

# The Almanac

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

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## Ruling clears the way for East Palo Alto to oversee sewer district

Judge supports decision to make East Palo Alto Sanitary District a subsidiary of the city

By Gennady Sheyner

The East Palo Alto Sanitary District suffered a court defeat on Aug. 30, when a San Mateo County Superior Court judge tossed out its attempt to reverse a July vote that had set the stage for the district's dissolution.

The decision by Judge Roger Picquet to reject the district's appeal boosts an effort by the city of East Palo Alto to turn the sanitary district into a subsidiary of the city. The district, which serves most of East Palo Alto and a small portion of Menlo Park, has been an independent entity since 1939. City officials and developers have for years complained about the district's high hook-up rates for new developments, which they argued stifled development and effectively prevented the City Council from fulfilling its duty to plan for housing and community-serving projects.

The district has disputed these claims and has argued over

recent public hearings and in court that the aged sewer system it oversees cannot handle all the projects in the city's development pipeline and that it is already upgrading its infrastructure to facilitate growth.

The Aug. 30 ruling from Superior Court Judge Roger Picquet reaffirmed the July decision from the San Mateo Local Formation Agency Committee (LAFCo), a body that oversees jurisdictional disputes in the county. LAFCo voted to support East Palo Alto's consolidation plan. The district appealed this approval as well as LAFCo's earlier ruling in favor of the city, decisions that the district's attorneys claim were not based on evidence.

Much of the Aug. 16 hearing in a Redwood City courtroom revolved around what type of evidence LAFCo did and did not consider before its 6-0 vote in favor of consolidation. Leah Castella, attorney for the district, claimed that the commission did not adequately consider

the district's infrastructure plan and its capital improvement budget and that the city's consolidation plan is driven by developers who want to see the sewer system expanded at the expense of current rate-paying residents.

"What this dispute really comes down to is whether and to what extent the ratepayers would bear the burden of increased capacity," Castella said.

Attorneys for LAFCo and for the city of East Palo Alto countered that the dispute has nothing to do with rates. Rather, it comes down to which agency is best suited for providing the service while making sure that the city meets all of its other state-mandated obligations, including building housing. Attorneys have also argued that residents who are upset about rising rates would have political remedies. They can protest the higher rates or support City

See **SEWER DISTRICT**, page 13



Courtesy Kings Mountain Art Fair

### Art among the redwoods

Izza makes a magic wand with a stick and flowers at the 61st Kings Mountain Art Fair in Woodside during Labor Day weekend. The annual three-day event helps provide funding for the Kings Mountain Volunteer Fire Brigade.

## Atherton is still working to get its housing plans approved in the wake of enforcement letter from the state

Planning commission recommends town remove four properties from plan for multifamily housing

By Eleanor Raab

On July 2, the California Department of Housing and Community Development warned Atherton town staff that the town is "in violation of housing element law" by not providing the department a definitive timeline for finalizing its 2023-31 housing element, which is far past its January 2023 deadline for state approval. HCD warns that persistent noncompliance could

result in \$10,000 to \$100,000 per month fines. If a jurisdiction remains noncompliant, a court can multiply those penalties by a factor of six.

The housing element is still working its way through town commissions. The latest development came during an Aug. 28 town planning commission meeting. After hearing from a slew of neighbors who live near four properties on Bay Road that were identified as possible multifamily housing sites, the

planning commission unanimously recommended that the properties be removed from the plan, along with several other changes including window privacy and setback standards.

About 25 people attended the meeting to comment, and the comments got heated at times, with members of the public talking over commissioners or interrupting them.

The town is required to produce 348 units of housing during this latest cycle, 94 of which

must be affordable to people at the "very low-income level," which in San Mateo County is an individual making less than \$68,550 or a family of four making less than \$97,900.

According to a town staff report that was presented to the planning commission, Atherton has let HCD know that the City Council will consider the plans at its next two meetings on Sept. 18 and Oct. 16. However, failure to adopt a housing element and other related changes by the end

of those two meetings could result in further enforcement actions from the state, such as daily fees for the town or a complete loss of local control over development review, according to the letter from HCD.

HCD has agreed to informally review the current iteration of the housing element documents and to highlight any concerns ahead of the final council meeting during which the town is

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Local journalism throughout America is facing a financial crisis due to the collapse of its ad-supported business model. And while local newspapers seek grassroots public support to survive, a sinister and cynical force on Wall Street has quietly seized the opportunity to buy up news organizations across the country, decimate their staffs, destroy their independence and deprive local readers of a critical tool supporting democracy. The Mercury News and many California newspapers are among the approximately 200 newspapers nationwide now owned by Alden Global Capital, a New York-based hedge fund and a major subject of the film.

“**Stripped for Parts: American Journalism on the Brink**” exposes the battle between hedge funds and local community leaders for control over their local news and the future of journalism.

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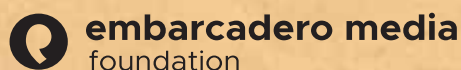
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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Arden Margulis

Menlo-Atherton High School junior Jacob Sutton, left, addresses the Sequoia Union High School Board on Aug. 21 with members of the M-A boys basketball team, asking for answers on why their coach, Mike Moleri, was dismissed.

## M-A boys varsity basketball coach placed on leave

Student athletes speak up in front of the school board

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Mike Moleri, Menlo-Atherton High School special education teacher of 21 years and boys varsity basketball coach of 12 years, has been placed on administrative leave by the Sequoia Union High School District for an undisclosed

reason. Students say they're devastated to lose a teacher and coach who acted as a mentor and safe space for many on campus.

During a school board meeting on Aug. 21, M-A basketball players and a parent spoke during the public comment section seeking answers from the board as to why Moleri was

placed on leave while expressing how important he is to the school's community.

"Coach Mo is an amazing person. As you know, the African American community is very small at Menlo-Atherton. He provides a safe place for those boys, which

See **COACH**, page 16

## New contract for Menlo Park Police Officers' Association members to cost city \$1.3 million

By Eleanor Raab

At its Aug. 27 meeting, the Menlo Park City Council voted unanimously to approve a new contract with the Menlo Park Police Officers' Association after several months of negotiations over the contract. The new three-year contract includes 3% yearly pay increases for officers, an immediate 2% cost of living adjustment, a 5% salary increase in 2025 and extra pay for years served in other police

departments, among other changes. This all amounts to a contract that will cost the city nearly 1.7 times more.

The new contract also removes a clause that limited the length of disciplinary suspensions for police officers to three days. There is now no specific limit to the amount of time an officer can be suspended for disciplinary reasons.

The total cost to the city for the pay and benefit improvements across all three years of the contract will be \$1.3 million,

according to a city staff report. The POA's previous three-year contract with the city, which was approved in 2021, cost approximately \$780,905.

The POA's current contract with the city is set to expire on Aug. 31. The new contract will take effect on Sept. 1 of this year, and will expire on Aug. 31, 2027.

In order to cover the additional costs of the amended contract, the city had to appropriate an additional \$177,867 from its

See **POLICE CONTRACT**, page 7

## Portola Valley releases final environmental analysis for Stanford housing project

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On Aug. 27, the town of Portola Valley released the much anticipated final environmental impact report and fiscal impact analysis for Stanford University's housing project, Portola Terrace, formerly Stanford Wedge, for public review. The report includes details on the single and multi-family development and proposed scheduled hearings with town committees and Town Council.

The 75.2 acre site at 3530 Alpine Road will be divided into 10.8 acres of residential housing and 64.4 acres of open space. Portola Terrace proposes to build a total of 27 single-family, two-story residential units for Stanford faculty and 12 affordable housing units in three, two-story buildings.

The 640-page final EIR comes two years after the public comment period for the draft EIR closed on May 13, 2022.

The formal application for the proposal was submitted in 2019 but due to the town's obligations to complete the housing element, the processing of the application has been delayed, according to town officials. The housing development has been a topic of contention among community members who are concerned about fire safety, protection of wildlife and indigenous history of the land.

Portola Valley resident Dave Cardinal, who lives near the site, is supportive of the project and believes that it'll benefit

the community by bringing in a more diverse population and inviting in younger families. He also points out that having more families with kids move into the area would benefit the local school district's declining enrollment rates.

"I think it'd be great to have more young families in Portola Valley. We have an aging population and you have to be pretty wealthy to move here, so having some diversity in jobs and having smart people who work at places like Stanford would be great," he said.

Rita Comes, president of Portola Valley Neighbors United, who formed her organization, in part, in opposition to the Stanford Terrace project, said she was surprised to see the final EIR get released after so many planning commission and ASCC meetings had been canceled in the past years. Since May 15, the planning commission has canceled seven consecutive meetings, leaving many residents' questions and concerns about the project unanswered, according to Comes.

While still a supporter of providing housing and welcoming new residents to the community, Comes is worried that proceeding with the project will worsen the town's ongoing infrastructure and safety issues. She would like to welcome new community residents into a safe environment, which she feels the town has not yet prepared for.

See **STANFORD HOUSING**, page 13



Courtesy Stanford University

Renderings of the Portola Terrace project that's on Stanford's property.

# Antonio López prioritizes practical solutions, cross-city collaboration in District 4 Supervisor bid

By Simmerdeep Kaur

As Antonio López campaigns for the District 4 seat on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, his focus is on tackling homelessness, economic disparities, and public services — issues that have long guided his work and continue to shape his vision for the county.

“I connected with so many of my residents and neighbors, and that’s when I found my calling, when I was speaking with voters and speaking with residents and telling them the change we could make,” said López.

López was born and raised in East Palo Alto after his family moved there from Mexico in the 1980s. As a first-generation college student, he attended Duke and Oxford and later completed his Ph.D from Stanford.

When he witnessed his father get furloughed and lose his benefits from the Employment Development Department, he felt he had a responsibility to serve his community. So when he saw three open seats at the East Palo Alto City Council, he decided to take a shot at it.

He first ran for the East Palo Alto City Council at 26 and serves as the EPA mayor. His work under State Sen. Josh Becker further solidified his commitment to serving the community.



Antonio López

During the primary elections for the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors District 4 seat earlier this year against four other candidates, López was the biggest spender, coming in at nearly \$60,000; López lost to Lisa Gauthier by a huge margin.

Coming in at the final stretch for the Nov. 5 election, López says his reasons for running have not changed, but he has added more issues to his priority list.

“It is important as issues arise, that we’re able to pivot and adapt,” he added.

López says that while his campaign remains focused on core issues like housing and affordability, he is placing an additional emphasis on addressing the needs of the unhoused population. This shift came after he had engaged directly with residents in Redwood City and other parts of the district.

López’s campaign strategy said he wants to focus on a comprehensive ground game, reaching out to voters through advertisements and direct engagement and expanding to more Catholic voters.

According to López, the national political climate has shifted. He points to the younger Democratic ticket of Kamala Harris and Tim Walz as a sign that both the county and the country are ready for new leadership. He believes that the cultural moment demands fresh perspectives and leadership.

“If the president of the United States can go on record and say it is time to pass the torch, I think

that says something about our cultural moment and nothing less is required for us to actually deliver for the community,” he added.

López expressed concerns over the 18% increase in homelessness in San Mateo County since 2022, pointing out the need for more effective actions by council members.

“The county says they have a plan, but with all due respect to my colleagues, is the plan working?” he said.

According to him, a more productive method is for cities to collaborate to share resources like shelters and meals.

He also expressed his concerns with the Hopeful Horizons ordinance passed by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors earlier this year. The ordinance applies to unincorporated areas of the county and allows authorities to charge homeless people who refuse shelter after receiving two warnings with a misdemeanor.

López believes that while the Hopeful Horizons ordinance has good intentions, escalating citations and misdemeanors is not an effective solution to homelessness. He instead advocates for connecting homeless people with resources and a cross-county collaboration to address the issue.

“There really, truly needs to be a cross county, cross Peninsula collaboration to actually solve this thing, because otherwise we’ll pass those folks elsewhere, and then it’ll become another

city’s problem,” he said.

López thinks child care is not getting enough attention in the county. He sees investing in childcare as a way to ease the burden on families and unlock more opportunities for people to stay in the workforce. According to him, the high cost of child care often forces people to make difficult choices “between paying rent and keeping their jobs.”

If elected, López plans to focus on key issues within his first 100 days in office. His priorities include supporting economic and infrastructure development in cities like Redwood City, aiding small businesses, especially those struggling post-pandemic, and addressing wildfire mitigation. He also plans on tackling the homelessness crisis in collaboration with other cities, aligning efforts with Gov. Gavin Newsom’s recent executive order.

