

# The Almanac

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

FEBRUARY 28, 2025 | VOL. 60 NO. 25



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

## Menlo Park 'reluctantly' approves overnight RV ban

By Eleanor Raab

The Menlo Park city council voted at its Feb. 25 meeting to pass an ordinance restricting oversized vehicles and RVs from parking overnight on all public streets in the city. The vote was 4-1, with Council member Jeff Schmidt dissenting.

The council was originally supposed to vote on this ordinance in November, but opted to hold off until after the newly elected council members Schmidt and Jennifer Wise were seated, and city staff provided more information on possible support that could be provided to the people living in RVs.

Currently, RV parking in the city is concentrated in the commercial area bordered by Bohannon Drive, Scott Drive and Campbell Avenue. For months, business owners and patrons of the businesses in this area of the city have been asking the council to address the influx of RVs and what they say are "unsanitary" and "unsafe" conditions created by their presence and the people living in them. People who own

buildings and work in the area have sent the city council numerous emails in the past year complaining of raw sewage and trash in the street, difficulty driving on streets due to impeded views and aggressive off-leash dogs.

Property owners say that the commercial area is the only one in the city that lacks these regulations preventing oversized vehicles from parking, and that conditions in the area are making it difficult to rent empty office space to new tenants.

"Campbell Avenue is clearly currently a hazard," Tito Bianchi, who owns commercial property in the area, told the council at the meeting. I do understand that the RVs and their occupants need a place to park, and the city needs to find suitable locations for this, but in the meantime, this wild west scenario is making Menlo Park workers feel unsafe in their own buildings."

Menlo Park Police Cmdr. William Dixon, who presented the ordinance to the council, told council members that, by



Anna Hoch-Kenney

See **RV PARKING**, page 16

A small dog lays outside an RV parked on Campbell Avenue in Menlo Park on Feb. 24.

## What happens if Sheriff Corpus is removed from office?

Voters decide on Measure A on Tuesday

By Eleanor Raab

On March 4, voters will decide whether to give the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors the authority to remove Sheriff Christina Corpus from office as she faces allegations of misconduct and abuse of power.

If approved Measure A would amend the county charter to allow supervisors to remove a sheriff for cause. The measure would sunset in 2028, aligning with the end of Corpus' current term. Currently, elected officials cannot remove other elected officials from office.

This type of charter amendment is not unprecedented in

California. Other counties, including Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Francisco, allow their supervisors to remove a sheriff for specific causes with a four-fifths vote. Under Measure A, the sheriff would be allowed to defend herself before the board could take any vote.

In December, supervisors unanimously placed the measure on the ballot after the release of a 408-page report from a county-commissioned independent investigation detailing corruption, power abuse and other violations in Corpus' administration.

### What happens if Measure A passes?

If the sheriff's seat becomes

vacant, Undersheriff Dan Perea would immediately begin acting as sheriff, according to a presentation given by the San Mateo County Attorney's Office to the Independent Civilian Advisory Commission, which clarified procedures in the county's charter for filling a vacant sheriff position.

Perea was appointed undersheriff in June 2024 following the resignation of former Undersheriff Chris Hsiung. If the undersheriff position is vacant, the assistant sheriff—currently unfilled—would step in. If both roles are vacant, the chief deputy would assume the acting sheriff

See **SHERIFF**, page 17



Anna Hoch-Kenney

San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus speaks at a last-minute conference at the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office in Redwood City on Nov. 12, 2024.

INSIDE

ARTS 19 | FOOD 21

Read up-to-the-minute news on [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com)



2  
DAYS ON MARKET  
SOLD IN MENLO PARK



## Charming, Fully Remodeled Carmel Style Residence

3 beds | 3 baths | home sf 2,092 | lot sf 5,350

Attached junior ADU | open floor plan

565 Ninth Avenue | Menlo Park | Listed for \$2,899,000

ATHERTON | MENLO PARK | PORTOLA VALLEY | WOODSIDE

Golden Gate

**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

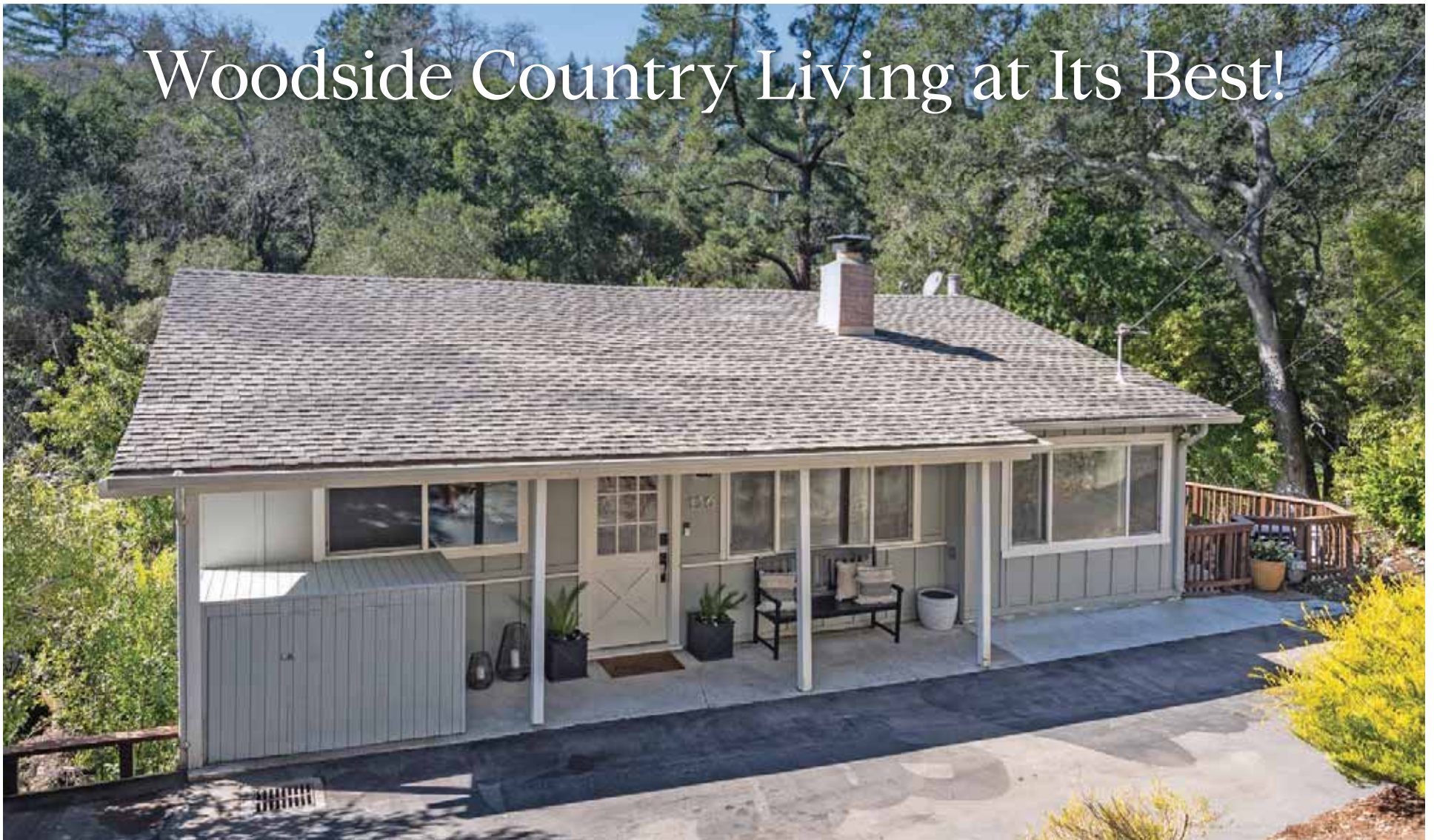
*MG* | *mary gilles*  
REAL ESTATE

**Mary Gilles**

650.814.0858 | m.gilles@ggsir.com

MaryGillesRealEstate.com | License #01789710

# Woodside Country Living at Its Best!



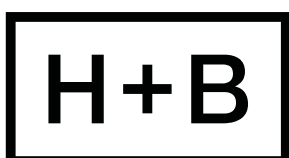
136 Otis Avenue, Woodside | \$2,585,000 | Open Saturday + Sunday 1:30 – 4:00pm

- Charming and updated
- 4-bedroom, 2-bath Central Woodside home
- Walking distance to Town Center and acclaimed Woodside School
- Quiet cul-de-sac in the Woodside Glens neighborhood
- Just steps to the open space trail system
- Upgraded kitchen, adjacent family and dining room with fireplace
- Recently upgraded primary suite and fully redone primary bathroom
- Two sunny decks and fully fenced rear yard

[www.136OtisAvenue.com](http://www.136OtisAvenue.com)



For more information and to arrange a private showing of this exceptional estate, please contact:



Among Top Teams  
in SF Bay Area  
*(per RealTrends rankings)*



HELEN MILLER + BRAD MILLER

650.400.3426

650.400.1317

[helen.miller@compass.com](mailto:helen.miller@compass.com)

[brad.miller@compass.com](mailto:brad.miller@compass.com)

License # 01142061

License # 00917768

[www.HelenAndBradHomes.com](http://www.HelenAndBradHomes.com)

COMPASS

Rankings provided courtesy of Real Trends. The Thousand list of individual agents by total sales volume in 2022. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.



# YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS



DeLeonRealty\_USA



435 FERNANDO AVENUE | \$3,988,000 | 4 Bd | 4.5 Bth  
PALO ALTO | 435Fernando.com



13643 WILDCREST DRIVE | \$5,488,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 13643Wildcrest.com



3766 LA DONNA AVENUE | \$2,988,000 | 5 Bd | 3 Bth  
PALO ALTO | 3766LaDonna.com



425 SEALE AVENUE | \$7,288,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth  
PALO ALTO | 425Seale.com



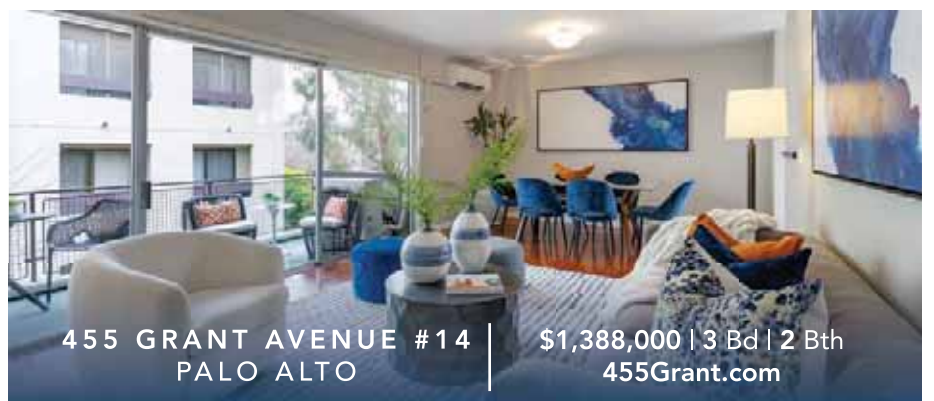
28500 MATADERO CREEK LN | \$9,798,000 | 6 Bd | 9 Bth  
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 28500MataderoCreek.com



1347 CUERNAVACA CIRCULO | \$1,988,000 | 3 Bd | 3 Bth  
MOUNTAIN VIEW | 1347Cuernavaca.com



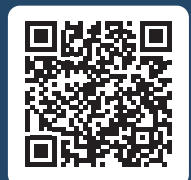
753 SILVER TIP WAY | \$1,988,000 | 5 Bd | 2.5 Bth  
SUNNYVALE | 753SilverTip.com



455 GRANT AVENUE #14 | \$1,388,000 | 3 Bd | 2 Bth  
PALO ALTO | 455Grant.com



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS OR VISIT US AT [DELEONREALTY.COM](https://deleonrealty.com)



Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com  
中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822  
[DELEONREALTY.COM](https://deleonrealty.com) | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224



# Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Courtesy Michael Galvin

## Hints of Spring

Portola Valley's Webb Ranch was bursting with the area's signature yellow flowers earlier this month.

## Becker hosts wildfire safety town hall with local agencies

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

After thousands of homes were destroyed by the Los Angeles fires in January, local jurisdictions are on high alert for wildfire. State Sen. Josh Becker hosted a virtual wildfire town hall with Woodside Fire Protection District Fire Marshal Kimberly Giuliacci and Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Chief Executive Officer Seth Schalet on Feb. 18 to educate communities on how they can protect themselves and their neighbors.

According to Becker, D-Menlo Park, California has been making large investments toward wildfire prevention and management by increasing budgets for Cal Fire, technology and staffing.

Over the past five years, the state has increased its budget for Cal Fire to \$4 billion annually and doubled its firefighting force to 12,000 people, he said. California also has built the largest civil aerial firefighting force in the world with dozens of FireHawk helicopters, tactical aircraft and air tankers, Becker added.

The state also has committed \$2.7 billion for wildfire mitigation and millions of dollars toward additional firefighters, personal protective equipment, drones, artificial intelligence and LiDAR, or light detection and ranging, for wildfire detection.

Multiple legislative efforts aimed at creating a more fire-safe California will be introduced this year as part of the Senate's wildfire legislative package titled, "The Golden State Commitment," led by Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire.

On Feb. 12, Becker and Sen. John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, introduced Senate Bill 326, the Wildfire Mitigation Strategic Planning Act. This new legislation will create a framework to better align state, federal, industry and private wildfire prevention actions to protect communities.

### How to protect your home from a wildfire

Experts say that a combination of dry vegetation, natural disasters, warmer weather and

high winds are all ingredients to increased wildfire risks.

A wildfire can ignite in many unexpected ways and houses can act as quick fuel to the blaze. Giuliacci said homeowners can harden their homes to make them resistant to wildfires and that the community can mitigate the spread of flames.

She encouraged homeowners to reduce fuel around their properties by maintaining, pruning and removing lower branches of trees. It's also important to harden external structures such as additional dwelling units, sheds and detached garages, Giuliacci said.

"During a wildfire, your house may never get those firefighters there to protect it. It's going to have to stand on its own and defend itself for a long time before anybody can get there," said Giuliacci.

