

A local resource guide published by The Almanac

2024-25 **info**

MENLO PARK



Arts & Culture | Food & Drink | Community | Outdoors
Youth, Education & Enrichment | Seniors | AlmanacNews.com

Food for Heart



ANATOMY OF A

Heart-Healthy Burger

SWAP THE SAUCE

Replace secret sauces and mayonnaise with mustard or ketchup.

REPLACE RED MEAT

Try healthier alternatives to beef like turkey or plant-based patties.

LOAD UP ON VEGGIES

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BETTER BUNS

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Information is available in English, Español, 繁体中文, or 简体中文. For more heart-healthy recipes, tips, and information, visit us at: stanfordhealthcare.org/foodforheart



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Jill Zanolli, left, and Cat Westover, right, play pickleball at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

INFO MENLO 2024

Info Menlo is The Almanac's curated guide for residents in and around the city of Menlo Park and the towns of Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. This year, we've refreshed the look and content to create a more reader-friendly experience. Inside, you will find a variety of ways to explore and enjoy the unique offerings that make Menlo Park and the greater Midpeninsula a sought-after place in which to live, including handy maps and information on local resources and attractions, from well-loved festivals and playgrounds to adventures off the beaten path. Info 2024 features fun ideas for kids, seniors and everyone in between. We've also added a new Food & Drink section to highlight a few favorite places on the local dining scene.

In addition to this publication, you can

visit AlmanacNews.com to stay up to date on news and events happening in the area. Subscribe to Express, a daily email, and have the news delivered right to your inbox. For the latest on local food and drink, sign up for the Peninsula Foodist newsletter, which comes out on Wednesdays. For the best of what to see, eat and do on the Peninsula, sign up for the Six Fifty, emailed on Thursdays. And check out Weekend Express, also emailed on Thursdays, for the scoop on art and entertainment. All four are free; sign up at AlmanacNews.com/newsletters.

If you've got suggestions for next year's Info, please email editor@AlmanacNews.com. We appreciate your feedback.

—**Karla Kane and Linda Taaffe**
Info Menlo editors

On the cover: Scenes from life in the Menlo Park area. Photos by Federica Armstrong, Sammy Dallal, Magali Gauthier, Anna Hoch-Kenney, Michelle Le, Adrienne Mitchel, Lizzy Myers, Natalia Nazarova, Devin Roberts, Angela Swartz and Jennifer Yoshikoshi. Photos courtesy Scott & Heather Artis/Center for Biological Diversity via Bay City News, John Badger/PV Palooza, citizenM, CuriOdyssey, Elevate Art Menlo Park, Judith Hasko, Kally, Eric Lutkin, Menlo School, Pear Theatre, Kym Teppo, TheatreWorks and Vallombrosa Center. Photo illustration by Douglas Young.

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RECENT SALES

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Noelle Queen, Lic. #01917593

Kristin Galvin, Lic. #02120854



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INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Music@Menlo co-founders and artistic directors David Finckel and Wu Han. Courtesy Alex Irvin.

Wandering Acoustics performs at a 3rdThursday event on California Avenue. Courtesy 3rdThursday.



Following the arts trail



A resident's guide for exploring music, sculptures and one-of-a-kind arts offerings along the Peninsula year-round

From jazz ensembles performing in a vineyard to a collection of quirky sculptures built under a grove of redwoods to a the three-day festival that salutes Native American culture and heritage, the Midpeninsula has no shortage of venues to experience the arts — no matter what time of year. We went from community to community along the Peninsula from Mountain View to Woodside in search of arts offerings, whether longtime favorites, new works or one-of-a-kind offerings. Here are 16 ways to experience the arts during every season.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Downtown music series

CASTRO STREET

► *Music and street dining, June - September*

Mountain View's Castro Street offers two free music series. Concerts on the Plaza features bands every Friday evening from 6-7:30 p.m., June through September, in the Civic Center Plaza at 500 Castro St. The outdoor concerts include a variety of musical performances. Spectators are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

The city's Music on Castro series features singer-songwriters who perform in the street on the 200

block of Castro, which is closed to traffic. Stores and restaurants stay open later in the evening for the event. The series takes place in the downtown commercial district every Wednesday from 5-6:45 p.m. from the start of summer through early fall.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Pear Slices

► *A unique festival of short plays by local writers*

Mountain View's Pear Theatre (1110 La Avenida St.) delivers high-quality theater in a small space all year round, but one of the highlights each year is "Pear Slices," a spring festival of one-act, original plays written by members of the long-running The Pear Playwrights' Guild and starring a cast of local actors. The plays vary wildly in tone and topics so there's sure to be a slice to suit every theater lovers' taste. It's a great way to see new drama in a bite-size format. thepear.org

Jenna Ruby Marvet in "Fertile Soil" by Bridgette Dutta Portman. Courtesy Pear Theatre.





LOS ALTOS

First Friday

DOWNTOWN TRIANGLE

► *Outdoor music, murals, immersive art displays, year-round*

3 Downtown Los Altos comes to life with music and art on the first Friday of every month when more than a dozen bands, from solo performers to 17-piece groups, perform on downtown street corners and sidewalks outside of restaurants and stores. Put on by the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation, the monthly music series sprang up in 2011. In addition to music, art enthusiasts at First Friday can enjoy about a dozen murals and interactive and illuminated sculptures in and around the city's downtown triangle. The collection, which includes both permanent and temporary rotating pieces, is part of a budding program founded by the nonprofit Los Altos Arts. The collection displays a variety of works, including a mural depicting apricot orchards from the city's agricultural past and the 1950s movie theater that once stood on Main Street to "Inflorescence," an immersive art installation with California poppies and other indigenous wildflowers depicted through both photos and augmented reality. Los Altos First Friday takes place year-round from 6-9 p.m. Free art tours are held from 5-6 p.m., starting at 169 State St. *To sign up for a guided walk or to view the group's art map, go to artslosaltos.org. For more information about First Friday, go to losaltosfirstfriday.org*

2

MOUNTAIN VIEW

1

5

85



"Under The Wide Sky We Gather," a mural by artist Carrie Lederer, is installed on a wall of the Menlo Church Student Center and is part of Menlo Park's Downtown Art Walk. Courtesy Elevate Art Menlo Park.

IF YOU WANT TO EXPLORE MORE STREET ART ...

Menlo Park and Mountain View offer self-guided art walks in their downtown districts.

4 In Menlo Park, colorful murals and large-scale photographs can be found on display on the exterior walls of about a half-dozen buildings near and around Santa Cruz Avenue thanks to the nonprofit Elevate Art Menlo Park. *To view the self-guided Downtown Art Walk map, go to elevateartmp.org/artwalk.*

5 Mountain View's downtown is home to about a dozen sculptures, murals and other visual arts displays in the city's public art program that have been commissioned by a variety of public and private organizations. Most of the pieces are scattered throughout the downtown core and accessible by foot, making this a particularly fun way to explore the area while taking in some art. *To view the city's public art map, go to bit.ly/4dbERfm.*

PALO ALTO

3rdThursday

CALIFORNIA AVENUE

► *Dinner and a show, year-round*

6 Live music comes to street corners and sidewalks along Palo Alto's California Avenue once a month during the city's 3rdThursday music series that launched in May 2023 with six bands and has since expanded. The series features a variety of acts each month, ranging from full jazz bands to guitar soloists. There's also plenty of outdoor dining options and children's games set up in the street, which is closed off to traffic. Palo Alto resident Carol Garsten, the event's producer and a

longtime contributor to the First Friday music scene in neighboring Los Altos, said she was inspired to bring something similar to Palo Alto. 3rdThursday runs from 6-9 p.m. Free. 3rdthursday.fun.

PALO ALTO

New Works Festival

► *A sneak peek at new plays and musicals, August*

7 In August, Lucie Stern Theatre (1305 Middlefield Road) becomes ground-zero for a handful of new plays and musicals in their early stages of development at the New Works Festival hosted by Mountain View's Tony Award-winning theater company, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. The festival provides theater-goers a unique opportunity to get a sneak peek at new plays in progress while giving the shows' creators a chance to get audience feedback before finalizing their productions.

Missed the festival? You can catch other TheatreWorks productions at Lucie Stern Theatre or the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts during the theater's regular season, which runs from November through June. theatreworks.org/new-works

PALO ALTO

Great Glass Pumpkin Patch

► *Thousands of glass gourds on display, early fall*

8 One of the favorite signs of fall around these parts is the appearance of a particular pumpkin patch filled with gleaming glass gourds. An autumn tradition for nearly three decades, the Great Glass Pumpkin Patch brings over 10,000 blown-glass pumpkins to the grounds of the Palo Alto Art Center every fall. The event, presented by the art center and the Bay Area Glass Institute, features glass pumpkins of every size and color, as well as other autumn-themed glass pieces.

The 28th annual Great Glass Pumpkin Patch takes place at the Palo Alto Art Center (1313 Newell Road), 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sept. 28-29. Free. greatglasspumpkinpatch.com

STANFORD

Stanford Powwow

► *A celebration of Indigenous communities, May*

9 Mother's Day weekend always means something additional at Stanford University: the Stanford Powwow. Each May, the campus becomes the site of traditional dancing, songs, live music, a drum contest, intertribal events and art vendors for the three-day festival that salutes Native American culture and heritage. The event, which has taken place at the university for more than 50 years, draws an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 each year and is one of the larger powwows across the country. The next Stanford Powwow is scheduled to take place May 9-11, 2025, in the Eucalyptus Grove at Embarcadero Road and El Camino Real. Free. stanfordpowwow.org

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

STANFORD

Stanford Jazz Festival

▶ *Rising stars and well-known names in jazz, June-August*

10 The Stanford Jazz Festival takes place for six weeks every summer at various venues on the Stanford University campus providing festival-goers the opportunity to see both well-known names and rising stars in jazz. Over the past five decades since Stanford grad Jim Nadel launched Stanford Jazz Workshop in 1972, the organization has been an incubator for future jazz greats as well as a venue for legends, including Stan Getz and Dizzy Gillespie. In addition to concerts by various artists, the festival also offers favorite regular features such as the Stanford Jazz Workshop all-star jam and early bird jazz for kids. stanfordjazz.org

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A VARIETY OF PERFORMANCES ...

The Stanford Live Arts Festival summer series is held during the summer months at Stanford's historic Frost Amphitheater (351 Lasuen St.). The picturesque setting has in the past hosted everything from concerts by jazz pioneer Louis Armstrong to performances by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to symphonies to a tribute to The Beatles. Stanford Live in the past has collaborated with SFJazz, the San Francisco Symphony and the San Francisco Ballet to co-present multiple shows during the six-week run. live.stanford.edu

STANFORD

Outdoor sculpture tours

▶ *Docent-led walks of 19th- and 20th-century outdoor collections, year-round*

11 The Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University features a variety of exhibits within its walls but also offers the chance to enjoy the best of both worlds: the great outdoors and an array of unique art. On the second and third Sunday of each month, the center holds docent-led tours of its diverse collection of outdoor sculpture, which is well-known for its numerous works by renowned 19th-century sculptor Auguste Rodin, as well as more modern 20th-century pieces by artists such as Charles Ginnever, Bruce Beasley and Douglas Abdell. Tours are free and meet in front of the museum (328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford) at 2 p.m., unless otherwise noted. events.stanford.edu



The Kings Mountain Art Fair in Woodside. Photo by Vivian Cromwell.

ATHERTON

Music@Menlo

▶ *Three weeks of chamber music, July-August*

12 For more than two decades, Atherton's Music@Menlo has provided the opportunity for audiences to enjoy and learn about chamber music during its flagship chamber music festival at Menlo School (50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton) held over three weeks each summer. Music@Menlo offers master classes in which audiences can watch young performers learn from experienced musicians, as well as artist talks and lectures offering insights into featured music.

For those who don't want to wait until summer 2025 to enjoy the festival ...

Music@Menlo now offers concert series and lectures throughout the year. Past concerts also can be viewed online. musicatmenlo.org

PORTOLA VALLEY

Jazz in the vineyard

▶ *Vines, wine, music and scenic views, June-August*

13 This annual jazz festival at Portola Vineyards (850 Los Trancos Road) has brought some of the genre's brightest lights to the winery every summer for over a decade. With support from the city of Palo Alto since its first season, the jazz festival has boasted an impressive lineup every year, including violin maestro Mads Tolling, Latin big band Orquesta Dharma and piano prodigy Javier Santiago. The outdoor jazz series runs from

June through August. Concerts typically sell out fast, so reserve tickets for next season early. portolavineyards.com

IF YOU WANT TO EXPERIENCE CONCERTS AT A HISTORIC ESTATE ...

