

The Almanac

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

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024 | VOL. 60 NO. 2



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

Woodside-based equine therapy facility is changing lives

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy in Woodside is healing adults, children and families through building relationships with horses. The center provides occupational therapy, mental health support, adaptive riding, horsemanship and special education.

"It's a place that allows people to grow and heal at their own pace," said Nancy Contro, the executive director of NCEFT.

Horses and licensed staff at NCEFT are helping people gain confidence in themselves while also developing physical strength. Patients come from all backgrounds. They include veterans, special education students, cancer patients, recovering addicts and immigrants.

NCEFT, a nonprofit, was founded in 1971 and is internationally recognized for pioneering equine-assisted programs.

Impact on children with cognitive and physical disabilities

"I never thought he would be able to ride a bike at 9 years old," said Olga, a mother of a client with cognitive and physical disabilities. Her son struggles with low muscle tone, speech

and anxiety. Before he started riding at NCEFT, Olga thought he wouldn't be able to ride a bike until he was at least 20 years old.

When she brings her son to NCEFT, she said she can relax and let her guard down. She was amazed to see how much progress her son had made in gaining physical strength and confidence over a couple months. She said he looks forward to his Friday sessions every week.

During a session The Almanac sat in on, Olga's son radiated with confidence as he rode on the horse with a strong posture.

"He was always drawn to animals because he didn't have to communicate with them in a verbal way," said Olga.

The facility aims to create a space that provides safety and compassion for all individuals. Contro said that children don't even realize that they're putting in physical and mental effort while in the training ring because they're enjoying their time with the horse.

"I feel like it's all the therapies combined together," said Olga. "This gives kids so much more than sitting in a room."

NCEFT has treated patients diagnosed with cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, brain injuries, PTSD, social isolation, strokes and more. Each client is



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Occupational therapist Wendy Lucas, left, gives instructions to a client during an equine facilitated therapy session at NCEFT in Woodside on Aug. 29.

joined by a licensed staff member who specializes in adaptive riding or occupational therapy while side-walkers and volunteers help maintain the safety of the client and provide support during sessions.

According to the NCEFT website, the rhythmic and repetitive movement of riding a horse helps clients experience "up to 3,000 typical movement patterns they can use to improve function in daily life." Riding

sessions are 30 minutes long and riders must be at least 4 years old.

Clients also build core stability from maintaining a balanced

See **EQUINE THERAPY**, page 18

Trump expected in Woodside on Friday

Woodside resident, billionaire Tom Siebel to host fundraising event

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On Friday, Sept. 13, former President Donald Trump is expected to attend a fundraising event in Woodside hosted by tech entrepreneur Tom Siebel and his wife Stacey Siebel, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Tom is the founder of software company Siebel Systems and artificial intelligence platform C3.ai. According to the Los Angeles Times, he is also a second cousin once removed of Gov. Gavin Newsom's wife Jennifer Siebel Newsom, who grew up with a politically conservative family.

Tickets to the event, a fundraiser for his bid for president, are being sold for upwards of \$500,000 per couple for the afternoon reception in Woodside, according to the Los Angeles Times. Tom and Stacey Siebel have donated about \$13,000 to Trump's 2024 presidential campaign which has raised over \$260 million overall.

Trump is also expected at an evening fundraiser in Los Angeles on Sept. 12, the day before his event in Woodside. ■

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



Courtesy White House/Shealah Craighead via Flickr

Former President Donald Trump is expected to attend a fundraising event in Woodside on Sept. 13.

INSIDE

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OPEN SAT & SUN
1:00-4:00PM

5 Arastradero Road | Portola Valley | \$5,888,000 | 5ArastraderoRoad.com

THIS AMAZING AND UNIQUE PROPERTY CAPTURES the elegance of Silicon Valley with its scenic beauty and pastoral views on a private cul-de-sac. With 3 spacious bedrooms, 3 baths, vaulted ceiling living room/dining room, office, and bonus room in the main residence and 3 bedrooms, 2 baths in the single-level guest house with ground floor access, plus 2-stall stable and pasture, this home is ideal for entertaining and hosting extended family and guests.

MAIN RESIDENCE

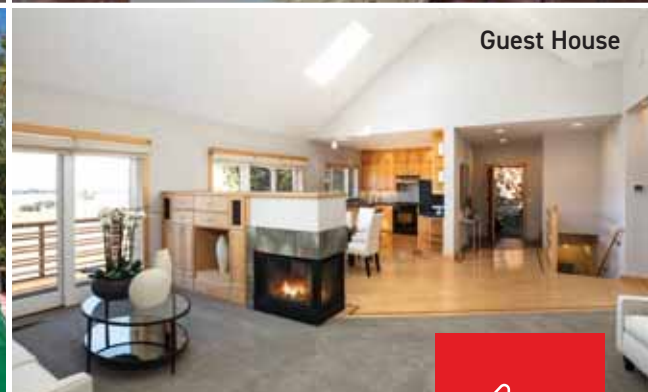
Fabulous 3-bedroom, 3-bath home with family room, office, bonus room, and game room remodeled in 1983 by R.J. Dailey Construction
Spacious home with 4,146 +/- SF of flexible living space with exquisite views of Stanford hills and Felt Lake offering glorious sunsets
Unfinished attic/storage space for additional 1,334 +/- SF
Set on a pastoral 1.28 +/- acre lot with a horse stable, tack room, and paddocks near walking trails on beautiful Arastradero Preserve

GUEST HOUSE

Enchanting 3-bedroom, 2-bath guest house for 1,695 +/- SF
Primary suite with spa bath, two walk-in closets, and loft
Eat-in gourmet kitchen with breakfast bar and spacious great room
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Esteemed Palo Alto schools



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Guest House

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THE BOGARD-TANIGAMI TEAM

Scan to reach out to Judy & Cindy



Frank Lloyd Wright Inspired Mid-Century Modern

860 Lathrop Dr, Stanford

4 BD 3 BA 3,435 SF \$2,995,000

OPEN HOUSE SAT / SUN 1:30-4:30

A moment in time is recaptured in this spectacular 1960s mid-century modern home reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright's philosophy of organic architecture—designing in harmony with humanity and the environment. Positioned with marvelous views of the East Bay hills, this dramatic property features clean lines, natural wood framing and masterful angularity. Walls of glass and oversized windows infuse the home with natural light, blurring the boundaries between inside and out. The impressive living dining great room with its vaulted wood ceiling, corner brick fireplace and surrounding deck is an inviting entertaining space. The retro eat-in kitchen is ideal for traditional family dinners. Arranged on two levels, the unique floor plan offers incredible flexibility. A primary and two additional bedrooms are on the main level while the fourth bedroom, an office plus an expansive family room that opens to the pool area are on the lower level, accessed through an enclosed spiral staircase. Perimeter trees provide a private setting for the home and the polygon shaped pool. Just a few homes away from Lathrop Park and not far from the Stanford Dish, this exceptional property also offers a prestigious campus location with access to excellent public schools.

Available to qualified Stanford Faculty and Staff Only



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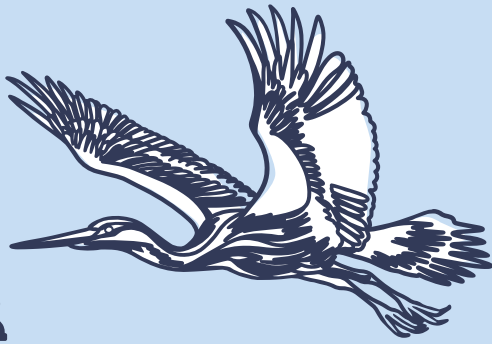
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COMPASS

Race is next Friday, Sept. 20!

**There's still time
to register!**

**Half Marathon
5K & 10K Run | 5K Walk**



Palo Alto Weekly Moonlight Run & Walk

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Palo Alto
Baylands

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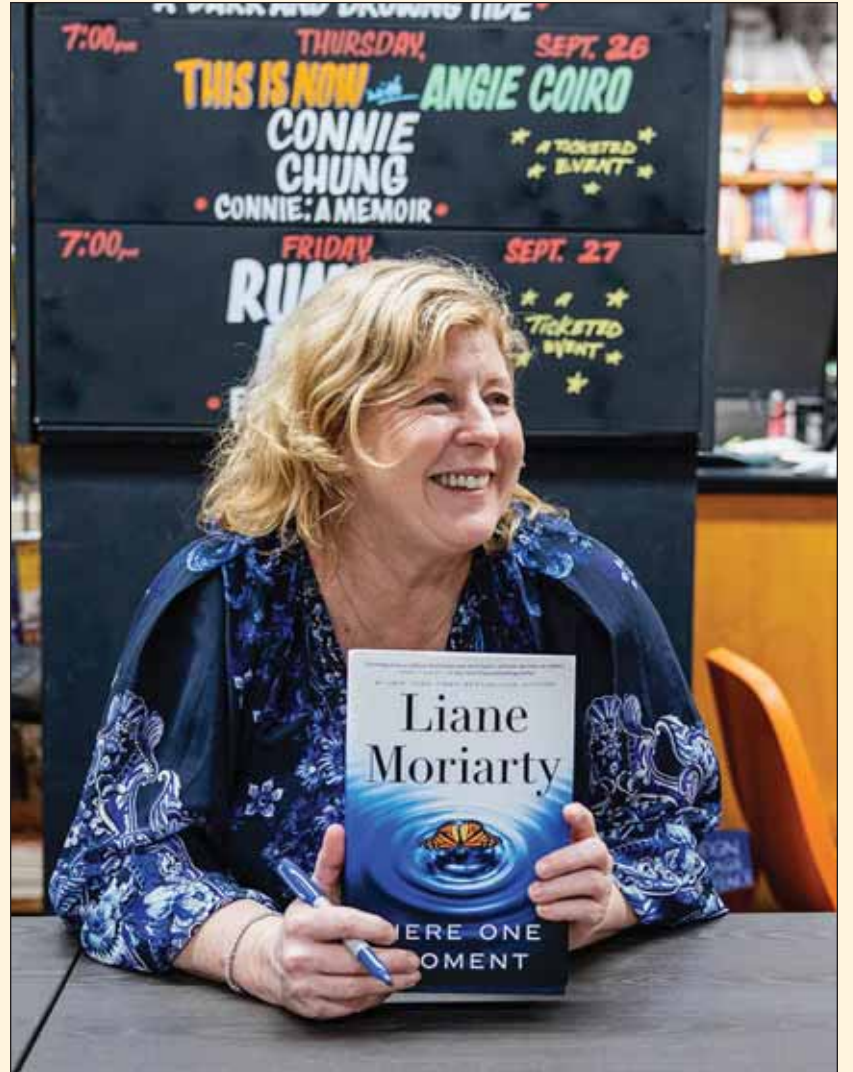
A benefit event supporting local nonprofits for children and families