Home hardening techniques include building with ignition-resistant materials, strategically planting landscape and maintaining an ember resistant zone in the first five feet from your home. This is also referred to as "Zone 0."

## Atherton to construct children's nature space behind library

By Eleanor Raab

The Atherton Library will soon feature a new nature play space and children's garden. At its meeting on Feb. 19, the Atherton City Council reviewed plans for the new play area, and gave town staff enthusiastic feedback.

A presentation from town Public Works Director Robert Ovadia showed that the new nature space will be located behind the Atherton Library, and will feature several nature-based play structures, including a small willow hut, a "tree-house," a tunnel of branches, boulders, stumps, benches, pathways and more. Ovadia said that the concept for the area is to encourage exploration.

"It's a nature space; it's filled

with natural components, and not a playground," he said. "It doesn't have swings, doesn't have monkey bars, doesn't have things like that in it."

Many of the features will be built using recycled materials gathered throughout Atherton. The tunnel will be made out of recycled oak branches that have been gathered by the town arborist, and the town has collected various wood stumps for use in the new nature space.

The plans presented by Ovadia also emphasize the accessibility of the space; much of the play area will be wheelchair accessible, and the redesign of the space involves creating new ramps throughout the backside of the library.

See **PLAYGROUND**, page 14



Magali Gauthier

Nicholas Gurr, a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection firefighter, turns away from the heat of the fire while supervising a controlled burn at the entrance of Huddart Park in Woodside on Feb. 18, 2020.

On Feb. 6, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order directing the state Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to accelerate its work to adopt Zone 0 regulations, which are expected to move forward this year. It will require new and existing construction to develop an ember-resistant zone in fire-prone areas. Cal Fire will be giving existing homeowners three years to prepare their homes to meet the standards of this code, said Schalet.

Local jurisdictions will be enforcing these Zone 0 regulations for homeowners in

wild-urban interface communities across the state.

This means that the five-foot zone around a home should be paved with gravel, concrete and other ember-resistant materials rather than bark, greenery and mulch. Dry and dead vegetation and flammable debris should also be removed.

Schalet explains that vehicles should also be moved out of this zone because they emit radiant heat, which could cause an ignition.

See **BECKER**, page 17



Courtesy Cal Water

California Water Service completes project to upgrade water infrastructures in Ladera.

# Cal Water completes upgrades in Ladera

Company focuses on increasing water access for potential wildfires

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

California Water Service has completed its upgrades to infrastructure in the northeastern area of Portola Valley. Beginning in August 2024, Cal Water has been working on enhancing water supply reliability and fire protection to the Ladera community. The work was done as of Feb. 21.

Improvements to the Ladera water system allow the water to travel through elevational differences in the neighborhood and with more reliable pathways, according to the Cal Water press release. The company installed 1,300 feet of new water main, south of Interstate 280 and east of Alpine Drive.

After the 2018 fire in Paradise, Cal Water began to prioritize wildfire hardening across all of its districts. Over the last seven years, the company has been identifying weak points across the state and implementing projects to fortify these areas, said Dawn Smithson, Bear Gulch district manager.

In Ladera, workers installed larger pipes underground for increased flow. The project also focused on moving water from “zone to zone” by installing valves that will pull water from adjacent areas, Smithson said.

“If you have a firefighter that’s

pulling from a hydrant, that hydrant is probably coming from one water tank and that tank is being filled in one or two ways,” she added. “We like to have multiple pathways to a tank, so in case one fails, there’s still another route.”

Cal Water has been working on multiple projects across the state to upgrade water pump stations to direct more water through these new water mains.

According to the Woodside Fire Protection District, hydrants are not designed or intended to serve as a primary tool to fight wildfires but rather for structure fires in urban, suburban and developed areas. In wildland-urban interface communities like Woodside and Portola Valley, nearby hydrants can support fire containment efforts but are not suitable for the extensive supply that is necessary to fight the blaze.

Smithson said the completion of the Ladera project will better supply hydrants allowing firefighters to use water from multiple tanks in different areas, especially when one source is depleted.

Water that supplies the tanks is largely sourced from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, she said. Cal Water also has a local supply

See **CAL WATER**, page 11

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Menlo Park to host Community Resource Fair March 29

The city of Menlo Park will host a Community Resource Fair at the Belle Haven Community Campus at 100 Terminal Ave. on March 29 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. According to an event listing posted by the city, the fair is an opportunity for community members to connect with local organizations and agencies that provide services and resources that they may not know about.

Light refreshments will be available at the free event, as well as a free bike tune up area courtesy Bay Area Bike Mobile. No RSVP is required, however refreshments and bike repair are first come, first served.

Local organizations present at the event will include Able Works, Acterra, Belle Haven Action, Belle Haven Community Development Fund, Belle Haven Empowered, Canopy, Habitat for Humanity, HIP Housing, Menlo Park Safe Routes to School, National Alliance on Mental Health San Mateo County, New Hope 8, Ravenswood Family Health Center, Rebuilding Together Peninsula, Tzu Chi Foundations and Youth Community Service, among others.

— Eleanor Raab

### Woodside Electric Garden Voucher Program open

In partnership with Acterra, eligible residents and businesses in Woodside can apply for vouchers to purchase electric garden tools at select retail centers. Residents and non-gardening businesses can receive up to \$250 and gardening businesses and property owners with five or more parcels are eligible for up to \$1,000.

Funds are limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis. The programs aims to support the town’s goal to be a cleaner, quieter and more sustainable community.

For more information visit [acterra.org/electrification/greenhome/e-garden-woodside](http://acterra.org/electrification/greenhome/e-garden-woodside).

### Music trivia night in Portola Valley

The Portola Valley Parks and Recreation Committee is hosting a music trivia night from 6:45 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, March 8, at Portola Valley Community Hall.

The committee will be forming 16 teams with eight players each. Individual registrants will be assigned a team and groups with less than eight will be assigned additional teammates.

Register for trivia night on [tinyurl.com/PortolaValleyTrivia](http://tinyurl.com/PortolaValleyTrivia). For questions, contact Cindy Rowe at 650-851-3422.

### Crime prevention workshop in Woodside and Portola Valley

The San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office will be hosting a crime prevention workshop at 3 p.m. on March 20 at Independence Hall in Woodside and on Zoom. Local residents will learn from law enforcement officers on how they can prevent identity theft and burglaries.

For more information, contact Woodside Council member Dick Brown by emailing [d.brown@woodsidedca.gov](mailto:d.brown@woodsidedca.gov) or by calling Administrative Services Director Cindy Safe at 650-851-6790 and by emailing [csafe@woodsidedca.gov](mailto:csafe@woodsidedca.gov).

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

## OBITUARIES

### Local residents who died recently include:

**Dean Morton**, 92, a dedicated leader and mission-driven Palo Alto family man who was genuine, generous and thoughtful, died on Feb. 16, 2025.

**Jim Slater Sherlock**, 59, a kind, generous, and conscientious Palo Alto man who loved without pretense or ego, died on Jan. 22, 2025.

**Ian Morrison**, 73, a renowned Menlo Park author, consultant, and futurist who was known as warm hearted, insightful, and joyous died on Feb. 5, 2025.

**Marilyn “Marny” Trounson**, 77, Menlo Park resident, was the first American to dance as a soloist for the Royal Ballet in London and is remembered for her bright smile, deeply empathetic nature and care for the Earth and all her creatures, died on Nov. 10, 2024.

**Lois Maxine Karp Shore**, 79, a Palo Alto resident who leaves behind a legacy of kindness, passion, and an unwavering zest for life, died on Jan. 25, 2025.

**Richard Bruce van Gelder**, 90, a Palo Alto-based telecommunications industry pioneer and loving father and grandfather died on Dec. 21, 2024.

**Robert Redfern-West**, 80, a Palo Alto resident whose mind was a source of wonder to all who came to know him, died on Sept. 10, 2024.

**Nancy Jean Soltau**, 94, was a Palo Alto resident remembered for being smart, outgoing, determined, well-dressed, and competitive, died on Jan. 30, 2025.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to [Lasting Memories at PaloAltoOnline.com/Obituaries](http://LastingMemories.com/Obituaries). ■

Established 1965

The Almanac

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

## NEWSROOM

Editor [editor@almanacnews.com](mailto:editor@almanacnews.com)

### Staff Writers

Eleanor Raab, 223-6537

Jennifer Yoshikoshi, 223-6536

**Home/Real Estate Editor** Linda Taaffe, 223-6511, [ltaaffe@almanacnews.com](mailto:ltaaffe@almanacnews.com)

### Arts & Entertainment Editor

Heather Zimmerman, 223-6515,

[hzimmerman@almanacnews.com](mailto:hzimmerman@almanacnews.com)

**Features Editor** Julia Brown, 223-6531,

[jbrown@almanacnews.com](mailto:jbrown@almanacnews.com)

**Food Editor** Adrienne Mitchel,

223-6539, [amitchel@almanacnews.com](mailto:amitchel@almanacnews.com)

### Audience Engagement Assistant

Editor Zoe Morgan, 223-6519, [zmorgan@almanacnews.com](mailto:zmorgan@almanacnews.com)

### Audience Engagement Assistant Editor/

Visual Journalist Anna Hoch-Kenney,

223-6530, [ahochkenney@almanacnews.com](mailto:ahochkenney@almanacnews.com)

**Lifestyle Assistant Editor** Karla Kane,

223-6521, [kkane@almanacnews.com](mailto:kkane@almanacnews.com)

### Embarcadero Media Foundation

#### Staff Writers

Simmerdeep Kaur, 223-6533

Emily Margaretten, 223-6517

Lisa Moreno, 223-6526

Zoe Morgan, 223-6519

Gennady Sheyner, 223-6513

**Editorial Intern** Hannah Bensen

**Contributors** Kate Daly, Ashwini Gangal,

Neil Gonzales, Maggie Mah, Arden Margulis

## DESIGN & PRODUCTION

### Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown, 223-6562

## ADVERTISING

### Major Accounts Sales Manager

Connie Cotton, 223-6571

### Multimedia Advertising Sales

Elaine Ogden, 223-6572

**Real Estate Manager** Neal Fine, 223-6583

## ADVERTISING SERVICES

### Advertising Services Manager

Kevin Legarda, 223-6597

### Sales & Production Coordinator

Diane Martin, 223-6584

The Almanac is published every Friday at **3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025**

■ **Newsroom:** (650) 223-6525

Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

■ **Email news** and photos with captions to: [Editor@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:Editor@AlmanacNews.com)

■ **Email letters** to: [Letters@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:Letters@AlmanacNews.com)

■ **Advertising:** (650) 854-2626

■ **Submit Legal Notices:** [AlmanacNews.com/legal\\_notices/](http://AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/)

■ **Submit Obituaries:** [AlmanacNews.com/obituaries](http://AlmanacNews.com/obituaries)

The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media Foundation, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County. The Almanac is delivered to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to [AlmanacNews.com/join](http://AlmanacNews.com/join) to start supporting The Almanac today.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558.

Copyright ©2025 by Embarcadero Media Foundation. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued November 9, 1969.

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



# Atherton City Council approves changes to housing element

Town closer to having state-certified housing plans

By Eleanor Raab

At its Feb. 19 meeting, the Atherton City Council took the next step toward resubmitting the town's housing element to the state. The council voted unanimously to adopt a resolution approving changes to the housing element recommended by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. The council also introduced an ordinance to make associated amendments to the town's municipal code and zoning ordinances.

On Dec. 30, Atherton received a letter from the California Department of Housing and Community Development stating that the town still has to make a couple tweaks to its most recent housing element plans that were

adopted on Oct. 16, 2024.

The changes to the plan that were requested by HCD in December 2024 include additional analysis of the redevelopment potential for school sites in town, analysis of the adequacy of the town's infrastructure and restructuring of certain tables and figures.

The state agency also asked the town to clarify that multifamily housing developments with certain levels of affordable housing do not require discretionary approval. In addition, state regulators want the town to revise its Senate Bill 9 lot split program to include analysis of development trends and to identify alternatives to meet the town's housing goals if too few SB 9 projects have been built by the middle of the current

housing element cycle, which ends in 2031.

Town Planner Brittany Bendix said that following the city council meeting, planning staff would immediately resubmit the amended plans to HCD for comments, so that if feedback is necessary, the town receives it as soon as possible.

The council will hold a second reading of the ordinance to amend the town's municipal code at its next regular meeting on March 19. Once these changes are made, the town can then officially resubmit the housing element to HCD for certification.

Bendix told the council that based on her conversations with HCD, she is fairly confident that the town's housing element will be certified by the state when it



Magali Gauthier

Council member Rick DeGolia discusses the town's housing plan at a City Council meeting in Atherton on Jan. 31, 2023.

is resubmitted in March.

Previously, Atherton has had several housing plan drafts rejected by the state. The housing element update process has involved the City Council going back to the drawing board

multiple times after facing push-back from residents on the locations chosen for multifamily housing. ■

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

# Local first responders install AI sensors for early wildfire detection

Six months into the project, here's what locals should know

By Magali Gauthier

At the start of the year, local fire officials received a message notifying them of smoke in Woodside. But the alert didn't come from a person who had seen a fire. Rather, a sensor powered by artificial intelligence sent it after detecting smoke from a road flare used by law enforcement during a traffic accident on Highway 280.

The sensor, also called an N5 sensor, had done its job: to detect a potential wildfire before it became visible to a person or a camera.

"You got the N5 sensor that is sensing with its nose basically," said Woodside Fire Protection District Fire Marshal Kimberly Giuliani. "So if we were to use our senses, our nose is working now."

Fifty of these sensors were installed throughout Portola Valley, Woodside, unincorporated San Mateo County, Palo Alto and Stanford property last September to advance early wildfire detection on the Peninsula. The project is a partnership between the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, the Woodside Fire Protection District, Palo Alto Fire Department and Stanford University.

California's fire season used to be considered from May to

October. But the recent devastating Palisades and Eaton fires in Los Angeles, which killed 29 people and burned over 16,000 structures, exposed the severity of the state's year-round hot and dry conditions due to climate change. Local authorities are educating residents and examining how prepared the Peninsula is for potential wildfires in every season.