14 Filoli hosts evening concerts in its meadow during the summer. Guests are encouraged to bring their own blankets and chairs. The estate's Bluebird bar is open for cocktails and non-alcoholic drinks. The summer series features a variety of musical styles, including everything from Latin jazz, indie pop and blues to Flamenco rumba, hip hop and opera. filoli.org

WOODSIDE

Djerassi Ranch

▶ *Art and wilderness come together in 3.5-mile excursions, June-August*

15 The one-time cattle ranch that late Stanford chemist Carl Djerassi (creator of the first oral contraceptive pill) transformed into a world-renowned artists' haven opens its doors to the public on summer Sundays for guided art hikes, offering visitors a rare look at the massive sculptures that dot the 580-acre private property. The 3.5-mile excursions (which include an elevation change of 300 feet over three hours) take visitors through Djerassi Ranch's redwood forests, grasslands and mountain vistas to view about 40 pieces of art created over the past four decades by artists of the residency program that Djerassi started in 1979. Djerassi Ranch is located at 2325 Bear Gulch Road, Woodside. djerassi.org

WOODSIDE

King's Mountain Art Fair

▶ *Fine art under the redwoods, September*

16 The Kings Mountain Art Fair is held in a bucolic setting among the redwoods. The juried arts fair, which was founded in 1963 as a fundraiser to help create a volunteer fire department for the remote Kings Mountain Community, is ranked among the top art fairs in the state, according to the Art Fair Sourcebook. The outdoor festival, which takes place on the forested grounds of the Kings Mountain Community Center and Firehouse (13889 Skyline Blvd.), provides visitors a rare opportunity to walk the redwoods while taking in a juried exhibition of gallery quality fine arts and crafts. The festival takes place over Labor Day weekend each year. Free. Works from artists featured at the fair can be viewed and purchased on the Kings Mountain Art Fair website. kingsmountainartfair.org ⓘ

— Information compiled by Linda Taaffe

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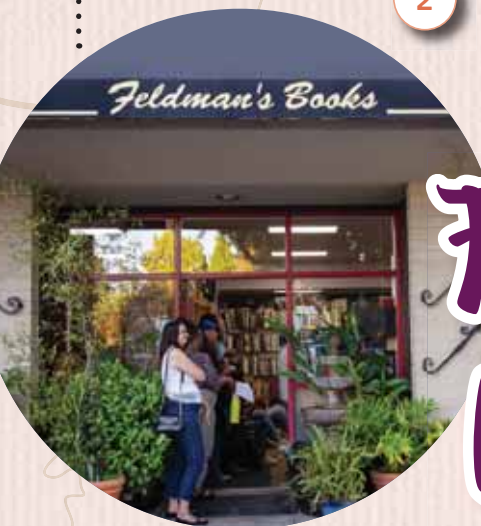
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Feldman's Books celebrated its 28th birthday in 2024. Photo by Anna Hoch-Kenney.



Following the literary trail

A curated list of must-visit places where bookworms can stay in touch with the local literary community

Books, toys and stuffed animals at Linden Tree Books. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

Like to read? You've come to the right place. The Peninsula boasts a thriving library scene (see the community section for library location info), and it's also home to a number of longtime stores serving local bookworms. Some offer readers not only a place to purchase books but also chances to meet authors presenting their work, join a discussion group, hear live music and more. Here are a few businesses in Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos where you can pick up some good reading material and stay in touch with the literary community.

MENLO PARK

Kepler's Books | Kepler's Literary Foundation

One of the Peninsula's intellectual hubs since 1955 when it was founded by peace activist Roy Kepler, Kepler's is more than a bookshop — it's an institution, and home to cultural events and big-name author visits. After a brief closure in 2005, the community rallied to keep Kepler's going strong (it's now organized into two entities: Kepler's Books and Kepler's Literary Foundation, its nonprofit arm that hosts literary events).
1010 El Camino Real, #100 | keplers.com (bookshop) | keplers.org (literary foundation)

MENLO PARK

Feldman's Books

Feldman's is a treasure trove of second-hand books, sheet music and more, and has recently also blossomed into an events space, where writing groups and book clubs meet, and poets and musicians perform.
1075 Curtis St. | feldmansbooks.net

PALO ALTO

Bell's Books

Bell's Books in downtown Palo Alto has a magical atmosphere, with its towering shelves, old-fashioned charm and fine collectibles. Family owned since 1935, Bell's is a place where generations of shoppers have visited and discovered rare, used and new books and continue to be enchanted by its vibe.
536 Emerson St. | bellsbooks.com

PALO ALTO, MOUNTAIN VIEW

Books Inc.

Books Inc. bills itself as the oldest independent bookstore in the West, and with two Peninsula locations, it's a big part of the local literary scene. Both the Palo Alto and Mountain View branches host frequent author events, as well as book club meetings and story times for the little ones.
a) Town and Country Village, 855 El Camino Real #74, Palo Alto
b) 317 Castro St., Mountain View
booksinc.net

MOUNTAIN VIEW

East West Bookshop

From tarot cards to crystals to a huge selection of reading material on all sorts of spiritual traditions from across the globe, East West Bookshop in downtown Mountain View claims to be "the largest metaphysical book and gift shop in the U.S." with uplifting, intriguing offerings.
324 Castro St. | eastwestbooks.org

LOS ALTOS

Linden Tree Books

Another long-running shop that is mainly focused on high-quality books for kids but also has items for adult shoppers, downtown Los Altos' Linden Tree keeps its events calendar hopping with plentiful author and illustrator visits, story times and clubs to engage young readers and book lovers of all ages.
265 State St. | lindentreebooks.com

— Information compiled by Karla Kane



Books Inc. offers an array of joys for avid readers. Courtesy Books Inc.

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ATHERTON



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LOS ALTOS HILLS



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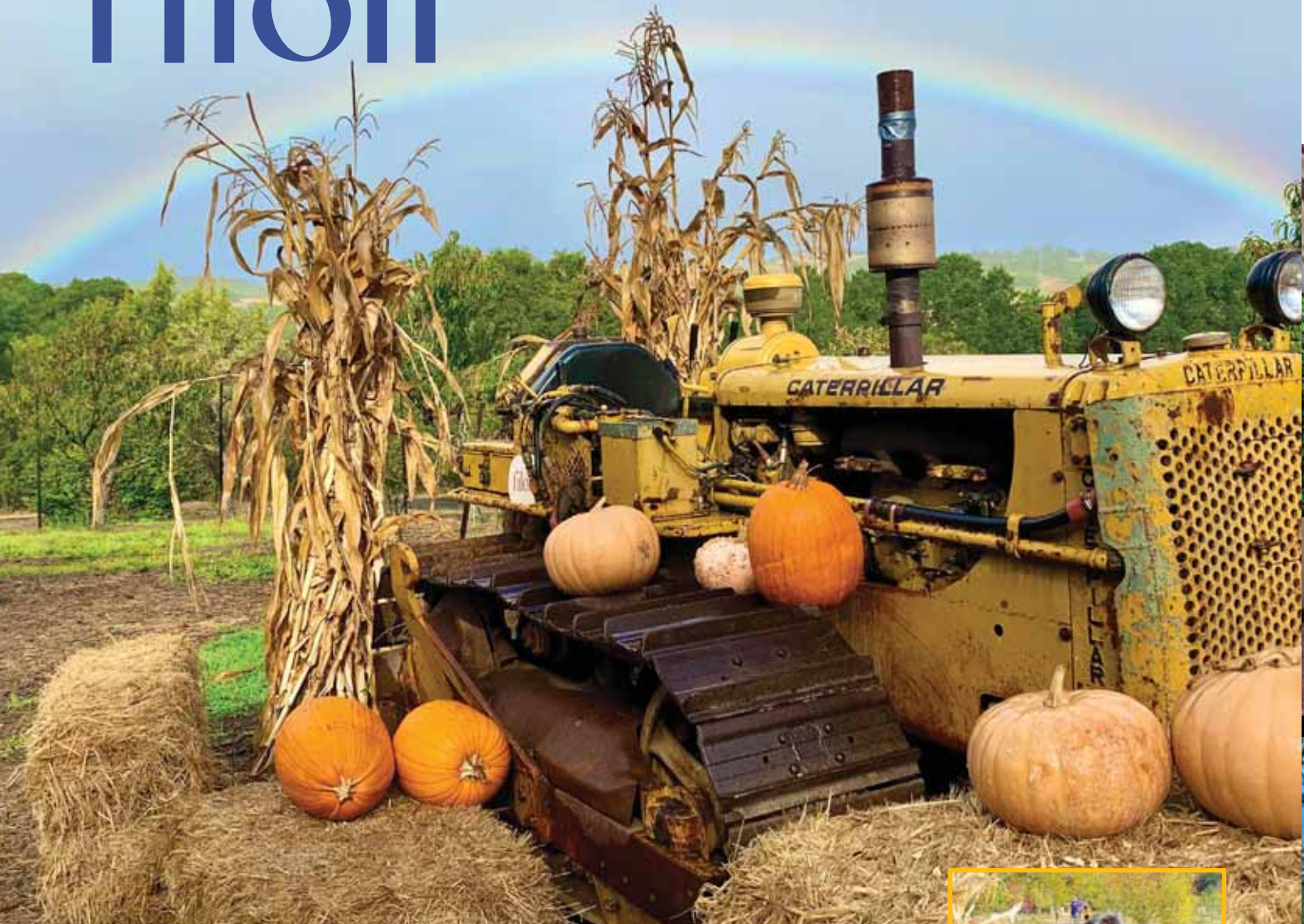
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filoli



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[Learn more at filoli.org/orchard-days](https://www.filoli.org/orchard-days)

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650.380.0085
colleen.foraker@compass.com
DRE 01349099

Carolyn Aarts Keddington
650.946.8122
carolyn.keddington@compass.com
DRE 01490400



MENLO PARK



PALO ALTO

Coupa Cafe celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2024. Photo by Adrienne Mitchel.

Mochi Waffle Corner in Mountain View offers a selection of Vietnamese iced coffees, including black sesame (center) and sea salt (right). Photo by Adrienne Mitchel.



WOODSIDE



MOUNTAIN VIEW



Following the Peninsula's coffee trail

Local spots to grab a cup and get caffeinated

Whether it's that morning cup of joe we rely on to kick off the work day or a decadent treat we like to savor while watching the world go by, there's no question that here on the Peninsula we love our coffee. Happily, there is no shortage of places in which to find it. We've compiled a list of 10 of local cafes and coffee bars — from newer additions to beloved classics — so that you're never too far from your next java fix, and you might discover a new fave.



Bluebottle Coffee latte in a mug. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

WOODSIDE

The Village Hub

▶ *Local church's cafe in an oh-so-serene setting*

1 An outreach of Woodside Village Church, The Village Hub offers Cafe Con Lucha coffee and sustainable snacks in a picturesque outdoor courtyard. It's the perfect place to sit and sip with a good book checked out from Woodside Library, right next door.
2967 Woodside Road | wvchurch.org/village-hub-coffee-bar

MENLO PARK

Andytown Coffee Roasters

▶ *A San Francisco favorite comes to town*

2 Menlo Park's Springline development is the first location outside of San Francisco for Andytown Coffee Roasters, which got its start up in S.F. a decade ago. Try the Snowy Plover, Andytown's signature drink, featuring espresso, sparkling water, brown-sugar syrup and decadent homemade whipped cream.
1302 El Camino Real | andytownsf.com

MENLO PARK

Coffeebar

▶ *A place to meet and sip in downtown Menlo*

3 The downtown Menlo Park branch of Coffeebar, which models itself after the cafe culture of Italy, offers a food menu in addition to its coffees and teas, and its location makes it a community hub.
1149 Chesnut St.
coffeebar.com/pages/menlo

PALO ALTO

Bluebottle Coffee

▶ *Third-wave coffee in the heart of Palo Alto*

4 Bluebottle Coffee is a modern classic and its downtown Palo Alto location, tucked into the co-working space at HanaHaus in the former site of the Varsity Theatre, is a great place to bring a laptop and soak up the Silicon Valley vibes, or the sunshine in the pleasant courtyard.

456 University Ave. | bluebottlecoffee.com/us/eng/cafes/palo-alto

PALO ALTO

Coupa Cafe

▶ *A taste of Venezuela on the Peninsula*

5 Now a local institution, Coupa Cafe celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2024 and the family-owned, Venezuelan-inspired cafe is going strong, having branched out from its downtown Palo Alto flagship spot to locations in Stanford, Los Altos and Redwood City. Try the Cafe Caracas for a smooth and creamy choice.

538 Ramona St. | More locations in Palo Alto, Stanford and Los Altos | coupacafe.com

PALO ALTO

ZombieRunner Coffee

▶ *Zombie-proof brews, founded by runners*

6 It started off as a running store that also offered coffee and now it does coffee (and a few other treats) full time, with drinks powerful enough to give a boost to even the sleepest zombies. Special drinks include the Chocolate Banana Zombie, the Zombie Fizz and the Golden Zombie.

344 California Ave. | zombierunner.com



PALO ALTO

Backyard Brew

▶ *A hidden Cal Ave oasis*

7 Follow an intriguing alley off California Avenue and you could end up in the oasis-like, al-fresco, space of the family-owned Backyard Brew, which makes visitors feel like they've discovered a hidden gem. Offerings include nitrogen-infused cold brew and spice and flavor options such as rose and cardamom.

