while serving the community. The program selects Stanford applicants with a deep commitment to public service, and provides them career guidance and support so they can make even greater contributions to the charitable organizations where they are placed. **SCAN TO READ THE SPOTLIGHT**



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Sequoia board candidate wants community-based response to district issues, is skeptical of detracking

Tonga Victoria is an East Palo Alto native, community organizer

By Arden Margulis

I don't want to use the word failure but it is our responsibility to address students with low literacy and math rates," said Tonga Victoria, an East Palo Alto native and community organizer who hopes to represent East Palo Alto and parts of East Menlo Park on the board of the Sequoia Union High School District.

So far, four people have filed to run for the Area E seat with three qualifying for the ballot. The deadline is Wednesday, Aug. 14 at 5 p.m.

Victoria grew up in East Palo Alto and participated in the Tinsley Voluntary Transfer program, where she went to Oak Knoll Elementary School and Hillview Middle School, despite residing in the Ravenswood City School District. The Tinsley program came about as the result of a lawsuit filed in 1976 by parents in the Ravenswood district and neighboring districts. The suit was settled in 1985 by requiring Peninsula school districts to transfer some minority students from the Ravenswood district into their districts each year. The Peninsula districts include Menlo Park, Las Lomas, Woodside, Portola Valley, Palo Alto, Belmont-Redwood Shores and San Carlos. She then went to Menlo-Atherton High School.

Running for the Sequoia board is not the first time she sought public office. Two days after graduating from University of Redlands with a degree in race and ethnic studies, she applied to fill a vacant seat on the East Palo Alto City Council. According to her, after she lost, former East Palo Alto Vice Mayor Donna Rutherford told her, "Just serve. Start serving your community and you will end up in places and positions that you never thought were possible."

"I took that advice and ran with it. I started at One East Palo Alto and then went to College Track where I got more of that academic background, and then I went to Live in Peace," Victoria said.

Victoria is the founder of her own communications consulting firm, Swordhouse, which works with nonprofits and local governments. She is also a published author.

A couple of years ago, she connected with incumbent Area E Trustee Shawneece Stevenson who later asked her to consider running for her seat, according to Victoria.



Daniela Beltran B

A portrait of Tonga Victoria outside of her home in East Palo Alto, on May 18, 2021.

"It's a big honor for the incumbent to ask you to replace them," Victoria said.

Stevenson has not officially endorsed Victoria and could not immediately be reached for comment on her support of Victoria.

Victoria's positions

Detracking

"I think it's quite obvious that the most controversial topic before the board is the cut of AS and advanced classes. I've seen Students First's position that detracking limits students and I find it very convincing," Victoria said.

Over the past few years, mainly Woodside and Menlo-Atherton high schools have removed most advanced standing classes for freshmen. The district found that the removal increased the number of socio-economically disadvantaged students meeting graduation and UC admissions requirements.

"It's honestly condescending to the communities that I come from that you're just going to lower the bar," she said.

"It's honestly condescending to the communities that I come from that you're just going to lower the bar," she said.

"My question is, how did they reach the decision to remove AS classes? The solution of just taking away classes doesn't make sense to me. Though, I am open minded, I want to hear how they got to that and if there is anything I am missing."

Victoria said she has not read the district's detracking report.

At Ravenswood, data from the 2023 state test results on the CAASPP exam shows that only 10.9% and 4.8% of students were at or above their grade level in

English and math, respectively. In contrast, almost 80% of Menlo Park City School District students were at or above their grade level in both subjects. Students in the Las Lomas School District scored above 80% in both subjects.

"Again, it doesn't make sense how we got from [very low scores at the primary school level so we just go ahead and cut off advancement at the secondary level. That throws up a lot of red flags," Victoria said.

"I can't go around saying I'm proud to be from EPA if 90% of our kids can't read and write at grade level. What am I proud of? I can't be proud to be from EPA if 95% cannot do math at grade level. What is there to be proud about? And I am not the only one with that conviction."

"I can't go around saying I'm proud to be from EPA if 90% of our kids can't read and write at grade level. What am I proud of? I can't be proud to be from EPA if 95% cannot do math at grade level. What is there to be proud about? And I am not the only one with that conviction."

"Speaking from my own experience, I am a Tinsley student who tested into AS English as a freshman and then tested out of college English through APs at M-A. But I don't know if I would've been able to do that if I wasn't a Tinsley student," she said.

Course content decisions

M-A Ethnic Studies Teacher Chloe Gentile-Montgomery taught a lesson on the Israel-Palestine conflict that some community members felt was antisemitic. She was eventually dismissed over the lesson.

Victoria said she believes that there should be more oversight of teachers' lessons.

"There needs to be oversight, a process. I don't think it should just be like the governing board deciding. ...But when it comes to what we're feeding our kids in terms of information and history and all of those things in a classroom setting, I would put parameters in place. I do think that there should be some sort of ... committee at the site level, or maybe district level," she said.

"I graduated with my undergrad degree in race and ethnic studies and when I went back to EPA, I realized that there are some conversations that are best had, maybe only had, in a community setting. When you blend academia and these very contentious topics, such as [the Israel-Palestine conflict and the

Black Lives Matter movement, the safe space of a classroom dissipates," Victoria said.

"I do not believe that one person, one teacher, should try to take on a topic like this, because you are playing a very, very dangerous game for yourself."

School resource officers

After two guns were found on Menlo-Atherton's campus, the school promised a school resource officer would be more present. A school resource officer is a sworn police officer who has a presence on a school campus.

The school signed an agreement with the Atherton Police Department for a fulltime officer to be on campus.

"A SRO wouldn't be my first choice," Victoria said. "I want to learn more about why the need for an SRO to meet or solve violence. Is it that we just don't have the necessary policies and measures in place? We don't have the correct staff in place?" Victoria said.

"When I went to M-A, we had

'Uncle Sam,' who was like an SRO in that he was an adult on campus who was compassionate but also very stern. He made sure everyone was in class and had our best interest at heart."

Sam Stephens was a campus aid for over 20 years.

Phones in schools

On Aug. 13, Gov. Gavin Newsom sent a letter to California school districts, calling on them to restrict phone usage in classrooms.

"I just finished running a summer camp with 30 kids from our area, and we took phones away. I kid you not, everyone had something to do. It was beautiful. And one of the things in our debrief that I told our leaders is that half of the battle was gone because the phones were gone," Victoria said. "I don't know what that would look like schoolwide, what that policy would look like. If it doesn't lead down that road where we're taking phones and now we're now suspending and

See **CANDIDATE**, page 18

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SamTrans paratransit pilot program to expand

Eligible San Mateo County SamTrans users with disabilities will have increased options starting on Aug. 12 as part of a 12-month pilot program, the agency said.

SamTrans is expanding its same-day paratransit pilot program in San Mateo County. The program's current two-zone service area is being combined into one, increasing the locations any one user can access. Also, the hours of operation are now 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., instead of ending at 3 p.m., according to the agency.

The same-day option is offered to Redi-Wheels ADA eligible customers on a space-available basis with no limits on the number of trips a passenger can request.

Riders can use the same-day paratransit program for such things as doctor appointments, errands, grocery shopping and social trips. The trip distance has been averaging just over four miles, SamTrans said.

Same-day paratransit costs more than than standard Redi-Wheels, trips. One-way trips, cost \$10 for standard fare or \$8 with fare assistance, the agency said.

Eligible customers can request a same-day trip by calling the Redi-Wheels reservation phone number on their paratransit ID card and following the prompts.

— Bay City News Service

San Mateo County Superior Court launching eService in October

The San Mateo County Superior Court began electronically serving documents on Oct. 7 to attorneys handling civil, family, and probate cases ahead of the July 1, 2025, state deadline.

The switch will help the court reduce costs amid state budget cuts.