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PaloAltoOnline.com/moonlight-run/

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Courtesy Jennie Hale Book

New York Times bestseller author at Kepler's
Liane Moriarty visits Kepler's Books in Menlo Park on Sept. 9 to talk about her new book "Here One Moment."



Woodside residents hire lawyers to challenge housing element process

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

A group of Woodside residents have hired lawyers to challenge the town of Woodside after the Town Council voted to approve updates to its housing element during a council meeting on July 23 and 30 despite public disagreement. Greenfire Law sent a letter on behalf of the residents to the council on the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 4, asking the town to consider including the group's proposal on the agenda of the Sept. 10 Town Council meeting to allow residents to challenge the environmental impact report after the final approval of the housing element.

During the special Town Council meeting on Sept. 10, the council voted to not approve the

tolling agreement. All council members voted in opposition except Council member Paul Goeld, who abstained.

"The town's decision to phase in its approval of the housing element is indefensibly opaque and seemingly designed to thwart administrative and legal challenges to the town's actions," states the letter. "There can be no doubt that approving a project in a piecemeal fashion, moreover, violates CEQA. ... CEQA's prohibition on piecemealing is meant to ensure the public has notice of project approval at the time of complete project approval, to eliminate confusion and facilitate public review and legal challenges where appropriate and necessary."

The group which calls itself,

Neighbors to Protect Open Space for the Preservation of Natural Resources in Woodside, has united out of a shared concern for the preservation of the town's open space following the council's approval of the environmental impact report tied to the town's state-mandated housing plans. The report included an analysis and mitigations on the environmental impacts of moving forward with the four project sites — High Road, Raymundo Drive, 773 Cañada Road and Cañada College.

The residents have hired Jessica Blome, an attorney at the Berkeley-based law firm Greenfire Law, to represent them. The firm also represented residents who recently sued the city of Belmont over alleged



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Woodside's Town Hall and Independence Hall stand next to each other in downtown Woodside. May 3.

mismanagement of Waterdog Lake Open Space. They are asking the town to consider a tolling agreement which would give residents more time to file a lawsuit on the EIR after the final approval of the housing element.

The housing element is

required by the state for all local governments to develop a plan to meet housing demands across California every eight years. The town of Woodside has been out of state compliance since Jan. 31, 2023 and is required to develop

See **HOUSING ELEMENT**, page 14

Sequoia district orders public commenter to stay away from district after alleged threatening comments

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On Aug. 29, the Sequoia Union High School District sent a 14-day “stay away order” to public commenter and retired police officer Dan Moleri after he made what administrators deemed as threatening comments during the school board meeting on Aug. 21. Moleri accused specific district administrators of creating a harmful learning environment for students, specifically pointing at Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Todd Beal during his comment.

“You have actually promoted a discriminatory [and] retaliatory environment by Todd Beal and the rest of the administration,” said Moleri to the school board.

Moleri’s comments followed questions from Menlo-Atherton High School boys basketball players asking why their coach, Mike Moleri, had been placed on administrative leave. Dan is Mike’s brother and is also the lead investigator for the Oakland-based Law Offices of John Burriss who is representing the lawsuit involving the alleged excessive force and unreasonable arrest of two M-A students in April 2023.

In Dan’s comments, he named Beal, M-A principal Karl Loosekoot, SUHSD Wellness Coordinator Stephen Emmi and former M-A Administrative

Vice Principal Nick Muys accusing them of “hurting children” and creating a “dictatorship” within the school district.

“Todd Beal and many administrators should be terminated, they have violated so many federal regulations,” said Dan Moleri.

The letter to Dan writes “To the district’s Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Todd Beal, you stated ‘Beal, you’re next.’ You made this statement as you were in the audience, leaving the district board meeting.”

The district also noted in the letter that Dan told Beal “Run, Beal. You better run” and states that he followed him out of the board room to the hallway and told him, “Beal, run!”

Dan clarified to this news organization that he said “Beal, you’re next” as in “he’s next in a lawsuit.” He also said the description of the incident is inaccurate and denies telling Beal to “run.”

He adds that he did not follow Beal, but was walking out of the board room toward the restroom which coincidentally was after Beal left the room. Dan claims that there were three witnesses who saw him walking to the bathroom and not after Beal.

“A police report was filed due to multiple threatening statements Mr. Moleri made against



Arden Margulis

Dan Moleri addresses board and calls on Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Todd Beal to be fired at Aug. 21 board meeting.

me,” said Beal in a statement to this news organization.

Redwood City Police Department Captain Ashley Osborne confirmed that it took “a report regarding a threats incident at the Aug. 21 school board meeting” and currently do not have any information to share on the investigation as of Aug. 30.

“There is no threat,” said Dan, who argues that the police report would be false. “Telling someone to run is not a threat.”

According to state law, making a false police report, while knowing the report is not true, can be considered as a misdemeanor. Dan said he the Redwood City Police Department has not contacted him about the report.

A hearing was requested by Dan on the stay away order which the district has scheduled for Sept. 10 over Zoom with district Superintendent Crystal Leach. Dan will be represented by Burlingame-based criminal defense attorney Paula Canny.

Although a hearing has been scheduled, Dan explains that under penal code section 626.4, the district is obligated to provide him or Canny with the policy, procedure and protocols for the hearing as well as the place. Dan has requested that the meeting be in-person and argues that Zoom should not be considered “a place.” ■

Email Staff Writer
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Menlo Park district’s Measure U campaign kicks off

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On Sept. 8, nearly 60 community members in Menlo Park gathered at Burgess Park to kick off the campaign for Menlo Park City School District’s Measure U, a \$123.6 million bond that will fund facilities improvement projects across Encinal School, Laurel Elementary School, Oak Knoll Elementary School, and Hillview Middle School.

Volunteers included parents, high school students, district staff and community leaders. At Burgess Park, Menlo Park Vice Mayor Drew Combs and Superintendent Kristen Gracia made speeches before volunteers headed into the community to hang door tags onto local residents’ doors. Hillview Middle School art teacher Anna Kogan hosted a poster making station for kids and volunteers to make Measure U posters as well.

“This first phase of the campaign is all about just making

people aware that Measure U will be on their ballot and giving them an overview of information about what Measure U is all about,” said Campaign Chair Katherine Bicer.

Volunteers spread out around the neighborhood to place door tags across approximately 7,000 homes within the school district. The door tags included information about Measure U and directed people to the campaign website for more information. Within one day, volunteers had tagged more than 1,100 homes, said Bicer.

The Measure U bond will be used to upgrade campus facilities including improvements to campus security, installing new HVAC units, upgrades in seismic safety, replacing 65-year-old buildings and modernizing learning technology, according to the campaign literature.

In a rebuttal against Measure U, President of the Silicon Valley Taxpayer Association Mark Hinkle argues that it would be inefficient to approve a bond



Courtesy Jeff Schmidt

Campaign Chair Katherine Bicer speaks to volunteers during Measure U rally on Sept. 8.

measure that will accrue high interest rates when enrollment continues to decline and 20% of students are scoring below grade level standards in English and math.

“I do feel like this is going to be effective in alerting people

that one of the important things on their ballot will be Measure U,” Bicer said.

The campaign team will also be hosting an event on Sept. 16 for parents and families

See **MEASURE U**, page 16

Established 1965

The Almanac

Serving Menlo Park,
Atherton, Portola Valley,
and Woodside for over 50 years

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To request delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call 854-2626.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Join a Coastal Cleanup Day event on Sept. 21

Saturday, Sept. 21, is the 40th anniversary of California's Coastal Cleanup Day. This annual event brings people together to clean trash from the state's waterways, beaches, lakes and more. There are several cleanup events being hosted around San Mateo County.

Menlo Park is hosting a cleanup event at San Francisquito Creek in conjunction with Grassroots Ecology from 9 a.m.-noon. Participants will meet up at 1 Alma St. to begin the cleanup. Grassroots Ecology is also hosting a coastal cleanup day event at Cooley Landing, 2100 Bay Road, in East Palo Alto from 9 a.m.-noon.