444 S. California Ave. | backyardbrew.com

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Red Rock Coffee

▶ *An essential place for culture on Castro Street*

8 While much has changed on the Peninsula over the decades, Red Rock Coffee remains as a faithful champion of open mic nights and supporting local arts and downtown Mountain View just wouldn't be the same without it. Its new 2nd Story series also provides more performance opportunities for independent musicians.

201 Castro St. | redrockcoffee.com

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Bloomsgiving

▶ *Where brews meet blooms*

9 The combination plant store and cafe Bloomsgiving offers the chance to sip drinks such as the passion fruit espresso tonic while picking out some blooming flowers and leafy greens.

301 Castro St. | bloomsgiving.com

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Mochi Waffle Corner

▶ *A Vietnamese iced-coffee paradise*

10 Mochi? Waffle? That doesn't sound like coffee, you might be thinking. But in addition to mochi waffles, this tiny takeout cafe is offering a variety of Vietnamese iced coffees — with flavors including black sesame, egg and ube — that wowed our Peninsula Foodist on a recent trip.

805 E. El Camino Real
mochiwafflecorner.com ⓘ

— Information compiled by Karla Kane

Flower, plant and coffee shop Bloomsgiving has locations in downtown Mountain View and Redwood City. Embarcadero Media Foundation file photo.

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

Here's a partial list of Midpeninsula eateries voted the "Readers' Choice" by local readers. See full "Readers' Choice" listings at AlmanacNews.com/readers_choice.

ASIAN RESTAURANT**Chef Chu's**

1067 N. San Antonio Road #1300,
Los Altos | 650-948-2696
chefchu.com

BEST BAKERY**Woodside Bakery**

325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park
650-854-6207 | woodsidebakery.com

**BREAKFAST/
SUNDAY BRUNCH****Buck's of Woodside**

3062 Woodside Road, Woodside
650-851-8010
buckswoodside.com

BEST HAMBURGER**Dutch Goose**

3567 Alameda de las Pulgas,
Menlo Park | 650-854-3245
dutchgoose.net

FRENCH RESTAURANT**Bistro Vida**

641 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park
650-462-1686 | bistrovida.com

MEXICAN RESTAURANT**LuLu's on the Alameda**

3539 Alameda de las Pulgas,
Menlo Park | 650-854-8226
lulusmexicanfood.com

PIZZA**Amici's**

880 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park
650-329-8888 | amicis.com/menlo-park

PLACE TO MEET PEOPLE**Alice's Restaurant**

17288 Skyline Blvd., Woodside
650-851-0303 | alicesrestaurant.com

**SUSHI/JAPANESE
RESTAURANT****Dashi Japanese Restaurant**

873 Hamilton Ave., Menlo Park
650-328-6868
dashijapaneserestaurant.com



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MOUNTAIN VIEW

Rengstorff House

► *From deteriorated Victorian farmhouse to stunning history museum*

Most people who have ventured into Shoreline Park have probably seen the Rengstorff House — the oldest home in the city and a striking example of Victorian Italianate architecture. Built in 1867 for settler Henry Rengstorff, who came to California hoping to strike it rich in the gold rush but ended up making his money as a rancher, the two-story white wooden home boasts front-facing bay windows, a central gable crowned by a widow's walk and a front portico flanked with square columns that stand out in stark contrast to the surrounding baylands.

For more than 30 years, the former-farmhouse-turned-history-museum has been open to the public, serving as a popular destination for weddings, tourists and even ghost hunters. The home is decorated with period pieces and hosts a variety of special events, including rotating exhibits, educational talks, bird-watching excursions along the shoreline and occasionally even candlelit tours.

Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the home wasn't always a welcoming site. Prior to its 1991 opening as a museum at Shoreline Park, the home sat on Stierlin Road and was badly deteriorated and at risk of being demolished. The city of Mountain View purchased the home for \$1, and the community launched a massive effort to restore it.

Free docent-led tours are offered Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1 - 4 p.m. The garden and grounds are open during Shoreline Park's regular hours. Friends of "R" House, a nonprofit organization supporting the city-owned landmark that curates and manages the museum exhibit, also offers online exhibits and tours. The museum is located at 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd. **For more information, go to friendsofrhouse.org.**

(Source: Embarcadero Media past articles, The Friends of "R" House)

LOS ALTOS

Heritage Orchard

► *A rare glimpse of the area's agricultural roots*

The apricot orchard in front of City Hall at 1 N. San Antonio Road is among the oldest still in operation in Santa Clara Valley. Planted by early resident J. Gilbert Smith in the early 1900s, this historic landmark provides a glimpse of the city's agricultural past. It's a popular site for photographers and artists. Not only can visitors stroll among the trees, they also can purchase apricots harvested in the orchard at the DeMartini Orchard fruit stand

across the street when in season (June-August). To ensure that the fruit orchard will continue to thrive in future years, the Los Altos City Council approved a contract with the Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum to restore and preserve the site following recent droughts that impacted the health of the apricot grove.

Behind the orchard is Smith's shingled farmhouse built from mail-order plans in 1899 that now serves as part of the history museum. The house is surrounded by historic gardens, a tank house and farm equipment reflecting the area's agricultural era. There's also a modern museum building designed to look like a barn, which contains the city's historical collections and permanent and rotating exhibits.

Access to the museum and orchard is free.

losaltoshistory.org

(Source: Los Altos History Museum)

LOS ALTOS HILLS

Old Purissima School

► *Former one-room schoolhouse now serves as a chapel*

The white steeple of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills can be seen poking among the trees along southbound U.S. Highway 280, a short distance before the El Monte/Moody Road exit for Foothill College. Before the tiny wooden building on Duval Way was converted into a church in 1966, it served as a one-room schoolhouse for children of the area's early settlers. From 1901 to 1952, Purissima School, which was part of the Palo Alto Unified School District before the Los Altos School District purchased it in 1948, was a neighborhood elementary school. In the early days, students often would ride their horses to the school, which also served as a community hub where holiday gatherings and other celebrations were held. Generations of Los Altos Hills students attended the school. Alumni include David Packard Jr. (son of David and Lucile Packard) and Carl Schmitt, a former state superintendent of banks in California and founding chairman and CEO of University National Bank, which became Comerica Bank.

St. Luke's holds Anglican services in the former schoolhouse on Sundays. The chapel is located at 26140 Duval Way (off Robeveda Road).

stlukeschapel.org

(Source: Los Altos School District documents, interviews with former students)

PALO ALTO

Former Hotel President

► *Revamped 1929 landmark pays homage to architect Birge Clark*

Just about everyone who has driven through Palo Alto likely has seen the Spanish-influenced architecture of Birge Clark. His iconic red-tiled roofs, stucco walls, arches

and wrought iron details defined the burgeoning city's Early California style and had so much influence on the look of its commercial and residential streetscapes that Palo Alto has been referred to "as the city Birge built."

During a 50-year span, Clark built 98 Palo Alto houses and nearly 400 buildings in and around the city, including the landmark 1929-era Hotel President on University Avenue, which recently has been refurbished and renamed Graduate Palo Alto.

The hotel is a good place to explore Clark's work since some areas of the building are now open to the public for the first time since the 1950s when it was converted into an apartment building.

While the updated hotel aims to be an upscale homage to all things Stanford and includes portraits and art inspired by some of the university's more famous attendees, much of the six-story Spanish colonial building that Clark designed has remained intact, including its wood-beamed ceilings, spiral tiled-staircase, wrought iron details and some of the lobby's historic green tiles from the original 1929 construction.

To pay homage to Clark, the menu at the hotel's Lou & Herbert's cafe and bar features a cocktail named for Clark called "Birge's Blueprint." It's made with gin, sage cordial, saline and palo santo smoke.

Visitors also can take the hotel's vintage Otis elevator, with a refurbished leather interior, to the top of the building to the President's Terrace, a rooftop bar with views of downtown and the Stanford quad.

Graduate Palo Alto is located at 488 University Ave. graduatehotels.com/palo-alto

(Source: Embarcadero Media past articles)

PALO ALTO

Stanford Theatre

► *1920s movie house with organ, classic films*

Peninsula film lovers can catch classic movies and hear the Wurlitzer play at the Stanford Theatre. Designed as a movie palace in the Moorish revival style, the theater opened its doors in 1925 with a Leatherbury-Smith orchestral organ that featured pipes ranging from the size of a toothpick to 32 feet tall and was built specifically to accompany silent films.

During the 1960s, the theater fell on hard times and the organ was dismantled and sold. In 1987 after the death of Fred Astaire, local resident David Packard Jr., son of Hewlett-Packard co-founder David Packard, hosted a film festival of Astaire's works at the theater. The two-week festival was so successful that the David and Lucile Packard Foundation bought and restored the theater, which is now owned and operated by the nonprofit Stanford Theatre Foundation.

Continued on page 20

Continued from page 19

Taking in a show at the theater is much like experiencing how it was in its early heyday. The theater boasts tile floors, beamed ceilings, red velvet seats and a restored Wurlitzer organ, which includes the 1926 console from Hollywood's Grauman's Chinese Theatre and 1928-era pipes from New York's historic Loew Theatre. The organ is played live during intermissions, as well as to accompany silent films. The theater shows classic movies and often hosts festivals highlighting the works of certain actors or directors. *Find the full lineup of films at stanfordtheatre.org.*

(Embarcadero Media past articles, Wikipedia)

MENLO PARK

Guild Theatre

► *Former movie house now hosts live music*

6 The Guild Theatre (949 El Camino Real) is no stranger to big names: For more than 90 years, a steady parade of stars flickered across the screen of the Menlo Park movie palace. But now, the names that appear on the marquee are performing live inside. After undergoing a \$35 million renovation, the Guild reopened in February 2022 as a brand-new venue for live music. The 500-seat not-for-profit theater showcases an eclectic mix of national acts, solo musicians, local bands and special events, in an intimate setting, providing lots of opportunities for concert-goers to see their favorite artists up close.

Known as the Menlo when it opened its doors in 1926, the art deco-style movie house was among the earliest theaters to open along the Peninsula and showed films up until fall 2019, according to the Menlo Park Historical Association. Although the theater was recently renovated, the Guild's 1920s heritage can still be found throughout the space, including the light fixtures and other details, perhaps most notably in an art deco chandelier salvaged from the theater that hangs over the ground-floor bar.

There are also echoes of its movie theater past in the lobby floor, finished with a colorful design reminiscent of vintage



.....
The Guild Theatre.
Photo by Magali Gauthier.

movie theater entrances — and the theater's blade sign remains, refurbished with "Guild" spelled out in new neon lights. guildtheatre.com

(Sources: Menlo Park Historical Association, Embarcadero Media past articles)

MENLO PARK

Historic train station

► *Model trains at California's oldest train station*

7 Watch miniature passenger and freight trains run on tracks through mini towns and tunnels and over bridges and trestles at the historic Menlo Park train station (1090 Merrill St.). The West Bay Model Railroad Association built a model train display in the former Southern Pacific baggage building adjacent to the train station in Menlo Park where visitors can see the trains go around tracks and talk to club members. The building, constructed in 1867 by the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad Company, is the oldest railroad passenger station in California. The Victorian ornamentation was added in the 1890s when the station was remodeled to serve the newly opened Stanford University. The extension on the northwest was added to accommodate increased traffic generated by the establishment of Camp Fremont nearby during World War I. The station was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, and became a California Historical Landmark in 1983.

The Railroad Association holds monthly open houses and holiday train shows in the building. wbmrra.ning.com

PORTOLA VALLEY

Rossotti's "Zott's" Alpine Inn

► *Second-oldest continually run tavern in California*

8 Rossotti's Alpine Inn (3915 Alpine Road) is the place to soak in some local color and history while enjoying food and drinks. Dating back to 1852 and being the second-oldest continually run tavern in California, the place and its lore have attracted a wide cast of characters and fans, from patrons arriving on horseback to tech workers in Teslas and local families looking for a bite to eat after a game at nearby Rossotti Field. Alpine Inn has served generations of families from Portola Valley and nearby communities who treat the establishment as a home away from home. Inside, the tavern is decorated with Stanford athletics memorabilia donated by an alumnus.

The restaurant also still has "horse parking" out front (a group of locals still arrive on horseback some weekends) and a plaque marking the "beginning of the internet age" in 1976 when a crew of SRI scientists, sitting at a picnic table in the beer garden, successfully

WANT TO EXPLORE MORE LOCAL HISTORY?

Computer History Museum

1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View

- Large international collection of computing artifacts
- computerhistory.org

Hoover Institution

434 Galvez Mall, Stanford

- Free exhibit on President Herbert Hoover and his wife, Lou Henry Hoover
- hoover.org

Moffett Field Historical Society Museum

Severyns Ave., Bldg. 126, Moffett Field, Mountain View

- Aircraft displays; artifacts from post-1930
- moffettfieldmuseum.org

Museum of American Heritage

351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto

- Exhibits emphasizing invention and technology from 1750-1950
- moah.org

Woodside Store

3300 Tripp Road, Woodside

- Preserved mid-1800s store with educational programs
- historysmc.org/woodside-store

sent an electronic message from a computer. alpineinnnpv.com

(Sources: The SixFifty, the Peninsula Foodist)

WOODSIDE

Filoli estate

► *An up-close look at life on a lavish, century-old country estate*

9 No list of historical places would be complete without mentioning the 54,000-square-foot Filoli mansion. The Georgian revival-style estate is among the best-known historic properties in the region. With concerts, art strolls, holiday festivals, rotating exhibits and acres of gardens that change with the seasons, visitors can find something different to see or experience during each visit to the 106-year-old property.