Examples of common documents that will be subjected to eServices include Notice of Hearing, Notice of Order, Notice of Assignment, and Notice of Judgment.

For parties without attorney representation they may enroll in eService before the Oct. 7 launch date.

Bay City News contributed to this story.

— Claire Manuel

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 15



5 OAK FOREST COURT

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Federal court dismisses Ladera residents' lawsuit over school lease, lacking jurisdiction

Judge finds no constitutional grounds or federal jurisdiction in lawsuit

By Arden Margulis

In a setback for a group of Ladera residents attempting to stop Woodland School's current lease of some Los Lomitas Elementary School District property, a federal judge dismissed their lawsuit, citing lack of federal jurisdiction and merit of the first and fourteenth amendments claims.

Judge William Orrick determined during a hearing on July 10, that the lawsuit could not proceed in federal court, and released the order on Aug. 6.

The central reason for the dismissal was the 11th Amendment. The 11th Amendment prevents state agencies and "arms of the state" from being sued in federal

court, granting jurisdiction to state courts instead.

Ladera Taxpayers for Integrity in Governance, represented by Ladera resident Susanna Chenette, argued that a Ninth Circuit case, *Sato v. Orange County Department of Education*, determined that minimum expenditure districts like LLESDD are not protected by the 11th Amendment.

Orrick disagreed, writing: "The court held that OCDE was still an arm of the state despite the change in its funding structure."

"The judge wants this case in state court, not federal. Clearly, he decided in April that this was a local land use issue he did not want on his docket,"

Chenette said. "I'm sad to see the school fight this on jurisdictional grounds instead of the merits, which are strong. All this will do is force the expenditure of additional time and resources to get to the merits here."

Chenette alleged that the district violated the First Amendment by restricting the public's access to the field, which would be a public form, but allowing Woodland to exercise free speech there.

The district "unlawfully and impermissibly restrict viewpoints and content," Chenette argued.

In response to a Public Records Act request sent by this news organization, the district provided an email sent

by Woodland Head of School Jennifer Warren to then-Interim Las Lomitas Superintendent Shannon Potts that stated, "We also can't have [members of the community] engaging with prospective families in negative ways (signs, picketing, etc.) as they mentioned at the board meetings."

Chenette also claimed that the district violated the Fourteenth Amendment by allowing West Menlo Park residents to use Philips Brooks School's field after school hours while denying Ladera residents access to Woodland School's field and allowing speech on the West Menlo Park field but not the Woodland field.

The judge dismissed both

claims. He stated that he "didn't see" a valid First Amendment claim and declared the Fourteenth Amendment claim "just isn't viable."

Orrick said, "The bottom line is that I just don't have jurisdiction."

Orrick concluded that the defendants were immune to federal claims.

He said, "I do think [Ladera residents] may have a viable case in a state court and I wish both of you (residents and the school) good luck."

On the future of the lawsuit, Chenette said, "Will we refile in state court? Probably. Woodland is still taking public property without paying for it. Woodland is still excluding the public. Woodland is even trying to cut-off public easements. These public recreation areas and easements are public space, paid for by public dollars."

See **LAWSUIT**, page 15

HOUSING

continued from page 8

for faculty and student housing, two sites on the Menlo School campus and one site on the Sacred Heart Schools campus where five apartments for retired nuns are currently located.

Atherton proposes to rezone these sites to allow multifamily housing at a density of 20 or 40 units per acre, depending on the site.

Though the proposed multifamily overlay sites are not technically final until the council approves them and changes the zoning map, it would be very hard for Atherton to add new sites to the list at this point in the process, according to Town Planner Brittany Bendix. The town conducted CEQA analysis for the sites listed above, and would be required to do so again for any additional multifamily housing sites that may be identified in the future.

"The CEQA analysis looks at the largest scope of the project that could be considered," Bendix said. "What happens if additional sites are added to the housing element? That means we have to go back through CEQA. ... It would take quite a few months to do that. So the question really is at this point, how do you change the extent of the scope and work down?"

Some commissioners expressed concern that many of the identified multifamily housing sites are located so close to planned developments located in Menlo Park.

"It's not our responsibility to deal with the Parkline and SRI traffic report, but it's clearly going to be thousands of

cars," said Commissioner Thom Bryant. "The question that I'd like the traffic people to confirm is: as SRI and Parkline move through the processes, does their assessment for the Ravenswood parcels change?"

Commissioner Bob Polito, who served on the council and helped shape the housing element document, said that multifamily, and associated changes in the housing element, would add almost 5,000 daily car trips, and yet the traffic analysts say "everything is hunky dory."

"(Atherton's traffic study) clearly had to be done without consideration of the Parkline project," he said.

Bendix said that the town's traffic analysis did take into account some level of the Parkline project. She also said that the project is not likely to change the analysis of vehicle miles traveled for the lots on Ravenswood Avenue.

What will multifamily housing look like in Atherton?

As part of the housing element update process, Atherton is also updating its municipal zoning code to establish design standards for multifamily housing in the town.

In the draft updates to the zoning code, the maximum height for multifamily housing in the town has been set to 40 feet, however this height can only be achieved if the developer builds multifamily housing with a sloped roof. The design standards also state that if the roof of a multifamily dwelling is flat, the building can only be built to a maximum of 34 feet tall.

"The housing element directed

us to work with a 40-foot, or four-story maximum height, but we heard a lot from the community that they were very uncomfortable with that," said Tom Ford, a planning consultant contracted by the town. "(We are) trying to incentivize a sloped roof, which we feel might be more indicative of the character of the town."

The maximum height for single-family development in the town is currently 34 feet.

The design standards also require that multifamily housing be set back a minimum of 20 feet from the property line, unless that property line is shared with a single-family residence, in which case it must be set back 30 feet from the property line.

The draft zoning code also states that multifamily dwellings can not occupy more than 50% of the lot size. However, additional floor area can be gained if developers design buildings with pitched roofs or by placing 100% of its residential parking underground.

Residents react

Some Atherton residents remain vocal in their disdain for the multifamily housing that is planned for the town. Many commenters at the meeting cited privacy, traffic and maintaining the character of the town as their main concerns.

Carol Flaherty, a member of the Atherton Housing Coalition, a group of Atherton residents who wrote their own proposal for Atherton's housing element, said that though there are a lot of good elements to the town's updated housing element documents, she and other Atherton residents worry that the plans

will lead to the character of the town changing.

"The Housing Coalition had a ton of one-on-one meetings with council members, and in those meetings we were told 'don't worry, we'll take the perimeter properties, Bay, Ravenswood, Ringwood, and we'll limit the multifamily to that,' but that's not what this plan says," she said. "Then we were told 'don't worry, we're not going to have more than two-story multifamily,' now we have overlays of four stories. What happens to the Lindenwood people that are backing up to (multifamily housing)? ... What happens to their property values? They're trashed."

Polito said he didn't know what was said in the one-on-one meetings, but during those types of meetings, council members "want to be friends with everybody."

"What they say in one-on-one meetings is not always what's going to happen," he said.

One commenter who said that he owns one of the properties identified as a possible location for multifamily housing said that the stringent design standards that Atherton is proposing for multifamily housing in the town will prevent potential developers from actually building in the town.

"It may be worthwhile to talk to actual developers and see if it actually makes sense (for them) to even do this," said the homeowner. "Otherwise I mean what are we even doing? Are we just doing multi(family) housing theater here?"

What's next in Atherton's housing element update

Atherton has been mired in

a drawn-out and contentious housing element update process since 2022. The state has not approved the town's state mandated housing plans for 2023-31.

The July 24 meeting was the first of two Atherton Planning Commission meetings set for commissioners to review the CEQA analysis, updates to the housing element and updates to the zoning code and city ordinances. At the commission's Aug. 28 meeting, it is expected that they will provide recommendations to the City Council.