Just this week, Cal Fire released newly updated fire hazard severity maps that show areas at risk of wildfire across the Bay Area. Parts of Woodside, Portola Valley, Redwood City and Palo Alto fall in zones considered high to moderate risk.

"We're not in fire season ..." said Giuliani. "But it just goes to prove that these can happen any time, any day, any time of the year. Doesn't matter if it's hot or cold, raining, it doesn't matter. And we have to start taking precautions and start doing what we can to increase the survivability of our neighborhoods and our communities as best as we can."

### How do the sensors work?

The N5 sensors are essentially smart gas monitors. They detect and evaluate smoke particles and send out an alert to local fire departments if the source of the smoke should be investigated further.



Courtesy Kimberly Giuliani

An N5 sensor on Woodside Fire Protection District land.

### LEHUA GREENMAN



"You never know how STRONG you are until being STRONG is the only choice you have."

650.245.1845 COMPASS

See FIRE SENSORS, page 14



## PRESS RELEASE

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION AND LIFE SAFETY

CONTACT: WFPD (650) 851-1594

[info@woodsidefire.org](mailto:info@woodsidefire.org)

RELEASE DATE: February 21, 2025

### WFPD Providing information on Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) 2025 Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Maps

**Update: The State has not yet released the LRA Maps. There is a rollout schedule and Woodside Fire Protection District is scheduled to receive on February 24th.**

CAL FIRE is preparing to release updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps for Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). These maps, which assess wildfire risk based on physical landscape conditions, including fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other factors (such as wind) that are major causes of wildfire spread. The maps identify **fire hazard, not risk**, and categorize areas into three levels: **moderate, high, and very high**. While these maps do not determine insurance rates, catastrophic risk is used as part of the modeling efforts for fire insurance. The maps guide future safety regulations, building codes, and emergency planning.

We are making this public announcement to inform the community that these maps are coming, with the **Woodside Fire Protection District's scheduled release date set for February 24th**. Once released, it will be posted on our website.

Please check our website for updates and information under the **Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps** tab. There you can view the map and will be available for review and comment for 30 days.

For more details on the rollout and adoption process, visit [www.woodsidefire.org](http://www.woodsidefire.org).

Stay informed and prepared.

808 Portola Rd. Portola Valley, CA 94028  
[www.woodsidefire.org](http://www.woodsidefire.org)

# San Mateo County presses FAA on San Carlos Airport staffing

Airport official says FAA, controllers have gone 'mute' about labor talks

By Angela Swartz

With a deadline looming and air safety at the forefront of many Americans' minds after a spate of recent airplane crashes, San Mateo County politicians are calling on the Federal Aviation Administration to expedite negotiations to staff San Carlos Airport with qualified air traffic controllers. Meanwhile, airport officials say they have recently been left in the dark about labor talks.

San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller urged the FAA in a Wednesday, Feb. 19, press release to press forward with negotiations between a new contractor charged with staffing air traffic controllers at the airport after sources told him talks had stalled. By Thursday morning, Feb. 20, he told this news organization that he was "cautiously optimistic" that the situation would be resolved after hearing that talks had started the day prior.

"We just have to get it resolved," he said Thursday. He noted in the press release that given the proximity of the airport, located at 620 Airport

Drive, along the Bay, to San Francisco International Airport, the FAA "must prioritize this air traffic controller agreement." There could be "catastrophic consequences" if pilots are forced to navigate a complex airspace without professional assistance, he said.

U.S. Rep. Kevin Mullin told this news organization that his office has contacted the FAA to request a meeting and status update on negotiations. The FAA did not answer this news organization's questions about the status of negotiations with the new contractor, Oklahoma-based Robinson Aviation (RVA), but said that "RVA is contractually responsible for ensuring the continuity of air traffic services when it takes over."

"This is a highly-skilled, specialty job that the FAA is responsible for staffing, even if they contract out," Mullin said in a prepared statement. "It is well known that the San Francisco Bay Area has a high cost of living, and federal agencies need to account for regional differences when evaluating how to establish contracts for critical services. ... I will continue to be a collaborative partner with the airport and

the FAA to help ensure that this situation is resolved."

## Near-disruption to service

The airport's longtime provider, Serco, reached a 60-day deal at the end of January to extend its services in San Carlos after controllers for RVA refused to begin work there on Feb. 1 because of a pay dispute, San Mateo County airports spokesperson David Howard said. San Mateo County owns and operates the airport, but the FAA oversees staffing it.

The near-disruption to service was, in part, because RVA declined to give controllers an \$18,000 annual housing stipend to account for the Bay Area's high cost of living, according to Howard.

The FAA, through a bid process, awarded RVA a contract to staff the tower, according to an FAA spokesperson. RVA nor Serco could be reached for comment.

Since Jan. 31, Howard said neither the FAA nor air traffic controllers have been willing to speak to him about negotiations. He said either the contractor or the FAA has told controllers to "just be mute" about the contract.



Anna Hoch-Kenney

An airplane takes off at the San Carlos Airport on Feb. 20.

"We don't have a seat at the table and we're not party to the contract," said Howard on Thursday. "Of course it's frustrating; the control tower is on our airport and we have absolutely no say in the way the tower is being run."

The staffing challenges come the same week President Donald Trump announced the firing of hundreds of FAA employees who maintain air traffic control infrastructure.

Mueller said he heard staffing of the San Carlos control tower is being supplemented with temporary air traffic controller support, which is "not sustainable."

San Carlos is a small but busy airport. Its airspace is congested during prime hours. The airport is host to over 500 aircraft and

25 aviation-related businesses, according to the press release from Mueller's office.

In 2024, the airport saw 90,000 operations, according to the county website. That's 90,000 times that the tower interacted with a pilot to give information during take-offs or landings at the one-runway airport, said Bob Kern, a pilot who's flown out of the airport for over 35 years and board member for the nonprofit San Carlos Airport Association.

"Competent, quality air traffic controllers keep airports safer," Kern said. He said that he and other pilots are very supportive of retaining air traffic control staff. "They're kind of like the traffic cops, they direct traffic coming into the airport." ■

# Menlo Park may expand home electrification program

City needs to spend state grant before funds expire in 2026

By Eleanor Raab

An informational report provided to the Menlo Park City Council for its Feb. 25 meeting showed that fewer people are taking advantage of a community electrification program funded by the California Energy Commission after the program's launch in August 2024. The city is now trying to find ways to expand the program and increase uptake before its grant money expires.

The city received the first half of a \$4.5 million state grant in September 2023, and is required to spend the first half before it can receive the second half of the funding. The grant money expires in June 2026. The city received the grant from the California Energy Commission after Menlo Spark, a local nonprofit that advances sustainability issues, sought funds from the office of state Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, for electrification upgrades benefiting Belle Haven residences.

In April 2024, the Menlo Park City Council greenlit an electrification program, in partnership with Peninsula Clean Energy. The city is paying PCE \$2,210,000 to administer the electrification program; the city retained the remaining \$40,000 for program marketing and administration. The program provides electric heat pumps, water heaters, dryers and induction cooktops as well as compatible cookware to income-qualified homeowners in the Belle Haven neighborhood. The program also provides electrical system remediation and minor energy efficiency and weatherization improvements for program participants.

Since the program officially launched in late August 2024, 41 homes were assessed for eligibility, 11 homeowners have signed agreements to participate in the program and two installations are underway. According to the informational report given to the council, city staff have observed a 50% decrease in program

applicants in the past two months compared to November 2024. Additionally, seven homeowners canceled their assessments since the program was launched without requesting to reschedule.

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer told the Environmental Quality Commission at a meeting on Feb. 19 that the city and PCE so far have only spent money on program administration and marketing. The city expects electrification will cost about \$30,000-40,000 per home. Given the \$4.5 million available to the city, staff is brainstorming ways to spend the rest of the money before funds expire.

At the Feb. 19 meeting, Londer told the commission that city staff is considering new project ideas to increase the number of residents who are eligible to receive funding for electrification. City staff is also working to increase outreach on the current program to increase uptake from Belle Haven residents.



Veronica Weber

An energy-efficient induction cooktop installed in a home.

See **ELECTRIFICATION**, page 11

# Stanford researchers encourage local approach at prescribed fire forum

Experts discuss prescribed burns, indigenous knowledge and the evolving science of fire stewardship at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

By Hannah Bensen

Fire has shaped ecosystems since the earliest days of life on land, and for thousands of years, humans have learned to work with it.

At Stanford's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve 'Ootchamin 'Ooyakma, a group of researchers — self-described “fire followers” — convened on Feb. 18 to explore how prescribed burns, indigenous knowledge and modern science can help balance risk, resilience and ecological health in fire-prone landscapes.

Ph.D. students and faculty shared research findings from Jasper Ridge's prescribed pile burns in March 2024, examining their effects on the landscape, air quality, soil and plant composition. They also highlighted how 3D models can help reconstruct ecosystems.

“The goal for the preserve is to contribute to promote research, education and land stewardship,” said Tad Fukami,

the preserve's executive director and a Stanford biology professor. He added that the meeting aimed to foster interdisciplinary connections and inform the community about Stanford's fire research.

After the presentations, a panel of Stanford faculty discussed key takeaways from the research. Chris Field, a professor of biology and environmental studies, noted that the research discussed how to balance fire risk, ecosystem health and culturally appropriate fire management techniques. Field and Jeff Dukes, a professor of earth system science, said that the research could be used to scale fire management strategies across California, which aims to treat 1 million acres of land each year with prescribed fire burns and other fire mitigation strategies.

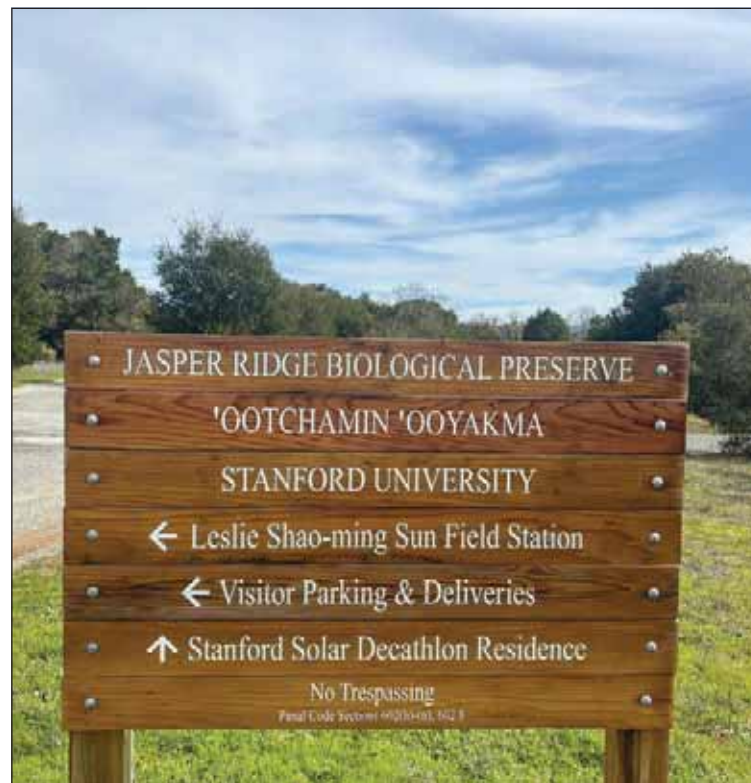
Jane Willenbring, an earth and planetary sciences professor, pointed to gaps in the scientific understanding of fire's environmental impact,

emphasizing the need for better geochemical tools to study erosion, solute movement and metal cycling. She also challenged the notion of conservation as a return to a fixed past, noting that human influence has shaped landscapes for millennia, and that change, not stasis, is normal.

“In the vast expanse of geologic time, lots of weird things happen,” she said in the panel.

While many of the researchers sought to link their findings to broader themes, Fukami emphasized that indigenous science is inherently place-based, drawing on deep knowledge of a specific environment rather than striving for global applicability. In contrast, Western academia prioritizes research with universal relevance.

“What's really key now with stewardship is unlearning the idea that we need the Western science system — that technology and engineering is what we need and everything else is secondary,” Fukami said.



Hannah Bensen

A sign at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve 'Ootchamin 'Ooyakma.

“Indigenous science and wisdom are much older than Western conventional science, and there's a lot of knowledge and wisdom there already.”

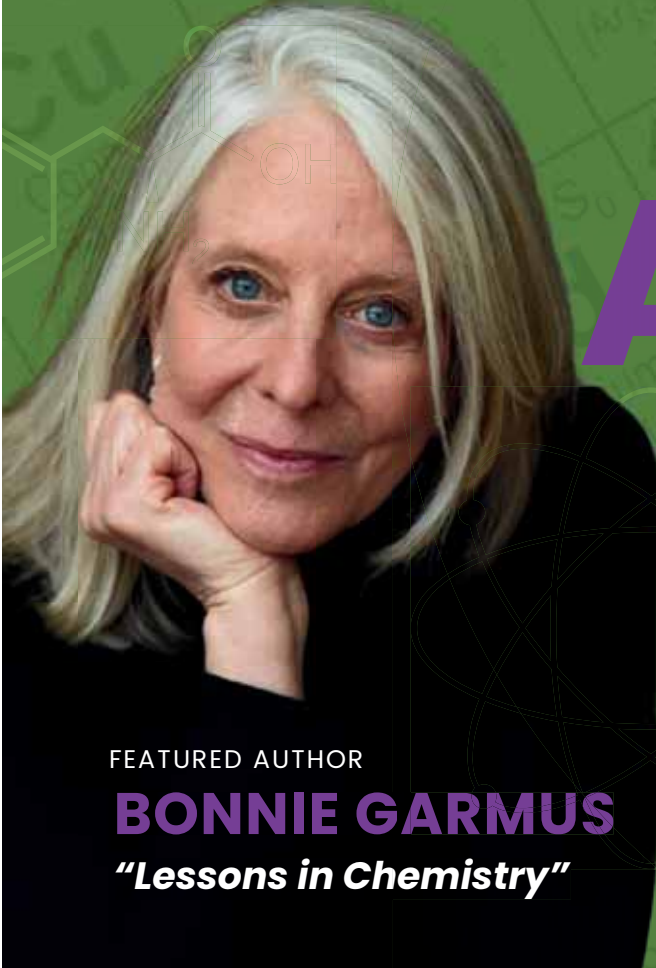
Jerry Hearn, a docent at the preserve and Portola Valley resident, said he appreciated the complexity of environmental questions and the researchers'

interdisciplinary approach. He also noted the importance of distilling complex ideas into accessible messages.