Built as a private resident in 1917, the home sits on 654 acres and is considered one of the finest remaining country estates of the 20th century. The property includes 16 acres of English Renaissance gardens, a 6.8-acre gentleman's orchard and hundreds of acres of natural lands with five distinct ecosystems and a 1-mile estate trail. The home and gardens are open for public tours year-round. Admission is charged. filoli.org (Source: Filoli.org) ⓘ

— Information compiled by Linda Taaffe

242 Menlo Park sales and counting...



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

ATHERTON

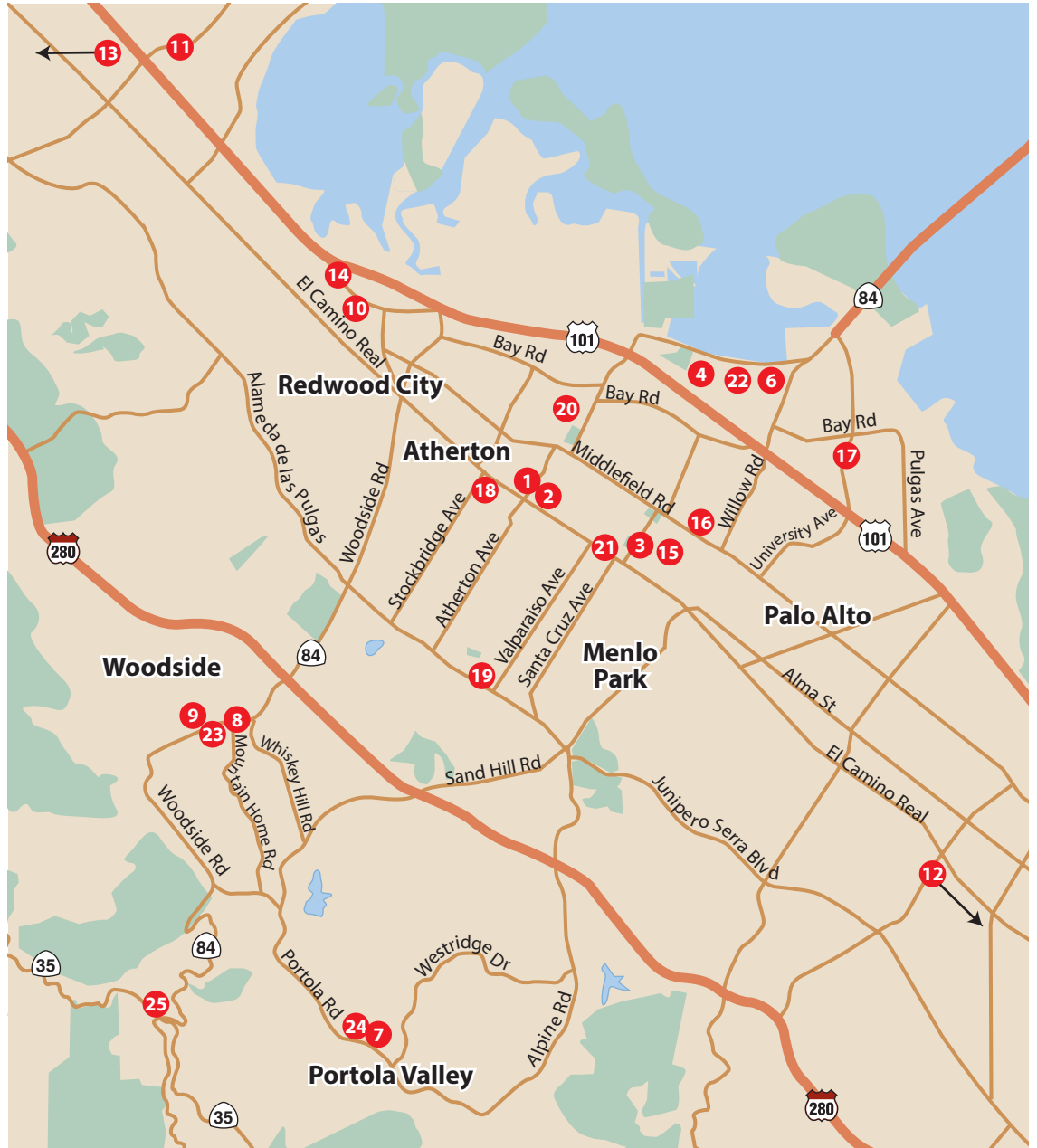
- 1 Atherton Town Hall**
80 Fair Oaks Lane
ci.atherton.ca.us
- 1 Atherton Police Department**
80 Fair Oaks Lane
ci.atherton.ca.us
- 2 Atherton Library**
2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane
smcl.org/locations/1A

MENLO PARK

- 3 Menlo Park City Hall**
701 Laurel St.
menlopark.gov
- 4 Belle Haven Community Campus (includes Belle Haven Library)**
100 Terminal Ave.
menlopark.gov/Venues/Belle-Haven-Community-Campus
- 5 Menlo Park Library**
800 Alma St.
menlopark.gov/library
- 3 Menlo Park Police Department**
701 Laurel St.
menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/Police
- 6 Belle Haven Police Substation**
871 Hamilton Ave.

PORTOLA VALLEY

- 7 Portola Valley Town Center**
765 Portola Road
portolavalley.net
- 7 Portola Valley Library**
765 Portola Road
smcl.org/locations/1v/



WOODSIDE

- 8 Woodside Town Hall**
2955 Woodside Road
woodsidetown.org
- 9 Woodside Library**
3140 Woodside Road
smcl.org/locations/1W
San Mateo County

SAN MATEO COUNTY

- 10 San Mateo County administrative offices**
400 County Center,
Redwood City
smcgov.org

- 11 San Mateo County Office of Education**
101 Twin Dolphin Drive,
Redwood City
smcoe.org
- 10 San Mateo County Sheriff's Office**
400 County Center,
Redwood City
smcsheriff.com

- 13 San Mateo County Community College District**
3401 CSM Drive,
San Mateo
smccd.edu
- 14 Sequoia Healthcare District**
525 Veterans Blvd.,
Redwood City
sequoiahealthcaredistrict.com

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

- 12 Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District**
5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos
openspace.org

- 15 West Bay Sanitary District**
500 Laurel St.,
Menlo Park
westbaysanitary.org



Woodside Town Hall. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

FIRE STATIONS

MENLO PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

(includes Atherton)

menlofire.gov

- 16 **Station 1** - Middlefield Road, Menlo Park
- 17 **Station 2** - University Avenue, East Palo Alto
- 18 **Station 3** - Almadral Avenue, Atherton
- 19 **Station 4** - Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park
- 20 **Station 5** - Fair Oaks Avenue, Menlo Park
- 21 **Station 6** - Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park
- 22 **Station 77** - Chilco Street, Menlo Park

WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

(Portola Valley, Woodside, and portions of unincorporated San Mateo County)

woodsidefire.org

- 23 **Station 7** - Woodside Road, Woodside
- 24 **Station 8** - Portola Road, Portola Valley
- 25 **Skylonda Fire Station** - Skyline Boulevard, Woodside

Menlo Park opens a new community campus

The new Belle Haven Community Campus opened in May 2024. Located at 100 Terminal Ave. in Menlo Park, the 37,000-square-foot campus houses a library, pool, youth center and senior center, as well as the Onetta Harris Community Center.

There are multiple activities for youth and adults available at the new campus, including everything from gymnastics and piano classes to arts and crafts camps to fitness classes and martial arts.

You can view a full list of classes and more by clicking on "Activity Guide" from the Belle Haven Community Campus' page on Menlo Park's website: tinyurl.com/BelleHavenCC.

The outdoor pool at the Belle Haven Community Campus in Menlo Park. Photo by Devin Roberts.



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- Visit our monthly Fire Marshal Safety Corner events in the community

Visit our website to sign up, and follow us on social media to stay informed about upcoming events!

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- 🌐 menlofirecert.com



Enabling Seniors to Age in Place

For over 75 years, Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. has **enabled seniors to age in place**. Our critical programs serve over 6,000 community households and address the most pressing issues of aging adults by offering services to sustain daily physical, nutritional, emotional, and mental health in support of vibrant, active, and connected lives.



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US ONLINE



Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. 800 Middle Avenue Menlo Park, CA 94025

PVI's Senior Activity Center at Little House

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- One-on-one personal training sessions
- Technology assistance
- Educational and cultural programs
- Art studio featuring ceramics and other crafts



PVI's Nutrition Services Nutritious and affordable meals

- Meals on Wheels: Freshly prepared, home-delivered meals for homebound individuals
- Little House Cafe: Affordable in-person dining Monday - Friday 11:30 am - 1 pm
- Got Groceries: No-cost weekly grocery pickup program

PVI's Adult Day Services at Rosener House Adult day program for adults living with dementia and cognitive impairments

- Therapeutic activities for aging adults experiencing Alzheimer's, dementia, and other challenges
- Providing respite for families and caregivers



RIDE PVI On-demand transportation

- Affordable on-demand transportation
- Talk to a real person, no app
- Rides are monitored from beginning to end

PVI's Aging Life Solutions Comprehensive caregiver support

- Providing coordinated concierge support and resources for the caregiver and care receiver
- Weekly in-person visits to support household and wellness tasks



Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park.
Photo by Sophia Markoulakis.



Every spring, egrets return to a breeding colony at Google. Photo by Magali Gauthier.



Following the Peninsula's flora and fauna trail

Nature preserves are the obvious places to enjoy local greenery, but don't count out city parks, shopping centers or tech campuses

Those looking to soak in some nature don't have to travel far. In fact, they don't have to make a trek to the mountains or baylands. From flower walks at a shopping mall to a tech campus with an egret colony to a downtown park with acres of redwoods, the Peninsula offers plenty of ways to enjoy native plants, flowers and other greenery (and occasional wildlife) in unexpected settings. While these are hardly replacements for the thousands of acres of open space in the area, they do provide some respite from the daily grind — which is why we decided to compile a list of traditional and not-so-traditional destinations to enjoy nature in all its glory.



Instructor Garth Harwood leads a foraging basics class at Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

The Rookery

► *Every spring, egrets return to breeding colony at Google*

1 Google's Mountain View campus is home to great egrets, snowy egrets and black-crowned night herons. Every spring, they return to the campus to raise their young in the street trees along Shorebird Way, or "The Rookery" (in the 1209-1231 blocks), where they have established a colony. From March to August, spectators can watch the entire breeding cycle. Great egrets usually arrive first, followed by the snowy egrets and night herons, according to the Santa Clara County Audubon Society.

Historically, this area was dominated by wetlands and willow groves. It has changed over the years, but generations of birds still use the trees lining the street for their breeding colony. This rookery hosts 20% or more of the great egret colonies that are monitored in the Bay Area. Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and other organizations help Google and the city of Mountain View steward the egrets at this site. Shorebird Way is closed to traffic after the egret chicks hatch to protect the birds and people who like to watch them from the road. scvas.org/egrets

(Source: Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society)

LOS ALTOS

Redwood Grove Nature Preserve

► *Walking among giants within steps of downtown*

2 The Redwood Grove Nature Preserve (482 University Ave.) is located within walking distance of downtown Los Altos. Maintained by the city and Grassroots Ecology, a nonprofit organization dedicated to caring for public lands, the park provides visitors an opportunity to explore various ecosystems. Here, visitors can walk along wooden catwalks and trails that wind through 6 acres that include a redwood forest, riparian floodplain, oak woodland and native meadow. The preserve also is home to a colony of great blue herons that breed and nest from March to May along the Adobe Creek that runs through the park. For those who want to learn how to garden with California native plants, the park includes a demonstration garden, too.

This park is unique in the area because redwood forests are typically found closer to the coast where they receive moisture from the fog. All of the redwoods at the park were transported from the Santa Cruz Mountains as saplings and planted in Los Altos in the 1920s. The trees are watered using tree

sprinklers. The park is open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. losaltosca.gov/parksrec/page/redwood-grove-nature-preserve

(Source: Grassroots Ecology)

LOS ALTOS HILLS

Hidden Villa

► *Where wilderness and a working farm meet*

3 The educational nonprofit, farm and nature preserve Hidden Villa (26870 Moody Road) could also easily find a place on our "history trail" list. Hidden Villa was founded back in the 1920s by Frank and Josephine Duveneck, who were inspired to use their scenic property as a community gathering place with progressive ideals. In 1937 it became home to the first youth hostel on the West Coast, and in 1945 it opened a residential summer camp. Over the years it also provided housing for Japanese Americans returning from internment camps and a safe space for Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta during the early days of what became the United Farm Workers Movement. Since 1970, it's also had a focus on environmental education, and in 1991 it launched its community supported agriculture program, which continues to this day. Thousands of visitors each year come to visit its farm animals, walk through its education garden, and hike its wilderness trails, and many enjoy its camp offerings and specialized classes and programs for kids and adults alike. hiddenvilla.org

(Source: Hidden Villa)

PALO ALTO

King Tides, Palo Alto Baylands

► *Observing rare birds during the highest, lowest tides of the year*

4 The Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve provides visitors the perfect place to witness the exceptionally high and low tides that only happen a few days each winter when the Earth, sun and moon align, creating a gravitational pull on the ocean. These tides, known as king tides, can rise above 9 feet — or about 2 feet higher than the average tide — causing flooding in parts of the Baylands. They also may force some rare birds out of hiding, making it more likely to see things you don't normally observe in the marshland.