“Do you want leadership that is going to be there for 12 years, lifelong politicians? Or do we want leadership that’s going to be there, ready and hungry for change?” López said in his message to the voters.

Antonio López and Lisa Gauthier will go head to head for the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors District 4 seat on Nov. 5.

For more on López, go to his campaign website at [antoniofor-supervisor.com](http://antoniofor-supervisor.com). ■

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## CRIME BRIEFS

### Atherton police investigate residential burglaries over holiday weekend

The Atherton Police Department is investigating three residential burglaries that occurred over Labor Day weekend. The first took place on Stockbridge Avenue on Friday evening, Aug. 30. The second took place on Marymount Avenue between Friday, Aug. 30, and Saturday, Aug. 31. The third took place on Selby Lane on Monday, Sept. 2.

“We have no information at this time that (the burglaries) may be linked,” said Police Chief Steve McCulley in an email to The Almanac.

According to a notification from Atherton Police Department, officers responded to a residential burglar alarm in the 100 block of Stockbridge at about 9:28 p.m. While checking the residents, police saw that the glass door to the house was broken. They also discovered that someone had rummaged through the master bedroom, according to the police.

According to Atherton police, officers

responded to Marymount Avenue at around 9:55 a.m. on Friday after receiving a report of suspicious circumstances. Upon arrival, police discovered that a burglary had occurred at a residence in the area.

Authorities are encouraging nearby residents to review their home security video recordings for any unusual activity that may have occurred on Aug. 30 between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.

The police department is investigating a residential burglary that took place on Selby Lane at approximately 9:50 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 2.

According to a news bulletin, police officers responded to a residential alarm on Selby Lane. Officers found a broken glass door and discovered that the master bedroom had been rummaged through while checking the house.

Police are asking residents who live around both homes to check surveillance video and report any possible leads to the Atherton Police Department at 650-688-6500.

As of The Almanac’s Wednesday afternoon

press deadline The investigations were ongoing and no further details were released.

### Man in Menlo Park slashed with sharp object on Willow Road

On Labor Day, Sept. 2, a man was assaulted with a knife or similar object in Menlo Park on Willow Road near the railroad tracks just east of Hamilton Avenue.

According to Menlo Park police, a man who “appeared to have fresh cuts on his stomach and arms” flagged down a police officer around 12:45 p.m. Police said that the man was “hysterical” and “in a substantial amount of pain,” so medics were called to the scene.

The victim alleged that he was robbed and assaulted. According to police, it is unclear if the injuries were inflicted with a knife, or another type of sharp object.

The victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries, according to Menlo Park police. He has since been released from the hospital.

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 15

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# Lisa Gauthier leans on experience in final push for San Mateo County supervisor seat

By Michelle Iracheta

Lisa Gauthier, running for the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in District 4, is focusing her campaign on her extensive public service experience and dedication to addressing affordable housing and homelessness as the November 2024 election nears.

Gauthier, currently the senior vice president of inclusion and belonging, has spent nearly 12 years on the city council, serving multiple terms as mayor and vice mayor.



Lisa Gauthier

This experience, she believes, sets her apart from her younger opponent, Antonio Lopez.

During the March primary, Gauthier took an early lead but at the end of the night, never reached the 50% threshold needed to win the election outright. Lopez trailed behind with roughly half as many votes as Gauthier received.

Gauthier said she was “pleasantly surprised” by her significant margin of victory in the primary, especially given the competitive nature of the race.

“I kept hearing that (with) over five people in the race, there’s no way that anyone is going to give

a large margin,” Gauthier said. “But I was pleasantly surprised that the voters saw the qualifications and the difference in the experience, and it looked like they voted for that.”

Gauthier’s priorities remain focused on affordable housing, childcare, and homelessness, issues she has championed throughout her career. On the topic of homelessness, Gauthier acknowledged the growing crisis, particularly in Redwood City, where the homeless population has increased significantly.

“You can see in the different parts of the community the increase in numbers and homelessness. You know, when I travel through Redwood City and I take Veterans Boulevard from 101, and you come around that bend, that homeless encampment is growing significantly, and I don’t know where everybody’s coming from,” she said.

Gauthier said collaboration between city, county, and non-profit organizations is essential to effectively addressing the crisis.

Gauthier also discussed the challenges faced by current initiatives, such as the criticism of the Navigation Center, a facility intended to provide services to the homeless.

When asked about the criticism that the center is not fulfilling its intended purpose,

Gauthier said, “I would want to understand where there are gaps in that process, and how can we make it easier, or be more helpful, or make sure that that process is a little bit more seamless?”

In addition to her policy positions, Gauthier addressed recent campaign controversies, including an independent expenditure (IE) piece funded by “Big Oil.”

Gauthier claimed that she did not know who was behind the contributions.

“As a Dem, we took a pledge to not take money from Big Oil,” she said, adding that the oil companies in question distributed a mailer with her name on it. “I did not receive anything directly from Big Oil. I don’t know where that came from. I had nothing to do with it.”

Gauthier’s campaign strategy includes raising funds and engaging directly with voters through community outreach. She highlighted the diverse nature of District 4 in San Mateo County and noted the importance of representing all voices.

“When I’m walking in parts of Redwood City, it can be very different than other parts of Redwood City,” Gauthier said. “but knowing that everybody should have a seat at the table and an opportunity to be represented, I want to represent the district

See GAUTHIER, page 15

## POLICE CONTRACT

continued from page 5

general fund reserves to balance this year’s budget.

Additionally, the members of the Police Sergeants Association will receive a pay bump as a result of the POA’s negotiations with the city. The PSA’s contract with the city mandates that there be a 15% difference in pay between the two groups. In order to cover the additional costs for the PSA’s wage increases, the city had to appropriate an additional \$68,906 from its general fund reserves.

The staff report states that the new contract will help the city to recruit and retain “top talent” in service to the community.

Previously, Menlo Park police officers would make between \$104,378 and \$126,872. As of Sept. 1, officers will make between \$116,272 and \$141,330.

This brings the Menlo Park Police Department’s pay closer

to what neighboring agencies pay. According to public salary schedules, the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Department currently pays deputies between \$117,686 and \$147,118, Palo Alto currently pays their officers between \$125,153 and \$161,741, Atherton currently pays their officers between \$129,501 and \$157,409 and Redwood City currently pays their officers between \$139,450 and \$169,525.

East Palo Alto is the only neighboring city that will have lower yearly police officer salaries than Menlo Park once the new contract goes into effect. East Palo Alto currently pays their police officers between \$105,170 and \$138,925.

The staff report also states that attracting and retaining quality police recruits may save the city money in the long run. The city spends approximately \$115,000 and last year and a half of time to take a prospective police candidate through training.

In order to attract officers

from other nearby departments, the new contract includes a new longevity pay program that treats service in other police departments similarly to the way the city currently rewards years of service with the city. Police officers will be credited with half a year of service to Menlo Park for every year of service they completed at a different agency. ■

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

## LEHUA GREENMAN



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## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Should Old Waste Pipes Be Replaced?

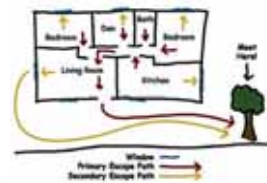
**Dear Monica: We own a house that was built pre-1950 and are about to put it on the market. Should we have a sewer lateral inspection?**  
Rita T.

Dear Rita: As the Peninsula housing stock ages, many cities on the Peninsula are requiring owners to inspect the sewer line that connects their home to the city sewer system and replace it if it is made of clay or galvanized steel. Clay pipes can crack and become clogged from tree roots and other things. Galvanized steel pipes are old and despite their durability, can rust out mainly from the inside. Modern underground waste pipes are often made of ABS plastic.

More buyers are asking for a sewer lateral test. Find out if your city requires it and even if they don’t, your buyer will appreciate this information.

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

## FIRE MARSHAL’S SAFETY CORNER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



### Make a Plan

- Identify two exit routes from every room in your home. In a disaster, your primary route may be blocked.
- Choose two different types of places to meet up after a disaster:
  - ✓ One should be near your home, in the case of a local emergency like a fire
  - ✓ One should be outside your neighborhood; in case your entire area is affected by a larger disaster
- Choose someone who lives far enough away that he or she would be unaffected by the same emergency
  - ✓ Everyone in the household should keep a copy of his or her contact information in their emergency kit

### Emergency Kit

- Medications
- Clothing, shoes, and blankets
- Sanitary supplies: toilet paper, diapers, feminine supplies, and personal hygiene items
- Copies of important documents, family contact information, cash, and coins
- Pet supplies
- Multi-purpose tool, such as a Leatherman, and work gloves
- Flashlight or headlamp and extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Radio or mobile device (battery or alternative-powered)

## Fire Marshal’s Safety Corner Event – September 11th

~ Come learn more about fire and life safety ~

Stop by at our pop-up Fire Marshal’s Safety Corner event outside St. Francis Center; 151 Buckingham Ave, Redwood City from 11:00am- 12:00pm. Come meet the Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, and potentially see one of our fire engines.

# Menlo Park council appoints 5 commissioners to 3 advisory bodies

By Eleanor Raab

The Menlo Park City Council appointed new commissioners to five open city commission seats at its meeting on Aug. 13. The five new commissioners were appointed to one open seat on the Housing Commission, one open seat on the Library Commission and three open seats on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

There were 10 applicants for the five open seats, with several applicants applying for multiple commissions.

## Housing Commission

There were four applications for the one open seat on the Housing Commission. Hadrian Trempont was appointed to the seat in a 3-1 vote with Nash voting for applicant Christopher Maxcy and Council member Jen Wolosin absent. Trempont's term on the Housing Commission will expire on April 30, 2025.

According to his application for the commission, Trempont was born and raised in Menlo Park, attended Menlo-Atherton High School and has worked as a data analyst for a commercial real estate firm.

The Housing Commission is charged with advising the City Council on housing matters, including housing supply, community attitudes about housing, programs for evaluating the quality and quantity of housing in the city, making recommendations to the council on the city's Below Market Rate Housing Program, reviewing and recommending on housing programs for the city, reviewing and recommending on the housing element and more.

## Library Commission

There were four applicants for the one open seat on the Library Commission. The council unanimously chose to appoint Kim Crockett to the seat. Councilmember Wolosin was

absent. Crockett's term on the Library Commission will expire on April 30, 2026.

Crockett, who holds a degree from Boston University School of Law, said in her application that she has lived in Menlo Park for 24 years. She has served as a substitute teacher for the Menlo Park City School District since 2022. She has also worked as a volunteer mediator for the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center since 2023, and as a board member and vice chair of the Riekes Center since 2019, among other things.

The Library Commission is charged with advising the City Council on matters related to the operation of Menlo Park's libraries and library systems, such as the scope of library activities, the maintenance of city libraries, evaluation and improvement of library service, coordination with other libraries, acquisition of new library materials and long range planning for the libraries.

## Parks and Recreation Commission

There were seven applications for the three open seats on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Two commissioners, Kevin Dawkins and Justin Van Buren were appointed to the commission unanimously by the council, with Councilmember Wolosin absent. Three council members voted to appoint Dawn Emms to the council, with Combs voting for applicant Edward Kaigh.

Emms was appointed to the seat with its term expiring April 30, 2025, Van Buren's term will expire April 30, 2026 and Dawkins' term will expire April 30, 2027.

Emms, who holds a master's degree in electrical engineering, said in her application that she has lived in Menlo Park for 18 years, and has worked in the city for over 25 years. She has previously volunteered with a San Mateo County crisis line. Though Emms originally applied to the Library

Commission, the council ended up selecting her for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Van Buren holds a master's degree in International Commerce and Policy. He said in his application that he moved to Menlo Park two years ago. He applied to all three advisory commissions with open seats, but was ultimately selected for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Dawkins, who holds a master's degree in computer science, originally applied for the Housing Commission but was ultimately selected for the Parks and Recreation Commission. He has previously volunteered with several community organizations focused on helping people and families experiencing homelessness.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is tasked with advising the council on city programs and facilities dedicated to recreation, including maintenance of parks and playgrounds, operation and staffing of recreation programs, modification of programs to meet community needs and long range planning for recreation programs and facilities.

## AI in commission applications

During the City Council's discussion of applications, several council members commented that it was clear that ChatGPT or another AI aid was used by several applicants to complete their applications.