Town staff also plan on finalizing and releasing the town's inclusionary housing ordinance draft in August. This ordinance would direct the town to study a program that would require multifamily developments to provide 20% of apartments at affordable rates, or pay a fee.

Once the updated documents and materials are passed on to the council, council members will finalize the sites for multifamily housing development, and vote on submitting the housing element update package to HCD. According to a housing element update timeline posted on Atherton's website, town staff estimate that this process may span two to three City Council hearings, which are currently planned for September and October.

Residents and interested parties are welcome to submit comments on the revised housing element documents throughout the process. "I would invite any of the public ... to feel free to schedule time with me one-on-one," said Bendix. ■

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



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— Second Place, Breaking News



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LAWSUIT

continued from page 12

“The school opted to side with Woodland over its constituents. Woodland pursued an aggressive, and effective, PR campaign, painting the public as unreasonable ‘bad guys’ for seeking access to its public recreation spaces, and painting itself as a victim who sought only to protect the safety of its students. This couldn’t be further from the truth,” she added.

This news organization obtained correspondents between Warren and Potts regarding coordinating communication between the district and Woodland. In them, Warren said, “It’s disappointing that, once again, the district has sent out

communication... without giving the school a heads up.”

“This doesn’t feel like a partnership,” Warren added.

After that email, board president Jason Morimoto told Warren he asked Potts to schedule a meeting between the two.

“In sum, I’d encourage anyone facing a school closure to fight it with everything you have. Once it’s closed, all it takes is an uninformed school board and a greedy business to close your public park forever,” Chennete concluded.

The district and Ladera School could not be reached for comment on the communications by The Almanac’s Wednesday afternoon press deadline. ■

Arden Margulis is a Contributing Writer.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 10

Springline to host two free movie nights, Aug. 16 and Aug. 17

The Springline Development in downtown Menlo Park will host two free outdoor movie nights in the plaza of the development at 1302 El Camino Real.

On Aug. 16, Springline will show Pitch Perfect, starting at 7:30 p.m. The Aug. 17 movie will be Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle, which will also start at 7:30 p.m. There will be no seating or snacks provided, so guests are asked to bring their own blankets, chairs and movie snacks.

Complimentary parking will be available in the development’s underground parking garage. Learn more and RSVP at eventbrite.com/e/springlines-free-summer-movies-in-the-plaza-tickets-946574117667.

Take a tour of the Parkline project site and SRI campus at community open house, Aug. 17

Join Lane Partners, developers of the Parkline project located on SRI’s campus at 333 Ravenswood Ave., for a community open house and site tour on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The site tour will meet in Lot G of the SRI Campus on Laurel Street, across from the Menlo Park City Hall.

Learn more and RSVP at menloparkline.com/RSVP.

Join webinar on communication options in a disaster with MPC Ready on Aug. 24

Menlo Park Community Ready, a volunteer, community-based, disaster-preparedness organization in Menlo Park, is hosting a webinar on how to communicate

during a disaster situation.

The meeting will give an update on general communication options, and review how to use two-way radios to communicate information, followed by actual practice in a simulated disaster situation.

RSVP to receive the webinar link at mpcready.com/event/neighborhood-disaster-communications.

— *Eleanor Raab*

Horse hitch racks installed at Woodside parks

Three horse hitch racks have been constructed at Huddart Park and Wunderlich Park in Woodside with the support of four local equestrian organizations: Woodside-area Horse Owner’s Association, San Mateo County Horseman’s Association, The Mounted Patrol Foundation and the Los Viajeros Riding Club.

The racks can accommodate three to six horses to invite riders to take a break to enjoy the parks. They were constructed by Dexter Welding in Half Moon Bay with donated materials by Allen Steel in Redwood City.

Portola Valley Neighborhood Cleanup Day

On Saturday, Aug. 24, from 8-11 a.m. the town of Portola Valley will be hosting a neighborhood cleanup event for residents only. The event will be free but residents must bring a copy of their GreenWaste garbage bill or the mailer insert for proof of residency.

Acceptable materials include bundled and contained tree trimmings, untreated wood waste, furniture, appliances, scrap metal less than 40 pounds each and less than 2 feet in any dimension, 30 gallons of containerized rocks, dirt, asphalt, concrete, demolition debris, electronic devices and recyclable materials.

— *Jennifer Yoshikoshi*



Town of Atherton

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

Planning Commission

August 28, 2024

REGULAR MEETING 6:00 P.M.

This is meeting is held virtually and in-person at the Council Chambers

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said consideration is set for hearing by the Planning Commission at its meeting on **August 28, 2024, at 6:00 PM** in-person and via teleconference accessible through the information provided below, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the projects listed in the public hearing section should or should not be approved. This meeting will be held via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The public may participate in the Planning Commission Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

Topic: Atherton Planning Commission Regular Meeting
Time: August 28, 2024, 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
In person Option: 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027
Zoom Meeting Option and Details: <https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/84150249099>
Meeting ID: 841 5024 9099
One tap mobile:
+13017158592 (Washington DC)
+13052241968 (US)

Find your local number: <https://ciathertonca.zoom.us/j/kglcVN4cq>
Remote Public Comments: Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be read into the record.
Email: planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us

Projects under Public Hearing:

A. Consideration for a **Heritage Tree Removal (HTR24-00003)** request to remove one Coast Live Oak to construct a detached carport at 29 Shearer Drive (APN 059-303-260), a 0.66-acre site within the R1-A zone, developed as a single-family dwelling. Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Sections 8.10.040 (Removal of and Damage to Heritage Trees, Permit Process) and 8.10.040 (Definitions) outline the requirements for heritage tree removal. Staff has determined the subject trees are not dead or dangerous; therefore, removal requires consideration and approval by the Planning Commission. This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to AMC Section 15.32.100 and CEQA Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) and 15311 (Accessory Structures).

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

B. Consideration of requests for the following tree related actions for a project at 37 and 53 Euclid Avenue (APNs 070-022-570 and 070-022-810), two one-acre sites within the R1-A zone, under common ownership and developed as a single-family dwelling:

a. Request for **Heritage Tree Removals (HTR24-00001)** to remove three Coast Redwoods to construct a concrete parking pad (approx. 2,300 square feet) on the 53 Euclid Avenue (APN 070-022-810) property. Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Sections 8.10.040 (Removal of and Damage to Heritage Trees, Permit Process) and 8.10.040 (Definitions) outline the requirements for heritage tree removal. Staff has determined the subject trees are not dead or dangerous; therefore, removal requires consideration and approval by the Planning Commission.

b. Request for **Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) Exceptions (PTPZ24-00003)** for two additional heritage trees, also Coast Redwoods, to construct the concrete parking pad. AMC Section 8.10.050 (Requests for Exceptions to the Tree Protection Zone) and the Atherton Heritage Tree Preservation Standards and Specifications set forth tree protection zones (TPZ) for all heritage trees. The TPZ for the development of driveways in the R1-A zone is a radius of eight times (8x) the diameter at breast height (dbh) for each tree. The project requires a TPZ exception for two trees and would provide TPZs at radii of 5.5x and 3x. Consideration and approval is required by the Planning Commission for any TPZ radius less than 8x on lots greater than 10,000 square feet in the R1-A zone.

This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to AMC Section 15.32.100 and CEQA Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) and 15311 (Accessory Structures).

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

C. Consideration of resolutions recommending amendments to the Atherton General Plan and Municipal Code to implement the **2023-2031 Housing Element and Zoning Code Updates**. The proposed updates include revisions to the 6th Cycle of the Town of Atherton’s Housing Element, a Zoning Ordinance and Map Amendment to implement the policies and programs of the Housing Element, including objective design standards and development standards for multifamily housing (density, height, setbacks and parking, etc.), and adoption of an Inclusionary Housing Ordinance.

a. Resolution Recommending Adoption of an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program (MMRP). The IS/MND prepared pursuant to CEQA identifies potentially significant impacts related to the environmental topics of: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Greenhouse Gases, Noise, Transportation/Traffic, and Tribal Cultural Resources. Mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND and MMRP will avoid, reduce, or offset all potential impacts of the Project to less than significant levels.

b. Resolution Recommending Adoption of amendments to the Atherton General Plan and Municipal Code to implement the 2023-2031 Housing Element.