Learn more and sign up for the events at Grassroots Ecology's events page: bit.ly/4gh4tK7.

See the full lineup of Coastal Cleanup Day events at smchealth.org/general-information/coastal-cleanup-day-2024.

Those who cannot join a cleanup event on Sept. 21 can conduct a self-led cleanup any time during the month of September. Download the Clean Swell app to track your impact. Learn more about self-led cleanups at smchealth.org/cleanup.

Free water-saving fixtures available from Menlo Park Municipal Water

Menlo Park Municipal Water is offering its customers free water-saving fixtures to reduce water usage. The free fixtures include bathroom sink aerators, kitchen sink aerators, low-flow shower heads and adjustable garden hose attachments.

Not all Menlo Park residents are served by Menlo Park Municipal Water. If you are unsure who your water provider is, you can use the city of Menlo Park's interactive map of water providers, which can be accessed at menlopark.maps.arcgis.com.

Menlo Park also offers other water conservation rebates and incentives, including rebates for high-efficiency sprinklers, a free landscape water use analysis program, rebates for converting water-intensive lawns, rebates for rain barrels and rebates for installing smart sprinklers.

Contact Menlo Park Municipal Water at water@menlopark.gov to request the free water-saving fixtures.

Learn more at menlopark.gov/waterconservation.

— Eleanor Raab

Trinity School's Back to School Barbecue

On Saturday, Sept. 7, Trinity School in Menlo Park hosted a Back to School Barbecue to kick off the new school year. The event was attended by families, alumnus and grandparents as they enjoyed live music, food, bouncy castles and face painting. Guests indulged in tacos, cotton candy and bubble tea.

Menlo Park Kiwanis Club awards \$60K in scholarships

The Kiwanis Club in Menlo Park awarded six Menlo-Atherton High School seniors with \$60,000 in scholarships. The club has awarded over \$1.2 million in scholarships throughout the program's lifetime of over 40 years.

These students include Jeff Cacaes, who will attend Cal Poly; Natalia Lopez Castenada who will go to San Francisco State University; Andela Maldonado, who will attend California State University Channel Islands; Ana Ramos Penagos who will go to University of California, Riverside; Aaralyn Prasad who will attend UC Santa Cruz; and Louise DeDera, Menlo Park Kiwanis Club President; and Izabel Sharp, who will be attending University of Southern California.

"There are more outstanding students than we can award scholarships to," said John Martin,

Scholarship Chair for the Kiwanis Club in a statement. "They are tops in their class academically, but their participation in community service projects is also a key component in our decision-making process. In addition, they have made real commitments to continue their community service in the years to come."

Funds for several scholarships have been provided by past Kiwanis Club members in addition to fundraising activities. For more information on the Kiwanis Club, go to menloparkkiwanis.org/about-us.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Menlo Park City Council establishes subcommittee to address unhoused population

By Eleanor Raab

Following statewide calls to clear homeless encampments, Menlo Park's City Council put the issue of homelessness on the local agenda. The council voted 3-0 to create an ad hoc subcommittee consisting of Mayor Cecilia Taylor and Vice Mayor Drew Combs to address homelessness in the city and to cooperate with San Mateo County efforts to tackle homelessness. Council members Jen Wolosin and Maria Doerr were absent.

The subcommittee will discuss the scope of the city's involvement in the issue, and

direct staff to return to the full council with a report on homelessness in the city and options to address it.

Though homelessness has been a persistent and public issue on the Peninsula, the issue has been brought to the forefront following Gov. Gavin Newsom's executive order urging local governments to address homeless encampments and help the people living in them. Additionally, the City Council has received several public comments over the last few months regarding concentrated overnight RV parking in several areas of the city.

"(RVs) have been an ongoing

concern for us," said Aileen Lattman, who works in offices near Campbell Avenue and Scott Drive in Belle Haven, where RVs are parking. "Despite numerous communications and Newsom's recent order, we've seen no action or response from the city. In the past month alone, I've had to contact Menlo Park Police five or six times due to criminal activity, including illegal dumping, noise disturbances and witnessing children nearly getting hit by vehicles."

Taylor, who asked that the topic be put on the council's Sept. 10 agenda, said she brought up the

See **UNHOUSED**, page 11

Join us for

12:00PM-1:00PM

THURSDAY

SEPT 19TH

ATHERTON TOWN CENTER

SUP AND SANDWICH

Public schools are everyone's business!

We invite you to meet Menlo Park City School District Superintendent Kristen Gracia and learn more about MPCSD's neighborhood schools: Encinal, Laurel, Oak Knoll, and Hillview.

Superintendent Gracia will update our community on:

- District facilities needs
- Strategic visioning
- School programs
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Menlo Park to study how to improve underenrolled city-run child care programs

One program that has 96 slots only had 62 children enrolled as of February

By Eleanor Raab

At its meeting on Sept. 10, the Menlo Park City Council held a study session on city-run preschool programs, prompted by chronic underenrollment of the programs. According to a staff presentation to the council, early analysis of the local preschool

landscape shows that "local preschools are struggling and are worried about their futures," and Menlo Park is trying to understand why.

Menlo Park runs two child care centers, Belle Haven Child Development Center and Menlo Children's Center.

Menlo Park is using Solutionary Advisors, a consulting firm

founded by former Menlo Park City School District Superintendent Erik Burmeister, to analyze the city's early learning and preschool programs.

"The question we are trying to answer is, how might the city of Menlo Park's preschool programming better meet the community's evolving needs while ensuring financial sustainability," said Burmeister.

Belle Haven Child Development Center provides subsidized early childhood education for income-qualified families with children aged 3-5 years. The program also provides children with daily breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks. Services at this location are funded in part by a grant from the state. This location can serve up to 96 children. As of February, only 62 children were enrolled in the program.

Menlo Children's Center provides market-rate early childhood education for children aged 18 months to 5 years. This location can serve up to 72 children. As of February, only 29 children were enrolled at the center.

The consultants are preparing to conduct a citywide survey of residents, in both English and Spanish, to understand the child care needs of Menlo Park families. The survey will be sent out to residents between Sept. 14 and Oct. 6.

A similar survey was conducted by San Mateo County in 2022, which concluded that a strong demand does exist countywide for preschool care. However, only 62 of the 1,160 total survey respondents lived in Menlo Park.

Menlo Park's proposed survey includes the same questions as the county's survey to allow for comparison of the

results, according to the staff report. The survey results are scheduled to be presented to the City Council in November, and final recommendations on the future direction of the preschool programs are anticipated in February 2025.

Vice Mayor Drew Combs questioned whether a survey was really necessary to understand why city preschool programs are struggling with enrollment and financing.

"I can promise you that where you've seen the greatest decline is in that (transitional kindergarten) age (4 year olds), I don't need a survey to tell me that," he said.

Burmeister responded that despite the county's survey data showing that there seemed to be a shortage of child care spaces in San Mateo County, there is not a "line out the door" for Menlo Park's city-run child care services.

"We have a number of theories about why that may be, but we don't know until we ask people," he said. "Are we not offering the age bracket that the families need? Are we not offering the times that they need? Are there other factors that we just aren't seeing?"

Burmeister said one change that may be considered in the future is the addition of infant care, but the city would need hard data about demand for that kind of program before pursuing it.

"Infant care actually takes quite a bit of investment to retool a program to do that," he said. "Before we go down that road and put in that investment, getting some hard data would really help inform that decision."

See **CHILD CARE**, page 16

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062
PLANNING COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 25, 2024, 6:00 PM**

Members of the public that wish to attend and/or participate in a meeting may do so in person or by joining the zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736>. Public comments will be accepted both in person and via zoom meeting. Any emails sent to jpaping@woodsideca.gov prior to 5:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing will be provided to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting.

In the event that any member of the commission participates in a meeting by teleconference or video conference, pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, government code section 54953, all votes of the commission shall be by roll call.

Join Zoom Meeting:

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Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: jpaping@woodsideca.gov

PUBLIC HEARING

1. 3036 – 3062 Woodside Road
George Roberts Trust

ASRB2022-0022

Planner: Sage Schaan, Planning Director

ASRB2022-0022/ CUSE2022-0002/ VARI2022-0006 / GRAD2022-0001/ GPAM2022-0001 / ZOAM2022-0001 / GPCD2022-0001 / EASE2022-0001: Review of a proposed project including permanent outdoor dining areas and expansion of the existing parking lot at the Cañada Corners commercial center located at 3036 – 3062 Woodside Road (APNs 072-162-350 and 072-162-360).

The Planning Commission will provide a recommendation to the Town Council.

The Planning Commission will consider and make a recommendation on the following entitlements:

1. ASRB2022-0022 – Design Review of the proposed project.
2. CUSE2022-0002 – Conditional Use Permit (CUP) amendment to the existing CUP (CUP No. CUSE2016-0008), for proposed permanent outdoor dining areas adjacent to existing restaurants and the expansion of the existing commercial parking lot from 155 spaces to 189 spaces into an area with an existing open space easement.
3. VARI2022-0006 – Variance to the parking space size requirements in Municipal Code Sections 153.220 – 153.226.
4. GRAD2022-0001 – Grading Exception pursuant to Municipal Code Section 151.22(B) for grading cuts to exceed 8 feet in height, and for site grading (cut and fill) to exceed 1,500 cubic yards.
5. GPAM2022-0001 – General Plan Map amendment to change the General Plan Land Use Designation (Map LU1) for APN 072-162-350 (includes area of proposed parking lot expansion) from Residential (R) to Commercial (C).
6. ZOAM2022-0001 – Zoning Map amendment to rezone APN 072-162-350 (includes area of proposed parking lot expansion) from Rural Residential (RR) to Commercial (C).
7. GPCD2022-0001 – General Plan Conformance Determination to modify the existing open space easement on the property.
8. EASE2022-0001 – Easement Vacation of a portion of the existing open space easement on the property.