"One thing that was challenging for me as I went through (the applications) is, for example, there was one application that clearly had copied and pasted from ChatGPT with the prompt still in the line," said Council member Maria Doerr. "This is the second time I've seen this in an application. ... But I encourage folks that if you're using these new tools to be really thoughtful and make sure your answer is what you want it to be."

Doerr went on to say that when she is selecting applicants to appoint to city commissions, she is looking for people who are putting "their own time and care" into their answers on the application. "(Which means) that they will show up to serve on the commissions with similar care," she said.

Combs said he shares Doerr's concerns, and asked whether the council has a published stance on applicants using AI assistance to write their answers, and suggested that the council

add guidance about appropriate usage of AI writing assistants for future rounds of commission applications.

"This isn't like a test in college, and I wouldn't want to make it some rule, but we should think about adding some sort of guidance or language in the application," he said. "Saying something to the effect that ... we want to hear directly from the applicants in response to the questions."

Doerr said she would be amenable to adding that language to future applications. ■

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Pre-registration opens for Zotts to Tots

Pre-registrations for the Zotts to Tots race during the Portola Valley town picnic on Saturday, Sept. 21, are now open until Sept. 18. Residents are also able to register on the day of the race between 9:15-9:45 a.m.

The race will start at 10 a.m. at Rossotti's Alpine Inn and end between Stonegate Road and Westridge Drive. Participants must arrive no later than 9:45 a.m. to pick up their bib and hat before the race.

The race route on Alpine Road and Portola Road will be closed off to cars but each section of the road will reopen as the last runner passes through. Westridge Drive will stay open as a detour to the other side of Portola Valley. The town advises drivers to proceed with caution around large amounts of pedestrians, bikers, and equestrians around Town Center and Westridge Drive as they head toward the picnic.

To register for the race visit [portolavalley.net](http://portolavalley.net).

### Portola Valley off-leash dog area survey

The Portola Valley Parks and Recreation Committee has released a survey to explore the feasibility of an off-leash dog area. The committee is seeking input from residents to evaluate if there is a demand to move forward and identify off-leash areas for the community.

The survey will be open until Sept. 30. A summary of responses will be presented at the committee meeting on Oct. 15. To fill out the survey visit [tinyurl.com/offleashdogsurvey](http://tinyurl.com/offleashdogsurvey).

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

### Learn about how to apply to state and local boards and commissions with State Sen. Josh Becker

State Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, is hosting a virtual town hall on Thursday, Sept. 12, at 2:30 p.m., all about how to apply to state and local boards and commissions.

In addition to Becker, the virtual town hall will feature Morgan Carvajal, the state appointments secretary in the office of Gov. Gavin Newsom, Linda Wolin, chief of staff for San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Pine and Heather Glaser, the city clerk for the city of Mountain View.

The panel will discuss the application process at the state and local levels, what board and commission roles actually entail and best practices for successfully applying.

Those interested in attending the virtual town hall are asked to RSVP on State Sen. Becker's website, [sd13.senate.ca.gov/events](http://sd13.senate.ca.gov/events).

Attendees who have RSVPed will be emailed a Zoom link before the event.

### Meet native birds at the Belle Haven Library on Sept. 8

The Belle Haven Library at 100 Terminal Ave. will host a live wildlife demonstration featuring native birds on Sept. 8 from 11 a.m.-noon. The event is free for all participants; no RSVP is required.

Join Native Bird Connections, a nonprofit wildlife education organization, as they introduce visitors to birds of prey. The demonstration will feature live raptors as well as taxidermy and other artifacts.

Presenters will teach attendees about how raptors use their senses to hunt prey, the stories of the birds in their care and what people can do to help their local birds of prey.

— Eleanor Raab



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# East Palo Alto nonprofit Cooline Kids lives on after founder's death

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Cooline Kids held its first summer camp from June 17-28 for kindergarten through eighth grade East Palo Alto students since the death of its founder Christian Sbragia in January. His mother Nicole Sbragia has taken over as the director of Cooline Kids, carrying on the mission to support leadership, service and fun for kids in East Palo Alto.

The organization also hosted one week of "crew camp" for 30 high school and college students to prepare them to become camp leaders and teachers for younger students in the summer camp. By the time the younger campers arrived, "every single one of them came out an educator," said Nicole.

Cooline Kids is run entirely by volunteers.

Nicole was grateful to see the youth that were previously involved step up to guide newer campers who weren't familiar with Christian's work. She calls this team the "bonus bunch." The program leaders continue to tell Christian's legacy by holding presentations for newer campers sharing his background, his mission and the impact he's had on the community.

"I feel like [campers] seeing



Courtesy Nicole Sbragia

Cooline Kids summer campers learn about building and engineering during the 2024 camp.

the bonus bunch do the work of Christian, we turned all of these kids into kids like Christian. They all turned into service-minded, passionate youth," said Nicole.

After Christian died, Nicole was supported by over 30 high school and college students who now carry on the passion that Christian had in keeping Cooline Kids alive. She said she received hugs and empathy from them every day.

Within the first week of crew camp, Nicole was amazed at how quickly she witnessed the youth grow in confidence and

become leaders. "I've heard my son talk about it for two years now but I've never actually witnessed it. It was so amazing," she said.

Community leaders have also joined to support the organization including East Palo Alto Mayor Antonio López, local activist Laura Rubio, and East Palo Alto council member Lisa Gauthier who will be taking the campers to Great America.

During camp, younger students worked on aviation projects, science and engineering, coding, cooking, celebrated Juneteenth and more. The camp

also focused on team building activities and group bonding.

The program is constantly shaping its curriculum to the interests and passions of the children.

"The best thing that I did as far as creating Cooline Kids is supporting Christian," said Nicole. "I supported him when everyone else thought it was stupid."

While working two jobs and going to school full-time, Nicole funded Cooline Kids supporting and encouraging Christian to pursue his passion for serving the community. Nicole and the rest of the staff are currently trying to find funding to keep Cooline Kids alive.

In April, a \$20,000 grant from the city of East Palo Alto was approved to fund the summer camp, but the money is still inaccessible due to pending paperwork. Until Cooline Kids is able to access better funding, Nicole is hoping to partner with other community organizations to work together on hosting events and programs.

"I don't believe Cooline has to reinvent the wheel. I think that there's communities in East Palo Alto that are doing such amazing things. I don't want to compete with that," said Nicole. "We can hold hands together

and get a mission accomplished. I just love the idea of someday all of us being able to work together to serve our youth."

Cooline will continue to provide programs for the youth to be involved in all year round. Nicole hopes to carry on acts of service that Christian used to encourage such as regular check-ins with the youth, holiday events, field trips and Christmas gifts for everyone.

On Aug. 24-25, Christian will be honored at the Palo Alto Festival of the Arts in downtown Palo Alto which will feature professional chalk art during the Italian Street Painting Expo. Artist Felicia Ruiz will be producing an art piece titled, "Nothing is lost... Everything is transformed," a quote from the 1984 fantasy film, "The Neverending Story."

The Palo Alto University Rotary and Youth Community Service are dedicating this piece to Christian.

Christian's family raised \$21,537 for his memorial fund. Donations are being accepted to support Cooline Kids programs, staffing and operational expenses on [tinyurl.com/CoolineKidsGoFundMe](https://tinyurl.com/CoolineKidsGoFundMe). ■

Email Staff Writer  
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## Theoretical physicist James D. 'BJ' Bjorken dies at 90

Stanford and SLAC professor and inventor leaves a legacy on physics fundamentals

By Simmerdeep Kaur

Theoretical physicist James D. "BJ" Bjorken, a professor emeritus at the Department of Energy's SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory and Stanford University whose work helped understand the structure of matter at a fundamental level, died Aug. 6 in Redwood City. He was 90.

Bjorken was widely known for inventing "Bjorken scaling," a concept in particle physics that helps to explain how particles like protons and neutrons behave when observed closely, especially at high energies. SLAC theoretical physicist Michael Peskin described this as a pivotal moment in particle physics.

Born on June 22, 1934, Bjorken grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois, where he developed an early interest in math and chemistry. He earned his bachelor's degree from MIT, majoring in physics. Later, he attended Stanford University for his Ph.D and stayed on as a postdoctoral researcher for several years.

He was one of several MIT physicists, including his advisor

Sidney Drell and future SLAC director and Nobel laureate Burton Richter, who were attracted to Stanford's new research facilities, including an early linear accelerator used to study protons and neutrons. The physicists wanted to understand the core secrets of matter.

A decade later, these experiments moved to SLAC, where the Accelerator allowed scientists to study matter at higher energy levels. At the time, theorists suggested that protons and neutrons were made up of smaller particles, but no one had yet figured out how to prove the existence of these particles.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Bjorken's experiments confirmed that protons are made up of fundamental particles called quarks. His discovery was recognized with the Wolf Prize in physics and the 2015 High Energy and Particle Physics Prize of the European Physical Society. He was also honored for his contributions to developing the theory of the "strong force," which controls the interactions between quarks within protons and neutrons.

In 2017, he shared the Robert R. Wilson Prize for his work at Fermilab, where he developed theories that sharpened the focus of particle beams in various accelerators by addressing key challenges related to their intensity and precision.

"What made him a great physicist was he thought differently from other people," said Lance Dixon, a theoretical physicist at SLAC and Stanford.

Bjorken divided his time between homes in Woodside and Driggs, Idaho, passionately pursuing many interests outside physics, from mountain climbing, skiing, cycling and windsurfing to listening to classical music.

He would drive long distances to attend an opera in Chicago or unexpectedly visit a fellow physicist's office for deep conversations on topics like general relativity, dark matter, and dark energy.

"I've found the most efficient way to test ideas and get hard criticism is one-on-one conversation with people who know more than I do," he said.

Family members said Bjorken continued to amuse himself with



Courtesy SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

James D. "BJ" Bjorken, Stanford and SLAC professor and inventor, leaves a legacy on physics fundamentals.

physics until his very last days. "He was surrounded by physics equations and thoughts," said his daughter, Johanna Bjorken. "It was truly what he loved — and yet it was just one dimension of the many things he loved."

Bjorken is survived by his daughters Johanna Bjorken of Brooklyn, New York and Eliza B. Davies of San Carlos, California; stepchildren Peter Nauenberg of Crystal Bay, Nevada, and

Maria James of San Leandro, California; and nine grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Joan G. Bjorken (1983) and granddaughter Nova Joan Adan (2024).

At Bjorken's request, there will be no formal services or a memorial. ■

Email Staff Writer  
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[skaur@almanacnews.com](mailto:skaur@almanacnews.com).

# Side of the Woods, a local business born out of a resident's love for Woodside

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Inspired by life among the redwood trees, Jennie Aburish launched her apparel business, Side of the Woods, in July. Aburish, originally from the small town of Orondo, Washington, sells Woodside-themed clothing embroidered with Woodside emblems such as horses, bikes, mushrooms and the Highway 84 sign.

Aburish and her family first discovered Woodside during a hike at Wunderlich Park in 2019 and fell in love with the town. After buying a home in the Western Hills neighborhood four years ago, Aburish wanted to create something that showcased her love and appreciation for Woodside.

As a mother of two young children, Aburish said the only time she can do her thinking is late at night. While laying in bed one day, she had the idea of starting a clothing company and with this late night thought, Side of the Woods was born. The company serves as her creative outlet.

"I feel like this place is so magical. I just wanted something to show how special Woodside is,

because I don't know if everyone knows about Woodside," said Aburish. "I was thinking it'd be great for people to know how amazing it is and show how amazing this community is."

Despite not having any prior experience in business, Aburish is using her background in IT and project management in her new venture. She said patience is a skill that has helped the most with launching a business.

In 2023, she started brainstorming ideas and for the last year has been sampling T-shirts, working with designers, building her website and testing the embroidery on her products. She said the length of time to work through various logistics took longer than expected.

"I was really surprised. I thought it was gonna launch in January, my goal, and then it didn't launch until July," said Aburish.

T-shirts and long sleeves are now available on the website. Hats and socks are in the works. Aburish is also planning on releasing more sizes and colors for shirts as well as new designs. The website

**Side of the Woods:**  
Website: [sideofthewoods.com](http://sideofthewoods.com);  
Instagram: [@sideofthewoodslc](https://www.instagram.com/sideofthewoodslc).

currently lists five different designs in various colors with prices ranging from \$33 to \$40. She is not yet selling her products in stores.