If you have any questions on the item please contact Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner, at bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us or (408) 688-2432.

The agenda for this meeting with links to related staff reports can be found online by **Friday, August 23, 2024**, here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

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

Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. **ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION** /s/ Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner

KARL COOK

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you ended up riding two clear rounds. How did that feel, and how tough was the course?

A: The course the first day is easier than the second day, and that's by design, so the second day was significantly more challenging than the first day. And then jumping double clear frankly, I was just relieved, excited of course, but just relieved because there are a lot of people that thought of me in a certain way and it was great to show them that they are wrong.

Q: Do you want to elaborate?

A: They thought I always choke in nations' cups and can't do nations' cups, and that I would always be this way, I was always a liability. And we made the team because we did well enough in the nations' cups, but we also won grands prix, and jumped double clear in grands prix. So, it was great. I think riding with a chip on your shoulder is one of the greatest gifts anyone can give you.

Q: What are your thoughts on winning silver and being on the podium?

A: I was focused on doing the best that I could, not so much on an individual side, but if I jumped double clear that would help the team. I wasn't adding up the scores of the other people, I wasn't keeping track of how other teams were doing. I was focused on doing what I could



Courtesy US Equestrian

Karl Cook takes a bite out of his Olympic silver medal on Aug. 2.

do. I remember when we were watching McLain [Ward] go in the second round and he ends up jumping clear, at that point someone in the Kiss and Cry, where we were standing, said, 'We're on the podium!' I didn't know where we were sitting, I didn't know the ramifications of anyone's results because we were focused on doing our own thing. And then when the last French rider had a rail and we got bumped to silver, then yes, it felt pretty amazing.

Q: Have you had Olympic dreams for a while?

A: Of course. If you do any sport that's in the Olympics you always dream of going to the Olympics, so that's always been something you want to experience, and I'm very fortunate to have been able to go and compete and compete in a way where I feel like we did a good job and I feel proud.

Q: Does any of this go back to riding in Woodside?

A: I remember the very first day during the warm up class [in Versailles]. It was our first time in the arena, and all the alternates went in. The one

thing that stuck with me as I was cantering around that ring is it felt like when you are on your horse and imagine you have this unbelievably beautiful grass field that's five or 10 acres, perfectly mowed, gorgeous, or like rolling hills in Kentucky. On your own you just get to canter your horse, fully free and have the best time. That's what it felt like, just so much fun. When you get to a certain high level in showing as much as you try to have fun, a lot of the other stuff creeps in, so it becomes less than just the joy of riding.

Q: In the following days at the individual event some competitors didn't complete the course and riders fell off. What were you thinking watching that before you rode in the finals?

A: I watched a few people go. One person fell off at the water; that's not that big of a deal. I wasn't too worried about that. We're limited in height now, so the course can't be built as high as in years past, but that doesn't mean it's not hard. For me, this is the hardest course we've ever had because of how technical



Courtesy Signe Ostby

Karl Cook, as a child, riding his horse, Sneaky Feeling, in 2003.

it was. You used to have fences that were bigger or wider, but you had a free approach to it and then you would land from that and canter away for 20 strides before your next fence. Whereas now you have them so bunched together with such complicated lines that were so challenging. I was excited to show after three clear rounds. I felt I knew my horse was ready and I just was excited to have our shot at one more medal.

Q: What's next for you and your horse?

A: After big championships you need to let the horses rest for a bit, so we're going to do that and then we'll show a few more times this year. If everything goes to plan, she'll go to three more shows this year culminating at the big Rolex Five Star in Geneva in December. That's the goal now, I'm not in that show yet, I'm still trying to get in.

Q: What a year! In 2024 you got married, won first and second in several Grand Prix events in Florida, Rome and France, and you're already getting back to training mode?

A: You have to, no one else is resting. If you rest, you fall behind.

Q: Anything you'd like to add about your support team?

A: It's very easy to see one

horse and one rider in the ring, but it's very important that everyone understands at that level there's enormous infrastructure behind them and it's because of those people that anyone at the Olympics is able to do what they do. I'm very proud of my horse, her groom, and the whole team that's able to put it all together because it's not just one person. It takes a whole bunch of people [including his mother, Woodside resident Signe Ostby, who owns Caracole.]

Q: You posted on Instagram, "If it's worth doing, it's worth overdoing." Is that attitude linked to designing your own riding clothes and horses' shoes? Is more coming?

A: Yes, there's always more, but people are always asking what's the most important thing that you've found in doing what you do? The most important thing might only be 23% of the totality. I think it's so much more important to focus on all of the many little things that lead to the whole instead of trying to find that one thing. There is no one thing, there has never been one thing, there never will be one thing, it's a huge accumulation of many, many small perfectly done things. ■

Kate Daly is a Contributing Writer.

LEHUA GREENMAN



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Employment

ENGINEERING

Mainspring Energy Inc is accepting resumes for Mechanical Design Engineer in Menlo Park, CA. Design and advance new components and subsystems using technical requirements from initial concept through successful manufacturing launch. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary \$125,000-\$134,400/yr. Email resume to careers@mainspringenergy.com. Must reference Ref# MDE-FR.

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If you wish to learn more about the employment advertising options, please visit [AlmanacNews.com/employment_ads/](https://almanacnews.com/employment_ads/).

CALTRAIN

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groove, but we won't hear 'em coming cause they're so quiet," she said.

Other officials applauded the trend-setting electrification project — the "first in North America" — that will improve air quality and help the state reach its emissions goals.

State Assemblymember Marc Berman, D-Menlo Park, said the new trains would make people excited to ride public transit again.

"Caltrain is bringing sexy back," he said, drawing cheers.

After Newsom and Rep. Nancy

Pelosi closed out the speeches and lauded a "new generation" that would begin in California, attendees boarded the trains.

With train-wide air flow, vinyl seats, free Wi-Fi and widespread outlets, the new trains are a feat of two decades of rethinking transportation.

As the train took off quietly, the passengers applauded, some yelling, "So smooth" and "It's quiet!"

Doors connecting cars can be opened with the push of a button and — in contrast to older trains — passengers can walk into a new car without hearing the typical loud screeching and whoosh of air.

Rider Matthew Quevedo, who used to ride Caltrain from San Jose to San Francisco everyday, said while he appreciates classic trains, this one "looks good."

"It's beautiful and everything we wanted," he said.

For now, Caltrain workers can't anticipate when the electrified trains will operate outside of Bay Area cities due to funding and construction, Scarpino said.

"But this is a huge accomplishment now," said Scarpino, who stared out the window on the new train. ■

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

Coming to the Palo Alto Baylands on

SEPTEMBER 20th

Half Marathon 5K & 10K RUN 5K Walk



Palo Alto Weekly

Moonlight Run & Walk



Presented by City of Palo Alto



A benefit event supporting local nonprofits for children and families

REGISTER

PaloAltoOnline.com/moonlight-run/

LAWSUIT

continued from page 5

the district had done this.

During the meeting, Downing recalls not being given the opportunity to discuss accommodations that she sought to receive and was misled by what would be explored during the meeting. She instead was denied medical leave and informed that she would be placed on a 39-month rehire list. This was a decision that Shaw Consulting had made, according to Downing.

The 39-month rehire list is used to terminate employees who have exhausted all paid and unpaid leave and are still medically unable to work with reasonable accommodations. Individuals on the rehire list lose their income and benefits, but are given priority in the hiring process when positions are open and they are able to work again. For 39 months, the

district must alert and offer any vacant jobs to those on the list.