This application is Categorical Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Class 1 (Existing Facilities), Class 2 (Replacement or Reconstruction), Class 3 (New Construction), and Class 11 (Accessory Structures).

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



An enrollment sign outside of the Menlo Children's Center at 801 Laurel St. in Menlo Park on Sept. 10.

Eleanor Raab



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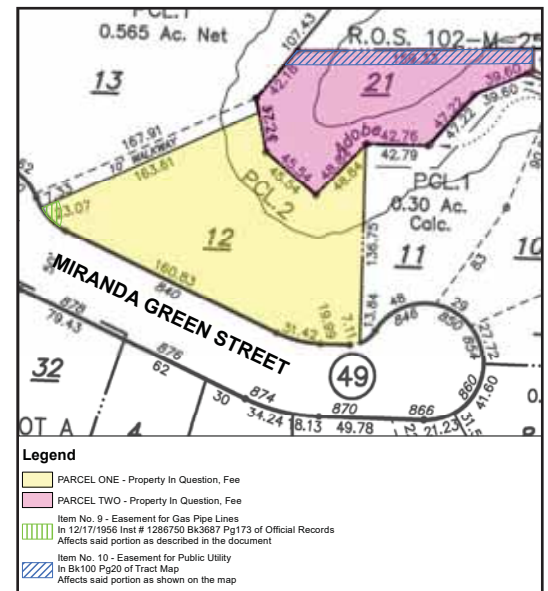
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Changes are coming to the intersection of Santa Cruz Avenue and Alameda de las Pulgas

County tells residents to expect delays as traffic-calming measures are installed

By Eleanor Raab

Construction of traffic-calming measures at the intersection of Santa Cruz Avenue and Alameda de las Pulgas will soon be underway. The traffic-calming measures will include lane reductions and wider sidewalks through the intersection and along nearby roads.

This intersection where Santa Cruz Avenue merges with Alameda de las Pulgas, colloquially known as “the Y,” is located in unincorporated San Mateo County near the border of Menlo Park. San Mateo County staff have been working on a design to improve the safety of this intersection since 2017. According to county traffic studies, this busy intersection hosts about 5,000 cars daily in each direction.

In 2023, San Mateo County was awarded a \$5.4 million Caltrans Regional Active Transportation Program grant for construction of the project, which is estimated to cost between \$5.7 million and \$6.2 million in total.

A project construction notice says that improvements to the

area will include reducing the number of car travel lanes in the area by constructing improvements for bicycles and pedestrians, including concrete islands, curb extensions and curb ramps for increased accessibility.

For the length of Alameda de las Pulgas from Avy Avenue to its intersection with Santa Cruz Avenue, traffic lanes will be reduced to one lane in each direction with a two-way center turn lane, according to project plans.

Plans also show that the county will add a bicycle lane to the southbound portion of Santa Cruz Avenue from Alameda de las Pulgas to Sandhill Road by removing one of the southbound traffic lanes. This section of road currently has no dedicated bike lane, only shared road markings, also known as “sharrows.”

Changes will also be made to help fix the drainage issues and pooling that this area has experienced, including removal and rebuilding of damaged sidewalks, curbs and gutters and new storm drain inlets and pipes.

The project also includes new traffic signals, aligned so that

drivers can more easily understand which light controls their lane. The project will also install updated pedestrian crossings that are meant to be more visible to drivers.

San Mateo County has hosted several public outreach meetings for this project since 2017. Most recently, the county hosted a meeting on Aug. 15 with the San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee where public works staff updated interested residents on updates that had been made to plans for “the Y” in response to resident concerns.

Some residents of the areas near “the Y” are unsatisfied with the new intersection design that will be installed over the next year. A particular point of contention is the split bike lane design that directs traffic going northbound to Santa Cruz Avenue between two bike lanes. Critics have called this a “bike sandwich.”

Plans show that bikers heading northbound to Alameda de las Pulgas and cars heading northbound to Santa Cruz Avenue will have to merge past one another in an approximately



Via Google Maps

“The Y” intersection where Santa Cruz Avenue and Alameda de las Pulgas intersect.

40 foot “weave” zone.

“Cyclists are required to use a bike merge design that is at the most chaotic point in (the roadway),” said Ron Snow, a resident of the University Park neighborhood in a written comment to the San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for its Aug. 15 meeting.

A community organization dedicated to improving the safety of this intersection, safer4us.com, states in its update following the Aug. 15 meeting that “if a vehicle delays in making that sudden shift to the right (to the northbound Santa Cruz Avenue lane), they (are) positioned to slam into the new median right in front of them, and if they miss that median, then they are in line to crash into any cyclist that is Alameda bound.”

According to the county’s website, construction is tentatively scheduled to start the week of Sept. 16. Construction

will begin with demolition and sidewalk work near the intersection of Avy Avenue and Alameda de las Pulgas.

Construction is anticipated to take nearly a year as all of the improvements to the area are implemented, with the county expecting that construction will be completed by July 18, 2025. Construction will take place from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

The county warns residents to “expect delays through (the) work zone” throughout the course of construction. In the construction notice sent out to neighbors, RK Engineering, the company contracted to complete the work says they will “make every effort to maintain normal traffic access and minimize disruption.”

Learn more and view project documents on the county’s website, smc.gov.org/publicworks. ■

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

Former Student Trustee Jacob Yuryev eyes Area B seat with focus on detracking

By Arden Margulis

One of three candidates running for the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees stands out: Jacob Yuryev is at least two decades younger than his opponents.

The recent Carlmont High School graduate served one year on the board as a student trustee before throwing his hat in the ring for the district’s Area B, which represents parts of Belmont, San Carlos and Redwood City.

Trustee Carrie Du Bois has represented Area B since the district switched to area-based elections and has served on the Sequoia board for 13 years. She told this news organization in August that she decided not to run for reelection because “it’s time to pass the baton to the next generation of parents in the district.”

Yuryev graduated from



Jacob Yuryev

Carlmont last year and was accepted into Stanford University. Yuryev would not be the only trustee who ran just after graduating. Trustee Sathvic Nori was elected to represent Area D in 2022, a year after graduating from Menlo-Atherton High School. He is also attending Stanford.

“We have already seen how a student in my position is able to succeed and allocate the time necessary to be on the board,” Yuryev said. “My constituents and the community will always be a priority for me. I have, for a variety of reasons, decided to take a gap year in part to ensure that if elected I have the time to focus on the community and my potential position.”

Yuryev deferred admission to the fall of 2025.

Trustee Rich Ginn, who represents Area C, has endorsed Yuryev.

One of Yuryev’s main focus as

a student trustee was the district’s detracking policy. The district has cut many freshmen and some sophomore honors classes. The district has said that grouping students together increased socioeconomically disadvantaged, SED, students’ graduation and A-G completion rates and did not hurt non-SED students.

Yuryev and Ginn both oppose the policy.

Du Bois has been more reserved about her opinions, requesting more time to make a decision at a meeting about detracking. Du Bois, outgoing Trustee Shawneece Stevenson and trustee Amy Koo endorsed Yuryev’s opponent, Mary Beth Thompson, who this news organization profiled previously.

Nori is the only current trustee who has yet to endorse an Area B candidate.

Detracking

During Yuryev’s time on the Sequoia board, the district

produced a report on the detracking policy, which Yuryev reviewed. In his review, posted by SUHSD Students First, he said that the benefits the report identified are caused by grade inflation, the report did not look at the effect on more academically inclined students and reiterated that honors classes do not diminish the opportunities available to SED students. He also said the report had “absolutely blatant cherry-picking of data and clear(ly) incorrect conclusions.”

“I support academic opportunity and choice for our students. I think that it’s important to recognize that we have a big problem in the district in terms of the achievement gap but it’s also important to recognize that detracking is not a solution for that problem,” Yuryev said. “The data that the district released shows the same disparity in registration for honors classes as before.”

The district’s data shows that after the freshmen English

classes, the freshmen biology classes and the sophomore chemistry classes merged at Menlo-Atherton, pass rates in all three for SED students increased and stayed high for non-SED students.

For English, at the time of the report, the students affected by the change had yet to finish their sophomore English classes but there was not an increase of SED students in honors sophomore English.

After the merge of chemistry classes, non-SED student enrollment in AP Chemistry significantly increased while SED student enrollment stayed the same. Scores on the AP Chemistry exam also increased.

Biology classes districtwide were merged as part of the district’s efforts to remove classes that did not meet the University of California admissions requirements. Similar to the chemistry change, non-SED student enrollment in AP Biology increased and SED student enrollment was largely unaffected. Scores on the AP Biology exam increased.

See **JACOB YURIEV**, page 11

JACOB YURYEV

continued from page 10

“I think that while we have a really big problem that we really need to fix, we need to fix that problem by investing in ... streamlining of the transition between our feeder middle schools and our high schools, investing in academic counselors and academic support to ensure that all students sign up for these advanced classes and all students succeed in these advanced classes at the same rate as each other,” Yuryev said.