During the king tides, the nonprofit Environmental Volunteers lead free interpretive walks through the baylands that stop at sites that provide the best views to admire the higher-than-normal tides and learn about tidal systems. Trained volunteers explain what king tides are, how they affect the marsh and point out species, such as egrets, ducks and sparrows. Tours begin at the Environmental Volunteers EcoCenter

(2560 Embarcadero Road), where the king tides are most notable. evols.org

(Source: Embarcadero Media past articles)

PALO ALTO

Second Saturday, Gamble Garden

► *Nature activities in historic garden*

5 Since 1985, the extensive gardens that Elizabeth F. Gamble first planted on her estate in downtown Palo Alto in the early 1900s have been restored and expanded and open for the community to enjoy. The 2.5-acre nonprofit Gamble Garden (1431 Waverley St.) includes a rose garden, cutting garden, formal herb garden, demonstration bed, wisteria garden, an allée, a rain garden and more. The gardens are so extensive, that the self-guided walking tour includes 24 points of interest, from A through Z. Gamble Garden is especially known for its extensive collection of camellias, which visitors will find in almost every corner of the property.

For those who want to visit the gardens and the historic Colonial-Georgian Revival home, the grounds are open to the public daily, and special activities, exhibits and classes are offered year-round. On every second Saturday of the month, Gamble Garden opens its doors to the community for a morning of various nature-themed activities, including garden tours and nature hunts. Open daily during daylight hours. Free. gamblegarden.org

(Source: Gamble Garden)

STANFORD

Stanford Shopping Center garden walk

► *Dozens of colorful garden beds positioned throughout the mall*

6 Stanford Shopping Center launched its Stanford Garden Walk to provide visitors an opportunity to explore and learn about more than 50 varieties of annuals, perennials and rose-like flowers grown in large planters and raised garden beds positioned around storefronts throughout the 1.4-million-square-foot outdoor mall. The flowers bloom throughout spring and summer and each planter features stakes with a QR code that can be scanned to learn more about the current blooms, including interesting tidbits, special characteristics of floral varieties, their symbolic meanings and growing tips.

The self-guided, interactive tour was designed with the help of Jackie Gray of Merivale Design, who has been the longtime garden designer for the shopping center. stanfordgardenwalk.splashthat.com

(Source: Simon Property Group)

Continued on page 28

Continued from page 27

STANFORD

Arizona Cactus Garden

▶ *Rare collection of cacti, succulents*

7 The Arizona Cactus Garden (450 Jane Stanford Way) is one of Stanford's oldest living attractions — older than the university itself — with roots reaching back to late 1881. The 17,000-square-foot garden features densely tangled prickly pear plants, twisted spines and towering yucca trees and a collection of other unusual plants straight out of Mexico's Sonoran desert. Commissioned by Leland and Jane Stanford, the garden was one of several "Arizona Gardens" created by landscape architect Rudolph Ulrich. His design blended formal symmetrical plantings with the textures and colors of imported succulents. In its heyday, the garden included thousands of varieties of cacti and succulents that rarely, if ever, grew naturally in the Bay Area. Leland Stanford, who was president of the Central Pacific Railroad, reportedly gave Ulrich unlimited use of boxcars to haul specimens out of the desert. Over 500 varieties of cactus, succulents, ice plants and other rare and unusual specimens now grow abundantly in the 58 stone-lined garden beds, including a dozen or so original species from the 1880s. To tour the garden, park at the lot at Welch and Quarry roads and follow the path past the mausoleum.

facops.stanford.edu/arizona-garden

(Source: Embarcadero Media past articles)

MENLO PARK

Allied Arts Guild

▶ *European-style garden courtyards in a historic setting*

8 Located in a quiet neighborhood on the south edge of Menlo Park is the Allied Arts Guild (75 Arbor Road), a group of historic Spanish-style buildings clustered around extensive courtyard gardens reminiscent of those surrounding the Alhambra Palace in Spain. Designed by famed Palo Alto architects Gardner Dailey and Pedro Joseph de Lemos in the late 1920s as a serene workplace for artists, the complex is owned by the nonprofit Allied Arts Guild Auxiliary, which generates funds at the arts center to support the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

Visitors now can enjoy three distinct garden areas. The Garden of Delight, or Blue Garden, features hydrangeas, asters and blue-Nile lilies centered around a bubbling blue-tiled fountain. This area also is home to Café Wisteria, providing visitors an opportunity to enjoy lunch overlooking the garden.

The Court of Abundance is named for the golden colors of the orange trees, yellow marigolds, wallflowers and nasturtiums that grow

around a central fountain surrounded by a geometric maze of hedges.

The Rose Allée features a rose-lined pathway that begins at the archway building and leads to an 1885-era barn that was converted into a woodworking shop.

Hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. alliedartsguild.org

(Source: Embarcadero Media past articles)

WOODSIDE

Filoli

▶ *Garden parties, orchard walks, open space hikes*

9 The historic Filoli estate (86 Cañada Road) is home to 16 acres of English Renaissance gardens, a 6.8-acre gentleman's orchard and hundreds of acres of natural lands with five distinct ecosystems. The nonprofit hosts guided and self-guided garden walks, seasonal garden parties, exhibits and other activities and special events highlighting different blooms (which range in the tens of thousands) throughout the year.

In June of 2024, Filoli opened the new, half-mile Spring Creek Trail, along a scenic creek bed amongst redwood and madrone, where hikers can spot the historic flume (a water system built over 100 years ago). More public hiking and nature access is the works, according to the estate's strategic plan. Filoli's former Sally MacBride Nature Center, housed in an old barn, also got a recent revamp. Now called the Lamchin Interpretive Center, the center highlights the history of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples and the current work of the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone. *For hours, special event calendar, admission prices and tickets, go to filoli.org.*

(Source: Embarcadero Media past articles)

REDWOOD CITY

Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve

▶ *Spring wildflower hikes bursting with color*

10 While local preserves are home to hundreds of wildflower species that flower from early spring all the way through the later winter months, March, April and May bring the highest frequency and diversity of blooms — and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the grasslands in full color. On Saturday and Sunday mornings from early March through June, docents at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve (10 Old Stage Coach Road) offer 3-mile leisurely walks starting at the park's Bill and Jean Lane Education Center. Look for chick lupine and purple coyote mint that is limited to California. Western monarchs love to feed off this native's pollen, so keep an eye out for this butterfly species. Free.

friendsofedgewood.org



A bridge on the Spring Creek Trail at Filoli. Photo by Angela Swartz.

IF YOU WANT TO EXPLORE WILDFLOWERS ON YOUR OWN ...

Wildflowers can be viewed at more than a dozen local preserves and trails with lots of options for all levels of hikers, including more challenging hikes at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve and easily accessible trails at Pearson-Arastradero Preserve:

11 Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve (Skyline Boulevard and Page Mill / Alpine Road) includes 3,000-acres with lots of trail options. For the most bang for your buck, start at the Ridge Trail where Page Mill Road and State Route 35 meet on the northwest corner. This hike is more challenging than others, but provides ample opportunity to see wildflowers. Take the trail to the top of Borel Hill and soak in the 360-degree view. Continue to the Ancient Oaks and Charquin trails for a full 5.7-mile loop. Varied topography allows for shade- and sun-loving wildflowers to grow under oaks and fallen trees and out in the open.

All of the grassland trails offer lots of wildflower-viewing possibilities. Hikers might spot vibrant red Indian paintbrush or white Fernald's Iris on sloping sunny hillsides. Look for western houndstongue, which is part of the borage family and thrives under the shade of oak trees. The park is open a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset. openspace.org/preserves/russian-ridge

12 In Palo Alto, Pearson-Arastradero Preserve has more than 10 miles of trails easily accessible off Interstate Highway 280 (1530 Arastradero Road, between Page Mill and Alpine roads). The Arastradero Creek Trail is a relatively easy, one-way 1.44-mile trail with moderate hills. Enter from Foothills Nature Preserve and pass the lake before making the hike uphill. The park is open 8 a.m. until sunset. bit.ly/ArastraderoPreserve

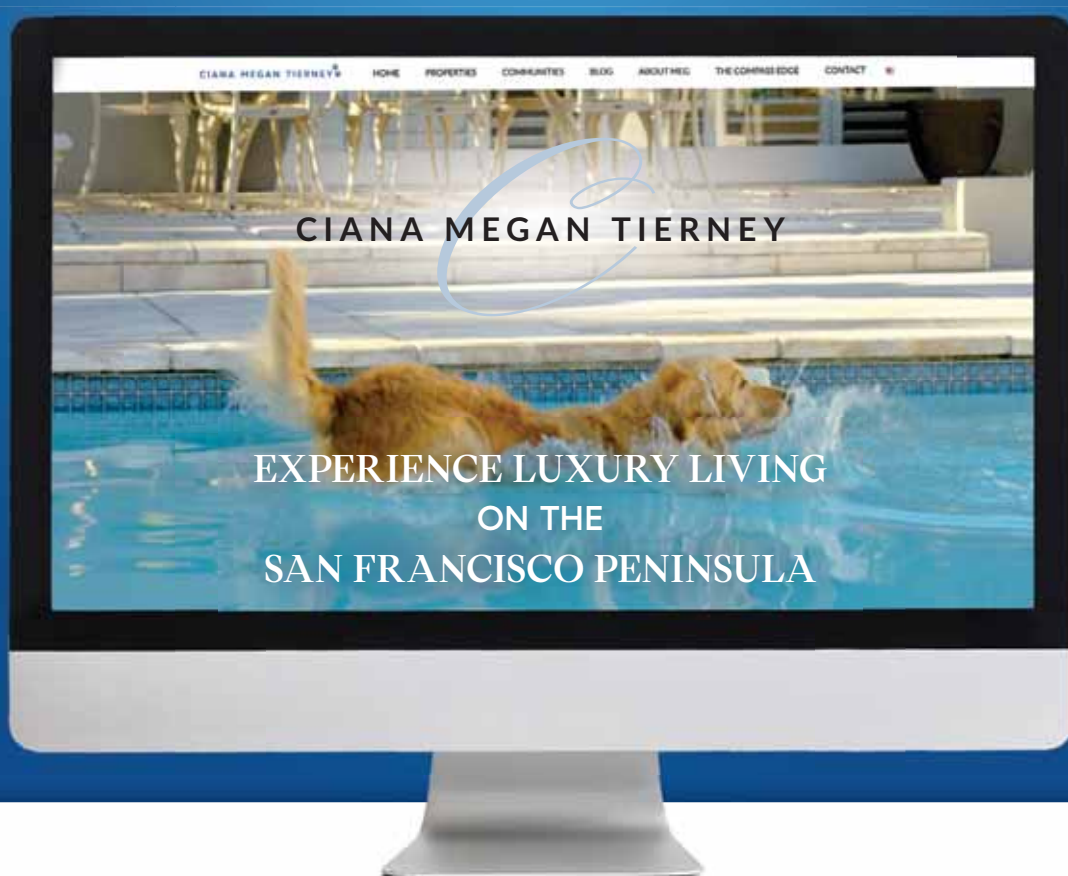
— Information compiled by Linda Taaffe

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COMPASS

CITY, TOWN AND COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

ATHERTON

- 1 Holbrook-Palmer Park**
150 Watkins Ave.
ci.atherton.ca.us/180

MENLO PARK

Community Services Department
menlopark.gov/parks

- 2 Bedwell Bayfront Park**
1600 Marsh Road
- 3 Belle Haven School Field**
1360 Almanor Ave.
- 4 Burgess Park**
701 Laurel St.
- 5 Fremont Park**
Santa Cruz Ave. and University Drive
- 6 Hamilton Park**
545 Hamilton Ave.
- 7 Jack W. Lyle Park**
640 Fremont St.
- 8 Karl E. Clark Park**
313 Market Place
- 9 Kelly Park**
100 Terminal Ave.
- 10 Meta Park**
1 Facebook Way (Privately owned but publicly available)
- 11 Nealon Park**
800 Middle Ave.
- 12 Seminary Oaks Park**
299 Santa Monica Ave.