“My medical benefits were cut in the middle of a medical emergency,” said Downing, who lost all benefits by the end of April. “It was totally blindsighted.” She felt she was being treated like a disciplinary issue.

Since being placed on the list two years ago, Downing said she has not been offered any vacant counseling positions.

Downing believes that the district considered her leave as “not reasonable to provide” due to the lack of serious awareness of mental health conditions as a disability.

According to education code 44986 and SUHSD board policy 4161, Downing argues she should have been granted a leave of absence under her disability benefits in which a substitute would take her place while she was away. According to Downing, other WHS counselors had to take on her student

caseload, when she was placed on the rehire list.

By filing this lawsuit, she hopes to create more awareness toward discriminatory actions by the district.

“One of the most troubling patterns I’ve observed is the lack of genuine accountability when complaints occur. Instead of acknowledging mistakes and taking corrective action, the district has contracted with lawyers to defend their every error,” said Downing.

SUHSD was also named in another discrimination lawsuit in April 2024 involving two 16-year-old Black Menlo-Atherton High School students, who were allegedly forcefully arrested and detained. One of the students struggles with an intellectual disability, according to the claim.

“It’s not just about my case — this is a systemic problem that affects many within our (SUHSD) community,”



Courtesy Sharlett Downing

Former Woodside High School counselor Sharlett Downing in her office during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Downing said. “We need a system that prioritizes justice and the well-being of our community members over the interests of legal protection and financial liability.”

In a response to the lawsuit, the district denied all allegations of the complaint and denied it caused any harm or injury to Downing. It also stated, in a response to the complaint, that even if the district had an illegal motive for taking any adverse employment action toward Downing, the district “would have made the same decision for legitimate reasons unrelated to discrimination, retaliation,

or any illegal motives.” It also notes that Downing failed to report the alleged discrimination or retaliation in a timely manner.

“Defendant’s conduct was not discriminatory because, even with reasonable accommodation(s), plaintiff was unable to perform at least one essential job duty without endangering her health or safety and/or the health or safety of others,” the response states.

The district notes that it provided various accommodations to Downing during her employment and that additional requests for accommodations “were not reasonable, and if granted, would create an undue financial and/or operational hardship” to the district.

A trial date has not been set as of Aug. 9. A case management conference is scheduled for Oct. 17 at 9 a.m.

“People need to know the truth,” she said. “This needs to be made right.”

She is seeking to recover lost wages and benefits; compensation for emotional distress, embarrassment, humiliation and other general damages; attorney’s fees and costs; and other relief as the court deems appropriate and just. ■

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



Town of Atherton

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

**TOWN OF ATHERTON
NOTICE THAT THERE ARE
NOT MORE CANDIDATES THAN OFFICES TO BE ELECTED**

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://zoom.us/j/506897786>

Dial: 1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

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

Email: asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 10229 of the Elections Code of the State of California, relating to the General Municipal Election in the Town of Atherton to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024:

As of the close of the nomination period on August 9, 2024, there are not more candidates than offices to be elected.

That Section 10229 of the Elections Code allows one of the following courses of action to be taken by the City Council:

1. Appoint to the office the person who has been nominated.
2. Appoint to the office any eligible voter if no one has been nominated.
3. Hold the election if either no one or only one person has been nominated.

No. 2 is not applicable because three individuals have been nominated.

The City Council will meet on Tuesday, August 20 at 10:30 AM in the City Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA to take one of the above courses of action as allowed by EC 10229. An agenda will be available through the City Clerk’s Office by Friday, August 16. The persons appointed, if any, shall qualify and take office and serve exactly as if elected at a municipal election for the office.

If, by the 75th day before the municipal election, no person has been appointed to the offices pursuant to (1) or (2) above, the election shall be held.

If the City Council makes an appointment pursuant to Section 10229, Elections Code, the City Clerk shall not accept for filing any statement of write-in candidacy that is submitted after the appointment is made.

Date Published: August 14, 2024
Date Posted: August 14, 2024

s/ Anthony Suber
Anthony Suber, City Clerk

CANDIDATE

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expelling kids for having their phones, then I support it.”

Victoria is a supporter of restorative justice.

“When I say restorative justice, I mean in the sense it is centered on community service, it could be picking up trash or something more. I don’t think of it as just having a conversation and walking away but really plugging them into a program where they can start seeing themselves in the community,” she said.

Chronic absenteeism

The state defines a student who is chronically absent as someone who was absent at least 10% of the school year. Schools in the Bay Area have struggled with high numbers of chronically absent students.

“For four years of my life, I worked with Live in Peace and I dropped kids off at school, not just dropping them at the curb but literally taking them to the classroom. When students see that, they tend to perform better, or at least show up to class and not sleep through class, because there is someone else that is kind of invested in their academic trajectory, academic success with them,” Victoria said.

“My mom did that for me — it was something that I hated in

high school but if it wasn’t for her care, I definitely wouldn’t have paid attention to what I needed to in school.”

“I brought this kind of community partnership up to Steveson and she wasn’t sure if it made sense. It is certainly resource intensive. It sucked having to wake up early but it made not just an academic impact, but a social one as well,” Victoria added.

Charter schools

“I am a huge champion and supporter of school choice,” Victoria said. “You should be able to choose, based on merit, where you want to go.”

“Charter schools definitely made sense in the past in East Palo Alto. I think when we look at test scores, we can see Ravenswood is doing severely poorly,” She said. “There is a pipeline problem and there needs to be accountability. This is a crisis. Charter schools need to be part of the conversation, but there are problems we are seeing there as well.”

“It’s definitely a controversial time to join the board,” Victoria said. “No matter what, I am looking forward to trying to address these issues, whether that be on the board or in the community.” ■

Arden Margulis is a Contributing Writer.

Public Notices

T.S. No.: 123-019705 Title Order No. 91230355 APN: 072-230-080 Property Address: 1 REIDS ROOST ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 5/6/2014. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale of the Trustor's interest will be made to the highest bidder for lawful money of the United States, payable at the time of sale in cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: WOODSIDE CAPITAL HOLDINGS, LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Duly Appointed Trustee: PLM LOAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC. Recorded 5/14/2014, as Instrument No. 2014-041881, of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, Date of Sale: 9/11/2024 at 1:00 PM Place of Sale: Outside the Marshall Street entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$304,139.32 (estimated as of the first publication date) Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1 REIDS ROOST ROAD WOODSIDE, CA 94062 A.P.N.: 072-230-080 THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN IS SITUATED IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: PARCEL A: PARCEL 1 AS SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED "PARCEL MAP OF A RESUBDIVISION OF A PORTION OF RANCHO CANADA DE RAYMUNDO, SHOWN AS PARCELS A AND B ON THAT CERTAIN MAP FILED IN VOLUME 35 OF PARCEL MAPS AT PAGE 10 AND DESCRIBED IN 7099 O.R. 103, 7626 O.R. 390 AND 7691 O.R. 22 RECORDS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA"; FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAN MATEO COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ON OCTOBER 11, 1979 IN VOLUME 48 OF PARCEL MAPS AT PAGES 23 AND 24. EXCEPTING FROM THAT PORTION OF SAID PARCEL 1 LYING WITHIN LOT 1 AS SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED "MAP OF DIVISION OF ARATA RANCHO, FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAN MATEO COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ON MARCH 4, 1899 IN BOOK "B" OF MAPS AT PAGE 10 AND COPIED INTO BOOK 2 OF MAPS AT PAGE 99, AN UNDIVIDED ONE-HALF INTEREST IN AND TO ALL MINERAL AND OIL RIGHTS AS RESERVED BY ADAM BIANCHI AND SONS, A CO-PARTNERSHIP, IN THAT CERTAIN DEED RECORDED SEPTEMBER 28, 1951 IN BOOK 2135 OF OFFICIAL RECORDS AT PAGE 605 (FILE NO. 62489-J), RECORDS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. PARCEL B: A NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS WITHIN SO MUCH OF THAT CERTAIN 25 FOOT STRIP LYING WITHIN PARCEL 2 AS SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED "PARCEL MAP OF A RESUBDIVISION OF A PORTION OF RANCHO CANADA DE RAYMUNDO, SHOWN AS PARCELS A AND B ON THAT CERTAIN MAP FILED IN VOLUME 35 OF PARCEL MAPS AT PAGE 10 AND DESCRIBED IN 7099 O.R. 103, 7626 O.R. 390 AND 7691 O.R. 22 RECORDS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA"; FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAN MATEO COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ON OCTOBER 11, 1979 IN VOLUME 48 OF PARCEL MAPS AT PAGES 23 AND 24, THE CENTERLINE OF WHICH STRIP IS DESIGNATED "C PROPOSED 25' WIDE INGRESS AND EGRESS EASE. APPURTENANT OF PCLS. 1 AND 2"; AS SHOWN ON SAID MAP. SAID EASEMENT IS APPURTENANT TO AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF PARCEL A HEREIN AND WAS CREATED BY RESERVATION IN DEED RECORDED DECEMBER 4, 1979 IN REEL 7919 OF OFFICIAL RECORDS AT IMAGE 2074 (FILE NO. 93906A0), RECORDS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY,