As Side of the Woods continues to grow, Aburish is hoping to donate a portion of the proceeds to a local charity at the end of every year. She also has a long term goal is to partner with local businesses to create merchandise for them.

While juggling the busy schedule of being a mother and business owner, Aburish is hoping to find more time to focus on her business since her two kids headed back to school



Courtesy Jennie Aburish

Side of the Woods T-shirts embroidered with Woodside-themed emblems.

this fall. With the extra time, she hopes to meet with local boutiques and businesses to sell her products in stores.

Aburish's husband Hassan Aburish, who models her merchandise, is currently running

for the District 5 seat on Woodside's Town Council in the November election. ■

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Courtesy Jennie Aburish

Jennie Aburish wearing the California Highway 84 shirt with her 3-year-old son.

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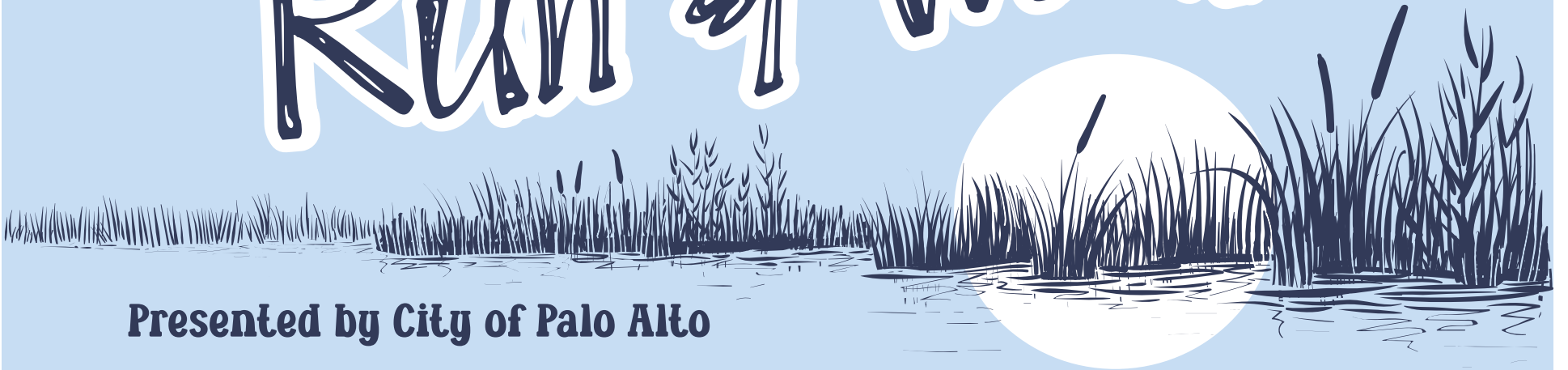
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**SEWER DISTRICT**

*continued from page 1*

Council candidates who oppose rate hikes.

“We’re not here to do the analysis of how the sewer district should do its job going forward,” Timothy Fox, attorney for LAFCo said at the Aug. 16 hearing. “We’re here to evaluate whether the structure by which those decisions are made, namely by one elected board that specializes in providing sewer services, is operating somewhat at odds with a different elected board that manages other municipal functions in largely the same geographic jurisdiction.”

Picquet agreed and wrote in his Aug. 30 ruling that the change of governance, in and of itself, “would not make it any easier or harder to change or modify affected fees or charges.”

“In addition, there are other checks and balances that exist in the local political arena that allow the public to affect how their policy makers may act on financial issues like rate increases and connection fees for sewer services,” he wrote.

Picquet also concluded that LAFCo acted in accordance with the law when it approved East Palo Alto’s proposal. Specifically, he found no evidence that



Anna Hoch-Kenney

EPASD General Manager and District Engineer Akin Okupe goes over pipeines with community members on Aug. 8.

LAFCo had engaged in “prejudicial abuse of discretion” in supporting the city’s position, which was the judicial standard of review. Both sides, he argued, presented ample evidence and LAFCo properly considered it before making its decision.

“The Court finds that the record, taken as a whole, contains substantial evidence in support of the challenged decisions,” Picquet wrote. “The Court recognizes that there is also evidence in the record that could perhaps be used to support different decisions by LAFCo.

“Such an observation is not in conflict or irreconcilable. It

reflects that the weight to be given to the evidence is up to the decision maker. Reasonable can disagree as to its weight, interpretation or persuasive value but not the existence of evidence.”

The ruling clears the way for the city to take over operations of the sewer system, consistent with the LAFCo ruling. The City Council has agreed to appoint an advisory committee of five people, two of whom would be from Menlo Park and one of whom would be appointed by the Menlo Park City Council. ■

*Email Staff Writer  
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gsheyner@almanacnews.com.*

**STANFORD HOUSING**

*continued from page 5*

“We have problems with electricity, sewer, water, Wi-Fi, cell-phone coverage and here we are welcoming people into our community,” Comes said.

Public hearings on the proposal are tentatively scheduled to be reviewed throughout September to December by the Trails and Paths, Conservation and Bicycle Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committees; Architectural Site Control Commission, planning commission and ultimately the Town Council. Decisions are required to be made by the Town Council to approve or deny certification of the EIR.

Community members are

invited to submit comments on the final EIR before through email at portolaterrace@portolavalley.net or by mail and drop-off to the Planning Department at 765 Portola Road. Comments that raise environmental issues will be addressed in the planning commission and council hearings, according to the memorandum by the Planning Department.

Hard copies of the final EIR are available for viewing at Town Hall and the Portola Valley Library. For more information on Portola Terrace and updates to the project and future meetings visit portolaterrace.stanford.edu. ■

*Email Staff Writer  
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jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.*

**OBITUARIES**

Local residents who died recently include:

**Marianne Lore Kohn Arnstein**, 96, a longtime resident of Atherton and community leader who escaped Nazi Germany with her family in 1937, on June 30, 2024.

**Agneta Turner**, 90, a Portola Valley resident and an antique seller who owned her own shop, Elliott Pontin Antiques, and volunteered for numerous organizations including the

Woodside Atherton Garden Club and Allied Arts Guild, on Aug. 6, 2024.

**Maria Quinby**, 66, a Woodside resident who had a career in interior design, and who enjoyed traveling and visiting friends and family in Sweden, on July 23, 2024.

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

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## ATHERTON HOUSING

*continued from page 1*

required to adopt a plan or face enforcement action. As of Aug. 28, Atherton has not yet received any feedback from HCD, according to the staff report.

### Bay Road properties

A bulk of the discussion at the Aug. 28 meeting revolved around four properties along Bay Road and Ringwood Avenue near Menlo-Atherton High School that were included in the town's plans for multifamily housing, with many neighbors of the properties advocating to remove them from the town's housing plan.

The Atherton City Council voted in July 2023 to add these four properties to the list of potential multifamily housing sites to take through the California Environmental Quality Act review process. In the same meeting, the council voted against adding properties along Selby Lane, Victoria Drive, Santiago Avenue and Polhemus Avenue to the CEQA review process, citing neighboring residents' strong opposition and concerns around the likelihood of the properties actually being redeveloped.

Several commenters at the Aug. 28 meeting said that the sites along Bay Road are inappropriate locations for multifamily housing due to high traffic that exists in the area due to its proximity to M-A, noise impacts to neighboring properties and privacy concerns.

"This proposed (multifamily) zoning of the properties (along Bay Road) violates every standard of privacy," wrote John Riddle, a resident who lives on Frederick Avenue near the four Bay Road properties, in a comment on the CEQA analysis of the properties. "The immutable right to privacy that is ... integral to the nature of Atherton is so grossly violated by the 10 to 14 families with a direct sight line into every room on the back of the adjoining neighbors' homes."

Neighbors along Bay Road, and on Frederick Avenue, which sits behind the four Bay Road properties, said they feel like they were not afforded the same consideration as other residents in Atherton who successfully prevented nearby properties from being included in the housing element process.

"For us here on Frederick (Avenue), we're low man on the totem pole right now," said resident Elizabeth Jenson. "You have taken (houses) off the plan for El Camino. ... We just weren't loud enough in the very beginning when we were not aware. ... Everyone else in town has taken care of their little corner of the neighborhood."

Residents living near the Bay Road properties also spoke up about concerns over traffic, safety and quality of life. "We're even getting solicitations to sell our properties on Frederick," said Jenson.

One Menlo Park resident, Jane Garratt, commented that Atherton is foisting its housing problem onto Menlo Park by putting a significant portion of Atherton's planned multifamily housing on the border between the two cities. Seven of the 10 properties that had been identified for multifamily housing in Atherton are located on the border of Atherton and Menlo Park.

"I object to your plan to put your housing on my street," she said. "You have decided to put many of the multifamily housing (sites) to satisfy your requirement for the housing element on peripheral streets. ... Why should we, who are already doing our fair share of housing element units, have to absorb yours as well?"

Several members of the planning commission agreed that the residents along Bay Road and Frederick Avenue were not considered in the council's decision.

"You shouldn't be the low man on the totem pole," said Commissioner Bob Polito. "And if the City Council shows the character that they should show, they'll treat those residents the same way they treated all the other people they backed away from."

Chair Eric Lane agreed with Polito, saying that he thinks putting multifamily housing on Bay Road is bad urban planning due to traffic concerns. Ultimately, Lane said he doesn't think that the City Council will accept the planning commission's recommendation to remove the four properties.

"We never had any input on these (properties)," he said. "They (the City Council) just decided to do it. And I think that from a planning perspective, it's a bad plan."

However, the question remains whether the state will accept the town's housing plans without the inclusion of those properties, as there are already very few locations where the town is even considering multifamily housing. There were only 10 potential multifamily housing sites that the town included in its CEQA analysis.

"We're going to recommend dropping 40% of the sites from the (multifamily housing) list, so the six remaining, do you think that's adequate for HCD?" asked Lane.

Town planner Brittany Bendix said that she is not sure if that level of rezoning will be adequate for the state to approve the town's proposal.

"I will say that my recommendation last fall was that the town



Magali Gauthier

The exterior of the Council Chambers in Atherton.

consider the density of 20 units per acre (for identified multifamily housing sites), so we're already below what I would think that HCD would require," she said.

The current housing plan and CEQA analysis plans for 10 units per acre on the identified multifamily housing opportunity sites.

### Other recommended changes

Removal of the four properties from consideration for multifamily housing was just one of several changes to the town's housing element plans that the planning commission recommended to the City Council.

The planning commission also recommended that town staff and council members implement the following changes to housing element documents:

- Updates to lower the required setback at the front of multifamily homes from 80 feet to 30 feet.
- Updates to the town's parking standards for multifamily housing, including requiring resident parking to be in a garage or underground, setting a maximum of two parking spaces per unit and requiring at least one bicycle parking space per unit, among other changes.
- Directing staff to look at how floor-area-ratio bonuses could be used to encourage developers to put parking underground and make use of attic space.

The commissioners also unanimously recommended that the council accept the CEQA analysis that was completed by town staff and consultants.

As the planning commission is just an advisory committee, it is ultimately up to the City Council to decide whether or not it wants to implement the recommended changes.

### ADU strategy

In addition to the promise of state enforcement, Atherton is staring down the looming threat of builder's remedy, which already applies to the town since it does not have the state stamp of

approval on its housing element plans. Under builder's remedy, cities that are out of compliance with state housing laws cannot deny affordable housing projects on the grounds that the project is out of compliance with the city's general plan or zoning rules.

"We already have a request on a property on Bay Road from somebody who said 'we'd like to do a builder's remedy on that,'" said Lane. "If we don't have a plan for 10 units (per acre) we're going to have 40 (units per acre). Not having a plan that is accepted by the state is the absolute worst plan."

City Manager George Rodericks said in an email to this news organization that there was an inquiry about a builder's remedy (Senate Bill 330) application for 99 Irving Ave., near the intersection of Marsh and Bay roads, however there was no further inquiry or action taken by the person who inquired.

Planning commissioners also mentioned the possible builder's remedy project in Menlo Park at the site of the former Sunset Magazine headquarters, which if built, would be the tallest building on the Peninsula. "It's happening in other communities right now," Lane said.

Lane says he hopes that the town can show the state that their accessory dwelling unit (ADU) plan is working to get additional affordable housing into the town.