- 13 Sharon Hills Park**
Altschul Ave. at Valparaiso Ave.
- 14 Sharon Park**
1100 Monte Rosa Drive
- 15 Skate Park**
580 Alma St. (Burgess Park)
- 16 Stanford Hills Park**
2400 Branner Drive
- 17 Tinker Park**
1550 Santa Cruz Ave.
- 18 Willow Oaks Park**
490 Willow Road

PORTOLA VALLEY

- 19 Portola Valley Town Center Facilities (sports complex and Little People's Park)**
765 Portola Road
portolavalley.net/about/town-center

SAN MATEO COUNTY PARKS

- smcgov.org/parks
- 24 Edgewood Park & Natural Preserve**
10 Old Stagecoach Road, Redwood City



WOODSIDE

- 20 Rossotti Field**
3919 Alpine Road
- 21 Ford Field**
3329 Alpine Road
- 22 Triangle Park**
Portola and Alpine roads
- 23 Barkley Fields and Park**
5001 Farm Hill Blvd.
woodsidetown.org/community/barkley-fields-and-park-0

OPEN SPACE

- 25 Flood Park** (currently undergoing updates and construction)
215 Bay Road, Menlo Park
- 26 Huddart Park**
1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside
- 27 Wunderlich Park**
4040 Woodside Road, Woodside
- 28 Coal Creek Open Space Preserve**
Skyline Blvd., 1.2 miles north of Page Mill Road
- 29 El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve**
Skyline Blvd., 1.5 miles south of Kings Mountain Road
- 30 Los Trancos Open Space Preserve**
Page Mill Road, 1.5 miles east of Skyline Boulevard
- 31 Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve**
Skyline Blvd., 4.5 miles south of Hwy 92
- 32 Ravenswood Open Space Preserve**
Bay Road, East Palo Alto
- 33 Teague Hill Open Space Preserve**
Kings Mountain Road, above the town of Woodside
- 34 Thornewood Open Space Preserve**
La Honda Road, 1.6 miles past the Portola Road intersection in Woodside
- 35 Windy Hill Preserve**
Skyline Blvd., Portola Valley

MAGIC

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Sure, we have amazing academics and brilliant teachers who absolutely love what they do (and they are a big part of our secret sauce). But wait until you see the choices outside the classroom. Athletics, performing arts, clubs, business and entrepreneurship, debate ... the list goes on and on. And when kids try something new and a passion is ignited, that is where the magic happens.

Since 1893 we have been doing what we love – bringing out the very best in children – and we welcome you to join our community!





Families participate in a nature walk at Huddart Park. Courtesy Federica Armstrong.

Following the 'play' trail



From hikes and inclusive play structures to a Western-themed playground and a zoo, Midpeninsula parks offer youth plenty of opportunities to have the best day ever

If you have little ones in your life, you'll know the Midpeninsula is full of great places to play. Everyone has their own neighborhood favorites, and some draw visitors from a bit farther afield. We've compiled a list of a few super-fun public parks with play spaces from Woodside down to Mountain View and we know there are plenty more out there. Whether your child is into climbing, wading or playing pretend, there's something for everyone.



WOODSIDE

Huddart Park

▶ *Redwoods, shady canyons — and a nature trail for strollers*

1 Huddart Park (1100 Kings Mountain Road) is the perfect place to bring your family for a day in nature, with its majestic redwoods, fragrant bay trees, and shady canyons. The short but scenic Chickadee Nature Trail even works for strollers. It's also a perfect picnic spot and has a playground, barbecue pits, and day and overnight camp sites for youth. smcgov.org/parks/huddart-park

PORTOLA VALLEY

Little People's Park

▶ *Back to the 'old West'*

2 Portola Valley's Little People's Park (765 Portola Road), next to the historic old schoolhouse building, is full of charm. Kids can pretend they're back in the olden days when they play in the little cabin or on the wagon cart, and it's near all the amenities of the town center. portolavalley.net/departments/parks-recreation/public-parks-athletic-fields/little-people-s-park

An adult helps push children riding the net spinner at the Magical Bridge playground. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

ATHERTON

Holbrook-Palmer Park

▶ *An enchanted garden*

3 Atherton's Holbrook-Palmer Park (150 Watkins Ave.) has an enchanting garden setting, playing fields, a recently repaired playground (with potentially more changes in the works) and many new trees planted over the last year or so. ci.atherton.ca.us/180/Holbrook-Palmer-Park

MENLO PARK

Nealon Park

▶ *All-inclusive, all abilities*

4 Nealon Park (800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park) is a very popular spot to play, with an updated, enclosed, all-abilities playground designed with inclusivity — and fun — in mind. There are tons of things to climb, swing on, and slide down, with an appealing nature and camping theme. menlopark.gov/Parks/Nealon-Park

A family plays among the redwoods at Shoup Park in Los Altos. Photo by Kevin Legnon.

PALO ALTO

Rinconada Park

▶ *A magic forest, a museum and a zoo*

5 Palo Alto's 19-acre Rinconada Park (777 Embarcadero Road) is a great headquarters from which to launch a day of play. Yes, there is a playground, but there's also the beautiful Magic Forest redwood grove, swimming pools (including the fountain-full wading pool), plus proximity to the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo for the science and animal fans, the Palo Alto Children's Library for the bookworms, the Palo Alto Art Center for the budding artists, and even the Palo Alto Children's Theatre, which offers both indoor and outdoor shows for kids. cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Community-Services/Open-Space-Parks/Neighborhood-Parks/Rinconada-Park

PALO ALTO (AND BEYOND!)

Magical Bridge

▶ *Multisensory play features for all ages*

6 Magical Bridge playgrounds offer engaging, accessible and inclusive play opportunities for folks of all ages and abilities, with multisensory features such as sound installations, along with special events, live performances, and volunteer programs that encourage kindness and community. The original is going strong in Palo Alto's Mitchell Park (3700 Middlefield Road), and the Magical Bridge Foundation has opened multiple additional locations including Redwood City and Sunnyvale, with more coming soon, including in Mountain View. magicalbridge.org

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Shoreline at Mountain View

▶ *Kites, wetlands and burrowing owls*

7 Shoreline at Mountain View (3160 N. Shoreline Blvd.) is a great place to fly a kite, check out the historic Rengstorff House, or take a walk in the wetlands, and if you're extremely lucky, catch a glimpse of a burrowing owl — a species of special concern. mountainview.gov/our-city/departments/community-services/shoreline-at-mountain-view

LOS ALTOS

Shoup Park

▶ *Redwoods and a creek*

8 Shoup Park (400 University Ave., Los Altos) is very close to downtown Los Altos but can feel like a woody world away. It has nice playground areas for bigger and littler kids but the best attraction is nature's own playground — Adobe Creek! Children love to wade in the waters and run wild under the redwoods. In fact, Redwood Grove, located right next to Shoup and easily accessible by trail, also makes a great walk for kids. losaltosca.gov/parksrec/page/shoup-park

— Information compiled by Karla Kane



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SCHOOLS, CLASSES AND MORE

The Midpeninsula is full of educational opportunities and ways to enrich and challenge your mind, body and spirit, from innovative schools for kids to classes and programs for folks of all ages. Here's a curated list of some of the many offerings along the Midpeninsula.

CULTURE

► Mustard Seed Learning Center

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

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

DANCE AND THEATER

► Dance Connection

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

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

► Mannakin Theater and Dance

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

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

► Victoria Ballet

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

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

► West Valley Dance Company

1939 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View
650-695-5937 / westvalleydanceco.com/
locations/mountain-view

The Mountain View branch of West Valley Dance Company offers dance classes in disciplines such as jazz, ballet, hip-hop, tap, lyrical, and tumbling for students ages 18 months to adult.

► Zohar School of Dance & Company

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

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

MUSIC & VISUAL ARTS

► Community School of Music and Arts

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

The Community School of Music and Arts offers year-round classes in music, visual and digital arts, with courses for adults and children.

► EPACenter

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

The 25,000-square-foot space offers a wide range of creative disciplines for East Palo Alto youth ages 6-25. Students can participate in classes such as music, visual arts, dance and skateboarding.

► Music Together Menlo Park

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

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

► New Mozart School of Music

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

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

► Pacific Art League

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

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



Students paint a mural on the walls of East Palo Alto's EPACenter as a part of their Public Arts Internship. Courtesy EPACenter.

► Palo Alto Art Center

1713 Newell Road, Palo Alto
650-329-2366 / artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org / cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Community-Services/Arts-Sciences/Palo-Alto-Art-Center

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

SCHOOLS

► Athena Academy

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

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

► Bowman International School

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

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

► Castilleja School

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

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

► Challenger School

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

Challenger School's Palo Alto location is open to students from preschool through

Continued on page 36

Continued from page 35

eighth grade with an emphasis on preparing students to become self-reliant, individual and independent thinkers.

▶ **Emerson School**

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

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

▶ **German International School of Silicon Valley**

310 Easy St., Mountain View
650-254-0748 / gissv.org

The Mountain View location of this bilingual German/English school serves students from preschool to grade 12, based on the German curriculum of the state of Thuringia.

▶ **Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School**

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

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

▶ **The Girls' Middle School**

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

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

▶ **Imagination Lab School**

4050 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
imagination-school.org

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

▶ **Kehillah Jewish High School**

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

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

▶ **Keys School**

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

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



Menlo bids farewell to the legendary class of 2024 at Commencement. Courtesy Menlo School.

▶ **Living Wisdom School of Palo Alto**

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

Offering yoga, meditation and experiential, interdisciplinary learning, Living Wisdom School serves students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade.

▶ **Lydian Academy**

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

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

▶ **Meira Academy**

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

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

▶ **Menlo School**

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

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

▶ **Mid-Peninsula High School**

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

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

▶ **Nativity School**

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

Nativity is a Catholic school serving students

from preschool through eighth grade. The curriculum covers traditional academic subjects as well as STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) initiatives.

▶ **Peninsula School**

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

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

▶ **Phillips Brooks School**

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

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

▶ **Sand Hill School**

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

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

▶ **Silicon Valley International School**

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

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

▶ **St. Raymond School**

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

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

▶ **Stratford School**

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

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

▶ **Synapse School**

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

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

Continued on page 38



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FREE ESTIMATES

Continued from page 36

▶ **Trinity School**

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

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

▶ **Woodland School**

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

Woodland School is an independent school offering small classes and an emphasis on student-driven projects for children in preschool up through middle school.

▶ **Woodside Priory**

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

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

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

▶ **Hidden Villa**

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

In addition to its long-running summer camp programs, Hidden Villa offers a variety

of classes and clubs for children and adults, including a natural history series.

▶ **The Riekes Center**

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

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

▶ **Sequoia District Adult School**

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

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

▶ **Stanford Continuing Studies**

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

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

SPORTS

▶ **Baylands Golf Links**

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

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

▶ **Kim Grant Tennis Academy**

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

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

▶ **Spring Down Equestrian Center**

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

Spring Down Equestrian Center educates children and adults on horses and horseback riding. Classes and camps held year-round.

▶ **Webb Ranch Riding School**

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

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

LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LAS LOMITAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

District operates two schools for children who live in parts of Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside and unincorporated areas, including Ladera.

1 **District office:**

1011 Altschul Ave., Menlo Park

School board contact: schoolboard@llesd.org

2 **Las Lomitas Elementary School (TK-3)**

299 Alameda de las Pulgas, Atherton
ll.llesd.org

3 **La Entrada Middle School (4-8)**

2200 Sharon Road, Menlo Park
le.llesd.org

MENLO PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

The district operates five campuses. Spanish Immersion programs are available at Encinal and Laurel.

4 **District office:**

181 Encinal Ave., Atherton

School board contact: board@mpcsd.org

5 **Encinal School (TK-5)**

195 Encinal Ave., Atherton
encinal.mpcsd.org

Laurel School (TK-5)

6 Lower Campus: 95 Edge Road, Atherton

7 Upper Campus: 275 Elliott Drive, Menlo Park
laurel.mpcsd.org

8 **Oak Knoll School (TK-5)**

1895 Oak Knoll Lane, Menlo Park
oakknoll.mpcsd.org

9 **Hillview Middle School (6-8)**

1100 Elder Ave., Menlo Park
hillview.mpcsd.org

PORTOLA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Portola Valley School District operates two schools for elementary-school-age students who live in Portola Valley, the unincorporated areas of Los Trancos Woods and Vista Verde, a portion of Woodside and along parts of Skyline Boulevard.

10 **District office:**

4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley
pvsd.net

School board contact: pvsdboard@pvsd.net

11 **Corte Madera School (4-8)**

4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley
cms.pvsd.net

12 **Ormondale School (TK-3)**

200 Shawnee Pass Road, Portola Valley
ormondale.pvsd.net

RAVENSWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The district serves elementary students in East Palo Alto and parts of Menlo Park.
ravenswoodschools.org

13 **District office:**

2120 Euclid Ave., East Palo Alto

14 **Belle Haven Elementary School**

415 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park
bellehaven.ravenswoodschools.org

REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Though mainly serving Redwood City, the district also serves some elementary students residing in parts of Atherton, Menlo Park, San Carlos and Woodside.