CALIFORNIA The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. The following statements; NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS and NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER are statutory notices for all one to four single family residences and a courtesy notice for all other types of properties. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (844)477-7869 or visit this Internet Website www.stoxposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 123-019705. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (844)477-7869, or visit this internet website www.stoxposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 123-019705 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 8/6/2024 PLM LOAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC., as Trustee Phone: 408-370-4030 5446 Thornwood Drive, Second Floor San Jose, California 95123 Elizabeth Godbey, Vice President (ALM Aug 16, 23 and 30, 2024)

ECUMENICAL HUNGER PROGRAM EHP EHPCARES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-298001 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) ECUMENICAL HUNGER PROGRAM, 2.) EHP, 3.) EHPCARES, located at 2411 PULGAS AVE, EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303. Registered owner(s): ECUMENICAL HUNGER PROGRAM

2411 PULGAS AVE EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303 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 July 19, 2024. (ALM Aug 16, 23, 30 and Sep 6, 2024)

PHYKOS PRODUCTIONS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-298055 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) PHYKOS PRODUCTIONS, located at 116 Roble Place, LA HONDA, CA 94020. Mailing Address: PO BOX 314, CA 94020. Registered owner(s): KATHLEEN DICKEY 116 Roble Place La Honda, CA 94020 This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/24/2014. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 25, 2024. (ALM Aug 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2024)

OVERCOME PRESS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-298119 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) OVERCOME PRESS, located at 3707 HAMILTON WAY, EMERALD HILLS, CA 94062. Registered owner(s): PHILIP ARTHUR MARCH 3707 HAMILTON WAY EMERALD HILLS, CA 94062 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 August 05, 2024. (ALM Aug 16, 23, 30 and Sep 6, 2024)

MCGARVEY HOME FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-298087 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) MCGARVEY HOME, located at 551 PARK WAY, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080. Registered owner(s): CARECO INC. 200 SOUTH SPRUCE AVENUE, STE. 1 SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080 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 10/16/2014. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 31, 2024. (ALM Aug 16, 23, 30 and Sep 6, 2024)

OMNI DESIGN & RESOURCES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-298141 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) OMNI DESIGN & RESOURCES, located at 11 COWELL LANE, ATHERTON, CA 94027. Registered owner(s): OMNI DESIGN & RESOURCES INC 11 COWELL LANE ATHERTON, CA 94027 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 August 06, 2024. (ALM Aug 16, 23, 30 and Sep 6, 2024)

LMIGUEL LESCANO HANDYMAN SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-297950 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) LMIGUEL LESCANO HANDYMAN SERVICES , located at 1232 MAPLE ST, SAN MATEO, CA 94402. Registered owner(s): LUIS MIGUEL LESCANO LEON 1232 MAPLE ST SAN MATEO, CA 94402 This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 12, 2024. (ALM Jul 26, Aug 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

INDEPENDENT OFFICE ENVIRONMENTS HEALTHY INSIDE & OUT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-298054 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) INDEPENDENT OFFICE ENVIRONMENTS, 2.) HEALTHY INSIDE & OUT, 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 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 July 25, 2024. (ALM Aug 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

FULLER COACHING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-298003 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) FULLER COACHING, located at 735 Southview Way, Woodside, CA 94062. Registered owner(s): JEAN LYON FULLER 735 Southview Way Woodside, CA 94062 This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/1/2001. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 22, 2024. (ALM Aug 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

PRACTICAL PHOTOGRAPHY PRACTICAL PROCUREMENT PRACTICAL WOODWORKING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-298076 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) PRACTICAL PHOTOGRAPHY, 2.) PRACTICAL PROCUREMENT, 3.) PRACTICAL WOODWORKING, located at 400 Paloma Ave, Pacifica, CA 94044, San Mateo County. 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 July 29, 2024. (ALM Aug 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2024)

ETALON DIAGNOSTICS ETALON EQUINE GENETICS ETALON, INC. ALPHADOG ALPHADOG DNA ALPHADOG GENETICS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-297962 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) ETALON DIAGNOSTICS, 2.) ETALON EQUINE GENETICS, 3.) ETALON, INC., 4.) ALPHADOG, 5.) ALPHADOG DNA, 6.) ALPHADOG GENETICS, located at 405 El Camino Real 234, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Registered owner(s): ETALON 509 Seaport Ct. Redwood City, CA 94063 State of Incorporation/Organization: California This business is conducted by: a Corporation. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/15/2024. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 15, 2024. (ALM Jul 26, Aug 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

MCCLARY, SWIFT & COMPANY, INC. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-298036 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) MCCLARY, SWIFT & COMPANY, INC., located at 360 SWIFT AVE, SUITE 29, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080. Registered owner(s): C. J. SWIFT & CO., INC. 360 SWIFT AVE., SUITE 29 SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080 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 MAY 1, 1999. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 23, 2024. (ALM Aug 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

AMQOR FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-298081 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) AMQOR, located at 1310 Rollins Road, Burlingame, CA 94010. Registered owner(s): AMQOR CA, INC. 1310 Rollins Road Burlingame, CA 94010 State of Incorporation/Organization: California 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 July 30, 2024. (ALM Aug 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO Case No.: 24-CIV-04233 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: JAMES DOTSON filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JAMES ERNEST DOTSON to JAMES EARNEST DOTSON KHALIFIA 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: 9/10/2024, 9:00, CIVIL BRANCH 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: 7/12/2024 JUDGE LEE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (ALM Aug 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO Case No.: 24-CIV-04234 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Laura Herrera filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: LAURA HERRERA to LAURA HERRERA KHALIFIA 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: 09/10/2024, 9:00am, 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: 07/12/2024 Judge Lee JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (ALM Aug 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2024)

To place a legal notice visit [AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/](https://www.almanacnews.com/legal_notices/) The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm. For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

Menlo Park photographer captures portraits that tell the story

Mark Tuschman explores the complicated topic of immigration in his latest book



By Sheryl Nonnenberg

Immigration is a hot-button issue this election year, but for Menlo Park photographer Mark Tuschman, it is a personal subject. His grandparents came to the United States from Ukraine, and he has vivid childhood memories of living with them in their apartment in the lower East Side of New York City. Tuschman will speak about his personal history and his latest book, “Together We Rise: Immigrants in America,” at Kepler’s Books on Aug. 22.