"What we're trying to do is ... make it so the state says 'yeah, you guys just barely made it over the bar' to get accepted," said Lane. "And then what I'm looking for is that our strategy around ADUs will actually get those numbers where we actually meet the estimate of what we are required to deliver without ruining the town."

Lane says he thinks that ADUs are the "best prospect" for getting affordable housing into Atherton, because of the "prohibitively high" cost of land in the town. He said that the multifamily housing sites that the town has identified are more likely to become luxury townhouses,

rather than affordable multifamily housing.

"Will anybody really want to build (multifamily housing) with the criteria that we put forth?" he asked. "If not, then our ADU plan has a chance to succeed, because we're getting the numbers that we want."

In the most recent draft of its housing element, Atherton says that it was able to entirely fulfill its RHNA goal for low-income housing in the prior period (2015-22) due to its ADU program. Atherton updated its ADU ordinance in May to encourage residents to build even more ADUs in town.

But Atherton's first draft of their housing element was rejected by HCD due to their conclusion that the town was not "affirmatively furthering fair housing" by not identifying sites where affordable multifamily housing could be built.

Carol Flaherty, a housing developer and member of the Atherton Housing Coalition, a group of Atherton residents who wrote their own proposal for the town's housing element, agreed with Lane that the Atherton plans as they stand will not actually lead to affordable housing being built on the potential multifamily housing sites.

"There is a requirement for affordability, and we in the Housing Coalition do not find \$4 million townhouses to be affordable," she said. "What you're doing is subsidizing developers like me. We're going to make a lot of money to the detriment of the town. We need to get back to 10 affordable units in a building that working people can actually afford so that we meet HCD's mandates."

Flaherty also said that the town should get rid of the option for housing developers to pay a fee to get out of making 20% of the units in a new development affordable.

### Next steps

The Atherton City Council will review the drafts of the housing element and associated zoning changes along with the recommendations from the planning commission at its next meeting on Sept. 18. The council is expected to make a final decision on properties to be rezoned for multifamily housing, and vote on whether or not to submit the housing element update package to HCD at their meeting on Oct. 16.

View all documents related to Atherton's housing element update process at [ci.atherton.ca.us/627/Housing-Element-Update](http://ci.atherton.ca.us/627/Housing-Element-Update). ■

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

# Portola Valley Chihuahua killed by mountain lion

Experts warn to be wary at dusk and dawn

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On Aug. 13, Portola Valley resident Rebecca Trevino awoke at 4:45 a.m. to the sound of her dogs barking followed by what sounded like a loud scream and more barking. Trevino checked her terrace and her 5-year-old Chihuahua Sammy was nowhere to be found. Later in the morning, neighbor Kerry Brown found Sammy's remains in his backyard. He was the apparent victim of a mountain lion attack.

Multiple mountain lions inhabit the hills and woods of Portola Valley and are frequently sighted by town residents. Brown said it had been six years since he'd seen an animal's remains from a mountain lion attack around his property on Palmer Lane. He and Trevino's property on Adair Lane are connected by a shared ravine that winds through the hills.

On the morning of the attack, Brown recalls hearing "extremely loud" crying

noises, screams and growling he believes came from Sammy or the mountain lion.

"I heard the crying of the dog which was really loud and the mountain lion was also making a high-pitched noise. The noises lasted about 3 minutes. I could hear immediately after, the mountain lion working its way through the ravine and carrying the dog up," said Brown.

Trevino had assumed Sammy was taken or ran away. She sent out a message on the town's private social media platform, PV Forum, asking for residents to look out for him.

It wasn't until 7 a.m. that Brown found Sammy's remains on his property after noticing turkey vultures circling around his home.

The mountain lion apparently jumped onto Trevino's eight-foot tall elevated terrace and grabbed Sammy, who was sleeping outside.

Brown contacted the San Mateo County

Sheriff's Office and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to report the attack.

Despite losing her dog to a mountain lion, Trevino holds no grudge against the wildlife that inhabit the hills of Portola Valley. "The people of Portola Valley respect the wildlife," said Brown.

The town enforces initiatives "to keep Portola Valley primitive" with its lack of sidewalks and prohibiting outdoor lighting at night, but residents have recently been building fences on their properties which Brown said is creating a "funneling effect towards those of us that don't have fences."

Residents are building fences to protect their children from the wildlife that roams their backyards.

"People move here for the scenic environment and people want the views but they don't want the threats of the snakes, coyotes and mountain lions," said Brown, whose security cameras caught the

mountain lion returning to his property two days after Sammy was attacked.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife advises pet owners to bring their pets inside at night and to avoid taking dogs on walks during dusk and dawn when mountain lions are most active. According to CDFW's Information Officer Krysten Kellum, reducing vegetation that attracts deer near your home can also deter mountain lions as deer are their favorite animals to prey on.

"Where there are deer, there are mountain lions," she said.

If you encounter a mountain lion, scare it off by maintaining eye contact, making noise and making yourself appear bigger. The Sheriff's Office encourages anyone who sees a mountain lion in a residential area to call 911 and proceed with caution. ■

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

## GAUTHIER

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and make sure that voices are heard."

Regarding her stance on law enforcement, Gauthier took a measured approach when discussing Proposition 36, which would increase sentences for particular drug and theft crimes.

"I don't want to see more people incarcerated," she said.

Gauthier said that while people need to be held accountable for their crimes, overcrowding jails isn't the solution. She expressed concern about allowing offenses to go unchecked but was cautious about immediately resorting to felony charges, saying that the severity of such charges needs careful consideration.

"We cannot continue to have a society where people are stealing and doing things and we aren't doing anything," she

said. "There has to be consequences for actions. I don't know that we go directly to a felony, and I don't understand the level of a felony that it will be."

As for her approach to accessibility to constituents, Gauthier said maintains an open-door policy and actively engages with the community to understand their concerns.

"...Because that's how you learn about what's going on when you hear from other residents and people in the community," she said.

As she enters the final stretch of her campaign, Gauthier said she remains focused on her core priorities and the experience she brings to the role.

"At the end of the day, we want a safe community. We want people to survive and thrive," Gauthier said. "We want people to feel comfortable living in San Mateo County," she said.

Gauthier, a mother and grandmother,

graduated from Thomas Edison State University in 2019 while serving two jobs, she said. She has lived in the community and the district for 47 years.

With endorsements from prominent figures like Board Supervisor Ray Mueller, former Congresswoman Jackie Speier, and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, as well as organizations

like the San Mateo County Democratic Committee, Gauthier believes she has the support and experience needed to effectively represent District 4 on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. ■

Email Editor Michelle Iracheta at [miracheta@almanacnews.com](mailto:miracheta@almanacnews.com).

## CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

Officers were unable to determine exactly where the alleged robbery and assault took place, so they set up a search perimeter with the assistance of neighboring police agencies, along with the use of a drone and a police dog.

Police were able to locate two people who were trying to flee the scene, but according to Nicole Acker, a spokesperson for the Menlo Park police department, it is unknown if these two people were part of the alleged robbery and assault.

The two people were ultimately arrested for outstanding warrants from other police departments.

One of the people was arrested, cited and released for a \$500 warrant from the Redwood City police department. The other person was arrested and booked into Maguire Correctional Facility on a \$10,000 warrant for grand theft and resisting arrest out of the Palo Alto Police Department, and two \$20,000 warrants

from the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department for prowling, possessing burglar's tools and grand theft, according to Menlo Park police logs.

Police say that it appears that the victim may have known the two people who were arrested, and that "some type of disagreement" took place.

As of The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline, the Menlo Park police detective unit was still investigating the circumstances of the assault. No one was arrested in conjunction with the assault by the deadline.

—Embarcadero Media staff

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**COACH**

*continued from page 5*

is being taken away right now,” said Jermaine Sutton, the parent of varsity basketball player Jacob Sutton.

During the 2023-24 basketball season, M-A’s varsity boys basketball team competed in the semifinals of the state championship and were runner up in the Central Coast sectional championship.

“Coach has been something that I never thought I’d get in high school — a teacher, a mentor, somebody that I can go to

and talk to about anything,” said Jacob during the board meeting. “We just want our coach and we just want to be able to play and be high school students without all this extra stuff.”

In addition to being the head coach, Molieri also encouraged his students to push for success in their academic work. Varsity basketball player Lucca Auer, who was also a teacher’s assistant in Molieri’s class, said when he was struggling with his grades his coach helped him stay on track of his schoolwork and was a big part of his success.

“I feel really sad that he’s not

here and I can’t have him push me like he normally does,” said Auer.

Students say Molieri is not allowed to contact his students and are unable to answer their questions. While on administrative leave, Molieri is unable to provide a statement on the situation to this news organization.

“He is a legend at our school and everyone looks up to play for him,” said M-A basketball player Lucca Mazzie.

SUHSD Superintendent Crystal Leach confirmed that Molieri was placed on leave but did not provide a comment.

“He has been home for 30 days

and has yet to be given any facts around the situation” said Mike’s brother Dan Molieri, lead investigator at the Oakland-based Law Offices of John Burris. Burris is representing the former M-A student involved in the federal lawsuit alleging excessive force and unreasonable arrest of two students in April 2023.

According to Dan, Mike has filed two Equal Employment Opportunity Commission retaliation charges against the district since being put on leave.

Assistant Coach Craig Carson will be serving as the interim head coach for the varsity boys

basketball team, according to M-A Athletic Director Paul Snow. M-A’s high school basketball season will start in December. ■

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



# Public Notices

**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)

**FRESHLY FOLDED**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-298204  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) FRESHLY FOLDED, located at 342 Rutherford Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061.  
Registered owner(s):  
FRESHLY FOLDED, LLC.  
342 Rutherford Ave.  
Redwood City, CA 94061  
State of Incorporation/Organization: California  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 09, 2024.  
(ALM Aug 23, 30, Sep 6 and 13, 2024)

**FIELDING BROWNSTONE**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-298310  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) FIELDING BROWNSTONE, located at 225 Portola Rd, Portola Valley, CA 92120. Mailing Address: 7230 Decanture CV, San Diego, CA 92120.  
Registered owner(s):  
MICHAEL CHRISTIAN PERO  
7230 Decanture CV  
San Diego, CA 92120  
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 21, 2024.  
(ALM Aug 30, Sep 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

**ANKUR CHOPRA ENGINEERING**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-298280  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) ANKUR CHOPRA ENGINEERING, located at 1585 Harbor Blvd, Belmont, CA, 94002, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):

**ANKUR CHOPRA**  
1585 Harbor Blvd  
Belmont, CA, 94002  
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 19, 2024.  
(ALM Sep 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2024)

**MEDINA CLEANING SERVICE**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-298161  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) MEDINA CLEANING SERVICE, located at 1138 Sevier Ave, Menlo Park CA 94025.  
Registered owner(s):  
ADALBERTA MEDINA ASTORGA  
1138 Sevier Ave  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
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 07, 2024.  
(ALM Aug 30, Sep 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

**DOLYS CLEANING SERVICES**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-298360  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) DOLYS CLEANING SERVICES, located at 161 Oak Avenue Apt 3, Redwood City, CA 94061.  
Registered owner(s):  
DOLY HAYNE CHACON  
161 Oak Avenue Apt 3  
Redwood City, CA 94061  
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 27, 2024.  
(ALM Sep 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2024)

**GG FOOT MASSAGE**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-298359  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) GG FOOT MASSAGE, located at 595 SAN MATEO AVE, SAN BRUNO, CA 94066.  
Registered owner(s):  
GG777, LLC  
595 SAN MATEO AVE  
SAN BRUNO, CA 94066  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 27, 2024.  
(ALM Sep 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2024)

**PROLIFIC GARDEN**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-298189

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) PROLIFIC GARDEN, located at 229 SANTA CLARA AVE, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061.  
Registered owner(s):  
PENINSULA PRO, INC  
229 SANTA CLARA AVE  
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061  
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 August 09, 2024.  
(ALM Aug 23, 30, Sep 6 and 13, 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)

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:**  
CHENG-WEI WILLIAM CHEN, AKA C. WILLIAM CHEN, AKA WILLIAM CHEN  
Case No.: 24-PRO-01082  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of CHENG-WEI WILLIAM CHEN, AKA C. WILLIAM CHEN, AKA WILLIAM CHEN.  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Lily Sit Chen in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.  
The Petition for Probate requests that: Lily Siu Chen be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests the decedent’s will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on October 04 2024 at 9:00am in Dept 1 of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 800 North Humboldt Street, San Mateo, CA 94401  
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner:  
Janet L. Dobrovoly, Esq. and Teresa L. Peng, Esq.  
Law Offices of Janet L. Dobrovoly  
2000 Powell Street, Suite. 1605  
Emeryville, CA 94608  
510-653-3878  
(ALM Sep 6, 13 and 20, 2024)

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:**  
JOHN PETER NELSON  
Case No.: 24-PRO-01052  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JOHN PETER NELSON.  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Tanya Marie Jaspering and Joshua J. Nelson in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.  
The Petition for Probate requests that: Tanya Marie Jaspering and Joshua J. Nelson be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent’s will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on September 30 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept. 1 of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.  
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner:  
Paul R. Kraft  
Law Office of Paul R. Kraft  
5170 Golden Foothill Parkway  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
530-344-0204  
(ALM Aug 30, Sep 6 and 13, 2024)

**To place a legal notice visit [AlmanacNews.com/legal\\_notices/](http://AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/)**  
The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm. For assistance email [LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com).