“It's about the message, and it's also about how you message,” he said. ■

Email Editorial Intern  
Hannah Bensen at [hbensen@almanacnews.com](mailto:hbensen@almanacnews.com).

OVER SIX MILLION COPIES SOLD  
TRANSLATED INTO 42 LANGUAGES  
TELEVISION ADAPTATION ON APPLE TV+




SAVE THE DATE

PVI PRESENTS THE 34TH ANNUAL

# AUTHOR'S *Salon*

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025

GRAND BAY HOTEL




FEATURED AUTHOR

## BONNIE GARMUS

“Lessons in Chemistry”

Peninsula Volunteers, Inc.  
(650)326-0665 | [1pvi.org](http://1pvi.org)

FOR MORE INFO  
**SCAN ME!**



DON'T MISS AN UPDATE!



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Sequoia Union High School District candidate Mary Beth Thompson on Sept. 3, 2024.

## Sequoia trustee under investigation for alleged campaign finance issues

By Arden Margulis

The California Fair Political Practices Commission has launched an investigation into Sequoia Union High School District Area B Trustee Mary Beth Thompson, according to documents obtained by this news organization. She represents parts of Redwood City, San Carlos and Belmont.

A letter sent to Thompson's campaign on Nov. 25, 2024, states that the FPPC received an anonymous complaint accusing her of failing to report

expenses for campaign events and T-shirts, as well as under-reporting costs for a mailer.

The FPPC's Enforcement Division opened its investigation on Jan. 10, 2025.

"I am cooperating fully with the FPPC and look forward to their resolution," Thompson said in an email to this news organization.

The complaint includes screenshots from Thompson's campaign Instagram showing two campaign events and her wearing a campaign T-shirt.

After being notified of the

complaint, Thompson amended her campaign finance reports, adding \$5,000 in flyer expenses and about \$100 for campaign events.

Thompson was elected to the Sequoia board on Nov. 5, 2024, with nearly 64% of the vote, far ahead of runner-up Jacob Yuryev. Yuryev raised \$43,000 for his campaign, more than double Thompson, who raised \$18,000.

Thompson is not the only Sequoia board member under FPPC investigation.

Trustee Amy Koo is under

investigation for allegedly omitting an expense for a mailer. She told this news organization that was an unintentional error caused by not receiving an invoice before the filing deadline.

Tonga Victoria, who ran unsuccessfully for the Area E seat representing North Fair Oaks and East Palo Alto, is under investigation for allegedly mixing campaign funds with personal funds, failing to file paperwork for donations, and using a fraudulent FPPC number. She called the accusations "mischaracterizations" and "inaccurate." ■

Email Contributing Writer

Arden Margulis at

amargulis@almanacnews.com.



Courtesy San Mateo County

Amy Davidson.

## Amy Davidson appointed new head of county's Center on Homelessness

By Angela Swartz

San Mateo County has named Amy Davidson head of its Center on Homelessness, which coordinates homeless services throughout the county. The county also announced that the center was elevated to a division

of the county's Human Services Agency at the time of Davidson's appointment, according to a press release on Thursday, Feb. 20.

Davidson, who has over two decades of experience in housing, sees her role as bringing people with different ideas together to solve a crisis that

defies jurisdictional boundaries.

"We know that housing ends homelessness," said Davidson, who started in the role in January, in a prepared statement. "What I hope to be able to do is support more housing opportunities for people who are homeless and what role the Center on Homelessness can

play in that. ... What strikes me is that San Mateo County seems super collaborative and people are trying to do their best and work together. I think that's a real strength."

During its "One Day Homeless Count" in 2024, San Mateo County found 2,130 people experiencing homelessness, an increase of 18% since the last count was conducted in 2022. The county has been working

See **HOMELESSNESS**, page 17

## John Steinbeck's Western Flyer becomes a floating classroom

John Steinbeck's historic fishing vessel, the *Western Flyer*, has been restored and repurposed as a floating classroom. Stanford students explored Monterey Bay's marine environment through hands-on oceanographic research while studying Steinbeck's literary legacy. Led by Stanford professors Christopher Francis and William Gilly, the course bridged science and humanities, emphasizing observation, storytelling, and ecological awareness. Based at Hopkins Marine Station, students conducted fieldwork using advanced marine technology and engaged with works by Steinbeck and Robinson Jeffers. **SCAN TO READ THE SPOTLIGHT** →



PRESENTED BY

 **Stanford University**

**ELECTRIFICATION**

*continued from page 8*

Londer said that city staff is also considering increasing the income eligibility requirements for the program from 80% of the area median income to 120% and expanding the program to other areas of the city. She also said that the city could consider additional programs, such as offering a matching rebate for heat pumps and water heaters or providing climate resiliency kits to income-qualified residents.

The city is also considering using some of the funds to electrify certain city-owned facilities, such as the Belle Haven Child Development Center, Arillaga Recreation Center or the Burgess Pool campus. Londer said that the Burgess Pool campus is the largest natural gas user across the city's portfolio of properties.

Londer said that there aren't many parameters on what the grant funds can be used for, as long as they go toward community electrification before June 2026.

"The program as we have built it is for income-eligible Belle Haven residents, but the program as the state defined it is a community-wide electrification project," said Londer. "We took our priorities as a city on environmental justice and brought this program to Belle

Haven, but as far as spending the money, we have full flexibility on what we can do."

Londer said that based on how quickly the state deadline for spending is approaching, the city should prioritize implementing programs that can be completed quickly. Several commissioners said that the city should instead prioritize the impact of a program when considering how to spend the money.

"I am very concerned about our current administration's pivot away from addressing climate change, and we should be thinking hard and fast about every dollar spent on how much impact it's going to have on greenhouse gas, independent of speed or politics," said Commissioner Brian Kissel. "But I understand the speed component just from the standpoint of losing the funds."

Commissioners also said that they favored expanding and adding programs that benefited low-income residents of Menlo Park, especially those in the Belle Haven neighborhood, as that was the original intent for the grant funds.

**Why the slow uptake?**

Environmental Quality Commissioners questioned why Belle Haven residents have not

been participating in the program at the rate that was expected.

Londer told commissioners that many people have expressed interest in the electrification program, but as Belle Haven has a high proportion of renters living in the neighborhood, many who are interested do not qualify.

"I think that's one of the biggest barriers, but we haven't yet been able to convince PCE to open up their program to renters, and we don't have the bandwidth to (start) a new program for renters," said Londer. "I think it's very tricky for us to find who the homeowners are at 80% area median income."

Londer also mentioned that one of the requirements for the program is that participants must continue to live in their homes for five years following the electrification upgrades to prevent home flipping. Commissioners said that this might also discourage people from taking part in the program. Londer and commissioners also mentioned that some residents have been hesitant about electrification for fear of losing heating or cooking ability during a power outage.

Londer said that city staff will return to the City Council with official recommendations for how to spend the excess grant

funds by the deadline at the council's April meeting.

Council member Jeff Schmidt, a former member of the Environmental Quality Commission, commented at the Feb. 19 commission meeting and told city staff that when this item comes before the city council, members will need to emphasize quick action.

"There's a lot of big stuff coming to the city in this critical time period around downtown,

big developments, RV parking," said Schmidt. "I would say don't be fearful about lighting a fire and saying, 'This is really urgent because we're going to lose the money.'"

Menlo Park city staff will continue to conduct outreach about the electrification program in the meantime to try to increase uptake of the program. ■

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

**CAL WATER**

*continued from page 6*

that collects water from a watershed in Woodside and a reservoir in Atherton, which supplies 10% of its supply.

"San Francisco water is very good, but it's also pretty expensive, so we try to get as much out of our local water as possible, because that helps keep the cost down for our customers," said Smithson.

**Preparation and risk prevention**

Cal Water's main replacement program aims to renew the oldest and most vulnerable pipes before they become a risk. "Every foot of [water] main in our system has been analyzed," she added.

The company has a wildfire task force that does annual vegetation maintenance and a review of necessary upgrades that need to be made in wildfire hardening techniques. For a state prone to earthquakes, Cal Water has also installed flexible joints on water mains that run across fault lines to prevent pipes from breaking.

Cal Water says it is also prepared for Public Safety Power Shutoffs, when power is turned off to prevent risk of fires caused by electric infrastructure. Stations in areas susceptible to wildfires carry permanent and portable generators to ensure that water pumps continue to function even when there's power loss. ■

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

# CLOSING SALE

## 50% - 80% OFF

Come in  
and make  
a deal now!



# FLEGELS *F* DESIGN

1010 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 90, MENLO PARK • (650) 326-9661 • [www.flegels.com](http://www.flegels.com)



# DON'T OVERPAY TO SELL YOUR HOME



LIST WITH US FOR

**3%**  
TOTAL  
COMMISSION

We have entered a new era where sellers are no longer permitted to offer any commission to buyer's agents in the MLS, which means that no commission details can be advertised on sites like Zillow or Redfin. Buyers also need to sign agreements with their agents outlining the commission they will pay their own agents before they show any properties. If a seller wants to offer additional compensation to the buyer's agent, they can, but it is neither required nor encouraged.

While some listing agents will still try to contractually obligate sellers to pay 2% or more to the buyer's agent, DeLeon Realty has taken a different approach. Our sellers benefit from our industry-leading home preparation, staging, and marketing services while paying a total commission as low as 3%. Additionally, if a buyer chooses not to pay a buyer's agent, Ken DeLeon and his team will represent them on our listings at no cost to either the buyer or the seller.

Our client-centric business model and policies are just a few of the reasons why we are the leading listing team in all of Silicon Valley!



## Contact us today!

Michael Repka (DRE #01854880) **650.488.7325**

中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun (DRE #01933274) **650.785.5822**

DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224 | Equal Housing Opportunity





# 13643 WILDCREST DRIVE LOS ALTOS HILLS



## LOS ALTOS HILLS RETREAT ON MORE THAN 1.3 ACRES

The peaceful beauty of Los Altos Hills creates an idyllic setting for this inviting home nestled on more than 1.3 acres beneath a sweeping verdant canopy. Inside, stone tile flooring, elegant wall treatments, and bold glass elements blur the line between indoors and out, while expansive living areas, two cozy fireplaces, and a chef's kitchen with high-end appliances provide both comfort and style. Four bedrooms include two primary suites, one of which encompasses the entire upper level for a private retreat. The grounds invite spectacular outdoor entertaining, boasting a lagoon-style pool with a stunning wooden terrace, generous patio space, and an incredible deck built around the base of a towering shade tree. Additional amenities include air conditioning and a 2-car garage. Though steeped in privacy, this home is just over a mile from the energy of downtown Los Altos, with easy access to commute routes and top-ranked Los Altos schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

### OPEN HOUSE WITH LIVE MUSIC

SAT & SUN 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

[13643Wildcrest.com](http://13643Wildcrest.com)

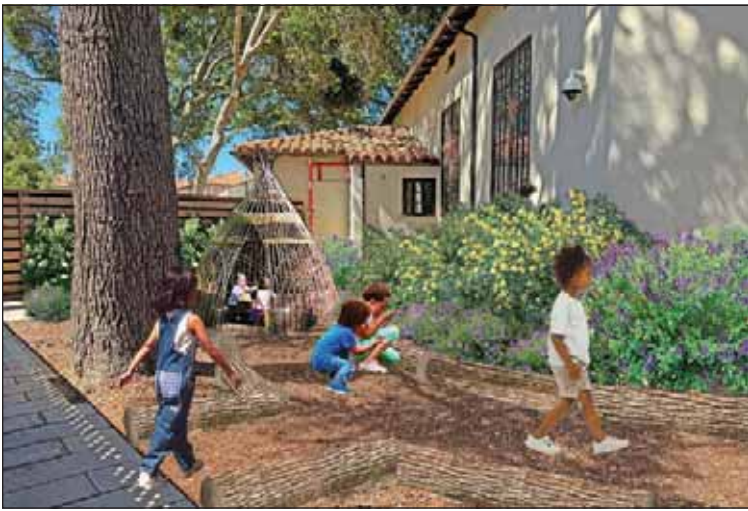
Offered at \$5,488,000

### Notice to Buyers:

Although a good buyer's agent can add significant insight and value, you are not required to use one to purchase a DeLeon listing. If you would like to submit an offer to us directly, please contact the DeLeon Buyer's Team at **650.543.8528** and we will waive 100% of the buyer's-side commission.

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team

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



Courtesy town of Atherton

Renderings show what the new nature space behind the Atherton Library might look like when completed.

**PLAYGROUND**

*continued from page 5*

At the meeting, several residents questioned whether the town should be spending money on a new nature space, as the town is already spending money to revamp

the playground at Holbrook-Palmer park. Council member Rick DeGolia responded, saying that the project will be funded using restricted library funds that cannot be used for any purpose other than library improvements.

“Our library is paid for with



Courtesy town of Atherton

A reclaimed oak log and oak stump that will be used to construct part of the new nature space behind the Atherton Library. Courtesy town of Atherton.

a special library tax,” said DeGolia. “Those funds go into a dedicated account, and to the extent that there are more taxes from our jurisdiction, Atherton, than there are costs to manage our library ... the excess goes into the fund and can be used for any Atherton Library purposes.”

DeGolia said that the town has had a hard time identifying uses for those funds after the town paid off the recent renovations to the library in full, and that the nature garden was identified as a preferred use through community outreach.

The estimated cost for the

project is \$475,000. Ovadia estimates that construction on the new nature space will begin in July, and that the project will be fully constructed by the end of the year. ■

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

**FIRE SENSORS**

*continued from page 7*

“The algorithms have become more sophisticated,” said Santa Clara County FireSafe Council CEO Seth Schalet. “So they can tell with a high degree of accuracy, you know, is it a wildfire or is it somebody’s barbecue or is it a chimney?”