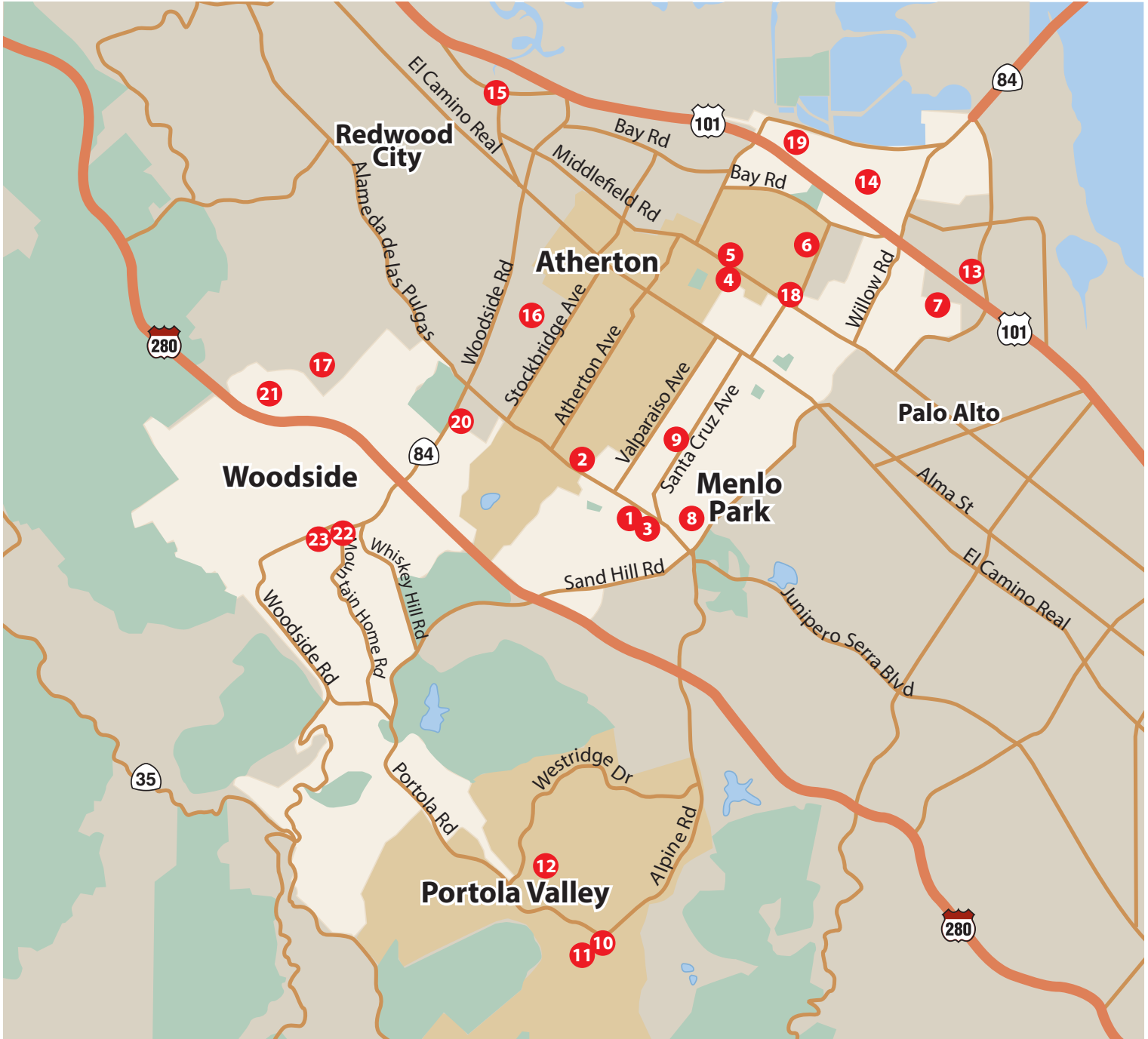
15 **District office:**

750 Bradford St., Redwood City
rcsdk8.net

16 **Adelante Selby Spanish Immersion School**

170 Selby Lane, Atherton
adelanteselby.rcsdk8.net

LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SEQUOIA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Operates high schools and a Middle College program in partnership with Cañada College for students living in the southern and central portion of San Mateo County.

17 District office:
480 James Ave., Redwood City
School board contact: board@seq.org

18 Menlo-Atherton High School
555 Middlefield Road, Atherton
mabears.org

19 TIDE Academy
150 Jefferson Drive, Menlo Park
tideacademy.org

20 Woodside High School
199 Churchill Ave., Woodside
woodsideshs.org

21 Cañada Middle College
4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City
seq.org ("our schools")

WOODSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

22 District office:
3195 Woodside Road, Woodside
Superintendent contact:
superintendent.schools@woodsideschool.us

23 Woodside Elementary School (TK-8)
3195 Woodside Road, Woodside
woodsideschool.us



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY



Emily Chiang
650.796.2285
Emily.Chiang@cbnorcal.com
EmilyChiang.com
CalRE #01744416



Colleen Cooley
650.704.6572
colleen.cooley@cbnorcal.com
ColleenCooleyHomes.com
CalRE #01269455



Jackie Copple
650.465.9160
jcopple@cbnorcal.com
JackieCopple.com
CalRE #00694380



Penny Goldcamp
650.740.1955
Penny.Goldcamp@cbnorcal.com
pennygoldcamp.sites.cbmoxi.com
CalRE #01746139



Gina Gonzales
650.804.1099
Gina.Gonzales@cbnorcal.com
homesbygina Gonzales.com
CalRE #01860444



Doug Gonzalez
650.465.8930
DGonzalez@cbnorcal.com
therealestateguy.info
CalRE #00895924



Curtis Grisham
650.728.7300
Curtis.Grisham@cbnorcal.com
curtisgrisham.com
CalRE #02017290



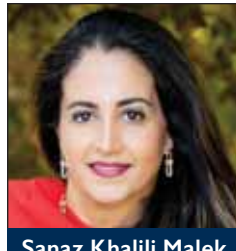
Julie Lau
650.208.2287
JLau@cbnorcal.com
julielau.com
CalRE #01052924



Clara Lee
408.568.5576
Clara.Lee@cbnorcal.com
claraopensdoors.com
CalRE #01723333



Gwen Luce
650.224.3670
GLuce@cbnorcal.com
gwenluce.com
CalRE #00879652



Sanaz Khalili Malek
408.220.4581
sanaz.khalilimalek@cbrealty.com
sanazmalek.sites.cbmoxi.com
CalRE #02231761



Janeen Poutre
408.209.6640
janeen.poutre@cbrealty.com
janeenrealty.com
CalRE #02200663



Hanna Shacham
650.207.1555
hshacham@cbnorcal.com
hannacb.com
CalRE #01073658



Judy Shen
650.380.2000
JShen@cbnorcal.com
judyshen.com
CalRE #01272874



Shawna Sullivan
650.716.7303
Shawna.Sullivan@cbnorcal.com
shawnasellshomes.com
CalRE #00856563



Masako Takemura
650.847.7272
Masako@cbnorcal.com
homesbymasako.com
CalRE #01763865



Annie Watson
650.380.9898
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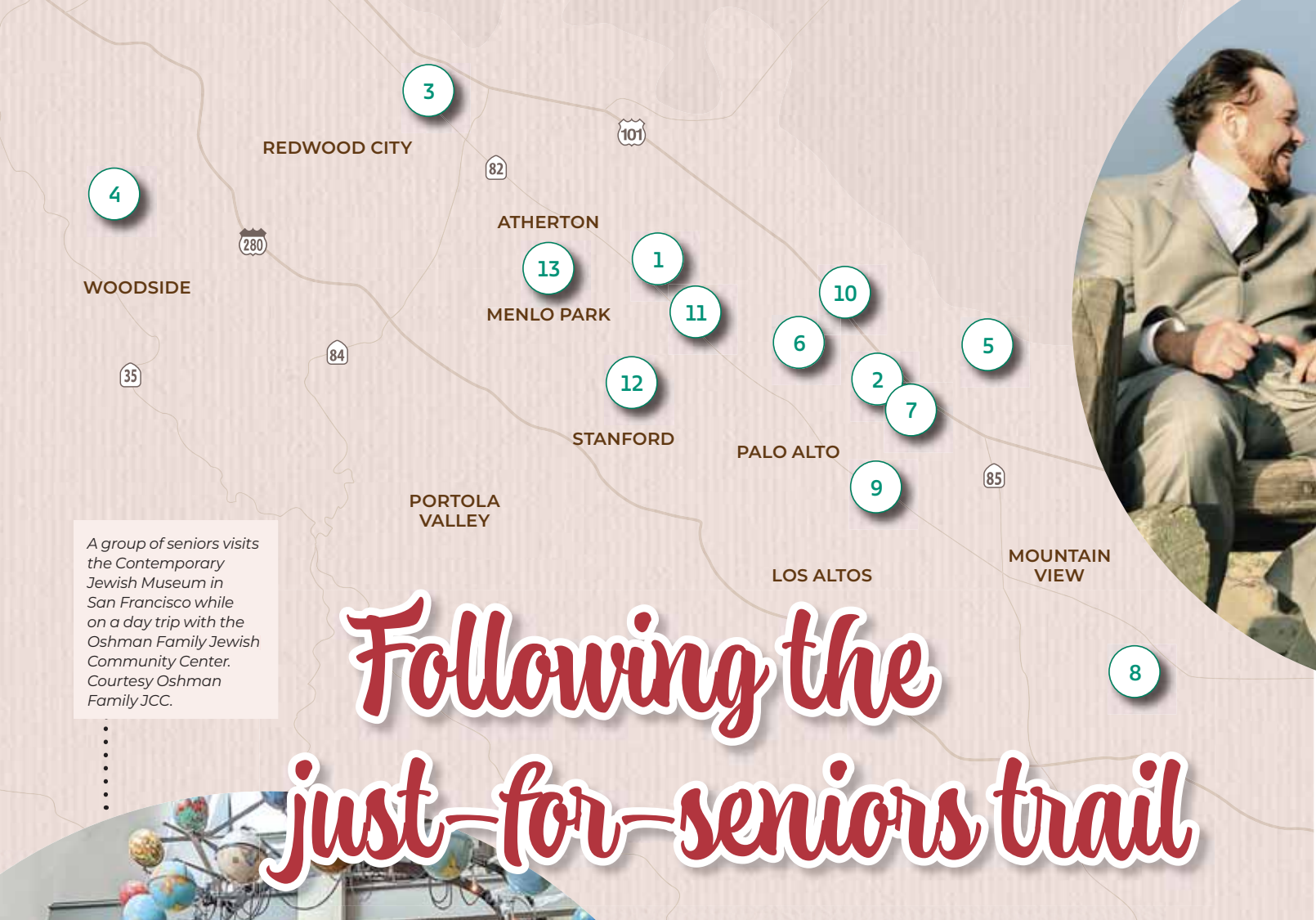


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A group of seniors visits the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco while on a day trip with the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center. Courtesy Oshman Family JCC.

Following the just-for-seniors trail



A guide for exploring Midpeninsula activities and programs tailored for residents 55 and older

From guided hiking excursions to monthly concerts and online art classes to day trips to the San Francisco ballet, the Peninsula has no shortage of programs tailored for older adults. These programs, many of which are free or offered at discounted rates, provide the opportunity to explore the area beyond the boundaries of one's community, learn a new skill or connect with people who share similar interests. Here's a list of programs and activities to help you get started.

GET OUT AND HIKE

Avenidas Hike Club

► *Peninsula trails, local parks, regional preserves and beyond*

Explore local parks and open space preserves with the **Avenidas Hike Club**. The group meets weekly for short and long hikes at various parks along the Peninsula, with occasional outings to places like Año Nuevo State Park, San Francisco and Angel Island. There are two options available for every hike: The “short hike” is 2 to 4 miles; the “long hike” is 3.5 to 5 miles and up to 850 feet in cumulative elevation gain. For those looking for more challenging hikes, there’s the **Avenidas Fitness Hike Club**, which meets twice a month for moderate to moderately challenging 5 to 8 mile hikes with a cumulative elevation gain of up to 1,200 feet. (For those who want to improve their strength, endurance and balance before embarking on longer hikes, the agency also offers a pole-walking class.)

Hikes for both groups are free, but participants must be a member of Avenidas. Annual memberships for the nonprofit senior services agency start at \$65. *For more information, go to avenidas.org (search “Hike Club” or “Fitness Hike Club”).*

IF YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT LOCAL FLORA, FAUNA AND HISTORY WHILE HIKING ...

Bay Area Older Adults offers guided hiking excursions at open space preserves and parks throughout Santa Clara County for those who want to learn about local flora, fauna and history while exploring waterfalls, wildflowers, earthquake faults, farms, the Baylands and more.

Excursions range from easy 2-mile “strolls” to moderate hikes.

The daylong events include transportation and lunch. Cost is typically \$25 for nonmembers and \$20 for members. *For more information about upcoming hikes or the nonprofit Bay Area Older Adults, go to bayareaolderadults.org.*

IF YOU WANT TO EXPLORE LOCAL OPEN SPACE PRESERVES AND PARKS VIRTUALLY ...

As part of its Park Tours program, Bay Area Older Adults records its guided excursions so those who may have missed out on

the event can experience it virtually at home. *Find virtual park tours here: bayareaolderadults.org/videos*

IF YOU'D RATHER VOLUNTEER THAN HIKE...