# Let's educate!

## OUR GUIDE TO SCHOOLS, CAMPS & CLASSES — AUTUMN 2024

### BUSINESS & TECH

#### ► CareerGenerations

2100 Geng Road, Suite 210,  
Palo Alto  
info@careergenerations.com /  
careergenerations.com

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

#### ► ReBoot Accelerator for Women

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

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

### CULTURE

#### ► Joy Culture Foundation

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

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

### DANCE AND THEATER

#### ► Dance Connection

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

Dance Connection offers combination and graded classes for youth (age 3 and up) and adults. Ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, lyrical, and other instruction are available for students at various levels of ability. Dance Connection offers two seasons of dance: fall-spring and summer session (plus special camps and intensives).

#### ► Mannakin Theater and Dance

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

### Autumn's in the air

Bring on the pumpkin spice everything, start planning your Halloween costume and let's get learning! For many, autumn means back to school, be it the kids heading back to class for another academic year or folks of all ages ready to take on their next challenge, polish up their skills, or try something new. Our fall guide is here to help get you started on your next fruitful educational path.

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

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

#### ► Stanford Quads

3300 Alpine Road, Portola Valley  
stanfordquads.org/class

Square dance class open to singles, couples and families. Sunday evenings 6:30-8:30 p.m. Two "intro nights" (Sept. 29 and Oct. 6) are open to people with no previous experience. The group meets at Ladera Community Church.

#### ► Victoria Ballet

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

At this ballet studio, students from age 4 to adult are learning the art of dance from instructor Victoria Lee and other dance faculty who have danced professionally with the San Francisco Ballet. The classes offered include all experience levels — from beginners to pre-professional dancers.

#### ► Zohar School of Dance & Company

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

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

### MUSIC & VISUAL ARTS

#### ► Community School of Music and Arts

Finn Center,  
230 San Antonio Circle,  
Mountain View / 650-917-6800  
info@arts4all.org / arts4all.org

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

#### ► EPACenter

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

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

#### ► Music Together Menlo Park

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

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

#### ► New Mozart School of Music

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

New Mozart School of Music offers music lessons and group classes in a variety of instruments year-round to students of all ages and abilities.

#### ► Pacific Art League

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

Pacific Art League offers a range of classes for children and adults with varying experience. Instructors teach many media, including drawing, painting, watercolor, digital art and more. In-person and live online classes are offered year-round.

#### ► Palo Alto Art Center

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

Palo Alto Art Center classes and workshops — teaching children, teens and adults — cover such areas as ceramics, painting, drawing,

jewelry, sculpture, Adobe Photo-Shop and more.

### OLDER ADULTS

#### ► Avenidas

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

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

#### ► Little House Activity Center

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

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

### PARENT EDUCATION

#### ► Children's Health Council

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

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

### SCHOOLS

#### ► Athena Academy

525 San Antonio Ave., Palo Alto  
650-543-4560  
anne@athenaacademy.org /  
athenaacademy.org

Athena Academy educates dyslexic and twice-exceptional students in first through eighth grades.

#### ► Bowman International School

4000 Terman Drive, Palo Alto  
650-813-9231  
bowmanschool.org

Bowman International School offers Montessori education for elementary through high school, (plus an early education program at 693 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto).

#### ► Castilleja School

1310 Bryant St., Palo Alto  
650-328-3160 / castilleja.org/

Castilleja is an independent school for girls in middle and high school with a goal of inspiring young women to become confident leaders and changemakers.

#### ► Challenger School

3880 Middlefield Road,  
Palo Alto / 650-213-8245  
challengerschool.com

Challenger School's Palo Alto location is open to students from preschool through eighth grade with an emphasis on preparing students to become self-reliant, individual and independent thinkers.

#### ► Emerson School

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

Emerson School provides a year-round program for grades one to eight, teaching a personalized, Montessori curriculum. Emerson also offers an infant center and a preschool program.

#### ► Fusion Academy

2191 E. Bayshore Road, Suite 100,  
Palo Alto  
650-857-0634  
fusionacademy.com/campuses/  
palo-alto

Fusion Academy Palo Alto offers 1:1 education and customized schedules for students in middle and high school.

#### ► Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School

450 San Antonio Road,  
Palo Alto / 650-494-8200  
info@hausnerschool.org /  
hausnerschool.org

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

#### ► The Girls' Middle School

3400 West Bayshore Road,  
Palo Alto / 650-968-8338  
girlsms.org

See **LET'S EDUCATE!**, page 18

## Let's educate! – Guide to Schools, Camps & Classes – Autumn 2024

### LET'S EDUCATE!

continued from page 17

A progressive school with a focus on hands-on and project-based learning, The Girls' Middle school strives to empower and educate middle school girls with a holistic approach.

#### ► Imagination Lab School

4050 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto  
imagination-school.org

Imagination Lab School serves students in grades TK-8 with a mission of igniting curiosity and building confidence and creativity.

#### ► Kehillah Jewish High School

3900 Fabian Way, Palo Alto  
650-213-9600  
admissions@kehillah.org /  
kehillah.org

This college-preparatory high school (grades nine through 12) features science and computer labs, art and music studios, a drama program, small class sizes, sports teams and more.

#### ► Keys School

2890 Middlefield Road and  
3981 El Camino Real, Palo Alto  
650-328-1711 / keyschool.org

Keys School, serving elementary and middle school students, emphasizes nurturing the whole child.

#### ► Learning Links

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

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

#### ► Living Wisdom School of Palo Alto

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

Offering yoga, meditation and experiential, interdisciplinary

learning, Living Wisdom School serves students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade.

#### ► Lydian Academy

815 El Camino Real,  
Menlo Park / 650-535-8711  
staff@lydianlink.com /  
lydianacademy.com

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

#### ► Meira Academy

3921 Fabian Way,  
Palo Alto  
650-485-3589  
meiraacademy.org

Meira Academy is an Orthodox Jewish high school for girls, offering a curriculum in Judaic and general studies.

#### ► Menlo School

50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton  
650-330-2000  
menloschool.org

Menlo School is open to students in middle and high school, with a goal of challenging and empowering its students to fall in love with learning.

#### ► Mid-Peninsula High School

1340 Willow Road, Menlo Park  
650-321-1991 / mid-pen.org

Mid-Peninsula High School aims to prepare its students for successful college careers and provide an inclusive and collaborative learning environment.

#### ► Nativity School

1250 Laurel St., Menlo Park  
650-325-7304 / nativityschool.com

Nativity is a Catholic school serving students from preschool through eighth grade. The curriculum covers traditional academic subjects as well as STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) initiatives.

#### ► Peninsula School

920 Peninsula Way, Menlo Park  
650-325-1584  
info@peninsulaschool.org /  
peninsulaschool.org

Peninsula School is a progressive institution teaching students from nursery through eighth grade, with an emphasis on choice and experience.

#### ► Philips Brooks School

2245 Avy Ave., Menlo Park  
650-854-4545  
phillipsbrooks.finalsite.com

This independent day school offers child-centered learning for children from preschool through fifth grade.

#### ► Sacred Heart Schools

150 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton  
650-322-1866 / shschools.org

Sacred Heart Schools offers Catholic educations for students in preschool up through high school, founded by the Society of the Sacred Heart.

#### ► Sand Hill School

650 Clark Way,  
Palo Alto  
650-688-3605  
info@sandhillschool.org /  
sandhillschool.org

See **LET'S EDUCATE!**, page 19

# Private School Previews



## The Girls' Middle School

Transformative  
education  
at a crucial  
time in life

Register now for a **PREVIEW DAY**  
October 26 | December 8

3400 W. Bayshore Road | Palo Alto, CA 94303  
girlsms.org | admissions@girlsms.org | 650-968-8338



To place a paid advertisement in the  
Let's Educate special section, call the display  
advertising department at 650-326-8210.  
To submit a listing for the next Let's Educate  
special section, email editor@pawekly.com.

# Let's educate! – Guide to Schools, Camps & Classes – Autumn 2024

## LET'S EDUCATE!

continued from page 18

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

### ► Silicon Valley International School

151 Laura Lane, Palo Alto  
475 Pope St., Menlo Park  
650-251-8500  
school@svintl.org / svintl.org

Silicon Valley International School offers bilingual immersion day school with two nursery-to-fifth-grade programs in French, German and Mandarin as well as middle and high school programs.

### ► St. Raymond School

1211 Arbor Road, Menlo Park  
650-322-2312 / straymond.org

St. Raymond School is a Catholic school serving students from TK to eighth grade. The school aims to support critical thinking and creativity.

### ► Stratford School

870 N. California Ave., Palo Alto  
650-405-1244  
stratfordschools.com

The Palo Alto location of Stratford School has preschool, elementary and middle school programs, plus after-school clubs and an extended-day program.

### ► Synapse School

3375 Edison Way, Menlo Park  
650-294-4570  
synapseschool.org

Synapse is a TK-eighth grade independent school. Parent education is an integral part of Synapse's experience for families, as is social-emotional learning.

### ► Trinity School

2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park  
330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park  
650-854-0288 / trinity-mp.org

An independent school for elementary students, plus an early childhood campus for preschoolers, Trinity is rooted in Episcopal heritage.

### ► Woodland School

360 La Cuesta Drive, Portola Valley / 650-854-9065  
woodland-school.org

Woodland School is an independent school offering small classes and an emphasis on student-driven

projects for children in preschool up through middle school.

### ► Woodside Priory

302 Portola Road, Portola Valley  
650-851-8221 / prioryca.org

Woodside Priory is a Catholic Benedictine college preparatory school that offers education for students in sixth through 12th grade and a residential boarding program for high school students.

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

### ► JobTrain

1200 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park  
650-330-6429  
info@jobtrainworks.org / jobtrainworks.org

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

### ► Hidden Villa

26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills / 650-949-8650  
hiddenvilla.org

In addition to its long-running summer camp programs, Hidden Villa offers a variety of classes and clubs for children and adults, including a natural history series.

### ► The Riekes Center

3455 Edison Way, Menlo Park  
650-364-2509 / info@riekes.org / riekes.org

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

### ► Sequoia District Adult School

3247 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park / 650-306-8866  
seqsas.org

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

### ► Stanford Continuing Studies

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

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

## SPORTS

### ► Baylands Golf Links

1875 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto  
650-856-0881  
baylandsgolflinks.com

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

### ► Kim Grant Tennis Academy

3005 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto  
650-752-8061  
admin@kimgranttennis.com / kimgranttennis.com

The Kim Grant Tennis Academy organizes an array of tennis classes and programs for adults and children at multiple locations, including in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Woodside. Pickleball clinics are also offered at some locations.

### ► Spring Down Equestrian Center

725 Portola Road, Portola Valley  
650-851-1114  
springdowneqcenter@gmail.com / springdown.com

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

### ► Webb Ranch Riding School

2720 Alpine Road, Portola Valley  
650-854-7755  
webbranchinc.com

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

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

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



## Town of Atherton

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

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that said consideration is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on **September 18, 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 City Council Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

**Topic:** Atherton City Council Meeting  
**Time:** September 18, 2024, 06:00 PM Pacific Time  
**In person Option:** 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA  
**Zoom Meeting Option and Details:**  
<https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/506897786>  
**Meeting ID:** 506 897 786

**Dial:** 1 669 900 6833 (San Jose)  
**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:** council@ci.atherton.ca.us

The City Council will consider the items listed below recommending amendments to the Atherton General Plan and Municipal Code to implement the **2023-2031 Housing Element and Zoning Code Updates**.