Giuliacci said the Woodside fire district and N5 are considering training the sensors with controlled live fires “to build up its AI library, because we want to try to expose it to different types of scenarios so that it

starts to learn more.”

Since their installation, the devices have detected smoke from a road flare and another from a prescribed burn, said Giuliacci.

The same sensors have been installed in Oakland as part of a two-year pilot program that started in 2023.

**Where are the sensors located?**

Experts note that nearly 90% of fires are caused by humans. Fires can spark from vehicles, unattended fireworks or discarded cigarette butts, for

example. So the risk of wildfire is particularly elevated in communities where the natural environment and human development meet, according to Schalet. These areas are often referred to as the wildland-urban interface or WUIs.

The 2017 Santa Rosa Tubbs Fire, which killed at least 22 people and destroyed over 5,600 homes, as well as the January Los Angeles fires and the local 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fires, all occurred in wildland-urban interface areas.

“We consider right now anything west of 280 to be

wildland-urban interface,” said Palo Alto Fire Department Fire Marshal Tamara Jasso. Giuliacci and Jasso said that the 12 N5 sensors in Palo Alto and 13 on Woodside Fire territory are in WUIs. They’re placed about one to two miles apart in each of the districts.

Jasso said the district placed sensors in areas that would benefit from early wildfire detection. She pointed out that Palo Alto land reaches all the way up to Skyline Boulevard. From July through October, a fire station at Foothills Park responds to incidents in the area. But the rest of the year, the closest fire station is at Hanover Street and Page Mill Road. The distance delays response times, so early detection is critical.

“Some of these sensors are in areas where we do not have homes,” said Jasso. “But if a fire were to start up there, we rely on people calling 911. And so what this sensor does for us is it possibly alerts us to a fire well before residents may become aware of it. And that way we can get that early alert and send resources.”

Giuliacci said locations were also determined based on factors like fuel vegetation and whether there are structures or residents in the area. One sensor was placed near the retirement community The Sequoias Portola Valley.

“That’s a big target hazard,” said Giuliacci. “We strategically placed one nearby so that we would get plenty of notice if something was happening to have time to evacuate that facility or handle how we did.”

While not all of the sensors have been placed in the WUI,

those that are could be critical. Schalet pointed out that roads in WUIs tend to be narrow and there can be issues with residents evacuating while fire engines are trying to reach a fire and early detection can help. During the Palisades Fire, for example, Los Angeles County deployed bulldozers to clear roads of abandoned gridlocked vehicles to make way for fire fighting teams.

**What comes next?**

For the first year of operation, the sensors will be maintained by the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council. Afterward, the Woodside fire district and Palo Alto department will take over.

“As long as the sensors continue to work, I think it’s a valuable asset to this community and provides another layer of safety for the residents up there,” said Jasso, adding that for now, the Palo Alto Fire Department plans to continue using the sensors past the one-year mark, but that newer technology could one day replace them.

“I can foresee us using, if not this, you know, something in this realm of technology, because that’s really the direction of the future,” she said.

Giuliacci said she’s interested in how the sensors can be paired with other technology, like drones, to advance early wildfire detection.

“We’re just really grateful to be able to have this opportunity to try out something new,” said Giuliacci. “I mean, if it doesn’t work, it doesn’t work, but if it does, that’s just that much more amazing and beneficial.” ■



**CITY ADVISORY BODY CURRENT VACANCIES**

The City has openings on several commissions and committees! Help examine issues of community concern and provide guidance to the City Council.

**CURRENT ADVISORY BODY VACANCIES**

- Complete Streets – 2
- Environmental Quality – 1
- Finance and Audit – 5
- Housing – 4
- Library – 1
- Parks and Recreation – 2
- Planning – 1

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- Apply by 5 p.m., Wed., April 9
- Menlo Park resident
- Over 18 years of age
- Committed to attending scheduled meetings

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Visit [menlopark.gov/commissions](http://menlopark.gov/commissions)
- Email [city.clerk@menlopark.gov](mailto:city.clerk@menlopark.gov)
- Call 650-330-6620

Developing leaders within the community

**SUMMER**Learn more at [AlmanacNews.com/camp-connection/](https://AlmanacNews.com/camp-connection/)

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# CAMP & CONNECTION 2025

## ACADEMICS

### Early Learning Institute Palo Alto, Pleasanton

AN AMAZING SUMMER WRITING PROGRAM. Every year, Emerson Montessori School offers its three Write Now!® courses — camp-like sessions designed to improve students' writing and public presentation skills. Each one-week course features a different focus: Expository Writing (prose forms used in school assignments), Creative Writing (stories, plays, poems), and Presentation ("Persuasion" this year). Parents are welcome at the afternoon "Authors' Workshops" and "Speakers' Forums."  
**EmersonMontessori.com/WriteNow** Emerson: (650) 424-1267  
 Hacienda: (925) 485-5750

### Harker Summer Programs San Jose

Harker summer programs for preschool-grade 12 children include opportunities for academics, arts, athletics and activities. Taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff, our programs offer something for everyone in a safe and supportive environment. Register as soon as possible.  
**Harker.org/Summer** (408) 553-5737

### Lydian Academy Menlo Park, Burlingame

Lydian invites 6th-12th Neurodiverse learners, 2E students, and those in need of credit remediation or advancement to complete UC-approved courses in our personalized 1:1 setting in as few as 2.5 weeks. Executive Functioning, Personal Finance, and Life Skills electives are popular, in addition to our Design Thinking and Engineering (STEAM) camps and Middle School day camps.

**LydianAcademy.com/Admissions/Summer-at-Lydian/** (650) 405-1312

### Pinewood School Summer Festival of Learning Los Altos

Pinewood's two- or four-week program offers half-day or full-day options in both academic and enrichment classes designed to meet the needs of a variety of students. Specialized teachers and small academic classes maximize the summer school experience for grades K-8. Our curriculum emphasizes academic achievement as well as participation in the arts, technology and athletics.

**Pinewood.edu/Summer-at-Pinewood**



## ACADEMICS

### STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research Stanford

Stanford Explore is a lecture series in biomedical research and offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students. Explore various topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neuroscience, cancer, immunology and other topics.

**Explore.Stanford.edu** [explore-series@stanford.edu](mailto:explore-series@stanford.edu)

### Summer@Stratford Palo Alto/Bay Area

Gear up for an unforgettable summer where your child will enjoy thrilling adventures, master new skills, build friendships, and create unforgettable memories — all fueled by STEM-powered fun! Registration opened January 21. Sign up today!

**StratfordSchools.com/Summer** (650) 493-1151

## ARTS, CULTURE & ENRICHMENT

### Camp Integem Palo Alto & Cupertino

Kids and teens (ages 5-18) will ride a spaceship to the stars, meet dinosaurs, create magical game worlds, and bring your art to life. Build AI robots, design and fly space drones, and launch your creations to the stratosphere — up to 100,000 feet! Explore Holographic AR, AI, robotics, drones, coding, animation, 3D design, and more in a fun, hands-on journey of creativity. ACS WASC Accredited & NVIDIA AI-partnered camp.

**Camp.Integem.com** (408) 459-0657

### Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto

Casti Camp offers girls entering grades 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music. Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9.

**Castilleja.org/SummerCamp** (650) 470-7833

### Hidden Villa Los Altos Hills

Hidden Villa is a 1,600-acre living classroom where kids explore organic farms, connect with animals, and discover the intersection of ecology and equity. Our Summer Camp transforms young people, cultivating compassion, environmental stewardship, and community understanding through hands-on adventures that inspire change.

**HiddenVilla.org/SummerCamp** (650) 949-8606

### J-Camp at the Oshman Family JCC Palo Alto

J-Camp is a day camp for incoming transitional kindergarten through 10th grade. Our camp activities build confidence, stretch imaginations and teach new skills. Every session is a unique experience, full of fun and engaging programs. We are a welcoming and inclusive community where campers of all backgrounds and their families learn, play and connect.

**OFJCC-JCamp.com** (650) 223-8622

### Riekes Center Menlo Park

Explore all your interests this summer with Riekes Summer Camps! Enrolling now for camps in Nature, Music, Art, and Digital Media. There's something for every camper! For ages 5-18 with locations across the Peninsula.

**RiekesSummerCamps.org** (650) 364-2509



## ARTS, CULTURE & ENRICHMENT

### Stanford Jazz Workshop Stanford

Stanford Jazz Workshop week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (Giant Steps Day Camp, starts July 7), high school (Jazz Camp, starts July 12 and/or July 20, and advanced teens/adults (Jazz Institute, July 27). All instruments and vocals. On the Stanford campus!

**StanfordJazz.org** (650) 736-0324

### YMCA of Silicon Valley Silicon Valley

Unleash your child's potential at the YMCA of Silicon Valley's Summer Camps, where kids of all abilities discover new passions, make lifelong friends, and build confidence in a supportive environment. With a wide range of Day Camps to choose from, there's a perfect fit for every child. Hurry — camps are filling up fast! Register today!

**YMCASV.org/SummerCamp** (408) 351-6400

## ATHLETICS

### Maccabi Sports Camp Hayward

Maccabi Sports Camp is an overnight Jewish sports camp located on the beautiful CSU East Bay campus in Hayward. We welcome campers entering grades 3-11 with programs dedicated to building strong character and Jewish community through sports. We offer six core sports: soccer, baseball, basketball, racket sports, volleyball and multi-sport.

**MaccabiSportsCamp.org/wp** (415) 997-8844

### Spartans Sports Camp Mountain View

Spartans Sports Camp offers a wide variety of sports and academic enrichment camps for kids entering grades 1-9. Experienced staff ensures everyone has fun. Daily on-site swimming is offered for all camps. Camps run weekly from June 9 - August 1 at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available.

**SpartansSportsCamp.com** (650) 479-5906

### Stanford Water Polo Camps Stanford

New to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you! Half day or full day options for both boys and girls ages 7 and up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games. Session 1 June 9-12, 2025; Session 2 June 16-19, 2025.

**StanfordWaterPoloCamps.com** (650) 725-9016

Please check directly with camps for updates and offerings. To advertise in print and online, contact your sales representative or email [Sales@EmbarcaderoMedia.org](mailto:Sales@EmbarcaderoMedia.org).

# Public Notices

**SWEET ADVENTURES CLUB**  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO.: M-299578**  
 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
 1.) SWEET ADVENTURES CLUB , located at 104 Gilbert Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025.  
 Registered owner(s):  
 LEANNE MICHELLE KEENAN  
 104 Gilbert Avenue  
 Menlo Park, CA 94025  
 This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
 Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 21, 2025.  
 (ALM Feb 21, 28, Mar 7 and 14, 2025)

**MEDICAL AESTHETICS**  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO.: M-299462**  
 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
 1.) MEDICAL AESTHETICS , located at 885 Oak Grove Ave, Suite 101, Menlo Park, CA, 94025.  
 Registered owner(s):  
 GMRS MD INC  
 1838 Valparaiso Avenue  
 Menlo Park, CA 94025  
 State of Incorporation/Organization:  
 California  
 This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
 Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 07, 2025.  
 (ALM Feb 14, 21, 28 and Mar 7, 2025)

**BOUNCE CONNECTION PUBLISHING**  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO.: M-299786**  
 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
 1.) BOUNCE CONNECTION PUBLISHING , located at 1611 Ascension Drive, San Mateo, CA 94402.  
 Registered owner(s):  
 BOUNCE CONNECTION RECORDS LLC  
 1611 Ascension Drive  
 San Mateo, CA 94402  
 State of Incorporation/Organization:  
 California  
 This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
 Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 27, 2025.  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 11, 2025.  
 (ALM Feb 21, 28, Mar 7 and 14, 2025)

**SIGNIOS BIOSCIENCES**  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO.: M-299816**  
 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
 1.) SIGNIOS BIOSCIENCES , located at 348 Hatch Drive, Foster City, CA 94404.  
 Registered owner(s):  
 MEDGENOME INC  
 348 Hatch Drive  
 Foster City, CA 94404  
 State of Incorporation/Organization: DE  
 This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
 Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 14, 2025.  
 (ALM Feb 28, Mar 7, 14 and 21, 2025)

**SAND HILL PR PARTNERS INC.**  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO.: M-299710**  
 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
 1.) SAND HILL PR PARTNERS INC. , located at 736 Fremont Street #1 , Menlo Park, CA 94025. Mailing Address: 325 Sharon Park Drive, Box 219 Menlo Park, CA 94025.  
 Registered owner(s):  
 TERRI ROBBINS  
 736 Fremont Street #1  
 Menlo Park, CA 94025  
 State of Incorporation/Organization:  
 California  
 This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
 Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/01/2019.  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 03, 2025.  
 (ALM Feb 21, 28, Mar 7 and 14, 2025)

**DIAMOND BAR USA**  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO.: M-299645**  
 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
 1.) DIAMOND BAR USA , located at 200 Lyndhurst Ave, Belmont, CA 94002.  
 Registered owner(s):  
 CHRISTOPHER ROBERT FLYNN  
 200 Lyndhurst Ave  
 Belmont, CA 94002  
 JULIE MINTER FLYNN  
 200 Lyndhurst Ave  
 Belmont, CA 94002  
 This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.  
 Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/27/2025.  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 27, 2025.  
 (ALM Feb 21, 28, Mar 7 and 14, 2025)

**THE ARMSTRONG ENTERPRISE**  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO.: M-299684**  
 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
 1.) THE ARMSTRONG ENTERPRISE , located at 441 Avenue Del Oro, El Granada, CA 94018.  
 Mailing Address: PO Box 1707 El Granada, CA 94018.  
 Registered owner(s):  
 PHILLIP CONNOR ARMSTRONG  
 PO Box 1707  
 El Granada, CA 94018  
 This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
 Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/23/2015.  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 31, 2025.  
 (ALM Feb 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2025)