“I support fixing the problem, but I believe that removing classes decreases the choice and opportunity that students have and is a bad idea,” he added.

Ethnic Studies presentation

The Sequoia district received national attention over a presentation in an M-A Ethnic Studies class that some saw as one-sided and antisemitic.

He said he thinks that a teacher’s job is to provide facts for students and to moderate the discussion of students on those facts and present third-party perspectives on those facts.

“I think sadly, that did not happen in this specific case, and that is a tragedy.”

The ‘Killing America’ documentary

Yuryev was a central part of filmmaker Eli Steele’s documentary that focuses on Menlo-Atherton,

“Killing America.”

After the first screening of the documentary, Menlo-Atherton Principal Karl Losekoot emailed staff members: “Most are aware that this weekend there was a showing of a documentary titled, Killing America, at the Menlo-Park Guild Theater. The previews of this documentary are disturbing as the short film takes images from recent board meetings and conflates them with images of violence that have nothing to do with M-A or our staff. ... The film presents an example of sensational propaganda at its worst, and it aims to paint M-A in a negative light. The one saving grace is that the film appears as completely

ridiculous. Interestingly, I have only heard from families who wish to distance themselves from this documentary and who are clear in their support of M-A.”

Yuryev took part in panels at screenings of the documentary but distanced himself from the documentary’s message.

In a post on Steele’s Substack titled “Jacob the Brave,” Steele writes that Yuryev told the audience of a Palo Alto screening that, in order to get his student trustee position, “I knew what answers they wanted and I spoon-fed it to them.”

Yuryev claims that quote was taken out of context, “I really respect all of the administration,

teachers, faculty and board members within our district. ...I think that it was a bad example, and in the moment, I was simply talking about how sometimes, especially within the classroom and within the academic environment, you’re forced to take positions that you think your teachers want to hear and I think that’s a problem.”

Editor’s note: Arden Margulis was involved in a copyright dispute with Steele at his previous publication, the M-A Chronicle.

Yuryev said he stands out as a candidate because of his experience at Sequoia. ■

*Email Contributor
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amargulis@almanacnews.com.*

UNHOUSED

continued from page 7

issue because she would like to see Menlo Park set a zero homelessness goal in the city.

“What does (zero homelessness) look like?” she asked. “We have folks who sleep on the street. We have folks who sleep in the marsh. We have folks that sleep in their cars. And we have folks that sleep in their RVs. ... How do we resource or connect with somebody who provides the resources for (unhoused) folks?”

Council member Betsy Nash said that, though she agrees that homelessness is an issue in the city, Menlo Park’s effort to address the unhoused population may be better spent by engaging in a county-wide or regional effort, rather than trying to take the issue on as a city.

“(Homelessness) is obviously perplexing the entire region, and I don’t think that the time we will put into it will come up with anything unique,” she said. “I don’t want to have each city pushing people onto the next city.”

Recently, Antonio López,

the mayor of neighboring East Palo Alto, pitched a plan to form a “regional partnership” with neighboring cities to share resources such as shelters and supportive housing. Members of the Menlo Park City Council have not yet commented on this plan.

Nash also said that the city is already doing work to address housing, including the city’s plan to build affordable housing on downtown parking lots. She said she doesn’t want the city to “lose focus and momentum” on projects that are already in the works.

Adina Levin, a Menlo Park

resident, commented that the city should also focus on preventing people from becoming homeless in the first place. “The first step is helping someone stay at home,” she said.

The city is developing an anti-displacement strategy plan as part of the programs included in its most recent housing element.

Following discussion, City Manager Justin Murphy ultimately suggested that the Council form a subcommittee so that discussion of the issue could take place outside of regular Council meetings when time is limited.

“I think it’s important to use our time on the upcoming council agendas as wisely as we can,” he said.

The subcommittee will direct staff to come back to the full City Council with a report on the homeless population in Menlo Park, the potential scope of the city’s involvement in remedying the issue, and how the city might engage in regional efforts to address the issue. ■

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

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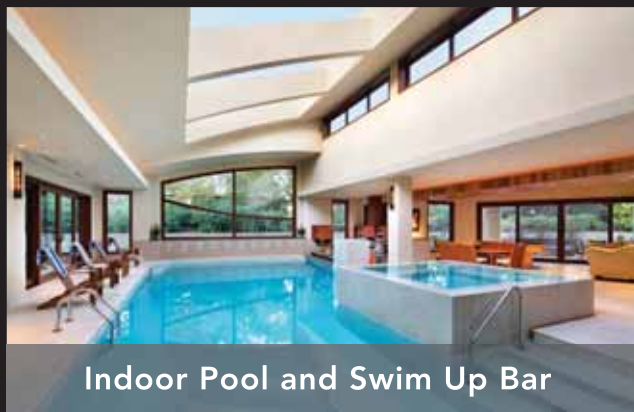
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HOUSING ELEMENT

continued from page 5

328 new housing units between 2023-31.

On July 25 and Aug. 1, the town posted two separate notices of determination on the California Environmental Quality Act website despite the housing element not being fully approved. The NOD serves as a public notice that an agency approves a project and allows the public 30 days to challenge the project. Another NOD is expected to be submitted after the final approvals on the housing element during the Town Council meeting on Sept. 24.

The residents argue that this was a “misguided attempt to comply with CEQA’s public notification requirements.” The timeline for a legal challenge to be made under CEQA begins with the posting of the NOD, but with two separate notices, residents are confused.

The tolling agreement would clarify that the statute of limitations to sue will begin after the final approval of the housing element and the final NOD is submitted to CEQA.

Hank Upton, who has lived on Todo El Mundo for 43 years, said that the proposed site on High Road has unstable soil that has a history of landslides and a PG&E pipeline running through the front of the property. Upton is also concerned about how the project will impact traffic and how parking along the roads will affect access for emergency vehicles.

“I’m sure if the members of the Planning Commission and Town Council lived on Todo El Mundo, they would have voted against this and found a more appropriate place such as Town Center,” said Upton.

On Sept. 24, the Town Council will be holding a second reading and adoption of two zoning ordinances, according to Bryant. This will be the final phase of approval for Woodside’s housing element.

If approved, the ordinances will add new multi-family zoning district development standards, change zoning map designations for High Road and Raymundo Drive from open space to multi-family. The ordinances will also change zoning designations for 773 Cañada Road from suburban to multi-family and amend zoning map designations for Cañada College.

Many residents spoke against the first two phases of approving the housing element during the Town Council meetings on July 23 and 30 but the council voted to move forward. “Residents were heard and very valid arguments were made but it made no difference,” said Upton. ■

Email Staff Writer
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jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.

Jean Anderson McIntyre

November 20, 1929 – August 28, 2024

Jean Anderson McIntyre, 94, a long-time Atherton resident, passed away peacefully on August 28, 2024 in Palo Alto, after a short illness.

Jean will be remembered for her passion for music and music education. She was an accomplished pianist and loved Debussy, Chopin and Beethoven. She practiced at least one hour every day and filled the house with beautiful music. Jean shared her love of music through teaching piano to many children, including her own. She also loved the opera and symphony and was an active supporter of the San Francisco Symphony, Opera and Ballet.

Jean was born on November 20, 1929 to Niles and Olga Anderson in Everett, Washington. Along with her older sister, Laurel, the family moved to Toronto when she was 12, where Jean graduated from The Bishop-Strachan School. She went on to study music at Vassar College, graduating in 1951 after completing a thesis comparing personality traits to musical tastes. After graduation, Jean landed her first job in Chicago doing research on how music could help with mental illness.

In 1953, Jean moved to San Diego, where her parents had retired. There, she met and married Ray Stewart. They moved to the San Francisco peninsula a year later when Ray started his career with Ampex. In 1963, Jean and Ray bought their home in Atherton, where they raised their five children.

Jean was very active with her children’s education and served on the PTA of Selby Lane School and Menlo School and was a board member of Castilleja from 1971 – 1982. Jean started the legacy of attending Camp Four Winds on Orcas Island where all of her children either attended or worked as well as her granddaughters.

In 1973, Jean married Dr. Harold Christian Zweng, who unfortunately passed away in 1977. As a new widow, she became a successful real estate broker in the mid-peninsula. In 1996, she married Henry McIntyre. Throughout their marriage, Jean and Henry enjoyed extensive travel all over the world. They also enjoyed playing golf, bridge and tennis at their various clubs including El Dorado Country Club in Indian Wells, Cypress Point in Pebble Beach, Burlingame Country Club and the Menlo Circus Club. Henry passed away in 2003. Jean never remarried but had a long-time companionship with Dr. Norman Snyder of Atherton for over ten years until he passed away in 2014.

Jean loved card games, especially bridge. For those who did not share her bridge passion, she taught them to play the card game “Onze”. She also loved having her children and grandchildren over for pool gatherings, including salmon barbecues.

Jean’s last 10 years of life included a move to the Vi in Palo Alto and she enjoyed traveling on many San Francisco Ballet tours all over the world with her daughter, Claire.

In addition to her husband, Henry, Jean was predeceased by her sister, Laurel Bates. She is survived by her five children: Sandra Stewart MacPhail (Jack) of Portland, OR; Claire Stewart Kostic (Mark) of Atherton, Sharon Stewart of Ukiah, Kim Stewart of Los Altos, and David Stewart of Barcelona, Spain. She also is survived by nine grandchildren: Sheldon Stevenson (Suzanne), Jeffrey Stevenson (Erin), Creighton Stevenson, Kirsten Hanafee, Sean Hanafee, Emily Bortz, Eddie Bortz, Camila Stewart, and Giana Stewart, as well as two great-grandchildren, Finn Stevenson and Charles Stevenson.