- Adoption of an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program (MMRP).
- Adoption of amendments to the Atherton General Plan and Municipal Code to implement the 2023-2031 Housing Element. This includes objective design standards and development standards for multifamily housing (density, height, setbacks and parking, etc.).

**Planning Commission Recommendation:** The Planning Commission, at a regularly scheduled meeting held on August 28, 2024 voted unanimously (5 Ayes, M: Polito, S: Tonelli) to recommend that the City Council adopt the IS/MND and to recommend that the City Council adopt the Housing Element and Zoning Code updates with the following changes:

- Remove the Bay/Ringwood sites as proposed RM-10 multifamily development sites.
- Modify the RM-10 standards to apply the R1-A standards for height (34 feet), rear yard (60 feet) and side yard (requirement varies by lot width), apply a front yard setback of 30 feet and apply a new privacy standard based on sill height.
- Retain the proposed floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.5, but add policies to encourage underground parking, such as excluding underground parking and habitable attic space from FAR.
- Correct minor errors identified in the staff report.

**IF YOU CHALLENGE** the Housing Element 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 City Council at, or prior to, close of the public hearing.

The agenda for this meeting with links to related staff reports can be found online by **Friday, September 13, 2024**, here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the listed project is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on **September 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM** in person. City council decisions are final on the date of decision and may not be further appealed.

If you have any questions on the item please contact Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner, at [bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us) or (408) 688-2432. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL  
/s/ Brittany Bendix  
Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner

# Employment

The Almanac offers  
employment advertising.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Visit [AlmanacNews.com/employment\\_ads/](https://AlmanacNews.com/employment_ads/).

For assistance email [LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com).

# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## A 'New Age' for music

Documentary will explore the history of Windham Hill Records, which began on the Peninsula in the mid-1970s

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

Think of music from the 1980s and what comes to mind? Michael Jackson and his best-selling album, "Thriller" or maybe the provocative videos of rising star Madonna? Perhaps the hard-edged, heavy metal sounds of Queen and Metallica were your thing.

The decade was a time of musical innovation and diversity, but it also had a softer side. Documentary filmmaker Tal Skloot has turned his lens on the many musicians who comprised Windham Hill Records in his latest film, "A Quiet Revolution: The Story of Windham Hill Records." The independent label, often classified as one of the first to feature "New Age" music, would go on to international acclaim, winning 27 gold and platinum records, but it had a humble — and local — origin.

Will Ackerman, founder of Windham Hill, began his musical journey playing guitar around the Stanford campus. He eschewed the notion of a career in academia like his father and instead became a carpenter. He still pursued his musical interests, teaming up with other like-minded artists



Courtesy Tal Skloot

Filmmaker Tal Skloot.

who preferred a quieter, acoustic approach to composing and performing. He said that it was "a bit of a lark" when he decided to actually go into a recording studio. In an email interview, Ackerman explained the genesis of the label.

"All I wanted to do was to make a little record for friends. The record pressing plant required a minimum order of 300 albums and I fully expected to have 260 of them in my closet for the rest of my life. It didn't turn out that way," he said.

Ackerman was joined in his solo guitar compositions by

other artists (Alex De Grassi, Michael Hedges, George Winston, Liz Story, among others) in performing their unique blend of acoustic music with folk, classical and jazz influences at local venues like the Varsity Theater in Palo Alto. All of the artists were united in the desire to offer a contrast to often-frenetic music at the time, offering listeners a chance to, according to a press release, "quiet the mind and soothe the soul." The music, and the distinctive album covers with their single, seasonal photographs, would become a brand unto itself.

Fast forward to the current day and the question had to be asked — why make a documentary about a decades-old independent record label?

"I grew up listening to the artists and felt a special connection to the sound and ethos of the music. Listening to Will Ackerman, Alex De Grassi and Michael Hedges inspired me to learn finger-style guitar, which led to adventures in my 20s busking on the streets of Europe," Skloot said.

Skloot, who has won numerous awards for his feature-length documentaries, is on the faculty of the communication



Courtesy Irene Young

Pianist Liz Story's debut album, "Solid Colors," was released by Windham Hill in 1983. She would go on to record numerous other albums on the label.

and media studies department at Sonoma State University. He noted that he loves music documentaries and felt that the story of Windham Hill had not been told.

"There are so many interesting angles to the story: how the label was born at the same time as Apple and the digital revolution in Palo Alto, how the label went against the grain of

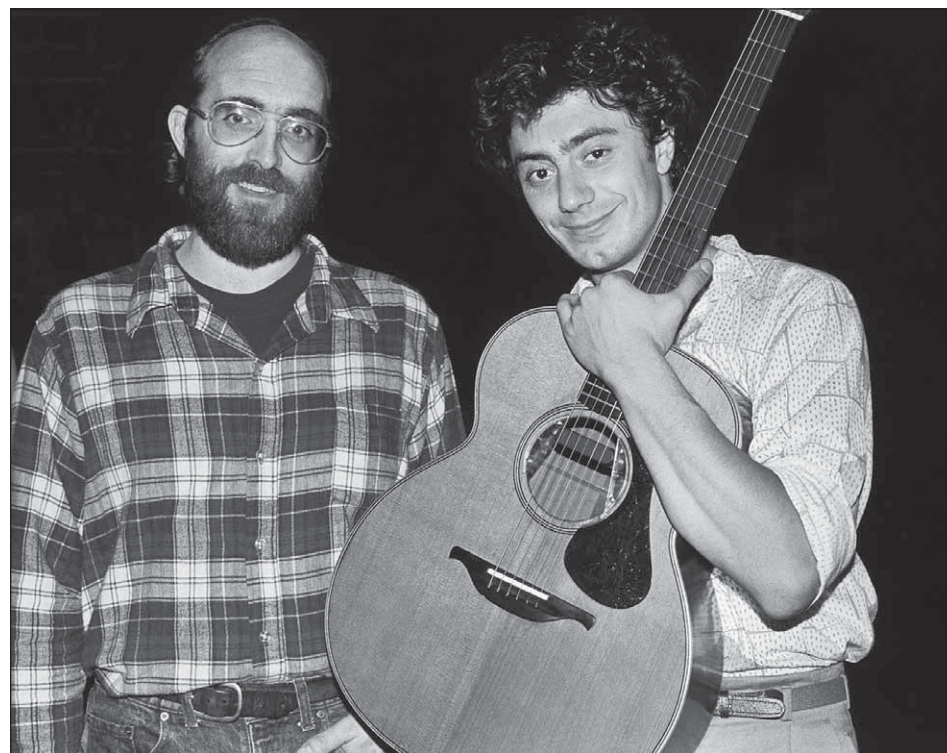
what was happening musically at the time, and how the music still resonates with listeners at a time when society seems ever more turbulent and distracted," he explained.

The documentary will focus on the years when Windham Hill was an independent record label (it would go on to be sold numerous times) and will feature present-day interviews,



Courtesy Irene Young

Guitarist Alex De Grassi is seen in an early promo photo.



Courtesy Irene Young

Pianist George Winston, left, and guitarist Pierre Bensusan each released albums on the Windham Hill label in the 1980s.



Courtesy Irene Young

Pianist, composer and vocalist Barbara Higbie was the first woman signed to the Windham Hill label, according to her website. In addition to her solo work, she performed with the band Montreux, also on the label, in the 1980s.

archival footage, videos and stills, music and behind-the-scenes stories. Skloot said that, fortunately, there is a large archive of video concert recordings from the Varsity Theater as well as some wonderful candid portraits. Many of the artists feature on the label continue to perform and teach.

“The artists we interviewed were all extremely honest and open. I think Windham Hill allowed the musicians the freedom to express their inner voices and stories and they were grateful for this opportunity,” Skloot said.

The film, which is being financed by a Kickstarter campaign, is about halfway through production. Skloot said there will be a feature-length film and an hour-long television version. He plans to distribute the film nationally via film festivals, screenings at concert halls, music venues and schools. He also foresees a digital release through iTunes, Amazon and Netflix.

Ackerman, who, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, continued to perform an annual Windham Hill Winter Solstice Tour, confessed to initially being “skeptical” and only wanted to work with someone who really knew and cared about the subject. “I want to make it clear that Tal convinced me that this would be real and sincere and I trusted him, and I’m glad I did.”

Looking back, it is obvious that Ackerman views the Windham Hill years with special affection. “The experience with Windham Hill Records was simply beyond belief. No one thought you could make money selling records with a guy sitting in a room playing the guitar or a piano. Clearly the

world was waiting for something like this and we just stumbled into it at the right time. In summary, we were not chasing stardom, fame or wealth. We were just sitting in our homes writing music because it felt right to us as individuals with musical hearts,” he said.

Skloot noted that the film will explore “the underpinnings of the label’s popularity, why it was so embraced and why its popularity has endured to this day.” He also points out that many acoustic musicians have integrated the Windham Hill sound into their music and their influence can still be heard.

When asked if there was any plan to get the Windham Hill artists together again, he responded, “I sure hope so! We are in discussion for a 50th anniversary reunion concert. It would be amazing and a real treat for fans.”

What does he hope viewers will take away from the documentary?

“I hope people take a moment in their fast-paced, busy lives to stop, look up at a tree or a leaf on the ground and relax. The musicians of Windham Hill Records shared their musical stories and allowed listeners to look inward and experience their own emotions through music. Our society needs these introspective musical moments more than ever.” ■

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For more information about Windham Hill Records and the Kickstarter campaign: [tinyurl.com/WindhamHillKickstarter](http://tinyurl.com/WindhamHillKickstarter).

# Worth a Look

## ‘Waiting for Godot’

Los Altos Stage Company’s production of Samuel Beckett’s modern classic, the tragicomedy “Waiting for Godot,” opens this week. The show tells the story of Vladimir and Estragon, waiting in vain for their appointment with the titular and mysterious Godot and pondering existentially all the while. Directed by the company’s Executive Artistic Director Gary Landis, the cast includes David Scott, Evan Winet, John Stephen King, Marc Berman, Kuba Adams and James Rose.

Sept. 6-29 (see website for complete show schedule); 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos; \$28-\$51; [losaltosstage.org/waiting-for-godot](http://losaltosstage.org/waiting-for-godot).



Courtesy Christian Pizzirani

Actors David Scott, left, and Evan Winet star in Los Altos Stage Company’s production of “Waiting for Godot.”

## David Luning

Americana singer-songwriter David Luning celebrates the Sept. 6 release of his latest record, “Lessons,” with a performance at Sound Union in Redwood City. The California musician has played at festivals including Bottlerock, Hardly Strictly Bluegrass, and the Strawberry Music Festival and shared the stage with Tedeschi Trucks, John Hiatt, Chris Isaak and more over the course of his career thus far. He has also released the albums “Just Drop On By” and “Restless.”

Sept. 6, 8 p.m., Sound Union, 2625 Broadway St., Redwood City; \$38.65; [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).

## Film Noir festival

The Stanford Theatre has a fitting way to welcome the cooler, darker days of fall, celebrating the film noir genre with a lineup of gritty, moody mysteries and thrillers, full of shadows and dramatic atmosphere. Through early November, the Stanford’s screen will play host to gangsters, cops, femme fatales and unsuspecting average Joes getting caught up in shady schemes in films such as “The Woman in the Window” (Sept. 12-13); “Double Indemnity” (Sept. 14-15); “Sunset Boulevard” (Sept. 28-29); “Key Largo” (Oct. 5-6); “Laura” (Oct. 19-20); and “The Postman Always Rings Twice” (Nov. 9-10). And for the spookiest time of year, there’s also some classic horror on the schedule, including “Curse of the Cat People” (Oct. 24-25) and “I Walked With a Zombie” (Oct. 31-Nov. 1). The theater kicks off its fall schedule Sept. 6-8 with a pair of film-noir classics: “The Big Sleep” and “The Maltese Falcon,” both starring Humphrey Bogart, one of the giants of the genre.

The Stanford’s film noir festival runs Thursdays-Sundays, Sept. 6-Nov. 10, at the Stanford Theatre, 221 University Ave., Palo Alto. \$5-\$7 admission. For a full schedule, visit [stanfordtheatre.org](http://stanfordtheatre.org).

## Mountain View Art & Wine Festival

At this time of year there is no shortage of festive street fair fun, including the annual Mountain View Art & Wine Festival, held for the 52nd (!) time this year. Tons of artists and crafts makers will be displaying their wares, plus live entertainment on the main stage, on the community talent stage and along the street; art-making activities; fun for kids; a sports lounge; a variety of food and, of course, wine (other drinks, too).