The book is a photo-documentary that includes portraits

of people from various occupations who have come to the United States in search of a better life. Accompanying the pictures are first-person narratives that give the background story about how and why they found their way here and what living and working in the U.S. means to them.

Tuschman explained that besides being inspired by his grandparents, he was greatly affected by current events that seemed to vilify immigrants. “In my experience, immigrants work hard to improve their lives and their families’ lives. I felt it was all very distorted.”

Tuschman is not new to the medium of documentary photography, having published “Faces of Courage: Intimate Portraits of Women on the Edge” a decade ago. But his path to becoming a photographer was quirky and unusual.

After attending Cornell University as an undergraduate, Tuschman came west to study computer science at University of California, Berkeley. He embarked upon obtaining his Ph.D., preparing for a career in the neurophysiology of vision but decided to make a change. “I realized I did not have the temperament for it,” he explained. At



Courtesy Mark Tuschman

Mark Tuschman’s book “Together We Rise: Immigrants in America” features portraits of his subjects accompanied by text that tells their stories. His subjects included Nargis Juhaman, a licensed vocational nurse (above) and Doroteo Garcia, who works as a janitor at Stanford University (top).

about the same time, he obtained his first camera and, thanks to a friend with a darkroom, began printing his pictures. "I got an instant result," he laughed, "unlike in the lab."

He began reading all of the Ansel Adams books and, essentially, taught himself how to be a photographer. He was inspired by the work of Jacob Riis and Lewis Hine (both of whom had captured the plight of immigrants in New York City) and decided he would focus on being a fine-art social documentary photographer. He hoped his work would take the form of books and gallery exhibitions, but it soon became apparent that being a photographer was a difficult way to make a living and support a family.

Over the years, he has relied upon his knowledge of computer science to pay the bills, taking a position at Stanford University where he created a program to assess radiation therapy. He eventually became a commercial photographer, working for health-related industries and NGOs like the Global Fund for Women. "I had a natural talent for the work," he explained. On the side, he continued to do his own photography, because "the desire to do the work never left me."

The photography for "Together We Rise" began back in 2018, with the thought that the prints would be displayed in exhibitions around the time of the 2020 election. The spread of COVID soon altered those plans. Some of the photographs were actually on view in various exhibitions in other states but then the shutdown was announced. "When COVID hit they were orphaned," said Tuschman, "and the project was put on hold for 18 months."

As soon as he was able, Tuschman began taking more photographs and collecting stories, this time with the intention of creating a book. "Even though the book has been delayed, the topic is still as relevant as ever," he said.

His commercial work over the years in the health and social justice fields, as well as contacts at Stanford — and even local farmers markets — provided a means to meet his subjects. He shared that he had several criteria for the project: to include people from as many countries as possible and to have a diversity in citizenship status. Due to financial constraints, he had to limit his search to people in California.

Taking his Sony A7 camera into fields, offices and kitchens, Tuschman was able to capture a variety of immigration stories. "I wanted to place the person in an environment that tells a story about them."

He explained that he first met with the individual and



Courtesy Mark Tuschman

Tuschman aimed to capture his subjects in their workplaces, such as Jose Luis Angulo Velasquez, a farmworker, who's shown picking apples.

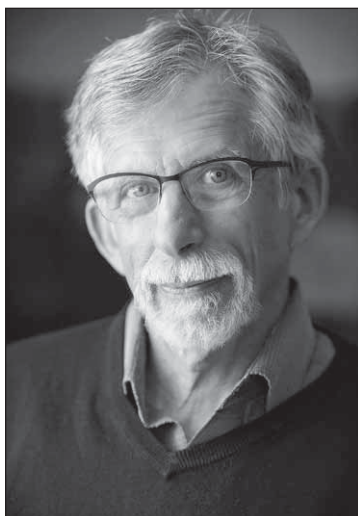
recorded their story using his cell phone. Although he speaks some Spanish, he was usually accompanied by an interpreter to fully explain the purpose of the interview. Later, the interview was transcribed by another interpreter."

He returned to take the portrait later, usually spending about 30 minutes in the subject's workplace. When asked why he decided to use black-and-white film, Tuschman said, "It has more gravitas; I didn't want color to get in the way."

The prints in the book are divided by occupational categories such as Food, Health and Educators. The subjects look directly at the lens, for the most part, and follow Tuschman's urging to "look proud of who you are." He aimed to find people with different careers and jobs with farmworkers like Javier, Theresa and Roberto, who are captured in the fields where they work, and Maria Sanchez, who is an oncology nurse and Prerna Lal, an attorney. All of their stories reinforce the idea that they came to this country to work and to contribute. Many mention their gratitude for the opportunities they found here but also the discrimination they have faced. As Juliana, a Ph.D. student from Brazil shared, "My hope is that more compassionate immigration policies can be made. No child should have to face all the fears that I faced when I was younger and still face now."

Tuschman said that combining the narrative accounts with the portraits is an integral part of his message, even in the face of dissenting opinions about the value of immigrants to this country. "You can't argue about a person's story — it's their story."

Tuschman felt so passionately about the value of the project



Mark Tuschman

that, when his publisher backed out at the last minute, he decided to cover the cost himself. He ordered 450 books, about 100 of which have been distributed. He would like to find someone else to get the remaining books out to schools and libraries across the country.

In the meantime, he continues to photograph farm workers and to do volunteer photography for Upward Scholars, a program that helps new immigrants in their educational pursuits.

Tuschman said that the people featured in his book "all came for the same reason my grandparents came," adding, "They contribute, in one way or another, to improving our lives." ■

*Email Contributing Writer
Sheryl Nonnenberg at
nonnenberg@aol.com.*

Mark Tuschman will speak at Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park on Aug. 22 with a reception at 4:30 p.m. and lecture at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit keplers.com.

Worth a Look



Courtesy Paravi

Singer-songwriter Paravi performs ethereal alt pop on Aug. 17 as part of Filoli's Summer Stage concert series.

Filoli Summer Stage

Woodside's Filoli estate is making the most of this season for outdoor music with a series of concerts in a variety of genres throughout the month of August, from bluegrass to pop to Mariachi, kicking it all off with a full weekend of shows. Never Come Down, a five-piece band based in Portland, Oregon, gets the music series underway on Aug. 16 with their blend of traditional and modern styles of bluegrass. The following day, Aug. 17, will see Los Angeles-based Indian American singer-songwriter Paravi take the stage with ethereal alt-pop with thoughtful lyrics. The final show of the weekend, on Aug. 18, goes back in time with the U.K.'s Alex Mendham and His Orchestra performing 1920s and '30s-style swing on Aug. 18. Then the series gives the middle of the week a brassy boost with The Outlaw Mariachi performing on Aug. 20, with more shows to follow later in the month.

Concerts take place at 6:30-8 p.m. at Filoli, 86 Cañada Road, Woodside. Admission for each show is \$55 per person, filoli.org/summer-stage.

Kids Rock

Redwood City winds up its Sunday Kids Rock summer concert series with a performance by Asheba, a musical storyteller. Asheba performs Caribbean music for children, specializing in calypso, which has roots in Trinidad, where Asheba is from. He performs a mix of originals and classics. Though some of these tunes will be familiar to generations of listeners, such as "Itsy Bitsy Spider" and "You Are My Sunshine," Asheba reimagines them through a bright, fun calypso kaleidoscope.

Aug. 18, 10 a.m.-noon, Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City, free, redwoodcity.org.

Springline Movie Nights

Springline in Menlo Park hosts a weekend of movies under the stars. First, on Aug. 16, get in tune with the original "Pitch Perfect," the 2012 comedy starring Anna Kendrick that kicked off a film franchise and a TV series, all about the antics of dueling hyper-competitive college a cappella groups. Then, on Aug. 17, "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" revisits the game so intense that it literally transports its players to another land, full of dangerous wild animals. The sequel to 1995's "Jumanji," starring Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart, finds this most adventurous board game transformed into a video game in which players become their own avatars trapped in a jungle. Guests are asked to bring their own chairs and blankets.