**C & E COMPUTERS**  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO.: M-299692**  
 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
 1.) C & E COMPUTERS , located at 165 Ramona Ave, South San Francisco, CA 94080.  
 Registered owner(s):  
 CHRISTOPHER ROBERTS  
 165 Ramona Ave  
 South San Francisco, CA 94080  
 This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
 Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/28/1992.  
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 31, 2025.  
 (ALM Feb 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2025)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Case No.: 24-CIV-07626**  
**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:**  
 Petitioner: Jun Hee Choi and Seo Young Moon filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
**WOJIN CHOI to OWEN WOJIN CHOI**  
 THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING:** Mar 27, 2025, 09:00 AM, Southern Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.  
 A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:  
 ALMANAC  
 Date: Feb 10, 2025  
 Hon. Stephanie G. Garratt  
 JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
 (ALM Feb 28, Mar 7, 14 and 21, 2025)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**COUNTY**  
**Case No.: 25CIV00906**  
**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:**

Petitioner: Henrik Constantin Pflanz filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
**HENRIK CONSTANTIN PFLANZ to HENRIK LUEDERS**  
 THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING:** 04/10/2025, 9am, MC of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94603.  
 A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:  
 ALMANAC  
 Date: 2/11/2025  
 Stephanie G. Garratt  
 JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
 (ALM Feb 28, Mar 7, 14 and 21, 2025)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Case No.: 25CIV00686**  
**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:**  
 Petitioner: Yousef Moslam Salamah Aldalaeen filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
**YUSEF MOSLAM SALAMAH ALDALAEEN to YUSEF DALAEEN**  
 THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING:** 4/8/2025, 9:00am, San Mateo of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.  
 A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:  
 ALMANAC  
 Date: 2/5/2025  
 Stephanie G. Garratt  
 JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
 (ALM Feb 14, 21, 28 and Mar 7, 2025)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Case No.: 25CIV00685**  
**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:**  
 Petitioner: Erika Seiberler Sivarajan Froelicher filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
**ERIKA SEIBERLER SIVARAJAN FROELICHER to ERIKA FROELICHER**  
 THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING:** 4/3/2025, 9:00am, San Mateo of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.  
 A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:  
 ALMANAC  
 Date: 2/4/2025  
 Stephanie G. Garratt  
 JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
 (ALM Feb 14, 21, 28 and Mar 7, 2025)

**To place a legal notice visit**  
**AlmanacNews.com/legal\_notices/**

## RV PARKING

*continued from page 1*

the department’s most recent count, there are approximately 53 inhabited RVs in the area. Approximately 20% of those RVs are inhabited by families. He also mentioned that some of the people living in the area were given RVs by charitable organizations and specifically told to park in the area.

The ordinance, he said, would be another tool in the police department’s tool belt that would help officers conduct enforcement in the area, because none of the laws that are currently in place keep RVs out of the area longterm. Officials say that citations are often ignored, or do not apply to all of the vehicles.

“There is a state law that says you have to move your car every 72 hours. ... We can go through and mark all 53 today and tomorrow, and 52 of them will move, and then we have to start from scratch on all those cars again,” he said. “It’s just a cat and mouse game.”

Critics of the ordinance, such as community nonprofit Menlo Together, say that banning RVs throughout the city is inhumane, and asked that the city instead talk to nonprofits that work to aid homeless individuals, such as WeHope and LifeMoves. Advocates suggest the city explore alternatives to an RV ban that have been implemented in other nearby cities, such as safe parking programs, relocation assistance and other anti-displacement measures.

Several commenters, including former Menlo Park city council member Maria Doerr who vehemently opposed the ordinance when it originally came before the council, said that it may face legal challenges as several other cities in California have been sued for similar ordinances. In an email to the council, Doerr instead advocated for using existing laws, such as rules that prohibit littering, that ban vehicles from standing for over 72 hours, sound ordinances and animal control laws to “address the worst actors.”

Five people who live in RVs along Bohannon and Campbell stood up and spoke at the meeting. Nearly all of them said that they were not living in RVs by choice, but by necessity, and asked the council to reconsider or at least delay implementation of the ordinance — giving them more time to figure out where to go.

“If you pass the ordinance and we don’t have anywhere to go, what happens to us?” asked Karine Murray, a resident of one of the RVs on Campbell Street. Murray, who works at the Menlo Park Post Office, said she has been working with LifeMoves and WeHope, and has applied for

affordable housing, but that the options she has been presented with are either too expensive or would not be able to accommodate her two dogs. “I am lucky to be able to be the owner of my RV, but I need a solution before I get pushed out of where I am.”

Dixon assured the council that the MPPD would take an education-first approach to enforcement of the ordinance, and would not tow anyone’s RV without first conducting extensive outreach and attempting to find solutions for those living in the vehicles. He told the council that the police department already partners with WeHope and LifeMoves, as well as other homeless service providers, and has helped several people living in encampments and RVs throughout the city to find housing placements.

“Every single contact that we have made there, every person is offered some sort of assistance,” said Dixon.

The ordinance would go into effect 30 days after the council does a second reading and votes again to adopt the ordinance. The police department would also install signage in the area to inform RV residents of the new ordinance, and conduct a 30-day educational campaign before carrying out any enforcement. Dixon estimated that enforcement, meaning courtesy notices and citations, would begin 45 days after the ordinance is in place. City Manager Justin Murphy also assured the council that there would be no impact to the school year for any children living in the RVs.

Schmidt, who ultimately voted against the ordinance, said that he would be in favor of approving restrictions on oversized vehicles as long as enforcement was deferred for at least six months to give residents of the RVs enough time to find alternative housing, and so that any children who live in the RVs to be able to finish out the school year with minimal disruptions.

Mayor Drew Combs said that the business owners and workers in this part of the city have already endured the conditions caused by the RVs for too long, and that a six-month delay would only exacerbate the issue. He asked Schmidt if he and his constituents would welcome the RVs into their neighborhoods for six months. Combs represents District 2, which includes the area where the RVs are concentrated.

“I am empathetic about the situation, but I think to let the situation continue as it has, does no one any good,” said Combs.

Council members Betsy Nash and Cecilia Taylor were not enthused about the prospect of the ordinance potentially negatively impacting RV residents,

See **RV PARKING**, page 17

**BECKER**

*continued from page 5*

Wooden fences attached to homes can act as a key conduit to the spread of wildfire, he said. Zone 0 regulations will require flammable fencing and gates to be replaced with noncombustible alternatives.

The highest priorities in hardening homes start with replacing vents, roofs, attached fences and cleaning gutters, said Giuliacci.

“It’s really important that when you have those red flag warnings or those severe weather storm notifications that you start taking the precautions,” said Giuliacci, who added that homeowners should bring flammable outdoor furniture indoors in such instances.

Households should have evacuation plans with how to exit the house and the neighborhood. It’s encouraged to take only one vehicle when evacuating to

prevent traffic congestion, said Giuliacci.

**Wildfire threats are increasing**

What was known as fire “season” is now considered a fire “year,” according to data presented by Schalet. The trends show that compared to 20 years ago, wildfire season is starting six to eight weeks earlier and lasting eight weeks longer. Worsening droughts are also impacting the increase of wildfires.

According to Schalet, Cal Fire’s hazard severity maps for 2025 will be released in San Mateo and Santa Clara County on Feb. 24. These maps highlight areas of high and low wildfire risk across the state. They were last updated in 2009 and the new version will introduce an area of moderate concern.

“I think particularly in our area, we’ll see more areas moved

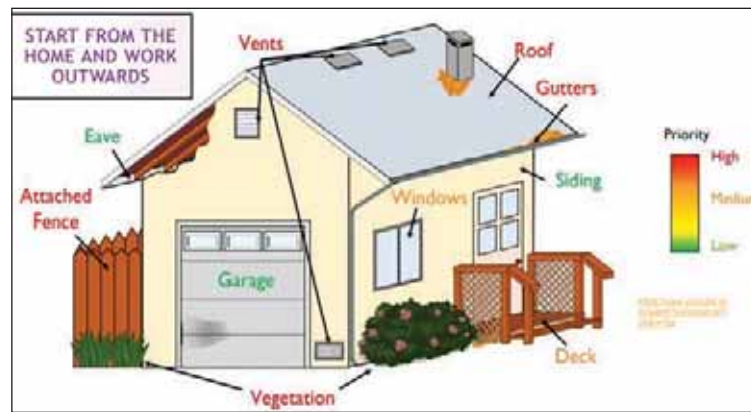
into the high and very high fire severity zones,” said Schalet.

The Santa Clara FireSafe Council is increasing its efforts to prepare for and detect early signs of wildfire by using AI technology known as N5 smoke detection sensors. There are currently 50 installed across the southern Peninsula.

The organization is also working on restoring ecosystems and watersheds “to provide resiliency,” said Schalet. The midpeninsula is currently facing sudden oak death and other trees killed by insects. Repairing watersheds is necessary to prevent trees from drying out and becoming kindling for wildfires, he added.

**Resources for wildfire mitigation**

For more information on wildfire prevention and safety tips visit [woodsfire.org/community-resources](http://woodsfire.org/community-resources) and [sccfire-safe.org](http://sccfire-safe.org).



Courtesy Woodside Fire Protection District

Ranking of home hardening priorities for houses in wildfire prone areas.

To receive emergency alerts in San Mateo County sign up for SMC Alerts. Residents of Santa Clara County can join Alert SCC. For evacuation warnings, community members can download the Genasys mobile app which will directly send you updates during emergencies and information on when and where to evacuate to.

Giuliacci also encourages

people to visit [wpv-ready.org](http://wpv-ready.org) for more information on emergency preparedness and Firewise communities.

“I just urge everybody to get yourselves educated, get yourselves prepared and start knowing that this is the wave of where we’re going,” said Giuliacci. ■

*Email Staff Writer*

*Jennifer Yoshikoshi at [jjoshikoshi@almanacnews.com](mailto:jjoshikoshi@almanacnews.com).*

**HOMELESSNESS**

*continued from page 10*

toward reaching a “functional zero” of homelessness, where “every unsheltered homeless person in the county who chooses assistance can be sheltered in an emergency shelter or in temporary or permanent housing.”

Claire Cunningham, director of the Human Services Agency, said in a statement that the center “has matured into the nerve center of the county’s efforts to achieve functional zero homelessness.” She noted

that the county still lacks housing options for clients once they leave the shelters. This is, in part, due to the high cost of living in the Bay Area.

Davidson holds a bachelor’s degree from Brown University and a master’s degree in Housing and Urban Development from Harvard University, according to her LinkedIn profile. She spent over 18 years working for the city of Berkeley, including as deputy director of the Department of Health, Housing & Community Services, according to the press release. Prior to

that, she was a housing planner and project manager for housing organizations.

Davidson described how she once worked at a hotel ballroom with mats and blankets on the floor and what sparked her interest in permanent supportive housing.

“I met a lot of elderly and seriously mentally ill people who I understood were going to be living in the shelter for the rest of their lives,” she said. “It’s great if it’s an alternate to being outside but I didn’t want people to spend the rest of their lives sleeping on

the floor on these mats.”

**County’s homelessness efforts**

San Mateo County has several initiatives aimed at combating homelessness. Its Navigation Center in Redwood City opened in April 2023, providing 240 temporary living spaces for unsheltered people, along with on-site support services such as trauma counseling, substance use treatment, and health and dental care, a first for a San Mateo County non-congregate shelter, the county said.

The Board of Supervisors also adopted an ordinance, dubbed “Hopeful Horizons: Empowering Lives,” in early 2024, which prioritizes providing people with services and shelter before kicking them out of encampments on public property in unincorporated areas.

In April 2024, the county secured \$14.1 million in one-time funding from the state to expand its homeless services. The county plans to use the funds to aid chronically homeless individuals in transitioning to permanent housing. ■

**RV PARKING**

*continued from page 16*

but said that the city has not been able to offer any solutions for either the residents of the RVs or the business park patrons who feel unsafe in the many months since this was brought to the council’s attention.

“I’m reluctantly supportive of the ordinance,” said Nash.

Taylor said that the ordinance may actually empower the police department to further help the individuals living in vehicles.

“If we delay this another 12 months ... then maybe six people would have been housed, as opposed to doing something fully and thoughtfully that is not going to impact someone tomorrow. ... I do know that the police department, along with the service providers, are going to do exactly what they say.”

The council requested that city staff provide more information about resources available for homeless individuals at future city council meetings. ■ *Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at [eraab@almanacnews.com](mailto:eraab@almanacnews.com).*

**SHERIFF**

*continued from page 1*

role. Assistant Sheriff Matthew Fox resigned in November.

The Board of Supervisors would have 30 days to appoint an interim sheriff or call for a special election to fill the position. If no action is taken, the County Elections Office must schedule a special election. The appointed sheriff would serve the remainder of Corpus’ term.

If a special election is called, it must be held within 102 to 131 days after the order unless a general election is already scheduled within 270 days.

The Board of Supervisors has not indicated whether they plan to appoint a successor or hold a special election if Measure A passes and Corpus is removed.

Should the Measure fail, Corpus may still be removed via a traditional recall process.

**ICAC recommendations**

The San Mateo County Independent Civilian Advisory Commission is drafting recommendations on actions the

Board should take if Measure A passes or fails.

ICAC Chair Kalimah Salahuddin presented a draft version of the commission’s recommendations at the Feb. 5 meeting and said that if the measure passes and the Board intends to remove Sheriff Corpus, the Board should establish a comprehensive communications plan and a transparent process to reestablish trust with San Mateo County residents.

Salahuddin suggested that the county use the recent recall and reappointment of a school board position that happened in June in Alameda County as a model for how to involve the community in the selection process for a new sheriff, even if the new sheriff is selected through an appointment process. Salahuddin said she does not want the community to feel like there was a “pre-ordained” choice that the Board had in mind when appointing a successor should the sheriff be removed.

“There was a community review component of their process,” she said. “(An advisory body) was able to narrow it

down to six applicants ... and they also had each applicant do a video that answered questions about what they would do in the role. ... The ultimate responsibility of the appointment is always the board, but it helped the community see — like these are the candidates that we are looking through, to give them a flavor of the candidates, and hopefully and understanding of why we went with one of those six.”

She also said that if the measure passes, transparency from the county and Board of Supervisors regarding the timeline for Corpus’ potential removal and the process of choosing her successor would be paramount.

If Measure A fails, Salahuddin said that the Board is still responsible for increasing transparency with the public. She suggested the Board consider creating an inspector general position to oversee the Sheriff’s Office. Community policing reform advocates, such as Fixin’ San Mateo County members, have been calling for an inspector general for years.