A private service will be held with family and friends at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations made in her name to San Francisco Ballet, San Francisco Opera or San Francisco Symphony.



PAID OBITUARY

Agneta P. Turner

February 17, 1934 – August 6, 2024

Agneta P. Turner, a devoted matriarch and pillar of her community, passed away peacefully on August 6, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. Her remarkable life, spanning 90 years, was marked by love, resilience, and a generosity of spirit that touched countless lives.

Born on February 17, 1934, in Stockholm, Sweden, Agneta spent her formative years in her family home. She pursued higher education at Cambridge University (1952) and the University of Lausanne (1953), where she met her future husband, John. By 22, she had married, adoringly supported John through medical school and residency, and started a family.

Agneta’s greatest joy was nurturing her family and welcoming others into her circle. She lovingly supported her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, offering guidance and encouragement. Her warmth and inclusivity extended to all who she met, many she “adopted” as her own.

For over 30 years, Agneta was a respected antique dealer in San Francisco, owning her own shop, Elliott Pontin Antiques. She volunteered for various organizations, including the Woodside Atherton Garden Club, Allied Arts Guild, Tally Ho, Menlo Charity Horse Show, SWEA, and Peninsula Family Services. Her passions included floral arranging, gardening, bridge, jazz, cabaret, and travel.

Agneta is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandsons. Her husband John, daughter Jean, son Peter, brother Jan Pontin, and sister Eva Anderberg predeceased her.

A Celebration of Life will be held on September 25th at 2 p.m. at the Menlo Circus Club, open to all who loved her.

Instead of flowers, donations may be made to Peninsula Family Services. <https://peninsulafamilyservice.org/donate-form/>

PAID OBITUARY



Maria N. Quinby

April 13, 1958 – July 23, 2024

Maria Quinby, age 66, died peacefully on July 23, 2024 of melanoma metastatic to her brain. Born in Uppsala, Sweden, Maria was a resident of Woodside, California and the wife of Jonathan Quinby for 32 years.

With an economics and business administration degree from Uppsala University in 1986, Maria added an Interior Design degree from Cañada College in 2004. She started her own professional design, organizing, and move management business that same year and focused on helping people to downsize and ‘rightsize’ their lives.

Maria loved nature, hiking, gardening, swimming, sewing, cooking, bicycling, and visiting friends and family in Sweden. She enjoyed all of the arts and was a world traveler who spent several summers leading tours around Scandinavian countries for Stanford and Yale.

Maria was a wonderful, honest, thoughtful, loving, driven, and kind role model. She will be greatly missed by her husband, her children Alexandra M. (Irvine, CA), and Peter W. (San Francisco, CA), as well as her mother Eva (Sigstuna, Sweden), and brother Johan (Vallentuna, Sweden).

A Memorial and Celebration of Life is planned for friends and family on October 4th, 2024 @ 11a.m. at the Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Maria’s memory may be made to the Peninsula Open Space Trust (<https://openspacetrust.org/donate/>).

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

Public Notices

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)

CHAIN REACTION FITNESS & NUTRITION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-298409

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CHAIN REACTION FITNESS & NUTRITION, located at 588 San Mateo Avenue, San Bruno, CA 94066.
Registered owner(s):
CHAIN REACTION FITNESS & NUTRITION, LLC
588 San Mateo Avenue
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 30, 2024.
(ALM Sep 13, 20, 27 and Oct 4, 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)

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. Dobrovolsky, Esq. and Teresa L. Peng, Esq.
Law Offices of Janet L. Dobrovolsky
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)

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/

MEASURE U

continued from page 6

of Laurel Elementary at The Neighborhood Pizza Guy at Cafe Zoe in Menlo Park. The event will be focused on informing the Laurel community about Measure U. Buildings at Laurel School's lower campus are from 1959 and need to be taken down and rebuilt, according to the district.

On Oct. 4 and 5, the team is hosting a door knocking kickoff which will provide volunteers with the necessary materials and training on how to spread

the word on Measure U to local residents.

"We have an awesome team of volunteers who put this together. ... It's amazing the talent we have in this town and what people are willing to do. My gratitude for that is so deep," said Bicer.

Community members can visit safeschools4mp.org for more information on Measure U, endorsements and volunteer opportunities. Questions on the campaign can be emailed to info@safeschools4mp.org. ■

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

CHILD CARE

continued from page 8

A changing preschool landscape

Burmeister says that interviews with local preschool directors indicate that the schools are struggling with lower enrollment trends and are concerned about the financial viability of their preschools.

The city's preliminary analysis of preschool enrollment trends suggests declining birth rates and the introduction of California's new universal transitional kindergarten program. Additionally, there are lasting impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to local declines in demand for child care services as parents work from home. The city and San Mateo County have predicted that this decline in demand will continue in future years

"One of the other reasons that I think we're seeing a drop off is just the high cost of living in the area, and especially of housing," said Council member Betsy Nash.

Data from an April report to the council on city-run child care programs shows that enrollment at both locations has been significantly lower than the centers' maximum capacities for the last few years.

The city's staff report indicates

that recruiting and retaining staff, especially temporary staff, has also been a significant challenge.

"Many child care facilities have experienced pandemic-related staffing impacts from broader shifts in the labor market related to remote work," says the report. The April report indicated that the city has no temporary child care employees on staff to help relieve full-time employees who may be sick or otherwise need to take time off.

Mayor Cecilia Taylor said she was very interested in exploring how the city may be able to boost pay for child care workers. She has previously voted against city salary schedules because she would like to see city child care workers paid better. City of Menlo Park child care teachers make between \$56,448 and \$75,706 per year. Child care teacher's aides earn between \$42,352 and \$50,478.

"I know that you all are aware that I am very interested in a livable wage for our teachers," said Taylor. "But (I am) not sure yet how to get there. If we expand the services and offer them to younger children, is there an opportunity to have a new job classification?" ■

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

Employment

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employment advertising.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

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Lynne Mercer
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COMPASS



Town of Atherton

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

Planning Commission

September 25, 2024

REGULAR MEETING 6:00 P.M.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said consideration is set for hearing by the Planning Commission at its meeting on **September 25, 2024, at 6:00 PM** in-person and via teleconference accessible through the information provided below, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the projects listed in the public hearing section should or should not be approved. This meeting will be held via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The public may participate in the Planning Commission Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

Topic: Atherton Planning Commission Regular Meeting

Time: September 25, 2024, 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

In person Option:
80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027

Zoom Meeting Option and Details:
<https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/84150249099>

Meeting ID: 841 5024 9099
One tap mobile:
+13017158592 (Washington DC)
+13052241968 (US)

Find your local number:

<https://ciathertonca.zoom.us/j/kglcVN4cq>

Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us

Projects under Public Hearing:

A. Consideration for a **Tree Protection Zone Exception (PTPZ24-00005)** for an athletic court (pickleball court) at 60 Middlefield Road (APN 060-210-010) an approximately 43,532 square foot site within the R1-A zoning district and developed as a single-family dwelling. Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Sections 8.10.050 (Request for exceptions to the tree protection zone (TPZ) and 8.10.020 (Definitions) outline the requirements for Tree Protection Zone. The Town of Atherton Heritage Tree Preservation Standards and Specifications describe that the Planning Commission may grant a Tree Protection Zone Exception in the R1-A Zoning District for projects that are closer to a heritage tree than 8 times the diameter of the trunk at breast height, noted as 8x. The PTPZ requests Planning Commission consideration for an athletic court that is 5.8x from one (1) 17-inch Coastal Live Oak. This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to AMC Section 15.32.100 and CEQA Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) and 15311 (Accessory Structures)

If you have any questions on the item, please contact Daniella Gonzalez-Arellano, Consulting Assistant Planner, at dgonzalez@ci.atherton.ca.us

B. Consideration for a **Tree Protection Zone Exception (PTPZ24-00004)** for an addition to an existing single-family dwelling at 168 Heather Drive (APN 061-163-080), a 0.93-acre site within the R1-A zone. Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Sections 8.10.050 (Request for exceptions to the tree protection zone (TPZ) and 8.10.020 (Definitions) outline the requirements for Tree Protection Zone. The Town of Atherton Heritage Tree Preservation Standards and Specifications describe that the Planning Commission may grant Tree Protection Zone Exception request in the R1-A Zoning District for projects that are closer to a heritage tree than 8 times the diameter of the trunk at breast height, noted as 8x. The PTPZ requests Planning Commission consideration for an addition to an existing single-family residence that is 4.5x from one (1) 92-inch Coastal Redwood. This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to AMC Section 15.32.100 and CEQA Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land).

If you have any questions on the item please contact Daniella Gonzalez-Arellano, Consulting Assistant Planner, at dgonzalez@ci.atherton.ca.us

C. Request for a **Side Setback Variance** (Application VAR24-0002) for an athletic court within the required side setback area at **71 Selby Lane (APN 059-302-050)** and within the R1-A zone. Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Section 17.40.040(A) requires that accessory buildings must be set back 10-feet from the side property line. The project involves an athletic court (basketball court) that is setback 4-feet 5-inches from the western side property line and therefore, requires a variance from Section 17.40.040(A). This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to: CEQA Section 15311 (Accessory Structures).