Aug. 16-17, 7:30 p.m., at Springline, 1302 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, free (RSVP encouraged); eventbrite.com.

Food & Drink

Food trucks

Story by
Karla Kane

Photos by
Anna Hoch-Kenney

GO ROBOTIC

OLHSO KOREAN BBQ
& SEAFOOD UTILIZES
AUTO-WOKS TO
COOK EN ROUTE TO
CUSTOMERS

Foster City fans of Korean cuisine — and the convenience of delivery — take note: OLHSO Korean BBQ & Seafood launched its delivery service in the city at the end of May. The plan? Using robotic kitchens to offer gourmet Korean meals freshly prepared en route to customers, with an emphasis on precision and consistency (Olhso translates to “that’s right”).

With typical delivery services, “if you place an order for delivery, it still takes 20 minutes for the driver to pick it up and then get the food to you. It’s not at the optimal quality at that point when you receive it,” Charles Kim, the chief operating officer of OLHSO’s parent company Shin Starr Presents, said of the problem the company is aiming to tackle. “When an order gets dispatched to one of our trucks, it determines the distance and time it takes to get to the customer; it cooks en route to the customer so the customer is always receiving fresh and hot quality food, again and again.”

Shin Starr Presents is headquartered in South Korea and was founded in 2019 by Kish and Jay Shin (not brothers, just friends, Kim noted) as a food tech company focused on the design and manufacturing of automated cooking equipment. The company developed a machine called an auto-wok that can cook “any stir-fry recipe,” Kim said.

The company currently has two food trucks that exclusively deliver to Foster City so far. “We did a lot of research to find the most optimal place,” he said. “We thought Foster City...would be the perfect kind of pilot location for us.”

The city was chosen for its demographics, its manageable size (with the trucks able to get to most locations in about 15 minutes) and for its space and

terrain that can accommodate the trucks’ large size.

“We’re able to operate within this radius first,” Kim said. “Our plan is to expand as we get more comfortable and stable.”

Though much of the process is automated, there are still a few people involved with OLHSO’s food trucks. At an off-site space, kitchen staff prep all the ingredients for each meal option. The meals are stored in individual steel canisters, which are loaded onto the trucks’ automated refrigeration units. When an order is placed, it’s dispatched to one of the two trucks.

“What happens then is the robot will grab the appropriate canister in the refrigeration unit; it’ll hand it off to another robot that takes it to one of the four auto-woks, transfers the contents of the canister — the ingredients — into the auto-wok and then it cooks,” Kim explained. “Simultaneously, another robot takes an empty bowl and puts it in front of the auto-wok so once the food is cooked it gets

transferred.”

The time and distance is calculated based on location, and upon arrival, the (human) driver gives the food to the customer.

“After the auto-wok cooks a meal, it goes into self-cleaning mode,” Kim added.

The system is powered by a generator and the auto-woks are electric, cooking via induction.

“The reason why our auto-wok is all induction-based is because we can be more precise and accurate with temperature control,” he said.

OLHSO currently offers four meal choices: the wagyu galbi meal (boneless wagyu short ribs in a sweet soy glaze with vegetables); the OLHSO dak galbi meal (stir-fried chicken in a gochujang-based spicy sauce served with rice cakes and vegetables); the Seoul food meal (stir-fried kimchi, pork belly, shrimp and traditional Korean soybean paste); and a vegetarian option, the japchae meal (glass noodles, mushrooms and vegetables stir fried in a sweet and



Above: The OLHSO fully automated “robot” kitchen prepares a bowl of japchae in Foster City on July 29. Below: The inside of the OLHSO cook-en-route truck’s fully automated “robot” kitchen.

savory “secret” sauce).

Kim said his personal favorite is the chicken meal since he’s a big fan of the rice cakes, but added the short ribs are also a popular choice, in part thanks to the tasty veggies that come with it.

“We have a lot of different assorted vegetables — Brussels sprouts, lotus roots, scallions — that are usually not in a short rib

dish,” he said.

The meat dishes cost \$45-\$55 and serve two to three people, while the vegetarian japchae serves one to two people and costs \$25. All meals come with sides of Korean rice, kimchi, seaweed and pickles, and the spiciness level can be customized.

Chef Sungil Han is OLHSO’s culinary director and is something of a star in South Korea,

‘When an order gets dispatched to one of our trucks, it determines the distance and time it takes to get to the customer; it cooks en route to the customer so the customer is always receiving fresh and hot quality food, again and again.’

CHARLES KIM,
SHIN STARR PRESENTS
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER





Charles Kim, Shin Starr Presents chief operating officer, holds up a bowl of japchae prepared by OLHSO's fully automated "robot" kitchen.

Kim said, owning and operating four brands across the country with multiple locations nationwide. The robotic kitchens make sure his recipes are cooked exactly as intended, according to the company's website.

The company has been working on its plan for a while.

"From concept to launch, it took us a good four years," Kim said. After developing the system that can operate under cook-en-route conditions, "the biggest challenge was getting the certification for sanitation and safety for this specific concept," Kim said. "There isn't really an exact code or standard for this type of operation because it's so new; getting the permitting, that aspect was pretty challenging."

It was a challenge the company anticipated though, and Kim said that the San Mateo County Health Department, along with the other government agencies involved, have been helpful and supportive — albeit slightly confused by the concept at first.

All orders must be placed through OLHSO's app, which customers can find a link for on OLHSO's website. Kim said the company does not charge any delivery or service fees (but customers are able to tip the drivers if they wish).

You don't have to be a Foster City resident to order from OLHSO — the trucks will

deliver to any location within the city limits.

"You can be at a park, you could be at a CVS and just use that delivery address to order the food and the truck drives just to that location," Kim said. (The company also does private events and catering around the Bay Area.)

Soon, downtown San Mateo will be home to a more traditional venture from the company — a brick-and-mortar OLHSO restaurant with a more extensive menu of seafood and barbecue options, also led by chef Han.

Kim acknowledged that there are other companies also trying to utilize the automated mobile kitchen model, and that some have tried and failed (remember Zume Pizza?). He said OLHSO's commitment to both gourmet-quality food and cutting-edge technology sets it apart.

"Everyone's extremely fascinated and interested by the concepts," Kim said. "At the end of the day, novelty wears off and it's the food that brings customers back." ■

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OLHSO.
Instagram: @olhsotruck.
Open daily 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-9 p.m.

Menlo Park Monthly Market Report

July 1, 2024 - July 31, 2024

Rossetti Realty Inc.

TOP 10 SALES*					
1. \$9,980,000	2. \$7,450,000	3. \$5,600,000	4. \$5,450,000	5. \$5,151,000	6. \$5,100,000
680 Cotton Street	620 Windsor Drive	1135 Hidden Oaks Drive	110 Hanna Way	8 Garland Place	2035 Liberty Park Avenue
7. \$4,605,000	8. \$4,400,148	9. \$4,000,000	10. \$3,850,000	15 Oak Hollow Way	148 E Creek Drive
		319 Barton Way	743 Middle Avenue		

ACTIVE LISTING July: 43 June: 48 -10%	AVERAGE SALES PRICE July: \$3,497,294 June: \$3,809,061 -8%	AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ Ft July: \$1,542 June: \$1,480 4%
PENDING LISTING July: 39 June: 30 30%	AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET July: 26 June: 24 8%	MONTHS OF INVENTORY July: 1.40 June: 1.50 -7%
SOLD LISTING July: 31 June: 33 -6%	SALE/LIST PRICE July: 103.70% June: 102.80% 1%	30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE July: 6.86% June: 7.02% -2%

*July 2024 compared to June 2024

*Source: MLS Listings for Single Family Properties | Zillow.com | Condo

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