“This would be a way to have

another layer of accountability and transparency and, most importantly, rebuilding public trust,” said Salahuddin.

Nancy Goodban, Executive Director of Fixin’ San Mateo County, suggested that ICAC consider recommending the installation of an inspector general position even if Measure A passes and Corpus is removed.

“It’s still worth looking at an ongoing kind of inspector general function to try to forestall this from happening again,” said Goodban.

**Special election**

Ballots were mailed to 444,500 registered voters in San Mateo County on Feb. 3. Voters can return their mail-in ballots or vote in person by March 4. As of Feb. 13, about 42,000 ballots (10% of total ballots) had been returned.

To learn more about the text of the measure and the arguments from supporters and critics of the measure, read this news organization’s Measure A voter guide. ■

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

# WE'RE PROUD TO BRING OUR READERS SOME OF THE BEST JOURNALISM IN THE STATE.

The annual **California Journalism Awards** competition, which celebrates excellence in reporting, design, photography and multimedia recognized our Peninsula team with **24 awards** in the following categories:

- Breaking News
- Coverage of Business and the Economy
- Coverage of Youth and Education
- Environment Reporting
- Feature Photo
- General Excellence
- Housing and Land-Use Reporting
- Investigative Reporting
- News Photo
- Open - Investigative Reporting
- Photo Story/Essay
- Sports Feature Story
- Technology Reporting
- Video Journalism

HERE'S WHAT SOME OF THE JUDGES OF THE 2023 CALIFORNIA JOURNALISM AWARDS ARE SAYING ABOUT OUR WORK —

“

The somber faces of the mother and daughter tell the story of concern and support for Israel. The photo is subtle and powerful.

— Third Place, News Photo

Nicely written series on how a homeless service doesn't appear to be delivering as promised and as promoted. Solid reporting bolstered by numerous interviews with all parties make for reports that readers can understand.

— First Place, Investigative Reporting

The reporters captured a wealth of detail in their story and took the time to include people's voices too. This is truly helpful coverage that stood to benefit the community.

— Second Place, Breaking News

”

Please help support the local journalism and the award-winning team that is driven by the desire to bring you fresh, original reporting.

**We couldn't do it without you.**

The Almanac

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM



BECOME A MEMBER



embarcadero media foundation

[www.AlmanacNews.com/join](http://www.AlmanacNews.com/join)

## Little libraries, big ideas

How Little Free Library stewards on the Peninsula strive to strengthen their communities, one book at a time

By Karla Kane

For more than a decade now, Little Free Libraries have been popping up in neighborhoods across the country and the world. Sometimes these welcoming spots for swapping reading material are uniquely designed or creatively decorated, while others focus on certain themes. The idea of freely sharing books with one's neighbors is simple, yet powerful. To quote Daly City Little Free Library steward Mai Le, "Books are very easy, tangible things to share, but they have a lot of significance because of the ideas they have."

The Little Free Library project got its start in 2009, when Wisconsin resident Todd Bol built a model one-room schoolhouse in his yard (in honor of his mother, a teacher), filled it with books and delighted passersby.

The concept took off from there and is now an international nonprofit organization, boasting more than 175,000 officially registered libraries in more than 120 countries. The Peninsula is full of them, and many of you no doubt have your own neighborhood favorites.

We've highlighted a few below, and you can search for many more by using Little Free Library's map feature online or via an app.

### 'The spirit of sharing'

Le, the founder of the Skyline Blue Book Box in Daly City, sees the Little Free Library as one piece in a community-building puzzle.

"I very much believe in the spirit of sharing, and that sharing brings communities together," she said. "It's a place where you can give and take things — no strings attached."

Le is also an admin of her local Buy Nothing group, which has a similarly community-and-environmentally-minded ethos, and was inspired to start the Skyline Blue Book Box during the pandemic.

The resulting bright blue library was created through the

collaborative effort of that group. Its contents are lovingly curated by Le, with carefully selected books on display and in rotation, with a goal of reflecting the diversity of Daly City.

"I wanted to have a diverse focus for our books. There are always books by BIPOC authors and queer authors, both for kids and adults," she said.

The library is part of Little Free Library's Read in Color initiative, committed to reading and sharing diverse books. Le is on the advisory committee, helping develop book recommendations for the program.

In addition to books, Skyline Blue Book Box also often has "little extra treasures in there; stickers and bookmarks," Le said. Around the holidays, for example, a neighbor made a batch of Christmas-themed reading stickers for box browsers to take. A San Francisco-based "yarn bomber" has twice decorated the box with winsome textile creations.

"People loved it and I would always see people stopping to look and take pictures," Le said. "I love the joy that these book boxes can bring people, for free."

The folks who manage Little Free Libraries are called stewards. At the minimum, Le said, a good steward makes sure the box is kept clean and stocked — but not overstuffed — with books. Some, though, go above and beyond the basics.

She's taken part in Make A Difference Day, Little Free Library's annual community service day, by collecting books and making cards for Daly City senior citizens. She also, with some help from neighbors, organizes children's book parties.

In 2023, Le was given a Todd H. Bol Award for Outstanding Achievement from the Little Free Library organization, granted to a few stewards each year, nominated by community members.

For those interested in stewarding a successful Little Free

Library, Le said that it takes some effort to keep it going and advised patience and managing expectations.

### Girl power

One of Redwood City's newer Little Free Libraries represents some of its youngest bookworms. The Oliver Street box (near Red Morton Park), launched in October of 2024, is the service-badge project of a troop of third- and fourth-grade Girl Scouts.

It's located in front of the home of Jenny Barnes who, in addition to being the parent of a troop member (she and her daughter share stewarding duties), is also a librarian at the Redwood City Public Library.

"All the girls love books and want to help with providing books to children in Redwood City, to further literacy," Barnes said.

The troop used its funds to go through the official Little Free Library registration process (chartering fees are typically around \$50). The scouts donated most of the books, with Barnes also sourcing from donations not selected by Friends of the Redwood City Library for its book sales.

As a librarian, Barnes is perhaps especially mindful of the power of books — and free access to them.

"There are studies that say the number of books in a personal library correlates to academic success," she noted. According to Little Free Library's website, "today in the United States, more than 30 million adults cannot read or write above a third-grade level."

Little Free Libraries can help, especially for folks who may not have easy access to a public library.

"I think they're important because they provide access to books for people who don't have the money to buy them themselves," Barnes said. "I like the community aspect of it, too. The



Courtesy Mai Le

A child checks out Daly City's Skyline Blue Book Box while it's decorated with the work of a "yarn bomber."

environmental aspect of sharing and not purchasing, that recycled mindset, I think is really cool also." Plus, it's just plain fun.

"Who doesn't just love stumbling onto a box of books?" she said.

### 'This Little Free Library is Antiracist'

Take a stroll on Walnut Avenue in Burlingame and you'll see a box proudly declaring in painted letters, "This Little Free Library is antiracist." Stewarded by Pooja Shah and her family, it's part of the Antiracist Book Initiative from the nonprofit Rise Up Against Racism, which was co-founded by Shah's friend Jenny Roy, in the wake of the killing of George Floyd.

Roy and co-founders Meg Honey and Sarah Foster wanted to do something useful in combatting systemic racism and decided that education was a way they could help.

"When (Roy) told me the concept and the desire to start with education as a way of raising awareness — giving understanding about what others might experience — I thought it was an awesome idea and I wanted to get involved."

The Shah family's library, founded in early 2021, is one of multiple Rise Up Little Free Antiracist Libraries around the Bay Area.

Inside are books selected from a carefully curated reading list for all reading levels, guided by the research of Rudine Sims Bishop,

with the goal of informing and inspiring readers.

The nonprofit commissions artists to paint each box and, thanks to its Community Antiracism Reading and Engagement (CARE) Program, provides a second "sister" library for each one started (the Shah family chose their children's elementary school, also in Burlingame, as the location for the second).

From engaging children's books such as "All Are Welcome" to books for grown-ups such as Trevor Noah's autobiography, the books are chosen to champion diverse voices and activate readers. The nonprofit regularly updates its reading lists and provides more books a few times a year, Shah said.

Stewards restock on their own as needed in between.

Little Free Antiracist Libraries are meant to function a bit differently than the typical library boxes. Instead of being places where anyone can leave books, and pass on books they pick up anywhere, instructions let patrons know that the books there were chosen intentionally and meant to be returned to the same spot. This system has proven challenging in practice, Shah said.

"The idea is for all the content to be antiracist in nature, not a place that houses any and all inventory, if you will," she said. "Every book, there's a sticker on the back side that says

See **LITTLE LIBRARIES**, page 20

## A doctor in the house

Stanford pediatric cardiologist Leo Lopez takes on a very different role in Foothill Music Theatre's production of 'The Prom'

By Heather Zimmerman

As a member of the ensemble for Foothill Music Theatre's production of "The Prom," Leo Lopez is playing several different characters in the musical. But the Menlo Park resident is accustomed to occupying diverse roles in everyday life, as well: he's an actor, but offstage, he's also a pediatric cardiologist and a professor of Pediatrics at Stanford University School of Medicine.

Peninsula audiences can catch Lopez onstage in "The Prom" Feb. 28 through March 16, portraying several characters including a high school coach as well as, in a moment of art imitating life, an actor.

For Lopez, medicine is a family profession — his great grandfather, grandfather and father were all doctors. In fact that was part of the reason why he initially sought a career in a different field before realizing medicine was a good fit after all.

"When I was in college, I wanted to be a physicist, and I realized when I was doing that, that it was an incredibly solitary sort of experience and that just wasn't the right thing for me. And as I started looking around for where I would have more contact with people and actually feel like I had a more meaningful effect on people's lives, that's how medicine sort of came into the picture," Lopez said in an interview with this publication.

Theater has been a big part of Lopez's life since high school. While attending medical school at the University of Pennsylvania, he did a show every semester — to the point, he said, that he ended up picking up an extra year of medical school.

"A third of my class went and did an extra year because the school encouraged it, so that we could round ourselves out as both physicians and as humans," he recalled. He had to stop doing shows during his residency and



Courtesy Foothill Music Theatre  
Stanford pediatric cardiologist Leo Lopez has a passion for theater and dance.

fellowship training, though he continued dance and sing with area groups. He returned to theater about five years after finishing his medical training.

Lopez has always enjoyed dancing, too, and he got into hip-hop dance when he moved to the Peninsula six years ago. He previously lived in New York City and Miami after graduating from medical school.

"I couldn't really find a lot of dance classes at first," he recalled of his move to this area. "Then I discovered hip-hop and so that's been something that I've been so, so, so obsessed with. Over the last six years, I've danced with a hip-hop dance crew. And the name of our team, our crew, is NTL, which stands for 'never too late.'"

The diverse crew, Lopez notes, has members who range in age from their 20s to a few who are in their 60s.

Audiences at Foothill have seen Lopez as Neville Landless in "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" and the Steward in "Into the Woods" and he was also recently seen in "Kinky Boots" at Redwood City Community Theater.

Foothill's current production of "The Prom" is set in small-town Indiana and tells of Emma, who hopes to attend her high school prom with her girlfriend, Alyssa. But once word gets out that there will be a same-sex couple attending the dance, the school board cancels the event, after which some parents organize a "secret"

prom to which Emma and Alyssa aren't invited. The incident makes national news and a quartet of colorful Broadway actors trek to Indiana to show their support for Emma — with not entirely selfless motivations — but during their time in town, they come to a better understanding of themselves and how to be truly helpful to Emma.

"There's a lot of lessons to be learned in it, but I think the biggest lesson in this show is it's not just about tolerance and diversity, but it's really a celebration of the acceptance of diversity, a celebration of the fact that there can be very different people, and we should all embrace our diversity, rather than just tolerate it," Lopez said.

Medicine and the stage might seem miles apart, but Lopez said that his time in the theater has shaped his work as a doctor for the better. For example, before he came to Stanford, Lopez took three weeks off to do an intensive theater course in England.

Lopez recalls the training as "one giant lesson in authenticity and presence and connection. And I think that's what makes a good doctor: You have to be authentic, and if you're gonna really connect with your patients, you have to be present, right? I learned how to do that in an intense way during those weeks.

Every time I'm performing, that's what I strive for, is to be as authentic and be as in the moment as possible. And that's important in medicine. I really think that my life in theater has made me a much, much better physician," he said. ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at [hzimmerman@almanacnews.com](mailto:hzimmerman@almanacnews.com).

Feb. 28-March 16 at Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Tickets are \$22-\$44. [foothill.edu/theatre/The\\_Prom.html](http://foothill.edu/theatre/The_Prom.html).

the reasons we were so inspired to do this, too." ■

Email Assistant Lifestyle Editor Karla Kane at [kkane@almanacnews.com](mailto:kkane@almanacnews.com).

More information on Little Free Libraries is available at [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org). More information on Rise Up Against Racism and its antiracist libraries is available at [ruar.org](http://ruar.org).

## Worth a Look



Courtesy Warner Classics  
French soprano and actor Natalie Dessay will perform with pianist Philippe Cassard at Stanford Live.

### Natalie Dessay and Philippe Cassard

French soprano and actor Natalie Dessay, who's performed at the most illustrious of opera venues and events — including La Scala, Covent Garden and Salzburg Festival, to name just a few — retired from opera in 2013, went on to work in theater, film, recording and in concert, and is now on a farewell tour. Fellow French artist, pianist Philippe Cassard, who specializes in the works of Debussy, is her accompanist on this tour, which includes a stop at Stanford.

March 1, 7:30 p.m., Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford; \$18-\$100; [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu).

### George Brooks Trio

Jazz saxophonist George Brooks is joined by Indian raga pianist Utsav Lal and percussionist Sameer Gupta for a special performance of Brooks' original compositions, showcasing his love of jazz as well as influence from his years immersed in Indian classical music. Brooks is known for his bridging of jazz and classical Indian styles and has formed several fusion groups. Lal and Gupta, too, are experienced in blending jazz and classical Indian sounds. While the trio's early show in Palo Alto this week is sold out, tickets were still available for the later performance as of press time.