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

The agenda for this meeting with links to related staff reports can be found online by **Friday, September 20, 2024**, here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

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

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

ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION
/s/ [Brittany Bendix](#)
Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Horse handler Meg Thomas prepares Elf, a trained therapy horse, for an equine facilitated therapy session at NCEFT in Woodside on Aug. 29.

EQUINE THERAPY

continued from page 1

posture, endurance, flexibility and balance by riding horses.

Using horses to improve mental health

When Contro joined NCEFT in 2019, efforts toward offering mental health programs increased, said NCEFT board member Susan Lang. Prior to NCEFT, Contro worked as the director of patient and family support services at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital for nearly 30 years.

One of NCEFT's mental health programs is called Healing with the Herd, a 10-week program to support individuals who are living with cancer and other chronic illnesses. Workshops for the group focus on coping with the trauma of being diagnosed with illnesses, practicing mindfulness and growing self-confidence through clinically designed exercises.

With the horses, clients

practice mindfulness exercises, develop bonds, participate in barn life and care for the animals. Contro explained that the act of brushing a horse's mane helps clients practice mindfulness by bringing their mind's focus to the present moment.

In addition to working with horses, clients receive mental health support through group discussions and activities. The facility tracks and monitors the progress of individuals through daily check-ins and stress ratings.

NCEFT also offers separate mental health programs for elementary, middle school and high school students. Licensed mental health professionals work with groups of youth to improve social skills, communication and reduce the impacts of mental health struggles as they develop relationships with horses.

Partnership with Sequoia Union High School District

During the 2023-24 school year, NCEFT started working



Anna Hoch-Kenney

NCEFT Executive Director Nancy Contro takes a moment to watch an equine facilitated therapy session at the nonprofit facility in Woodside on Aug. 29.



Anna Hoch-Kenney

The National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy (NCEFT) medical offices on Aug. 29. The medical offices operate out of a renovated dairy barn in Woodside.



Anna Hoch-Kenney

From left to right, volunteer Monique Jones, horse handler Darrel LeBlanc, and adaptive riding instructor Matt Gridley walk alongside a client and horse during an equine facilitated therapy session at NCEFT in Woodside on Aug. 29.

with the Sequoia Union High School District to provide programs in Spanish for juniors and seniors who experienced trauma while immigrating to the United States. During school hours, around eight students arrive at the facility to participate in workshops focused on developing stronger feelings of safety and trust.

The partnership started with Menlo-Atherton High School students in its first year of the program but has now expanded to Sequoia High School, TIDE Academy and Carmont High School.

At the end of the program, students write a letter to a loved one and tie the note to the mane or tail of a horse. The horses then run off into the field to deliver their messages in this symbolic tradition.

As students work with horses during their sessions, they develop a relationship with them. Some horses have overcome their own challenges and offer stories of inspiration for patients. Honey, one of the horses at NCEFT, is a survivor of a close range gunshot. A scar can be seen on her left side around her neck. "The kids look at her and see resilience," said Contro.

Upcoming fundraiser


NCEFT is hosting its 15th annual gala on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 4:30 p.m. The event will feature live music, a barn open house, a three-course dinner and a live auction. Gala tickets can be purchased for \$350 at nceft.org/gala-sponsorships.

For more information on NCEFT's programs visit nceft.org.

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

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Geriatrician & Kensington Place Medical Director

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Mehrdad Ayati, MD
Geriatrician & Kensington Place Medical Director




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Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Courtesy Chris Hardy

The Smuin company in Amy Seiwert's "Renaissance," seen here in a 2024 performance at the Joyce Theater in New York City. The piece drew inspiration from the 2019 Women's Wall protest in Kerala, India.

SMUIN CONTEMPORARY BALLET SEASON OPENER TO EXPLORE CHANCE, SOLIDARITY

The performance includes a world premiere by choreographer Jennifer Archibald and a piece by new artistic director Amy Seiwert

By Ashwini Gangal

Done right, dance is about projecting stories through movement. The team at Smuin Contemporary Ballet kicks off the company's 31st season bringing some emotionally charged stories to the stage.

The show "Dance Series 1" will tour the Bay Area between Sept. 13 and Oct. 20. The company brings the performance to the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts Sept. 13-15." Dance Series 1" features work by choreographers Jennifer Archibald, Matthew Neenan and Amy Seiwert, who is also helming the show as the company's new artistic director.

Seiwert, who has been associated with Smuin for many years in different roles, took over from outgoing artistic director Celia Fushille in July. "There are certain things that feel absolutely the same and then there are times when I feel — 'oh, that buck stops with me!'" she said about

her new position, which she said that she slipped into quite organically. "It's interesting."

Being at Smuin full-time, especially after working the freelance choreographer circuit for a couple decades — something she describes as both "wonderful" and "exhausting" — comes as a welcome change. "To be able to be of service to an organization that has given me so much really appealed," Seiwert said. She had, in the past, been mentored by the company's eponymous founder, the late Michael Smuin. "The sense of being a part of a lineage is really wonderful."

In addition to her leadership role, Seiwert is still an active choreographer at the company. For this tour, she is putting together a piece called "Renaissance," which premiered in 2019 in San Francisco and has been re-staged a few times since, most recently at the Joyce Theater in New York this summer.

"The piece is about community," said Seiwert, who drew inspiration from the 2019 "Women's Wall" protest in Kerala, India, where around five million women created a 385-mile-long human chain to protest against gender inequality and patriarchy, following a hotly debated local socio-religious issue about women's right to public spaces.

"I remember when I first heard the story on the radio I was fascinated by it," she said, moved by several aspects of the initiative including the part where men formed a parallel human chain across the street from these women, in a moving display of solidarity. "We really just started playing with a lot of these different images that came up from me learning more about the protest and went from there."

Seiwert's passion for this piece is palpable. "There's a section I choreographed four times — every time we re-did the ballet I changed this section; it just never

felt right," she said. "I finally think I have it right."

"Renaissance" is complemented by an 'a cappella' soundtrack by Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble, an Oakland-based group that specializes in Eastern European music.

In her Smuin debut, choreographer Jennifer Archibald will put together a new piece titled "ByCHANCE," which is themed around deep concepts like the power of fate, serendipity and chance encounters.

"Conceptually, I try to create work that reflects the tender spots of humanity," said Archibald, who is also founder and artistic director of the Arch Dance Company and program director of ArchCore40 Dance Intensives. "It is trying to take a moment and take in these experiences that sometimes you might ignore; you

See **SMUIN BALLET**, page 21



Courtesy David DeSilva

The artists of Smuin Contemporary Ballet in rehearsals for Jennifer Archibald's world premiere of "ByCHANCE." Archibald created the piece to explore themes of fate, serendipity and chance encounters.



Courtesy Anders J Larson

Choreographer Jennifer Archibald.

SMUIN BALLET

continued from page 20

want to make sure you stop your busy lifestyle and really take in these memories that could shape your life in a really profound way — whether it's running into someone at the grocery store or seeing someone on the train who resembles someone from your past. Those are moments you shouldn't ignore because you never know how it could change the trajectory of your life."

To some extent, Archibald drew inspiration for "ByCHANCE" from her own busy life. "There's definitely things that have passed me by that I probably could have paid more attention to," she said. In general, she endeavors to create work that reflects where she is in life. "It's really that simple."

She began brainstorming for this piece over a year ago when she received a call from Seiwert about working together at Smuin. "It's important for me to be emotionally attached to the work that I do when I step into a new space," Archibald said. "I also make sure I'm creating work that is unique to the company that I'm working with."

For her, working with a new team of dancers is about getting



Courtesy Chris Hardy

Smuin artist Tess Lane (top) and the company perform in Amy Seiwert's "Renaissance."

to know them not just as performers but also as people. Moreover, in her book, what her dancers do on stage is more about the execution of concept than an execution of technique.

"It's my job to learn about a human being very quickly," she said. "You just have to make sure you're really receptive and open to the bodies that are in front of you. That takes work — to take another vulnerable artist in front of you and let them land on you."

The music for her piece includes contemporary, classical as well as an experimental mix of chamber and orchestral music by various composers.

Also on the program is choreographer Matthew Neenan's theatrical work "The Last Glass,"

that will be accompanied by eight songs from American indie-rock band Beirut. Neenan, who is co-founder at BalletX and resident choreographer at Philadelphia Ballet, will make his Smuin debut with this piece. ■

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Smuin's Dance Series I will tour the Bay Area between Sept. 13 — Oct. 20, with shows in Mountain View (Sept. 13-15), Walnut Creek (Sept. 27-28) and San Francisco (Oct. 11-20). For tickets (\$25-\$92) visit smuinballet.org.

Worth a Look



Courtesy Daniel Tremblay

Ben Rosenblum will perform at the Community School of Music and Arts on Sept. 14.

Ben Rosenblum

Acclaimed jazz pianist, accordionist and composer Ben Rosenblum is joining his longtime collaborators — Bay Area bassist Matt Muntz and New York-based drummer Ben Zweig — for a free community performance of music representing multiple regions and eras, as befitting their wealth of experience in diverse genres. The trio's "Jazz Around the World" program includes a mix of original compositions, jazz standards and selections from a variety of world-music styles.

Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m., Tateuchi Hall, Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View; free; arts4all.org.