Sept. 7 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sept. 8 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Castro Street from El Camino Real to Evelyn Avenue in downtown Mountain View; free; [mviewartwine.com](http://mviewartwine.com).

## Jazzmeia Horn

Grammy-nominated and NAACP Image Award-winning jazz vocalist Jazzmeia Horn will be joined by pianist Miles Lennox, bassist Destiny Diggs and drummer Jaz Sawyer for a performance on the Coastside this week. Horn has released three acclaimed albums — “A Social Call,” “Love & Liberation” and “Dear Love” (with the 15-piece Her Noble Force) — and in 2015 won the Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Competition.

Sept. 8, 4:30 p.m., Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society, 311 Mirada Road, Half Moon Bay (livestream admission also available); \$55-\$65 (\$10 for livestream access); [bachddsoc.org/calendar](http://bachddsoc.org/calendar).

# Food & Drink

## Here's the tea

### 15 boba shops to try on the Peninsula

BY GRACE D. LI

The Bay has a nearly infinite supply of boba shops, and for newcomers, it can be a little intimidating to figure out where to start. When I first moved here, I definitely felt that way. Now, half a decade (and many bobas) later, I wanted to offer a guide for anyone new to the Peninsula boba scene or looking for another spot to try. As a note, I've left out some of the bigger nationwide chains (Gong Cha, Kung Fu Tea, etc.) to focus on more Bay Area-specific offerings!

This guide is broken down into three parts: places for fruit teas, milk teas and dessert teas. For each boba shop listed, I also have my personal recommendation just in case you're wondering what to try first. It's not comprehensive — how can a list like this ever be? — but hopefully it's a running start.

#### < FRUIT TEAS >

**TONG SUI:** This is a Bay Area dessert spot mostly known for their coconut puddings (which come in cute take-home glass jars!), but their boba is very popular too! I love their seasonal stuff, especially their current papaya drinks (which I've never seen outside of China and Taiwan!), but they've got plenty of good drinks year-round, most of which are also made with coconut. They've also got a durian drink here, which is hard to find elsewhere.

> **Try first:** Coco Papaya (seasonal), coconut ice bomb  
*Tong Sui, locations in San Mateo, Redwood City, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara; Instagram: @tongsui.us.*

**ZERO&:** Zero& is a Bay Area chain with a new location in Stanford Shopping Center. Their name comes from the fact that you can order their drinks with cane sugar or with artificial sweetener (zero calories!). All their drinks come with a truly astonishing amount of fruit (half a pound of lychees in their Lychee Lover, a whole coconut in their Coconut Zero, two peaches in my personal favorite, the Baby Peach). Note that the zero-sugar drinks do have a bit of that artificial sweetener taste if you're not used to it, so I tend to stick with cane sugar!

> **Try first:** Baby Peach  
*Zero&, locations in Cupertino, Palo Alto and Santa Clara; Instagram: @0andco.*

**YI FANG TEA:** A popular chain (and for good reason!), with lots of locations in the Bay Area! As their name suggests, their standout is their fruit teas. You can't go wrong with their classic fruit tea, which has real fruit slices (apple, orange, etc.) and jasmine green tea. I also love their grapefruit green tea, which has grapefruit pulp and just the right amount of tartness, as well as their passionfruit green tea.

> **Try first:** Yi Fang tea  
*Yi Fang Tea, locations in San Mateo and Mountain View; Instagram: @yifang.cal.*

**WANPO TEA SHOP:** Located in Stanford Shopping Center, this place does tea really, really well. There's a broad selection of milk

teas (the Alishan Oolong is always popular), but I've listed it in the fruit tea category for their mango pomelo sago, which looks and tastes beautiful — I haven't had a better one yet. In the wintertime, they've got hot drinks you also won't find elsewhere, like ginger milk tea.

> **Try first:** Mango pomelo sago  
*Wanpo Tea Shop, locations in Millbrae, Cupertino, and Palo Alto; Instagram: @wanpotea.norcal.*

#### < MILK TEAS >

**CHICHA SAN CHEN:** This boba shop opened in Cupertino last September. They make boba an experience — there's a counter in the back where you can take part in a traditional tea tasting (sign up in advance) while you wait for your made-to-order drink. Their Dong Ding oolong milk tea is my favorite milk tea in the area, and it's definitely comparable to milk tea in China and Taiwan.

> **Try first:** Dong Ding oolong milk tea  
*Chicha San Chen, 20688 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, Instagram: @chichasanchen.norcal. Open Sunday to Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.*

**TEASPOON:** A classic for a reason (and the first boba place I ever tried in California!). You can find Teaspoon locations throughout the Bay Area, and their house crema adds a slightly different texture to their drinks (versus the milk or cream used at other places).

> **Try first:** Liquid Gold  
*Teaspoon, locations in San Mateo, Redwood City, Palo Alto, Los Altos, Mountain View, Santa Clara and Campbell; Instagram: @teaspoonlife.*

**T4:** Another classic boba shop. T4 was one of the first places to popularize the potted milk tea, which looks, adorably, like a potted plant.

> **Try first:** Oreo potted milk tea  
*T4, locations in Palo Alto, Millbrae and Los Gatos; Instagram: @t4teaforu.*

**TP TEA:** When the first TP Tea opened in Cupertino, the wait time was over two hours. These days, it's a little more reasonable, but it's remained (understandably) very popular. The strength of their tea comes across in all their drinks, and the quality is consistently good. Fun fact: This is owned by Taiwanese restaurant and boba shop Chun Shui Tang, which claims to have invented boba milk tea!

> **Try first:** Classic milk tea  
*TP Tea, locations in Millbrae, Cupertino, Sunnyvale and San Mateo; Instagram: @tptea.california.*



Courtesy Teaspoon



Courtesy Tong Sui



Adrienne Michler

Clockwise from left: Tong Sui is known for its coconut puddings and boba drinks; Teaspoon's Dirty Ube, Matcha Royale, Guava Sunset and House Milk Tea (from left); Strawberry black milk tea with boba at Pop Tea Bar in Palo Alto.

**BOBA GUYS:** A classic chain, you've probably seen Boba Guys everywhere (not just on the West Coast). All their drinks are good and very aesthetically pleasing, but my favorite is probably the banana milk, which is hard to find elsewhere (and also uncaffeinated!). The hojicha latte is also excellent and a harder find.

> **Try first:** Banana milk, hojicha latte  
*Boba Guys, locations in Los Altos, Palo Alto and San Carlos; available at Local Kitchens in Cupertino and San Bruno; Instagram: @bobaguys.*

#### < DESSERT TEAS >

**TAN-CHA:** This is a true dessert tea place; a popular (and very delicious) topping is tiramisu foam. I have only one go-to order here, because five years ago I had it for the first time and decided it couldn't get any better than this — the Uji Green Milk Tea with tiramisu foam. They have lots of other options, though, and this is usually the place I take friends to when they visit from out of state.

> **Try first:** Uji Green Milk Tea with tiramisu foam  
*Tan-Cha, locations in Cupertino and Santa Clara; Instagram: @tanchateahouse.*

**BOBA BLISS:** Boba Bliss has just three locations and its owners are sisters. The crème brûlée is probably their most popular and most photogenic drink, and it definitely falls in the dessert category. But my personal favorite is the seasonal Mango Milk Bar, which tastes like summer and is made with freshly sliced Champagne mangoes. You can't go wrong here, whether it's fruit tea, milk tea or dessert tea.

> **Try first:** Mango Milk Bar in the summertime, otherwise the Strawberries & Crème or the Thai Green Milk Tea (weekends only)  
*Boba Bliss, 685 San Antonio Road, Mountain View; 650-390-6556, Instagram: @bobablissofficial. Open Sunday to Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.*

— Grace D. Li



Passion fruit green tea with boba at Chicha San Chen in Cupertino.

< PENINSULA-EXCLUSIVE BOBA SHOPS >

**TEA ERA:** Whatever flavor you're craving, you'll likely find it at Tea Era. Established in 2001, this local shop offers over a hundred varieties of tea, including roasted barley, dark plum, dragon fruit, red bean, red guava, and winter melon. This is one of the few remaining hole-in-the-wall boba spots along the Peninsula, so don't expect to find any trendy foams or creams, and don't expect to stay long — there's no inside seating.

> **Try first:** Lavender green tea

Tea Era, 271 Castro St., Mountain View; 650-969-2899. Open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1-8 p.m. and Friday to Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. 20916 Homestead Road, Cupertino, 408-996-9898. Open daily 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**OCHA TEA CAFE:** Located near Ranch 99, it's a convenient location to grab boba after picking up Asian groceries. Ocha is extremely speedy with their service and quite generous with their toppings. Find standard tea options as well as more unique offerings like fresh avocado milk and honey aloe juice.

> **Try first:** Strawberry milk tea

Ocha Tea Cafe, 1350 Grant Road #8, Mountain View; 650-961-1813. Open daily 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**MOCHI WAFFLE CORNER:** Don't let the name fool you — this small takeaway cafe offers a lot more than mochi waffles. James Ho opened Mochi Waffle Corner in 2021, inspired by street food from his childhood in Vietnam. Find teas with fresh kiwi and butterfly pea, smoothies made with avocado and blended drinks with chamoy and Tajín, and even dalgona matcha.

> **Try first:** Black sugar hojicha

Mochi Waffle Corner, 805 E El Camino Real, Suite F, Mountain View; Instagram: @mochiwafflecorner. Open daily 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**POP TEA BAR:** Located near California Avenue, this boba shop is doing the classics right. It's a no-frills establishment, and you won't find any over-the-top, trendy or unusual menu items here. It's extremely consistent with super friendly service.

> **Try first:** Thai tea

Pop Tea Bar, 456 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto; 650-473-6511. Open daily 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. ■

— Adrienne Mitchel

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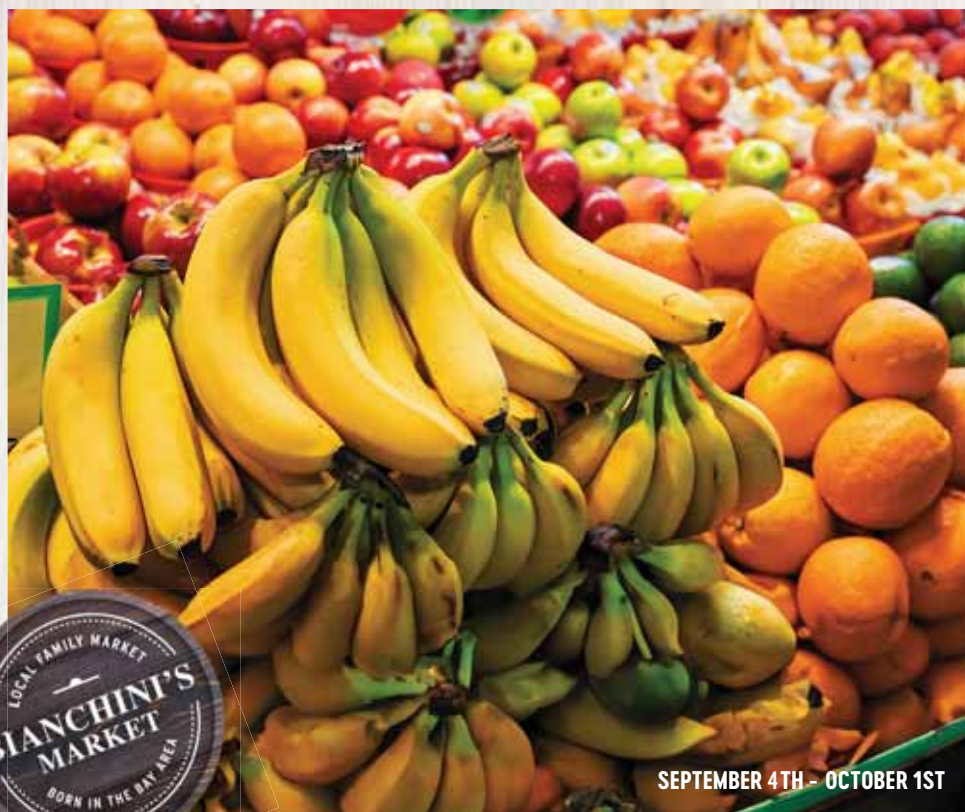
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