March 1, 8:30 p.m., Meyhouse Palo Alto, 640 Emerson St., Palo Alto; \$50; [meyhousejazz.com](http://meyhousejazz.com).

### Hidden Villa Scavenger Hunt Adventure

Looking to put your sleuthing skills to the test? Comb through clues of hidden words and images in the "Rooted in Time: A Journey through Hidden Villa" exhibition at the Los Altos History Museum's main gallery in this family friendly scavenger hunt event, followed by a wool-bracelet making activity. The program is presented by Hidden Villa Summer Camp Director Ben King and Associate Summer Camp Director Paige Burns. The exhibition explores the history of Hidden Villa, a longtime local working farm, educational center and wilderness preserve, from its earliest human inhabitants to its time as home to the Duveneck family, to its current mission and ongoing legacy.

March 1, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos; free; [losaltoshistory.org](http://losaltoshistory.org).

### LITTLE LIBRARIES

continued from page 19

"Please return me to the antiracist library."

Shah said she and other stewards have found themselves frequently pruning out books that don't fit the theme and replenishing stock that doesn't make it back to the boxes.

"We keep trying to parse out all the titles that don't belong and replenish the ones that do,

but the educational process, especially at the school site as families come and go, has been difficult," she said. Still, "the response has been really positive" and she and her family love seeing the community interact with the library.

"I am the daughter of Indian immigrant parents. I know what it was like to grow up without seeing protagonists in stories who look like me," Shah said. "Knowing my children don't have to experience that is one of

# Food & Drink



## A NEW SAN MATEO BRUNCH AND TEA PARTY SPOT IS CLOSE TO HOME FOR OWNER CHRISTINA WU – LITERALLY

By Edwina Dueñas | Photos by Anna Hoch-Kenney

**A** new Peninsula brunch and tea party spot isn't located downtown or in a strip mall — it's inside owner Christina Wu's home in the San Mateo Highlands.

Table for 6 is currently open on weekends and by reservation only, with the address revealed a week prior to a guest's confirmed booking. Guests can choose between the tea party or brunch menus, both priced at \$85 per person, with offerings changing to honor the season and local ingredients. As far as food offerings, Wu makes nearly everything from scratch with high-quality ingredients and flexes her creative muscles when drawing up the menu.

"The tea party menu is based on English afternoon tea parties; however, I wanted to make it unctuous and really over the top with the selection," Wu said.

For the current winter tea party menu, guests can look forward to freshly baked breads such as focaccia, sourdough and croissants to start. This is followed by a tray of tea cookies and a homemade quiche before moving on to a platter of tea sandwiches, such as a Japanese-inspired egg salad sandwich and a classic Monte Cristo served with a side of raspberry jam. A dessert platter of cupcakes, bread pudding and Basque cheesecake rounds out the tea service.

The brunch menu currently offers hearty dishes such as Korean fried chicken and pecan waffles with hot honey or New York-style corned beef hash, plus a charcuterie board featuring Bay Area brands like Marin French Cheese Co. and Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Co.

Wu also crafts tea-based beverages and mocktails to pair with food items, such as The Bees Knees (chamomile tea and honey syrup), Dirty Little Chai (spiced chai, espresso and cream) or the Peppermint Tea Latte (black

tea, milk and whipped cream). Tea selections include black, herbal, chai and blended varieties.

Wu works closely with guests to customize items based on their party's dietary needs to ensure an inclusive experience. A vegan tea party menu is available, along with vegetarian, gluten-free and dairy-free options. In addition to tailoring the menu for each party, Wu also carefully curates the table setting and seasonal decor.

**'I decided to do what I knew best — cook! So here I am, cooking for those who will come over for a cup of tea.'**

**CHRISTINA WU,  
OWNER OF TABLE FOR 6**

With weather warming up, she recently incorporated colorful vines and greenery hanging from the pergola to the outdoor space. Parties can reserve either the outdoor table for six in the garden patio area or a table for 10 in the indoor dining room. There is no minimum for seating, so smaller groups are also welcome.

While Table for 6 is just in its fourth month of operations, Wu's connection to cooking spans a lifetime. In fact, a career shift in the food industry spurred the idea of Table for 6 to begin with.

"If I couldn't cook for a living, my second dream was to work in corporate for a food company," said Wu, who originally hails from the East Coast.

That dream came to fruition when a job offer brought her and her family to the Bay Area from northern Virginia. But when Wu was laid off last summer, she turned to cooking while balancing her job search. She began by selling breads before soft launching Table for 6 last fall.

"I decided to do what I knew best — cook! So here I am, cooking for those who will come over for a cup of tea," Wu said. Sourdough and focaccia breads continue to be available to order from her bakery.

Before being at the helm of her own microkitchen, Wu's culinary experience included working as a chef's assistant at a cooking school in Bethesda, Maryland, and as a part-time cake decorator at bakery CakeLove

See **TABLE FOR 6**, page 23



Top: Chef Christina Wu prepares Monte Cristo sandwiches for a private tea party at Table for 6 in San Mateo. Table for 6 offers a selection of savory and sweet dishes for afternoon tea and brunch.



Temp & Time in Menlo Park is a new bakery and cafe specializing in tea drinks, burnt Basque cheesecakes and roll cakes. Roll cake flavors include black sesame, Thai tea, matcha, coffee and more.

## Temp & Time brings roll cakes, burnt Basque cheesecakes and tea drinks to Menlo Park

The bakery and cafe is tucked behind Drunken Monk along El Camino Real

Story and photos by Adrienne Mitchel

Tucked behind a Japanese izakaya along El Camino Real is a small white building with a sign reading “Temp & Time.” And while visually it may be easy to glance over, the vanilla-perfumed scent of freshly baked cakes is an unmistakable clue that it’s a bakery.

Step inside to be transported into a cozy, 14-seat Japanese cafe, with wood textures, a plushy cream banquet and hanging woven lights. Look to your left and spot a pastry case full of roll cakes and burnt Basque cheesecakes in flavors like hojicha, matcha and Thai tea, baked fresh daily by co-founders and childhood friends Suzie Zhu and Kay Y., who requested her last name be abbreviated for privacy concerns.

Zhu and Kay aren’t just the founders — they’re also the managers and bakers. “There’s only two of us here,” Zhu said.

Their kitchen has just one oven, so all desserts are handmade in small batches, with Kay overseeing the roll cakes and Zhu the cheesecakes. Coordination and precision is of utmost importance in the creation of their baked goods, which is why the pair decided to name their businesses Temp & Time.

“We rely on the temp and time, precise, exactly, a specific temperature for the cheesecake and cakes,” Zhu said.

Temp & Time’s roll cakes feature light and fluffy sponge cake filled with flavored cream as well as nama cream (Japanese whipped cream) and come in flavors including black sesame, Biscoff and coffee (\$6.50-\$8). Whole roll cakes are available for preorder via the website (\$30-\$37). Burnt Basque cheesecakes are offered by the slice in flavors such as ube, matcha and Thai tea (\$7.50-\$8.50).

When asked what makes Temp & Time’s baked goods stand out from

others, Zhu said, “It’s not too sweet. It’s the best compliment that we get.”

Temp & Time offers a monthly rotating roll cake flavor: In December, the bakery offered chocolate sponge cakes filled with strawberry cream and strawberry chunks, and in February, it offered vanilla sponge cakes filled with white chocolate whipped cream, white chocolate chunks and raspberry whipped cream.

In addition to baked goods, Temp & Time offers a selection of tea drinks, including lychee rose sencha, strawberry jasmine tea and strawberry matcha lattes (\$5-\$6.50). Caffeine-free drinks include its strawberry yuzu sparkler, elderflower and grapefruit sparkler and black sesame latte (\$5-\$7.50). While Temp & Time’s kitchen space is too small for an espresso machine, it does offer an iced latte made with housemade cold brew coffee, as well as a coffee cream latte, made with housemade coffee syrup, milk, coffee

mascarpone whipped cream and chocolate pearls (\$6.75-\$7.50).

Zhu and Kay developed the drinks menu with the help of David Zhou, founder of San Jose’s Urban Ritual. Kay and Zhou are friends from high school, and Kay continues to work at Urban Ritual when not at Temp & Time.

“We put in our blood, sweat and tears,” Zhu said. “We work so hard. We pretty much live here. We don’t even have a social life anymore. We actually see each other more often than we see our own family.”

Zhu and Kay said they hope to eventually open another location but right now are focused on getting the word out about their first, which opened in November.

“A lot of people say, ‘I like that it’s not that sweet,’ (or) ‘The cakes are really good,’ and hearing that makes us really happy,” Kay said. “It means our hard work is recognized.” ■

Email Food Editor Adrienne Mitchel at [amitchel@embarcaderomedia.org](mailto:amitchel@embarcaderomedia.org).

Temp & Time, 1438 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; 650-833-8768, Instagram: @tempandtimecafe. Open Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.



Burnt Basque cheesecake slices (\$7.50-\$8.50 each) at Temp & Time in Menlo Park.



Temp & Time offers a selection of tea drinks, including its hojicha latte (\$6).



Above: Guests gasp as Maddie Grimm, 12, presents them with a quiche at her mom's microkitchen. Right: The menu for a private tea party at Table for 6 in San Mateo.



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

**Table for 6, San Mateo.**  
Instagram: @tablefor6\_sm.  
Open Saturday and Sunday  
by reservation only. Address  
provided after making a  
reservation.

Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram and subscribe to the newsletter to get insights on the latest openings and closings, learn what the Foodist is excited about eating, read exclusive interviews and keep up on the trends affecting local restaurants.

**TABLE FOR 6**  
*continued from page 21*

in Washington, D.C. Wu also built up her skills by catering for socialites and philanthropists and selling custom cakes to families. Her exposure to cooking within her family also deepened her appreciation for making goods from scratch.

"I kind of have cooking in my blood," Wu said.

Wu's grandfather had a flourishing restaurant and bakery in China, but sold the business to immigrate to the United States in 1974 before she was born. Wu was raised in Washington, D.C., by her grandmother and great-uncle, who worked as a chef at the Washington Hilton Hotel. Growing up, meals were so important to her grandmother that she'd begin planning for dinner in the morning.

"Dinner was always multiple dishes and multiple courses," Wu said. "My grandmother would

make steamed mantou, sticky rice with fatty slices of pork belly wrapped in fragrant bamboo leaves, and a stir-fried tofu, pork and bell pepper dish. We didn't have much money, but we were rich when it came to having delicious meals."

Today, food continues to be a family affair for Wu. While a microkitchen only allows for one full-time employee, friends and family can assist in decorating, bringing out dishes and cleaning up. From time to time, Wu's daughter can be seen helping out with tea parties and prepping items in the kitchen.

Wu begins baking for each booking the night before and spends the morning prepping ingredients. Whenever possible, bookings are spaced out by morning and afternoon sessions to leave enough buffer time between guests. By design, Wu is intentional about elevating the guest experience from start to finish.

"Everything you eat should be meaningful, purposeful and delicious," Wu said.

Looking ahead, Table for 6 will hone in on its brunch and tea party service. A preview of the spring menu is posted on the microkitchen's website, and a summer menu is already being hatched, including a strawberry-focused dessert platter. So far, Wu has found that many of her guests come to Table for 6 for celebrations. She has relished being able to celebrate with her guests through food and is excited to continue crafting one-of-a-kind dining experiences for more to come. ■

# Employment

The Almanac offers  
employment advertising.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

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

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

## VACANTES ACTUALES DEL ÓRGANO CONSULTIVO DE LA CIUDAD

¡La Ciudad tiene vacantes en varias comisiones y comités! Ayude a examinar los problemas de interés de la comunidad y proporcionar orientación al Concejo Municipal.

### VACANTES ACTUALES DEL ÓRGANO CONSULTIVO

- Calles Completas – 2
- Calidad del Medio Ambiente – 1
- Finanzas y Auditoría – 5
- Alojamiento – 4
- Biblioteca – 1
- Parques y Ocio – 2
- Planificación – 1

Desarrollando líderes dentro de la comunidad

### REQUISITOS DE ELEGIBILIDAD

- Aplicar antes de las 5 p. m., miércoles 9 de abril
- Debe ser residente en Menlo Park
- Mayor de 18 años
- Comprometido a asistir a las reuniones programadas

### PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN

- Visite [menlopark.gov/commissions](http://menlopark.gov/commissions)
- Escriba a [city.clerk@menlopark.gov](mailto:city.clerk@menlopark.gov)
- Llame al 650-330-6620



# TIMELESS MONTEREY COLONIAL ON OVER ONE ACRE



**JUST LISTED**

**OPEN SAT & SUN**  
Mar 1 & 2, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

**22 OAKWOOD BOULEVARD | ATHERTON | OFFERED AT \$5,495,000 | 22OAKWOOD.COM**

- Traditional Monterey Colonial with classic and timeless appeal
- Approximately 4,105 total square feet
  - Main Residence: 3,355 square feet
  - Attached 3-Car Garage: 730 square feet
  - Mechanical Room: 20 square feet
- Built in 1985 and ready to move in today
- Lot size of approximately 1.036 acres (45,128 square feet)
- Extra-wide frontage of more than 300 feet
- Two levels with 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths; approximately 3,355 square feet of living space
- Main level: foyer, living room with fireplace, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, family room with fireplace, bedroom suite, powder room, laundry
- Upper level: primary bedroom suite, two bedrooms with shared bath
- Freshly painted interiors, updated lighting, and new tile floors in upstairs baths
- Attached 3-car garage; approximately 730 square feet
- Vast level grounds with ample space for recreation
- Minutes to Stanford University and several top private schools



**HUGH CORNISH & ASSOCIATES**

Over \$3.5 Billion in Sales  
#1 Coldwell Banker Agent, San Francisco Peninsula  
#11 Coldwell Banker Agent, United States  
#98 Agent in the United States, *RealTrends* 2024



**HUGH CORNISH**  
650.619.6461  
hcornish@cbnorcal.com  
DRE# 00912143  
hughcornish.com



**CHRISTINA HENGEHOLD**  
415.722.6402  
christina.hengehold@cbrealty.com  
DRE# 02210414  
christinahengehold.com

The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor agents and are not employees of the Company. ©2025 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker Logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. CalRE #01908304.