Portola Valley Arts Fest

'Tis the season for art & wine festivals, but Portola Valley offers a uniquely local twist on the favorite event — a "home-spun and intimate" festival, as the event's website describes. Portola Valley Arts Fest showcases the town's artistic community in a day that highlights visual and performing arts and literature, as well as local food and drink. Visitors can meet local artists and check out their work and enjoy performances throughout the day, which include a local author storytime at 10:30 a.m. and a variety show at 11 a.m. featuring youth from Portola Valley Theater Conservatory. Later, hear musical performances by vocal and guitar duo Jen & Jim and box-player Barry O'Connell and flutist Vinny Cronin. At 3 p.m., catch local authors Susanne Pari, Ellen Barker, Toby Brooks, Miriam Freedman, Debbie Romani reading from their works.

Sept. 14, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 3300 Alpine Road, Portola Valley. sites.google.com/view/portolavalleyartsfest/home.

Ruth Reichl

Ruth Reichl has been a chef, a restaurant critic, the longtime editor-in-chief of Gourmet magazine and even a TV personality, including as a judge on "Top Chef Masters." She's also penned bestselling memoirs and a cookbook. Recently, she partnered with director Laura Gabbert to produce the documentary "Food and Country," about challenges faced by independent farmers, ranchers and chefs in the modern food industry. She's currently an editor with Random House and she'll discuss her latest book, "Save Me the Plums: My Gourmet Memoir," about her time at the magazine, at an upcoming event at the JCC in Palo Alto.

Sept. 14, 7 p.m., Albert & Janet Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto; \$71.21 bit.ly/ReichelPaloAlto.

Fiestas Patrias

Downtown Redwood City hosts Fiestas Patrias — an annual community celebration of Mexican independence (as well as many other Latin American countries). The festivities include foods, arts and craft vendors, a flag ceremony by the Consul General de Mexico, activities for kids, live mariachi music, ballet folklorico performances and more.

Sept. 15, 3-8 p.m., Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City; free; redwoodcity.org/residents/redwood-city-events/cultural/fiestas-patrias.

Food & Drink

5 Peninsula Oktoberfest celebrations

From stein-holding competitions to homebrewing contests, here's how the Peninsula is partaking

By Adrienne Mitchel

It's time to iron your lederhosen, build up your stein-holding arm strength and expand your beer belly because Peninsula Oktoberfest events are almost here.

In addition to more traditional ways to celebrate this German festival (think beer, brats and bands), some local celebrations feature nontraditional activities like speakeasies, rock climbing and dunk tanks. So if you're looking to celebrate the over 200-year-old wedding between the crown prince of Bavaria and Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen (yes, that's the origin of Oktoberfest), check out these five upcoming events.

Oktoberfest at California's Great America, Santa Clara

Make Oktoberfest an all-day adventure at California's Great America on select Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays Sept. 14 through Oct. 26. Sip on imported German Oktoberfest beer from Hofbräu München and Paulaner and experience a rush of adrenaline on RailBlazer, Flight Deck or another roller coaster of your choosing (only advisable for those with strong stomachs).

Oktoberfest-exclusive fare includes German nachos, käsespätzle, pretzel nuggets, gingerbread hearts, linzer cookies, sausages and honey-glazed pork wings. Listen to polka bands playing German music, participate in a stein holding or brat-eating contest, challenge friends and family to yard games such as cornhole and horseshoes, and get creative at a color-by-numbers mural. Daily tickets start at \$44.99.

California's Great America, 4701 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara; 408-988-1776, Instagram @cagreatamerica. Saturdays Sept. 14 to Oct. 26 from 2-10 p.m., Sundays Sept. 15, Sept. 22 and Oct. 13 from 2-10 p.m. and Fridays Sept. 19 to Oct. 25 from 4-10 p.m.

Oktoberfest in downtown Redwood City

Oktoberfest festivities don't have to wait for the weekend. Downtown Redwood City is hosting nine days of beer, pretzels, brats and live German music Sept. 20-22 and Sept. 24-29.



Courtesy Hopelnsite

The Golden Gate Bavarian Club performs a dance at a previous year's Redwood City Oktoberfest.

Located at Courthouse Square, this ticketed event (\$10-\$20 for non-drinkers and \$16-\$30 for drinkers 21 and older; price varies depending on the day) includes a commemorative stein and one drink ticket, valid for a beer or soda depending on the ticket type. Food and extra drink tickets are sold separately. Larger parties may also reserve a VIP table for six that includes 12 drink vouchers for \$250.

Enjoy live music by The Internationals, Golden Gate Bavarian Club, Alpine Sound Band and Deutscher Musikverein. Participate in dance, stein holding and yodeling contests Friday to Sunday, as well as skits and many variations of the "international" chicken dance. The event is family-friendly, but will not include a dedicated children's area.

Redwood City Oktoberfest, Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City; Sept. 20 and Sept. 27, 5-10 p.m., Sept. 21 and Sept. 28, noon to 4 p.m. and 5-9 p.m., Sept. 22 and Sept. 29, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4-8 p.m. and Sept. 24-26, 5-9 p.m.

Oktoberfest at Ludwig's Biergarten, Mountain View

Indulge in delicacies like leberkäse, vegetable strudel and pork knuckle with Paulaner beer sauce at the Oktoberfest

celebration at Ludwig's Biergarten in downtown Mountain View.

Held Sept. 20-21 and Sept. 27-28 from 4-10 p.m., a \$150 ticket will reserve a group of eight one of 25 available tables for the entire evening (food and drink not included). Walk-ins, with no admission cost, are also welcome, but expect to be seated in the indoor bar area or on the side patio, and seating time will be limited.

The event features a live accordion player, a DJ, a best-dressed competition and stein-holding competitions (with the kids' division featuring mini steins filled with water).

Ludwig's Biergarten, 383 Castro St., Mountain View; 650-230-4575, Instagram: @ludwigsmv. Sept. 20-21 and Sept. 27-28 from 4-10 p.m.

Mountain View Oktoberfest at Steins Beer Garden

Mountain View's Oktoberfest, held Oct. 5-6 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., is introducing two new facets to its ninth annual event: a speakeasy and wine offerings. The speakeasy, located on Steins' back patio, will include lawn games, misters, fans and craft cocktails and will only be available to those with a 21 and over wristband. Over at the main event space at the intersection of

Bryant Street and Dana Street, find a selection of local white and red wines.

Established in 2013 as a collaboration between Steins Beer Garden, Tied House Brewery and the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, the event has grown from roughly 4,000 people in attendance to over 10,000. It's the "only Oktoberfest to continuously offer true glass steins and boots since its inception," according to the event website.

While the Mountain View Oktoberfest is free admission, those looking to drink beer or wine must purchase glassware and drink tickets. There will be a wide selection of German, Austrian and American beers, featuring those from Paulaner, Hacker-Pschorr, Weltenburger, Stiegl and Narrative Fermentations. German and American food will also be available to purchase from multiple vendors. Head over to Steins for a special Oktoberfest menu that includes fresh baked pretzels, German-style pork chops, bratwurst and pork schnitzel.

Enjoy live musical performances by the SF German Band and BlowMusik plus contests, including a kids pretzel-eating competition, stein holding, best costume and beer belly. Kids

have their own special zone with jumpy houses, face painting, arts and crafts and freebies. Those looking to shop can check out the Makers Market, featuring gift items, woodcraft, original art, botanicals and jewelry from local artisan vendors.

Mountain View Oktoberfest, intersection of Bryant and Dana streets in Mountain View; Instagram: @mvoktoberfest and @steinsbeergarden. Oct. 5-6 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Oktoberfest in downtown Campbell

The 29th annual Campbell Oktoberfest, held Oct. 19-20, features four stages of music and performances, over 100 arts and crafts booths, German brews by Gordon Biersch Brewing Company, dozens of food vendors, a kids' zone and even a homebrewing competition. Guests can prepurchase drink tickets (\$12 per ticket) and glassware (\$12-\$25) and register for a stein-holding contest (\$30 to enter), held at 2 p.m. both days.

Have an interest in homebrewing? Consider submitting an application by Oct. 4 to be one of 20 home brewers in the Braumeister Competition. Dan Gordon of Gordon Biersch Brewing Company and Sal Pizarro of the San Jose Mercury News will be judging contestants' Oktoberfest-style Marzen beers. The top three winners will be awarded medals and bragging rights and the first place winner will receive an Oktoberfest glass boot.

In addition to homebrewing, expect best-dressed contests at 2 p.m. both days and stein-holding contests at 3 p.m. both days. Stein-holding winners receive a glass boot stein. A kids' zone will feature a double inflatable slide, obstacle course, magician, face painting, clowns, and arts and crafts. The fire department will be holding a Touch A Truck event, and the Campbell Police Foundation will have a dunk tank. On Sunday, there will also be a climbing wall.

Campbell Oktoberfest, downtown Campbell; Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Oct. 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ■

Email Food Editor Adrienne Mitchel at amitchel@almanacnews.com.

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Open Daily 7am - 8pm

Trying to get your kids to love veggies?

At Stanford's Farm to Table Camp, elementary students learn about vegetables through hands-on experiences like farming and cooking. Led by Stanford interns, the camp focuses on teaching kids about the food system through hands-on experiences. By growing and cooking their own vegetables, the students develop healthier eating habits.

Exposure and engagement are key to getting kids to eat more fruits and vegetables — lifelong habits that can help reduce and prevent chronic diseases. Students' research at the camp found that the more children are involved with the process of growing or cooking vegetables, the more likely they are to eat them. **SCAN TO READ THE SPOTLIGHT**



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