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, which has preserved more than 70,000 acres of open space along the Santa Cruz Mountains, offers several volunteer opportunities at local preserves ranging from single-day habitat restoration work to long-term docent and trail stewardship programs. *For more information, call 650-691-1200 or go to openspace.org/get-involved/volunteer*

VISIT A LOCAL TOURIST DESTINATION

JCC day trips & overnight excursions

► *Theater & ballet performances, museum exhibits and historical landmarks*

The Oshman Family Jewish Community Center (3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto) offers a variety of day trips and annual overnight excursions to museums, special exhibits, theater performances, historical landmarks and nature preserves in and beyond the Bay Area for adults 65 and older. Days trips have included exploring Botticelli drawings at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco, touring the U.S.S. Hornet and taking in a BroadwaySF production of “Funny Girl.” The JCC this year added new offerings to its day trips program: a mini symphony subscription to five symphonies and a mini San Francisco Ballet subscription to three ballets. No matter the performance or venue, The JCC always gets orchestra seats and often reserves tickets for traveling exhibits six months in advance. All of the trips are during the day, and seniors can leave their driving worries behind, boarding a comfortable 56-seat charter bus for the trip. Outings include lunch or some kind of get-together before or after. Those with walkers and canes are welcome, as the bus drops off participants right at the door of their destinations. Field trip participants hail from throughout the Midpeninsula, and events are open to everyone. *For more information, go to paloaltojcc.org/travel.*

IF YOU WANT TO DO MORE THAN JUST VISIT ...

Many museums and historic landmarks along the Midpeninsula provide volunteer opportunities for those interested in assisting staff with various exhibits and activities.

3 San Mateo County History Museum (2200 Broadway, Redwood City), which features exhibits detailing the history and development of the county, offers various volunteer opportunities from gallery monitors to museum docents who lead tours or assist with children’s activities. There are also opportunities for those interested in building display cases and painting walls for new exhibits. *For more information, go to historysmc.org/support-us/*

Continued on page 44



Two-time Grammy Award-winner Mads Tolling and his band Mads Tolling & The Mads Men perform for the Music in the Afternoons concert series. Photo by John Tinger, courtesy Oshman Family Jewish Community Center.



A group of walkers from Avenidas practice using walking poles during an outing. Courtesy Jayah Faye Paley.

Continued from page 43

4 The **historic Filoli estate** (86 Cañada Road, Woodside), which features an interpretive museum inside the main house and gardens that contain a huge and diverse collection of plants, offers single-day and long-term volunteer opportunities, including assisting the horticultural staff with maintaining the garden, helping with art exhibits and classes, event planning or serving as a docent in the property's gardens or home. For upcoming single-day volunteer opportunities, go to filoli.org ("Service Learning"). To inquire about long-term volunteer opportunities, email volunteer@filoli.org.

5 The **historic Rengstorff House** at Shoreline Park (3070 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View) relies on volunteer docents to lead tours and other educational programs. To inquire about how to become a docent, contact Recreation Coordinator Kristina Perino at 650-903-6073 or Kristina.Perino@mountainview.gov. For more information about the Rengstorff House, go to friendsofhouse.org.

6 **Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden** (1431 Waverly St., Palo Alto) offers opportunities for volunteers to introduce children and families to the plants, garden critters and other wonders at the historic garden. Volunteer garden guides are responsible for leading interactive, inquiry-based horticultural tours of the garden for small school groups on field trips as well as during Second Saturday events for families. Volunteers are asked to commit to six events annually. An understanding of horticulture is not required. There also are other volunteer opportunities available ranging from single-day assistance at special events to

biweekly and monthly help with activities and programs at the historic property. For more information, go to gamblegarden.org/support-us/volunteer-areas.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN MUSIC

Music in the Afternoons

► Local and international musicians

7 Oshman Family Jewish Community Center offers monthly Tuesday concerts for seniors through its Music in the Afternoons program. Concerts are held in the Albert and Janet Schultz Cultural Arts Hall (E. Charleston and San Antonio roads, Palo Alto) at the center's Palo Alto campus and feature a variety of styles, including classical music, Cole Porter masterpieces and "Mad Men-inspired" jazz from the 1960s performed by local and international musicians. Cost is \$15 in advance and \$25 at the door. Check the center's website for upcoming shows at paloaltojcc.org ("adult programs").

IF YOU WANT TO JAM ...

8 The Mountain View Library (585 Franklin St.) holds a monthly ukulele jam on Wednesday evenings to give participants of all ages and skill levels an opportunity to sing and play together — even those who have never picked up an instrument. According to those who jam, the simple, handy, four-string uke is a relatively easy instrument to pick up rather quickly. You can either bring your own uke, or borrow one from the library. Instructor Chuck Monahan is on hand to teach beginners how to play basic chords and lead the group in an informal performance of songs covering the last five decades. Seating is limited, so registration is recommended, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, go to mountainview.libcal.com ("full calendar").

IF YOU WANT TO TAKE A BEGINNER'S MUSIC CLASS ...

9 The Community School of Music and Arts (230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View) offers a variety of music classes specifically for students ages 55 and older, including music appreciation classes and beginner's classes designed to introduce "lifelong learners" to the joys of playing an instrument, regardless of prior experience. Classes are offered during each school semester and typically run about 16 weeks. For more information, go to arts4all.org ("music school").

IF YOU WANT TO LISTEN TO A PERFORMANCE VIRTUALLY ...

Experience performances by the Peninsula Symphony anytime, anywhere through the organization's Digital Stage concert series.

The Symphony maintains an archive of its performances on its website that can be accessed and viewed for free. Watch performances at peninsulasymphony.org/digital

IF YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER AT THE SYMPHONY ...

The Peninsula Symphony has several volunteer opportunities from providing administrative office assistance to helping at events to working at the theater during performances, which are at various venues on the Peninsula. To inquire about volunteer opportunities, contact Executive Director Chelsea Chambers at 650-941-5291 or chelsea@peninsulasymphony.org.

EXPLORE YOUR CREATIVE SIDE

Art classes at the Palo Alto Art Center

► Ceramics, painting and more in a group setting

10 The Palo Alto Art Center (1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto) offers classes in ceramics, painting, metalsmithing, fiber arts, mixed media and more tailored just for adults as part of its Adult Studios program. Classes are offered quarterly and are open to everyone — Peninsula and non-Peninsula residents. Registration is required, and there is a class fee. For more information, go to bit.ly/46lp190.

IF YOU PREFER A DROP-IN SESSION ...

The Adult Studios program offers a variety of drop-in sessions, including life drawing, collage, printmaking and jewelry. For more information, go to bit.ly/3Sh5qHL.

IF YOU WANT TO TAKE ART LESSONS VIRTUALLY ...

11 The Pacific Art League (668 Ramona St., Palo Alto) has been serving students of all ages, backgrounds and skill levels for more than a century. In addition to in-person classes and exhibits at its Palo Alto studios, the Pacific Art League offers a variety of virtual workshops and artist talks online year-round. For more information, go to pacifcartleague.org or call 650-321-3891.

IF YOU WANT TO SUPPORT THE ARTS BY VOLUNTEERING ...

12 The Cantor Arts Center (328 Lomita Drive, Stanford) offers opportunities for volunteers to interact with guests and conduct tours of museum exhibits. Volunteer museum engagement guides receive six months of training and are expected to make a two-year commitment. Desk ambassadors, who are responsible for welcoming visitors to the museum, must commit to a minimum of one four-hour shift per month for one year. For more information, go to museum.stanford.edu/support/volunteer.



A bee visits a blooming flower at Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden in Palo Alto. Photo by Adam Pardee.

INSPIRE YOUR 'GREEN THUMB'

The Woodside-Atherton Garden Club

► *A place to share a love for all things gardening*

13 The Woodside-Atherton Garden Club is an organized group that provides garden enthusiasts the opportunity to share ideas and knowledge about

gardening, floral design and conservation. Since 1929, the club has promoted the planting of trees and gardens at local schools, libraries and other public spaces and has participated in the restoration of the Palo Alto Baylands, among other projects. The group also provides tips, talks and other events aimed at helping those who are interested in honing their gardening skills. *For more information, go to woodsidthertongardensclub.org.* ⓘ

—Information compiled by Linda Taaffe

ESSENTIAL RESOURCES FOR SENIORS

MEAL DELIVERY

Meals on Wheels

- Delivers meals to seniors in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.
- If you live in San Mateo County, go to penvol.org/mealsonwheels.
- If you live in Santa Clara County, go to mysourcewise.com/meals or call 408-350-3200.

SENIOR CENTERS

Avenidas

450 Bryant St. and 4000 Middlefield Road, Bldg. H5 (Chinese Community Center), Palo Alto

- Online and in-person recreation classes, health and wellness services, support groups and door-to-door services.
- 650-289-5400 (general), 650-289-5409 (Chinese Community Center) / avenidas.org

East Palo Alto Senior Center Inc.

560 Bell St., East Palo Alto

- Free activities include games, language study, fitness exercises, dancing, tai-chi classes, music appreciation. Noon meal is served Monday-Friday and brown bag program also offered. Transportation available to take seniors to doctor appointments and on essential errands.
- 650-329-5900 / epaseniorcenter.org

Little House Activity Center

800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park

- Peninsula Volunteers' Little House is a multipurpose activity center that offers classes in arts and crafts, languages, health and wellness, fitness, computer use and on cultural topics. Advice and consultation provided for older adults aiming to continue living independently.
- 650-326-2025 / 1pvi.org

Menlo Park Senior Center

Belle Haven Community Campus
100 Terminal Ave., Menlo Park

- Menlo Park Senior Center provides services and programs to adults age 60 and older, including classes and activities, lunch and transportation. The center's programming runs on weekdays.
- 650-330-6600 / menlopark.gov (search "senior center")

DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSPORTATION

Avenidas Door to Door

- The nonprofit senior services agency Avenidas can schedule volunteer drivers or arrange Lyft rides to medical appointments, hair appointments, the grocery store and visits with friends. There is a flat fee for volunteer drivers; and regular rates, plus a \$5 service fee for Lyft.
- 650-289-5411 / rides@avenidas.org

Peninsula Volunteers Lyft program

- Peninsula Volunteers will arrange Lyft rides to and from medical appointments, grocery stores and pharmacies in designated zones along the Midpeninsula for a flat fee; Pickup service from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday; advance registration required.
- 650-272-5040

AGING IN PLACE

Avenidas Village

450 Bryant St., Palo Alto

- A membership program that provides 24/7 concierge support, transportation assistance, cultural outings and more.
- 650-289-5405 / avenidashelpfulvillage.com

Institute on Aging Peninsula

881 Fremont Ave., Suite A2, Los Altos

- Nonprofit licensed home health agency offering home care, personal care, care management and consultation. Offers specialized dementia and Alzheimer's care.
- 415-750-4111 / ioaging.org

Peninsula Volunteers Inc.

800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park

- A nonprofit organization promoting welfare of seniors. Major programs and facilities include Little House Activity Center, Meals on Wheels, Crane Place and Partridge/Kennedy Apartments and Rosener House Adult Day Services.
- 650-326-0665 / 1pvi.org

ADULT DAY SERVICES

Rosener House Adult Day Services

500 Arbor Road, Menlo Park

- Operated by Peninsula Volunteers, the facility supplies structured activity programs for adults with Alzheimer's disease and other functional or cognitive impairments. The weekday program assists participants through health, social and support services. Fees based on costs and families' ability to pay.
- 650-322-0126 / 1pvi.org/rosenerhouse

INFO MENLO

PUBLISHER

Adam Dawes

EDITORIAL

Editorial Director:

Clay Lambert

The Almanac Editor:

Angela Swartz

Info Editors:

Karla Kane, Linda Taaffe

Photographers:

Magali Gauthier,
Anna Hoch-Kenney

ART & PRODUCTION

Design Director:

Kristin Brown

Contributing Designers:

Linda Atilano, Paul Llewellyn,
Mary Watanabe,
Douglas Young

ADVERTISING

Vice President of Sales:

Gina Channell Wilcox

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CalRE#: 01131116

650.374.8038

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Helping families find a home, prepare their home for the market or advise them or their extended family regarding their needs in the always changing real estate market has been my passion. Over my years of experience, I have a keen understanding of market value and pricing which is advantageous to my clients navigating these uncertain market conditions. I would love to help you with your real estate needs.

ELAINE BERLIN WHITE

650.465.4663

ewhite@cbnorcal.com

www.ElaineWhite.com

DRE # 01182467

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A real estate broker and attorney, Elaine has been involved in over 740 real estate transactions in 30 years. She is a trained negotiator and mediator and has extensive experience in remodeling and construction. She assists her clients in maximizing their sale proceeds and in remodeling their homes to best serve their needs. Elaine is in the top 1% of all Coldwell Banker agents, and has certifications in marketing, negotiation, and senior housing needs. Elaine was an instructor at Santa Clara University Law School, Cañada College and in the Stanford Continuing Studies Program and trains agents in ethics and other real estate concerns.